

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

16 18 23 34 45
Meganumber: 14
Jackpot: \$36 million

FANTASY 5

3 16 19 27 35

DAILY 3

Daytime: 4 7 3
Evening: 1 7 1

DAILY DERBY

1st: 12 Lucky Charms
2nd: 01 Gold Rush
3rd: 04 Big Ben

RACE TIME: 1:49.48

NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ In June, Nebraska's Health and Human Services agency revoked the license of mental health therapist Robert Powers based on an incident in which he, after receiving a memo denying him his own key to the office supply cabinet, pulled out a .22-caliber handgun and fired several shots at the document. And Clay Sullivan faced municipal charges in July resulting from his behavior as a parade marshal (on horseback) during the Cheyenne (Wyo.) Frontier Days; protesting the needless towing of a car along the parade route, Sullivan lassoed the tow truck driver and yanked him away from the car.

■ Separation of Church and Bedroom: A 43-year-old Catholic priest and a 26-year-old nun were sentenced to six-month suspended sentences in July after they were caught by police having sex in the back seat of a Toyota Corolla at the Lilongwe International Airport in Malawi. And in Birnin Kebbi, Nigeria, in August, police raided the headquarters of an Islamic breakaway sect, the Yan-Gwagwarmaya, whose conventions are at odds with the mainstream in several ways, most notably its devotion to wife-swapping.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I was walking down the street wearing glasses when the prescription ran out."

STEVEN WRIGHT
US COMEDIAN AND ACTOR (1955 -)

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Homeward bound: Plan to snuff out homelessness stalls

BY GENEVA WHITMARSH

Daily Press Staff Writer

HOLLYWOOD — An ambitious county-wide effort to end homelessness within the decade hit a major snag Thursday as officials dragged their feet hashing out everything from the wording of the plan's draft to whether the entire effort is even feasible in the first place.

The goal of Bring Los Angeles Home (BLAH) is to formulate a comprehensive plan that would refashion the county's homeless services to include an additional 70,000 emergency shelter beds, 40,000 units of affordable housing and a regional housing trust fund. The model is similar to that of dozens of other cities taking on the daunting task, which was spurred by the Bush Administration's goal to rid the nation of its homeless population.

Most of Thursday's speakers at the Mear Center lambasted the 50-member panel's draft for being too vague and taking a blanket approach to the homelessness situation. At present, there are as many homeless people in all of Los Angeles County as there are residents of Santa Monica, according to a county analysis. Of the 80,000 people living life on the streets at any given time of the year in LA County, a meager 2 percent live in Santa Monica.

See BLAH, page 7

BLAH ... BLAH ... BLAH

GOALS

- Decrease the number of people on streets and in shelters.
- Improve the health of homeless children, youth and adults.
- Preserve and increase the supply of affordable housing.
- Increase the incomes of homeless and at-risk through employment.
- Reduce and prevent homelessness by integrating, redesigning and implementing the service delivery system.
- Increase community resources to implement the plan.
- Increase coordination of municipal lobbying efforts at state and federal levels.

GUIDING PRINCIPALS

- Prevent homeless.
- Maintain existing capacities to serve homeless and build new capacities where needed.
- Address the structural causes of homelessness.
- Ensure rapid return to housing for people who become homeless.
- Bring alienated homeless residents back into mainstream of society.
- Call on all communities to partner fairly in finding and sitting homeless services and affordable housing.



Glenn Marzano/Special to the Daily Press

Cardinal Roger Mahony on Thursday blesses the first floor of the north pavilion of Saint John's Health Center, which is scheduled to open in the next few months.

Let the healing begin

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL — After more than a decade of planning and constructing, officials and religious leaders gave their blessing on Thursday to a new hospital that will open by December.

The north pavilion at Saint John's Health Center was blessed by Cardinal Roger Mahony and several local priests in a special community mass. About 500 people attended the outdoor ceremony and garden party to celebrate the completion of the 200,000-square-foot structure.

The building is just the first phase of an extensive rebuilding plan begun after the 1994 Northridge earthquake severely

damaged the hospital. The replacement hospital will be the only one on the westside with a state-of-the-art base isolation system that allows the facility to remain fully operational if another earthquake hits, up to a magnitude of 6.8 on the Richter scale.

Thursday's blessing was the kick-off of many planned celebrations for the facility's completion. There will be a gala dinner for donors, hospital board and community members, volunteers and staff next Friday. The official dedication is scheduled for Oct. 7, when California First Lady Maria Shriver will be the honored guest.

Shriver, who is married to

See ST. JOHN'S, page 8

Growing for the future: City Hall giving out green for gardens

BY GENEVA WHITMARSH

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — Environmentalists here want to help residents save money and water by paying them up to \$20,000 to watch their gardens grow.

Officials say nearly half of a homeowner's water is used for landscaping, a costly practice that also puts the city's water supply at risk. Santa Monica currently

imports more than 90 percent of its water from Northern California and the Colorado River, approximately 400 miles away, city officials said.

With the goal of curbing city-wide water use by 20 percent within six years, City Hall has expanded its water efficiency incentive programs by creating a landscape grant program. A maximum of \$80,000 total will be awarded on a bi-annual basis as long as funds are

available. City Hall will cover half the cost of a proposed project — up to \$20,000. Funds may be used for plant material, irrigation systems, water-saving features or design and construction costs. The money will not cover maintenance, officials said.

Established this year, the program provides partial funding for new or remodeled innovative garden designs that demonstrate sus-

See GARDEN, page 6



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

This house near SMC has a native garden, which City Hall promotes.

Jacquie Banks

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HOROSCOPE

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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)
 ★★★★★ Good things result from inspirational thinking. Reach behind the scenes and the obvious, and you'll discover a new perspective through brainstorming. New beginnings become possible through networking. Let others pitch in more frequently. Tonight: Find your friends.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 ★★★ You have a way about you that everyone responds to. Work with others' imagination, and harness their ideas into workable plans. Don't commit to any spending you don't need to. Work starts offering more possibilities. Tonight: In the limelight. Where else?



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 ★★★★★ Reach out for someone at a distance. Make plans for a special get-together; you might plan a major trip. You can make a day-dream come true. Allow more insight and creativity into your life. Romance might knock on your door before you know it. Tonight: Let your wit and flirtatiousness out.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 ★★★★★ A partner has many moneymaking ideas. The question remains, How grounded are they? You enter a phase of reorganization at work and/or your daily life. Give in to your natural desires. Make your home a castle! Tonight: A quiet dinner could become a party.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 ★★★★★ You enter a cycle in which the world is your oyster for the next year. You have a feeling that everything is going to work out no matter what. Others seek you out, but they see you through rose-colored glasses. Tonight: Beam in what you want.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 ★★★★★ Jupiter moves out of your sign, where it has graced you with its presence for a year. Use its movement to enhance your finances. With some organization and skill, you could hit a money peak this year. Just don't spend any money before it appears in your account. Tonight: Work late if need be.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 ★★★★★ You sense a change in the next 24 hours, as the planet of good luck enters your sign. Get ready for a new 11-year life and luck cycle. The highs could be very high, but the lows might feel more dramatic in contrast. Tonight: Celebrate this planetary gift.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 ★★★★★ Take in new ideas knowing that you don't need to act on them. Simply weigh the pros and cons carefully. Take care of your security as well as your family. You might want to restructure your finances. Is a home office a possibility? Tonight: Relax at home.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 ★★★★★ You feel a change in the wind. Not only do you become more open and talkative, but your ruling planet changes signs into friendly Libra today. This year, friends, networking and making what you want happen become realities. Tonight: Accept the most fun invitation.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 ★★★ Money could become a major preoccupation if you let it. Your intuition helps you check out the pros and cons of an investment. Soon you could be up for a pay raise or promotion if you continue working so hard. Tonight: Treat a pal to nibbles and a drink.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 ★★★★★ You're probably the most energized of all signs, with the Moon highlighting you! Use this powerful day to make a friendship work, or tell someone that you care a lot more than he or she realizes. Work on detaching rather than reacting. Tonight: Whatever makes you happy.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
 ★★ Slow down and allow others to do more. If you're running with the ball and drop it, you can be sure someone else will pick it up. Do some thinking about a partnership that could become much deeper in the near future. Tonight: Add mystery. Vanish.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Women to 'get out the vote'

By Daily Press staff

Young people, particularly women, between the ages of 18 and 29 are voting at the lowest rates in history. In fact, 62 percent of women between the ages of 18 and 25 did not vote in the last presidential election, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

The Santa Monica Commission on the Status of Women in partnership with the League of Women Voters, the YWCA Santa Monica/Westside, and the Santa Monica College Associated Students are hoping to change that by holding a "get out the vote" event, targeting young women and first-time voters who are under 30 years old.

The "Show Your Power and Raise Your Voice" forum will feature a voter registration drive and a special screening of "Iron Jawed Angels," the HBO original movie starring Hilary Swank about the suffragists who fought for and helped American women win the right to vote. Former presidential campaign manager and USC law professor Susan Estrich, and long-time political activist and former presidential advisor Midge Costanza will be the keynote speaker and will talk about the power of voting.

The event will take place on Sunday, Sept. 26 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Santa Monica College Concert Hall. Remarks by the keynote speakers, and questions and answers with the audience will take place from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., followed by the screening of "Iron Jawed Angels." Admission is free and open to everyone, especially young women.

"We want to educate and encourage young women that they have the power to transform American politics," said Tia Skulski, chair of the Commission on the Status of Women. "In the 2000 presidential election, 15 million eligible young women did not vote. If they had, it might have changed the course of history."

Historically, younger women of all races and classes have been less likely to vote than older women, but have always voted in higher rates than younger men. Then a study funded in 2002 by the Pew Charitable Trust for People and Press showed that only 22 percent of 20- to 25-year-old women vote regularly, versus 28 percent of men in that age group.

The Commission on the Status of Women, established in 1981, is charged with enhancing the status of women in the community. The Commission will promote those goals through investigation of, advocacy for, and policy development regarding issues relevant to women and girls, and by creating leadership and career advancement opportunities for women and girls in our community.

Taste Santa Monica this weekend

By Daily Press staff

Sampling the menus of the best restaurants in Santa Monica would normally take days and hundreds, if not, thousands of dollars.

But at the Taste of Santa Monica this weekend, it'll only take four hours and 35 bucks.

Sunday at the Santa Monica Pier will be a day filled with food, drink and entertainment. The event will feature 39 local restaurants that will prepare specialty dishes that range from shrimp and ahi tuna salad, mussels, lobster gazpacho, sweet corn

See BRIEFS, page 6

CLARIFICATION — In the Sept. 22 edition, City Council candidate Kathryn Morea wasn't given the chance to answer the following question in Jodi Summers' "Days on the Market" column in the real estate section.

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

Morea's response:

"Our current leaders have lost touch. As a working mom in the Pico neighborhood, I will find common sense solutions to homelessness/vagrancy, traffic and parking."



SURF REPORT

Look for 2-3 ft., knee- to waist-high sets, occasionally 6 ft. and fair conditions.

On Friday, the old SSW(185-200) swell continues to back slide as the SSE(170-180) swell peaks and the NW wind swell holds. Most beaches have knee- to waist-high waves, good south exposures get waist- to chest-high surf and the best SE breaks.

Today the water is:

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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 Q 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 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

Do some research, Silverstein

Editor:

Regarding Ed Silverstein's column (SMDP, Sept. 22, page 4). That particular episode of "Da Ali G Show" has been much discussed, especially by the Jewish Anti-Defamation league. It turns out Sasha Cohen sang about 12 verses, each getting more and more outlandish, with the audience joining in on the fun the more outrageous the lyrics became. By the 10th verse: "throw the Jew down the well," the audience would have repeated anything, including, throw Ed Silverstein down the well. When they put the show together, it was edited to appear as if the verses were right on top of each other.

I guess my point is this. If you want to write a column attacking the perceived anti-semitism of George Bush, Mel Gibson and Rush Limbaugh, just do it. With a little research, Mr. Silverstein would have discovered a cobbled-together television bit was the wrong analogy to use.

Moishe K. Poyer
Santa Monica

Silverstein is paranoid

Editor:

Ed Silverstein's latest column entitled "The new American anti-semitism on display" (SMDP, Sept. 22, page 4) has set a new standard for journalistic fantasy which is quite an achievement considering many of his other efforts. Ed typically uses the truth sparingly, while misleading, fabricating and propagandizing. While I understand and share his concern for the increase in anti-semitism in many parts of the world and particularly with Muslim driven anti-semitism in Europe, I must say his hysteria and paranoia about anti-semitism in the U.S. is delusional and based on arguments that are fantastically fallacious.

Rush Limbaugh is quoted by Ed or implied to have said "those Jews who control Hollywood." I cannot imagine Limbaugh being allowed on the air one day after saying that.

What's your the secret source? When did Limbaugh utter this?

And, once again Ed is beating up on Mel Gibson and his film "The Passion." You may recall that prior to the Passion being released and without seeing the film, Ed predicted massive anti-semitic crimes because of this film. Didn't happen, but he continues to warn us.

Another culprit in the pending anti-semitism crisis is President Bush because he is Christian and has pushed a "Christian first" agenda, which Ed fails to explain. Ed also tells us that the president has said that "all Jews will go to Hell." How did I miss that? You would think that the networks would have picked up on such a controversial statement. Once again Ed must have his own secret sources.

As far as the little bit of straightforward truth in each column, this week it was in the last paragraph when Ed declared "Maybe I'm being paranoid." Yes. Yes. Breakthrough. Not.

Maybe Ed you are absolutely out of control paranoid about anti-semitism in America. Everything is OK. The sky is not falling.

Glynn Morris
Playa del Rey

Bum City?

Editor:

City without an identity? (SMDP, Sept. 20, page 1). What happened to the "People's Republic?" Our city leaders should embrace our heritage of socialism they have created over the past 20 odd years. However, let's keep up with the times, embrace a new identity, use our resources, the one thing that Santa Monica is known nationwide for ... our bums. Let's use them as a marketing tool, create T-shirts, hats, little shopping carts on a keychain, it will be terrific. We'll bring tourists in from far away to see our bums: Watch them take over the parks, watch them get drunk and urinate in public, curse at you when you walk down the street, and that's before lunch. Let our visitors live a day in the life, as we residents do here in "Bum City." There you go City Council, take it and run with it. Make us taxpayers proud.

John Linfesty
Santa Monica

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

GUEST COMMENTARY
BY ELAN JOURNO

Multiculturalism looks to inject anti-Western dogma into education

Back to school nowadays means back to classrooms, lessons and textbooks permeated by multiculturalism and its championing of "diversity." Many parents and teachers regard multiculturalism as an indispensable educational supplement, a salutary influence that "enriches" the curriculum. But is it?

With the world's continents bridged by the Internet and global commerce, multiculturalism claims to offer a real value: A cosmopolitan, rather than provincial, understanding of the world beyond the student's immediate surroundings. But it is a peculiar kind of "broadening." Multiculturalists would rather have students admire the primitive patterns of Navajo blankets, say, than learn why Islam's medieval golden age of scientific progress was replaced by fervent piety and centuries of stagnation.

Leaf through a school textbook and you'll find that there is a definite pattern behind multiculturalism's reshaping of the curriculum. What multiculturalists seek is not the goal they advertise, but something else entirely. Consider, for instance, the teaching of history.

One text acclaims the inhabitants of West Africa in pre-Columbian times for having prosperous economies and for establishing a university in Timbuktu. But it ignores their brutal trade in slaves and the proliferation of far more consequential institutions of learning in Paris, Oxford and elsewhere in Europe. Some books routinely lionize the architecture of the Aztecs, but purposely overlook or underplay the fact that they practiced human sacrifices. A few textbooks seek to portray Islam as peaceful in part by distorting the concept of "jihad" ("sacred war") to mean an internal struggle to surmount temptation and evil. Islam's wars of religious conquest are played down.

What these textbooks reveal is a concerted effort to portray the most backward, impoverished and murderous cultures as advanced, prosperous and life-enhancing. Multiculturalism's goal is not to teach about other cultures, but to promote — by means of distortions and half-truths — the notion that non-Western cultures are as good as, if not better than, Western culture. Far from "broadening" the curriculum, what multiculturalism seeks is to diminish the value of Western culture in the minds of students. But, given all the facts, the objective superiority of Western culture is apparent, so multiculturalists artificially elevate other cultures and depreciate the West.

If students were to learn the truth of the hardscrabble life of primitive farming in, say, India, they would recognize that subsistence living is far inferior to life on any mechanized farm in Kansas, which demands so little manpower, yet yields so much. An informed, rational student would not swallow the "politically correct" conclusions he is fed by multiculturalism. If he were given the actual facts, he could recognize that where men are politically free as in the West, they can prosper economically; that science and technology are superior to superstition; that man's life is far longer, happier and safer in the West today than in any other culture in history.

The ideals, achievements and history of Western culture in general — and of America in particular — are purposely given short-shrift by multiculturalism. That the Industrial Revolution and the Information Age were born and flourished in Western nations; that the preponderance of Nobel prizes in science have been awarded to people in the West — such facts, if they are noted, are passed over with little elaboration.

The "history" that students do learn is rewritten to fit multiculturalism's agenda. Consider the birth of the United States. Some texts would have children believe the baseless claim that America's founders modeled the Constitution on a confederation of Indian tribes. This is part of a wider drive to portray the United States as a product of the "convergence" of three traditions — native Indian, African and European. But the American republic, with an elected government limited by individual rights, was born not of stone-age peoples, but primarily of the European Enlightenment. It is a product of the ideas of thinkers like John Locke, a British philosopher, and his intellectual heirs in colonial America, such as Thomas Jefferson.

It is a gross misconception to view multiculturalism as an effort to enrich education. By reshaping the curriculum, the purveyors of "diversity" in the classroom calculatedly seek to prevent students from grasping the objective value to human life of Western culture — a culture whose magnificent achievements have brought man from mud huts to moon landings.

Multiculturalism is no boon to education, but an agent of anti-Western ideology.

(Elan Journo is a writer and editor for the Ayn Rand Institute (www.aynrand.org) in Irvine, CA. The Institute promotes objectivism, the philosophy of Ayn Rand, author of "Atlas Shrugged" and "The Fountainhead").

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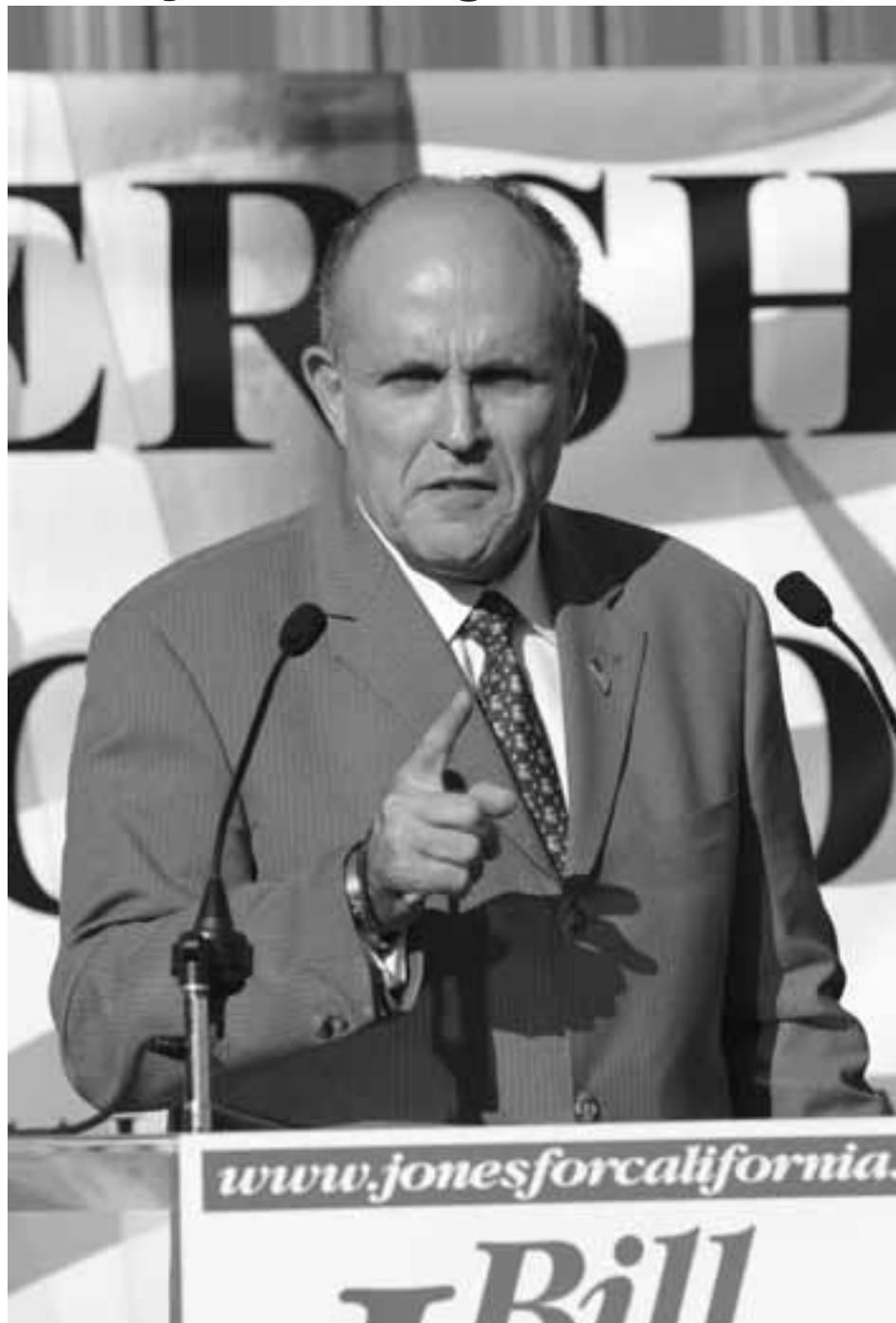
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LOCAL



A Rudy awakening



Quinn Koeniges/Special to the Daily Press
Former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani stumps for Bill Jones, candidate for U.S. Senate, on Thursday at the Santa Monica Airport.

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Businesses left in dark

BY PAM WIGHT
Special to the Daily Press

DOWNTOWN — It was lights out for many businesses and residents of the Third Street Promenade area this week when the failure of a high-voltage line caused widespread power outages that lasted 24 hours.

According to Mark Olsen of Southern California Edison, eight transformers that serve the area went out as a result of the failed high-voltage wire. Electricians worked to get the juice going again from the time the first call came in at 1 p.m. on Wednesday until the same time Thursday. The outage severely affected several local businesses, many of which lost a full day's revenue.

In the end, many Edison customers were outraged by what they perceived as evasive and unhelpful explanations from the electric company.

"It was awful. I think Edison was playing it close to the chest. They wouldn't tell us how long the electricity would be off — not even an approximation," claimed Rafigh Pooya, owner of the Interactive Cafe and the Caspian Grill on Broadway. "Since I didn't know how long it would be off, I had to keep my employ-

ees here. I didn't know if it was only temporary, so I kept them on all day."

The Caspian Grill serves fresh seafood, but with no power for refrigeration Pooya was compelled to toss out large volumes of food.

"I lost, easily, \$2,000 to \$3,000 in the 24 hours that the power was off, between both of my businesses," said Pooya. "Maybe they want us to feel sympathy with the Iraqi people, who have no electricity."

Around the corner, at the Hotel Carmel, General Manager Sherry Kellogg was just as furious with Edison's "aloofness" in its handling of the situation.

"They don't want to tell you anything," she said. "First, they say it will be an hour, then they say something different. It seems to be happening more and more often — at least two to three times every summer with Edison."

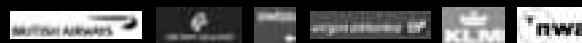
"Our accommodations were almost sold out, so we probably lost between \$5,000 and \$8,000," said Kellogg. "It wasn't just today's business, it was also future business. People won't want to come back here."

Kathleen Rawson of the Bayside District office said some businesses had sporadic power or shorter outages.

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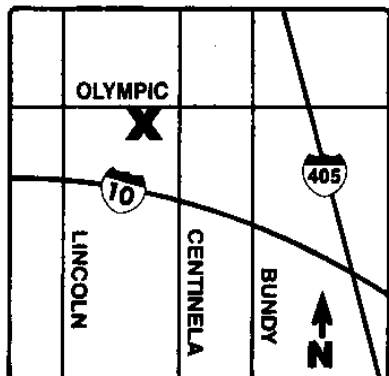
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LOCAL

Applications for grant program due next week

GARDEN, from page 1

tainable practices, which include California native plants, water-efficient plants, water-efficient irrigation systems, storm water runoff systems, or innovative water-saving features.

Research shows that converting turf and other water-thirsty plants, as well as traditional, high-volume spray sprinkler irrigation systems to California friendly plants and water-efficient irrigation systems can save up to 80 percent of water and 60 percent of maintenance costs, official said. Water-efficient gardens produce less yard waste, reduce the need for harmful chemicals and polluting maintenance equipment, officials said. They also produce habitat beneficial to birds and insects.

Dean Kubani, City Hall's coordinator of the Sustainable City program, has an environmentally friendly garden and so far, he is pleased with the results.

"I think the main benefits for me are that I'm saving a lot of water and saving a lot of money," he said. "I actually use my front yard because now it's an enclosed space that attracts butterflies and is much lower maintenance.

"When we had a lawn, all we did was mow it."

If more people in Santa Monica grew their gardens like City Hall suggests, it would save a lot of water.

"We definitely know that the majority of the water waste is happening in landscapes, and if we get a lot of people converting front lawns into these sustainable landscapes, that's going to get us a lot farther in our 2010 goal," Kubani said.

The money that will be used for the grant program was generated by fees on residents' water bills.

"It comes from an existing fund that the city already had to give out low-interest loans for this kind of purpose," said Bob Gilbreath, a water resources specialist at City Hall. "The way the whole thing was originally structured established an interest rate that just wasn't attractive, so no one has been applying for it. So we went back to the City Council to convert it to a grant program and they approved it."

Individuals, property owners, businesses, non-governmental organizations and public agencies may apply. Any property within Santa Monica is eligible, including single-family, multi-family, commercial, institutional, and private and public properties.

"This is not a lawn only program, this allows someone to ask for help for any kind of project for water conservation in Santa Monica," Gilbreath said. "If someone felt strongly that teaching school children about water conservation, or that type of thing, they could apply, as well as someone simply saying 'I want to take out my lawn and put in a sustainable garden.' It somewhat leaves it up to the imagination of the applicant."

Each applicant must submit a proposal along with the required documentation noted on the application. City staff will review each proposal and assign a score based upon specific evaluation criteria. The proposals will then be ranked based on total scores. Based upon the number of applications, total fund requests and available funds per cycle, applicants with the highest rank will be granted funds.

The deadline for the grant is Sept. 30. Applications can be downloaded from the city's Web site and more information can be obtained at www.smepp.com.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 3

tamales, Asian barbecue salmon, chocolate mousse and crepes.

There also will be cooking demonstrations from local chefs giving advice and showing their techniques for preparing dishes at home. The Art Institute of California-Los Angeles is hosting the demo stage, where culinary demonstrations will occur all day.

"We have some tantalizing presentations and charismatic chefs slated for the demo stage," said Kathy Dodson, president and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce, which is hosting the event. "I advise all home-chefs to bring their notepads and cameras. We're having a lot of fun putting the event together and expect the crowd will enjoy the show."

Chamber officials three years ago decided to start the Taste of Santa Monica to showcase local businesses.

"Santa Monica is known for having fabulous restaurants," Dodson said.

In its first year, there were 24 restaurants involved in the Taste of Santa Monica, and it nearly doubled by the next year. Chamber officials will keep the event small and will keep the number of restaurants capped at 40. That goes for attendees as well. Only 2,500 tickets are available.

"We knew that we didn't want to grow it this year," Dodson said, adding about 2,000 tickets have been sold. "We want to perfect it first before we add more."

A new system will be implemented this year that is designed to reduce long lines at more popular booths and encourage people to try every restaurant. Guests will be given a card that has all restaurants listed. Once a person has visited the booth, his or her card will be stamped, indicating that they have visited the restaurant. People can get more cards, but the idea is to prevent people from sampling the same restaurant a dozen times, which occurred in past years.

"We are encouraging people to try each restaurant," Dodson said.

Sounds by the Sam Graham Trio will fill the air as people taste the treats from the most recognized restaurants in Santa Monica.

Tickets are \$35 for adults and \$10 for children over 4 and under 10. Entrance ticket provides you with an all-you-can-eat faire. There is an additional charge for soda, water and alcoholic beverages. Tickets are available at www.tasteofsantamonica.com or (310) 393 9825, ext. 16 .

LOCAL

Many critical of homeless plan

BLAH, from page 1

"Most important is the regional approach to this," said Los Angeles Mayor Jim Hahn, a member of the panel. "We have many services, but we need to figure out ways that there can be social services in all parts of the county, not just downtown."

Bring LA Home officials have held 17 community meetings and 11 focus groups over the past year, garnering more than 300 suggestions for ending homelessness. Panel members gathered Thursday in Hollywood to review those suggestions and discuss whether the draft is ready for public review. In the end, they decided to allow the document to be released in the next two weeks with the hope that its publication will attract additional input.

The final plan was supposed to be completed in July, but was delayed. Officials are now hoping for a December finish.

"Ending homelessness in the next 10 years is a big idea," said Santa Monica Mayor Richard Bloom, who is also on the panel. "One has to assume that with 300 recommendations, many of them will be generally recognized as needing to be adopted. The idea now is to move the process forward, taking into account all the comments today and all the comments that follow."

Others criticized the draft report.

"Much of this is goals and principles many people agree with, but they're unrealistic," said Carol Schatz, president and CEO of the Central City Association. "It's great to say that we should reduce the number of people on the streets and in shelters, but we need to add a few things to this list or it's going to be a long and ignored study."

"It will sit on a shelf if the goals aren't refined."

Leonard Schneiderman, a Santa Monica resident who serves on the Los Angeles County Commission for Public Social Services, questioned whether a plan to end homelessness can be successful unless "it is based upon a steady stream of mainstream programs."

"For example, we can't have a situation in welfare reform where there are children living in poverty or a reform system that pushes people back into the com-

munity unprepared for success," he said.

Bloom brought up the question of where the funds for the project will come from, an issue not widely addressed by the panel.

Santa Monica currently spends about \$2 million each year on services for homeless people. The city of Los Angeles spends more than \$14 million, most of which comes from the federal government, according to Robin Conerly, deputy director of the LA Homeless Services Authority. LA County reportedly spends tens of millions of dollars on homeless services and special needs programs.

"How we use existing funding is important," Hahn said. "We can't wait for funding from Sacramento, so I hope that as we fine tune this plan, we look to using existing funds as well as we can as we wait for more."

Other issues broached during Thursday's discussion involved prevention, mental health, substance abuse, affordable housing and different forms of homelessness — for example, there tends to be a large number of homeless with mental health problems downtown, while Hollywood has a high number of runaway youth.

The panel consists of more than 50 leaders of government, faith-based organizations, social services, advocacy groups, entertainment companies, law enforcement and business organizations, as well as a number of individuals who have experienced homelessness firsthand.

On any given night, there are approximately 84,000 people living on the streets in Los Angeles County, and more than 236,000 are homeless at some point during the course of a single year. That means that approximately one person in 100 in Los Angeles County goes to sleep without a home every night. If consolidated into a single community, those 84,000 would comprise the 17th largest municipality in the county.

"Although some people say the idea of a plan like this — that addresses these types of concerns — is grandiose, some thought putting a man on the moon was grandiose," one audience member told the panel. "It's a matter of all of us working together."



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Hospital rebuilding estimated to cost \$314M

ST. JOHN'S, from page 1

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, delivered her children at Saint John's Health Care Center.

"It's a milestone event for us and we are delighted at the turnout," said Bruce Lamoureux, CEO of Saint John's, adding that blessings from the religious community is common practice at the health center. "This is a customary ritual for us."

According to Lamoureux, blessings are conducted whenever a new department or program is opened.

"We did something more grandiose this time ... I couldn't imagine taking occupancy without doing this," he said. "It's fantastic, and we are so looking forward to getting patients into the new building."

The north pavillion will service critical care, labor and delivery, neonatal intensive care and general surgery. It's expected to open to patients sometime this fall or winter, hospital officials said.

Designed by HOK, a national firm, and the Smith

Group, which specializes in health care facilities, the north pavillion — also known as the inpatient building — stands 85 feet tall and 600 feet long. It faces 23rd Street off of Santa Monica Boulevard.

It is the largest of the buildings on site. Crews began constructing it in 1999 and it is was supposed to be done two years ago but the general contractor went bankrupt, leaving hospital officials to scramble to find another one.

The fourth floor houses paranatal services, including 12 labor delivery rooms and two cesarean delivery rooms. The nursery will have the capability of accommodating 18 babies and the neo-natal intensive care unit can accommodate six infants. Across from the ICU, Saint John's has built a hotel room of sorts for families whose child is receiving critical care.

The third floor will have 64 beds for general and orthopedic surgeries. The second floor, which has 32 patient rooms, is dedicated to critical care and designed specifically for patients who need around-the-clock attention — a lot of glass windows so nurses can keep

their eyes on patients at all times and the doors are designed to break away in case of an emergency. There is also a pharmacy on the second floor.

The first floor, which has 64 beds, is dedicated to oncology and general medical surgery. Saint John's also has completed its 30,000-square-foot central plant underground, which allows the hospital to operate self-sufficiently.

The second phase of the construction plan — a four-story, 275,000-square-foot diagnostic and treatment facility — will be erected on the site of the original hospital. It's scheduled to be completed in 2009.

The entire rebuilding project is estimated to cost \$314 million.

Terry Muldoon, who as vice president of engineering services at Saint John's is overseeing construction, told the Daily Press earlier this year that the project is funded completely separate from the hospital's operating budget and comes from FEMA monies and a capital fundraising campaign.

California likely to approve hand-weeding ban

By The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — State officials were expected Thursday to ban most hand-weeding on farms, citing the debilitating back pain the practice creates for thousands of laborers across California.

The ban would be temporary, going into effect immediately for 120 days. A permanent resolution would likely go through a longer comment period and be based on the temporary measure.

The fight over weeding began decades ago. In 1975, California banned a short handle hoe known as "el cordite," (the short one) which required workers to stoop low for hours at a time as they pulled weeds. At Cesar Chavez's funeral, his grandchildren placed the 12-inch tool on an altar as a symbol of the labor activist's effort to improve the lives of farmworkers.

But while the ban ended the use of the tool, it didn't prohibit workers from weeding by hand, which can cause

similar health hazards. In 1993, the state's Occupational Health and Safety office found that prolonged hand-weeding caused the same debilitating back injuries associated with use of the short hoe. But efforts to enact legislation outlawing the practice repeatedly stalled.

The proposed regulation, which must be approved by the state occupational safety authorities, would require the majority of employers — organic farms are exempt — to show that long-handled hoes are not effective before they can require workers to weed by hand for extended periods.

"It's a daily reality for farmworkers that has gone on way too long being completely unregulated," said Mike Meuter, lead attorney in the Salinas office of California Rural Legal Assistance, which has fought for more weeding regulations.

Agriculture groups agreed to the changes only after they were assured that the new law would not mean a

complete ban on harvesting by hand.

"We're going to have to live with it," said Rob Roy, president of the Ventura County Agriculture Association, who helped broker a compromise on the regulation. "It goes a long way toward eliminating unnecessary hand-weeding."

Still, many remain concerned that the move is another obstacle to competing with farms outside the state that are subject to fewer restrictions.

There is little data on the prevalence of hand-weeding on California farms. It appears to be most common in coastal areas, where crops such as lettuce, carrots, celery and strawberries can require delicate weeding.

Many involved with the issue say that it is used most often on farms that employ labor contractors as middlemen to hire the workers. These businesses are harder to regulate because they tend to move more frequently and can close easily.

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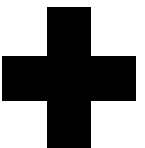
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STATE



Poll: Kerry, Boxer hold wide leads in California

BY BETH FOUHY

AP Political Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Democrat John Kerry holds a double-digit lead over President Bush among California voters while Democratic Sen. Barbara Boxer continues to maintain a wide lead over her Republican challenger Bill Jones, a new poll found.

The nonpartisan survey by the Public Policy Institute of California found that despite a sizable post-convention "bounce" for Bush nationally in many polls, Kerry is still favored in California by a 12-point margin, 51 to 39 percent. In August, Kerry led the president by a 16-point margin, 54 to 38 percent.

The findings were based on a survey of 2,003 California adults from Sept. 12 to 19 and had a margin of error of plus or minus two percentage points. Questions specifically about the 2004 election were posed to a smaller subgroup of 1,151 likely voters, and had a margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points.

Fifty-four percent of Californians said they disapproved of Bush's job performance, compared to just 43 percent who say he's doing a good job. And while a majority — 54 percent — said they believe the country is headed in the wrong direction, a slight plurality — 47 percent — believe things will improve in the next year.

PPIC poll director Mark Baldassare said the survey showed the considerable intensity with which voters of both parties are following the presidential election and care about its outcome. Fully 89 percent of voters said they are closely following the election, and 80 percent said it "really matters who wins" in November.

"While California is not viewed as battleground state and Democrats are leading in double digits, I'm struck by the extent to which Democrats and Republicans in California are closely following this election and feel there are really important differences between the candidates," Baldassare said. "Both compared to the 2000 election, and California compared to the nation — there are very strong and

intense feelings about this election."

Meanwhile, in a Los Angeles Times poll released late Wednesday, Kerry holds a 15-point lead over Bush in a two-way race and a 13-point lead if Ralph Nader is included. The Times poll, which surveyed 1,320 registered voters, also showed that 60 percent of likely voters disapproved of the way Bush is handling the situation in Iraq and 56 percent believe the U.S. should not have gone to war with Iraq.

By a wide margin in the PPIC poll, California voters said they believe Kerry would do a better job than the president in handling domestic issues such as the economy and health care. But asked who would better handle the situation in Iraq and the war on terror, voters were roughly split. On Iraq, voters preferred Kerry by a margin of 48-44 percent; on homeland security and the war on terror, 48 percent said they preferred Bush while 43 percent favored Kerry.

In the U.S. Senate campaign, the poll found Boxer leading Jones by an 18-point margin, 54 percent to 36 percent. With just under six weeks left until election day, nearly half said they didn't know enough about Jones to have an opinion of him.

Republican Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger remains very popular in California, with 61 percent of adults saying they approve of the job he is doing.

The poll also tested support for some of the state's major ballot initiatives.

Just 45 percent of voters said they supported Proposition 72, a referendum on legislation passed last year requiring businesses to offer health care to uninsured workers, even though 77 percent of voters said they are at least somewhat concerned about being able to afford health coverage.

Slightly under half of those polled said they support Proposition 62, which would establish a nonpartisan or "open" primary where voters could choose among candidates regardless of party. 33 percent said they oppose the measure.

But on Proposition 60 — an opposing measure which would maintain the current system of partisan primaries — most said they were undecided.

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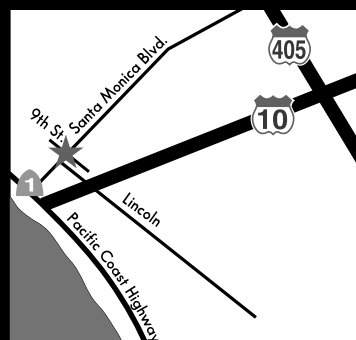
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Entertainment

WHAT’S PLAYING

MR. 3000
Mac squeezes an extra base out of a slow roller in this chalk talk about the value of teamwork, modesty and accurate scorekeeping.
Starring: Bernie Mac, Angela Bassett

HEAD IN THE CLOUDS
Even the most obliging tissue-toters will likely be put off by the film’s conspicuous lack of originality and the absence of chemistry between the romantic leads.
Starring: Charlize Theron, Stuart Townsend

WIMBLEDON
Dunst looks great on the movie poster, but this movie belongs to Bettany. His performance alone is reason enough to recommend this romantic comedy. The exceedingly realistic tennis action isn’t bad either.
Starring: Paul Bettany, Kirsten Dunst

SKY CAPTAIN AND THE WORLD OF TOMORROW
Has the soft glow of a colorized black and white 30’s noir but with the scale, speed and wit of today’s better, character driven, sci-fi, CGI spectacles.
Starring: Jude Law, Gwyneth Paltrow

SILVER CITY
Political satire offers no new or compelling arguments against this movie season’s most popular whipping boys: brainless politicians and the big business interests that corrupt them.
Starring: Chris Cooper, Richard Dreyfuss

GHOST IN THE SHELL 2: INNOCENCE
Will be welcomed as a godsend by diehard fans of Japanese animation, but the typical moviegoer will likely find the director’s philosophizing to be far too esoteric.

CELLULAR
Piles one implausibility upon another until it becomes a nearly impossible burden for audiences to bear.
Starring: Kim Basinger, William H. Macy

RESIDENT EVIL: APOCALYPSE
The bedlam is ridiculous, ear-shattering and relentless, made all the more annoying thanks to the action-horror movie clichés exploding all around.
Starring: Milla Jovovich, Sienna Guillory

CRIMINAL
An Americanized, near exact copy of “Nine Queens,” an entertaining Argentinean heist film released just two years ago.
Starring: John C. Reilly, Diego Luna

WICKER PARK
“Whacko Park” is a more apropos title for this unintelligible collection of curious coincidences, bad music, far-fetched narrative twists and deadwood performances.
Starring: Josh Hartnett, Diane Kruger

VANITY FAIR
While users and social climbers aren’t often likeable characters, Witherspoon’s Becky Sharp is downright loveable.
Starring: Reese Witherspoon, James Purefoy

SUSPECT ZERO
In spite of the headache some will feel after the gruesome scenes and the halting dialogue, the scenery is breathtaking and no one does a vacant, yet calculating stare like Kingsley.
Starring: Ben Kingsley, Carrie-Anne Moss, Aaron Eckhart

WITHOUT A PADDLE
Fishes out of water comedy that is far from great, but it keeps its distance from awful as well.
Starring: Matthew Lillard, Dax Shepard, Seth Green

THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2: ROYAL ENGAGEMENT
A trifling sequel that panders to a decidedly undiscriminating demographic: Little girls.
Starring Anne Hathaway, Julie Andrews

WE DON’T LIVE HERE ANYMORE
An achingly honest story about two married couples who find themselves trapped in their relationships and in themselves.
Starring: Naomi Watts, Mark Ruffalo, Laura Dern, Peter Krause

BRIGHT YOUNG THINGS
Eclectic, jazzy, color-saturated sets and costumes are a perfect match for the money- and alcohol-saturated, animated characters.
Starring: Emily Mortimer

COLLATERAL
Cruise makes for one bad-ass bad guy in this unsettling thrill ride from director Michael Mann.
Starring: Tom Cruise, Jamie Foxx

OPEN WATER
If you thought the crew in “Jaws” were screwed out there in their little boat, wait til you see what happens to the unfortunate young couple in this one.
Starring: Daniel Travis, Blanchard Ryan

THE VILLAGE
The final act shocker isn’t worth enduring the rest of the film for.
Starring: Joaquin Phoenix, Bryce Dallas Howard, William Hurt

THE MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE
Director Jonathan Demme returns to “Silence of the Lambs”-type form, taking us on a suspenseful journey rife with intrigue and fueled by paranoia.
Starring: Denzel Washington, Meryl Streep

HAROLD & KUMAR GO TO WHITE CASTLE
A stoner flick at heart, but even those who’ve never inhaled will find plenty to laugh at from start to finish.
Starring: Kal Penn, John Cho

‘Forgotten’ actress always leaves them wanting Moore

BY AMY LETOURNEAU

Special to the Daily Press

From porn-star mama to perfect housewife, Julianne Moore can always be counted on to deliver luminous rock-solid performances. At 43, the red-tressed beauty has come a long way since her soap opera days on “As The

Q&A

World Turns,” compiling an impressive list of movie successes that includes “Boogie Nights,” “The Big Lebowski,” “Magnolia,” “Hannibal,” and “Far From Heaven.” Next on Moore’s slate is the psychological thriller “The Forgotten,” in which she plays Telly Paretta, a mother tormented by the loss of her child. The film opens in theaters September 24.

QUESTION: Why should people go see “The Forgotten”?

JULIANNE MOORE: I think that it is one of those wonderful movies that grabs you on an emotional level, and then kind of adds all these great scares and thrills, and this idea that we don’t know everything, that there are things that are happening that are beyond our control. It’s one of those movies that kind of gives you a lot of chills and a lot of satisfaction.

Q: You’ve got two young children. How did being a mother inform your choices as Telly?

JM: I think that any number of us can identify with how much we love our children and how strongly attached we are to them, and how much we fear for their safety. And the worst thing that can happen to anybody, in my opinion, is to lose a child. So I don’t think that’s very difficult for any of us to relate to.

Q: What was it like working with the dashing Dominic West?

JM: Dominic West is just delightful. He is so handsome and funny and sexy and engaging and adult, and I just loved him. When he read, right away, I literally turned around (to director Joseph Ruben) and said, “I choose that guy. I choose that guy.”

Q: “The Forgotten” was shot right in your hometown of New York. Did you lobby for that location?

JM: It’s fantastic to shoot at home, and this is the great gift that they gave me — shooting in New York. Because, initially, this movie was set in Boston, and then there were some thoughts of shooting here, there and whatever. And whenever there was a conversation, I would say, ‘Well, you know, New York would be a good place to shoot it. And, you know, the crews are really great in New York. And, you know, I live in New York, so you wouldn’t have to pay for a hotel or anything.’ Then a few months before we started shooting, I got a phone call saying, ‘Congratulations, it’s in New York.’

Q: You obviously love New York, but do you think it was better for the film than, say, Boston, the city where the “The Forgotten” was originally intended to be set?

JM: I think the movie really benefits from it. New York is a character in the film. It’s a place where you have a strong sense of community and of anonymity at the same time. You can also feel lost and like a stranger here, but then you have these pockets and these villages where people raise children and have friends and family. So I think it really served it well.

Q: What is it that you want audiences to take with them from this film?

JM: I want them to have had a really kind of wonderful and exciting night at the movies. But it’s also about how attached we are to the people in our lives, to our children particularly, but also to your parents, to your husband, your wife. It’s really about how strong the human connection is.

‘Forgotten’ surely will be by audiences, critics alike

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

“The Forgotten” surely will be, and quickly at that. Julianne Moore plays Telly, a woman haunted and confused by the mysterious circumstances surrounding the death of her 8-year-old son in a plane crash 14 months earlier. And no wonder she’s baffled

Review

— the story, by “Angel Eyes” scribe Gerald DiPego, while semi-plausible at first, quickly devolves into an incomprehensible mélange of sci-fi hooey, car chases and rapidly disappearing persons. What isn’t in the mix, however, is genuine empathy for parents who lose their children and the psychological devastation they must subsequently endure.

This is an action flick, and the tragic event that sets it in motion is treated like a mere convenience, subverting any chance Moore and her capable co-stars Dominic West (“Mona Lisa Smile”), Gary Sinise and Anthony Edwards might have had to add some emotional heft to proceedings. As Telly and Ash (West) — who also presumes to have lost a child — hotfoot it out of one precarious spot after another trying to elude mysterious NSA agents and a seemingly ubiquitous alien, the film increasingly, ridiculously takes on the tenor of a long-lost episode of “The X-Files” that should have remained missing.

The ending is so far out there, that it may as well have been written by aliens. The truth is out there: This movie is a dud.

(Rated PG-13 for intense thematic material, some violence and brief language.)

Latest satire flick about ‘industry’ is a cut above

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

When it comes to movies about making movies, there’s an inherent narcissistic quality that turns off people who aren’t in “the business,” as Tinseltown insiders arrogantly refer to their profession.

But there are exceptions — films

Review

that successfully utilize the peculiar milieu that is a Hollywood production to shine a light on universally recognized facets of the human condition. Robert Altman’s brilliant “The Player” comes to mind and now, having just screened it, so does “The Last Shot.”

With his directorial debut, Jeff Nathanson, the screenwriter of “Catch Me If You Can” and “The Terminal,” has crafted a very clever comedy about dreams, and the extraordinary lengths to which people will sometimes go to realize them.

“The Last Shot” is based on a strange but true story about an FBI agent who pretends to be a movie producer in an elaborate Mafia sting operation in Rhode Island. For the sake of authenticity, Agent Joe Devine (Alec Baldwin) hires an unwitting down and out screenwriter, Steven Schats (Matthew Broderick) to helm the phony project. Both men are true believers — Devine badly wants to climb the ranks at the bureau; and Schats is desperate to make movies — but as the operation grows and the film actually goes into pre-production, the duo face the sobering prospect of never grasping that which is seemingly within their reach.

Baldwin and Broderick make for a great team with exceptional comedic chops, and they get tremendous support from a cast that includes Toni Collette, Ray Liotta and Tony Shalhoub.

(Rated R for language and some sexual content. Running time: 93 minutes)



Robbing zombies: 'Shaun' paying its respects to genre

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

Zombie movies came back in fashion last year, and it's about time they go away again ... at least for a little while. After all, there's only so much you can do with the curiously limiting conventions of the genre. That said, I can't think of a better way to rebury the dead than by taking the piss out of them like they do in the rom-zom-com (romantic-zombie-comedy) "Shaun of the Dead," starring Simon Pegg, who co-wrote the script, and a hilarious Nick Frost as two North London idlers forced to take up arms, er, cricket bats and shovels, against an army of flesh-eating, animated corpses.

In paying tribute to George Romero and the campy gore-fests he popularized in such classics as "Night of the Living Dead" and "Dawn of the Dead," Pegg and director/co-writer Edgar Wright also give a nod to the warm and fuzzy British comedies of Richard Curtis ("Notting Hill," "Four Weddings and a Funeral"). The incongruous clash of styles works surprisingly well. That being said, "Shaun of the Dead" fares better in the beginning when Pegg and Frost are simply zombie-bashing, than it does at the end, when Shaun (Pegg) gets a bit too sappy while patching things up with his girlfriend (Kate Ashfield) and stepfather (Bill Nighy).

The cast is spot-on, and the film boasts several riotously funny set pieces, most notably one in which Shaun and his crew pretend to be zombies in attempts to fool their would-be consumers. It's a wonder none of Romero's heroes ever thought of that.

(Rated R for zombie violence/gore and language. Running time: 99 minutes)



Review

Absurd Person Singular

by Alan Ayckbourne



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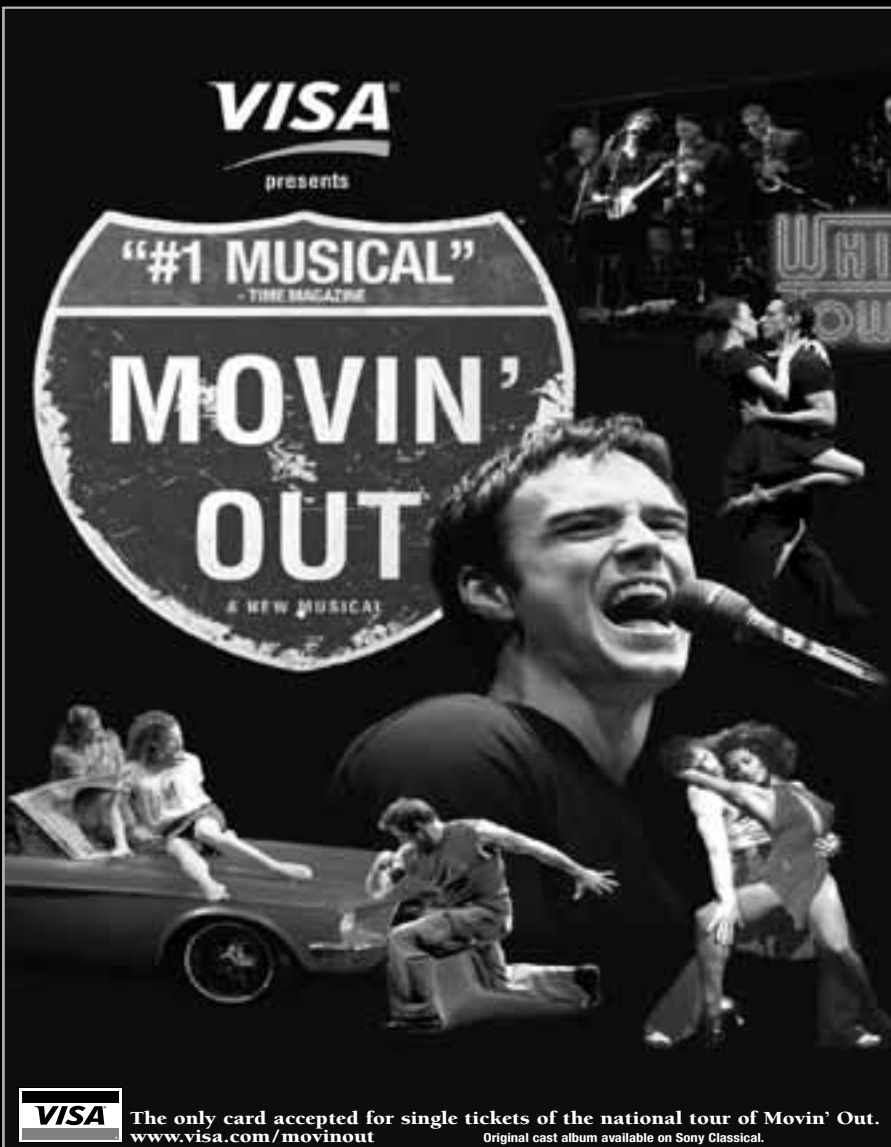
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NATIONAL

Kerry: Allawi's assessment contradicts Iraqi reality

BY NEDRA PICKLER
Associated Press Writer

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry said Thursday that Iraq's Ayad Allawi was sent before Congress to put the "best face" on a Bush administration policy that has gone wrong.

Shortly after Allawi, the interim government's prime minister, gave a rosy portrayal of progress toward peace in Iraq, Kerry said the assessment contradicted Allawi's own statements as well as the reality on the ground.

"I think the prime minister is, obviously, contradicting his own statement of a few days ago, where he said the terrorists are pouring into the country," Kerry said. "The prime minister and the president are here obviously to put their best face on the policy, but the fact is that the CIA estimates, the reporting, the ground operations and the troops all tell a different story."

Kerry was referring to comments Allawi made Sunday on ABC's "This Week." But Allawi also expressed optimism about the mission in that appearance.

"Foreign terrorists are still pouring in,

and they're trying to inflict damage on Iraq to undermine Iraq and to undermine the process, democratic process in Iraq, and, indeed, this is their last stand," Allawi said. "So they are putting a very severe fight on Iraq. We are winning. We will continue to win. We are going to prevail."

Allawi told a joint meeting of Congress Thursday that democratic elections will take place in Iraq in January as scheduled, but Kerry said that was unrealistic.

"The United States and the Iraqis have retreated from whole areas of Iraq," Kerry told reporters outside a Columbus firehouse. "There are no-go zones in Iraq today. You can't hold an election in a no-go zone."

Kerry said Bush should convene a summit of international leaders to ask for their help in Iraq. He also said the president missed an opportunity to get foreign support during two days of diplomacy at the United Nations this week.

"The president skedaddled out of New York so quickly he barely had time to talk to any leaders," Kerry said.

Kerry's remarks come one day after he told The Associated Press that President Bush's statement that a "handful" of peo-

ple were willing to kill to stop progress in Iraq was a blunder that showed he was avoiding reality.

"George Bush let Osama bin Laden escape at Tora Bora," Kerry said in the brief interview Wednesday. "George Bush retreated from Fallujah and other communities in Iraq which are now overrun with terrorists and threaten our troops. And George Bush said on the record we can't win the war on terror."

"And even today, he blundered again saying there are only a handful of terrorists in Iraq," Kerry said. "I think he's living in a make believe world."

Bush, campaigning in Pennsylvania on Wednesday, said: "It's hard to help a country go from tyranny to elections to peace when there are a handful of people who are willing to kill in order to stop the process. And that's what you're seeing on the TV screens. You know, these people cannot beat us militarily."

White House press secretary Scott McClellan said Thursday, "It only took 19 people to take down the World Trade Center towers and kill 3,000 people." He said that in Iraq, "you've seen how a small number of suicide bombers can have a

dramatic effect."

Bush said Wednesday the insurgents "use the only tool at their disposal, which is beheadings and death, to try to shake our will. They understand the nature of America. ... We weep when we think about the families affected by those who have been brutalized by these terrorists."

Kerry's voice was scratchy and breaking from a cold on Wednesday. He canceled most public events for Thursday in Columbus and in Iowa to rest his voice, though his words were clear at the firehouse. The campaign said running mate John Edwards would take Kerry's place in Iowa.

Kerry spoke to the AP in West Palm Beach, Fla., shortly before boarding a flight to Columbus and after Vice President Dick Cheney delivered a scathing attack on the Democrat. Speaking to reporters after meeting with Republican leaders on Capitol Hill, Cheney argued that Kerry has a penchant for wavering that makes him a weak alternative to a "steadfast leader, which is exactly what we have in President George W. Bush."

Redford decries Bush's environmental policies

BY CHRISTINA ALMEIDA
Associated Press Writer

LAS VEGAS — The Bush administration is "intentionally blind" to the needs of the environment and has rolled back years of advances in improving air and water quality, actor and activist Robert Redford said Wednesday.

"Sadly, the erosion that's occurred is disastrous, frightening and dangerous," Redford said.

Speaking at an event sponsored by the Environmental Accountability Fund, Redford said he is insulted when President Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney tout their status as Westerners.

"I take particular offense as a Westerner when I see all the swagger and all the strutting. And I think, 'What do they know about the West?'" said Redford, who has homes in California and Utah. "It's synthetic. It's fake."

America needs more bipartisanship

efforts, Redford said recalling the 1970s when he worked to help pass the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act.

"Remember the old days when we all fought tooth and nail, but we worked together to come to some sort of solution that could be bipartisan?" Redford said.

Bush campaign spokeswoman Tracey Schmitt dismissed Redford's claims, and said Bush has proposed a number of policies beneficial to the environment.

"Robert Redford should stick to film

making rather than making inaccurate claims," Schmitt said. "Our air and water are cleaner and clearer under this administration."

The Environmental Accountability Fund is a political action committee tied to the Natural Resources Defense Council Action Fund. It plans to air advertisements, send out mailings and put up billboards to highlight Bush's environmental policies and their effects on state and local communities.



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NATIONAL

Falling rock kills Australian during adventure race

By The Associated Press

ROCKPORT, Wash. — A falling boulder struck and killed an Australian man during an intense 400-mile adventure race through northwest Washington.

Nigel Aylott, 38, a Team AROC member who was known as one of the world's best backcountry athletes, died Tuesday.

Eight people, including Aylott's team and an American team, Montrail, were hiking down a rocky slope about 400 feet below Illabot Peak. One participant felt the boulder, which weighed more than 300 pounds, come loose underneath him, Skagit County Chief Deputy Sheriff Will Reichardt said Wednesday.

The boulder tumbled. Everyone else dodged it, but Aylott couldn't. It struck his head. Race spokesman Gordon Wright said Aylott was not wearing a helmet; helmets were required only for the biking portion of the race.

The racer who had been on the rock

suffered a serious leg cut and was airlifted off the mountain, then driven to Skagit Valley Hospital, Reichardt said. The man, John Jacoby of Team Montrail, was released from the hospital Wednesday.

Organizers halted the race at Rockport, 70 miles north of Seattle. Racers gathered at a park, wept and embraced one another after hearing that Aylott had died.

Organizers announced late Wednesday that the race would resume early Thursday, as Aylott's team and his family had urged. But they said the course would be shortened.

In the meantime, all the racers gathered Wednesday afternoon for a barbecue put on by race organizers.

"This is so Australian: We asked the team what would be the best way to commemorate his death, and they replied, in unison, 'A barbecue,'" Wright said.

AROC and Montrail were in the lead at the time of the accident and were the only

two out of 56 four-person teams to make it to the orienteering section, where racers on foot are tested on their map and compass skills in rough terrain. Other teams were still biking up state Highway 20 when the accident happened.

The hiking, biking and kayaking race began Sunday on Orcas Island in the San Juan islands and was expected to last about 10 days, with the winning team claiming a grand prize of \$100,000. From Rockport, the race was to lead competitors down the Skagit River to Mount Vernon before heading back to Orcas Island.

Organizers cut out eight checkpoints after the accident, however, and the race was expected to end Friday on Orcas.

According to a feature article posted on the race's Web site Tuesday, AROC was the only team that had not slept since the race began. The orienteering course its members were on was at about the

halfway point of the race.

Aylott lived in Melbourne. He was not married and had no children. He worked for 14 years for Telstra, an Australian telecommunications company, but a company representative said he left the company last year.

An experienced racer, he finished in the top three in 12 adventure races in Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia and the United States, according to the team's Web site. He was on Team AROC when it took second place in last year's Subaru Primal Quest race at South Lake Tahoe.

"It's just rotten," Wright said. "He had a huge personality, was well loved by all of us, and he was an extremely accomplished backcountry athlete."

Like last year's event, the race was being taped for a two-hour broadcast on CBS in January. The future of the broadcast remained unclear Wednesday, Wright said.

Call of the Wild — Hunting widows left holding the bag

BY CHUCK OXLEY

Associated Press Writer

BOISE, Idaho — It happens every year, starting about now.

Thousands of wives and girlfriends are left behind while their menfolk head for the hills, chasing a wilder kind of game through the early mountain mists.

Women are increasingly joining men in the hunting fields. But according to license sales figures, hunting remains an

overwhelmingly male-dominated activity.

For some men, hunting is a deeply felt urge that compels them into the wild country for weeks, even months — sometimes at the peril of their marriages.

The women left behind in these situations are called "hunting widows," often with equal parts affection and pity. Tina Bruce is one of them.

In early September this year, Tina's husband, Darin, tramped the hills of southeastern Idaho for 11 days in search

of elk. After stopping back at their Meridian home for three days of work and retooling, he headed back out, deep into the deserts of Owyhee County, for a six-day antelope hunt with a friend.

All told, the couple figures he spends about six weeks away from home between September and January, not to mention the thousands of dollars poured into the boat and camper, archery equipment, hunting clothes, shotguns, decoys and everything else that goes into the ultimate sportsman's garage.

"We've been married 20 years, and it took a long time to come to an understanding," says Tina, who runs a busy home day-care for six preschool children, as well as looking after their 15-year-old daughter and two Vizsla hunting dogs.

Tina makes no bones about not being the outdoorsy type.

"I went with him on a hunting trip once, when we were first married 20 years ago. I was pregnant with our first child — and it was the worst experience of my life," Tina says.

Nor does she appreciate the acquired taste of venison or elkburgers. Ducks and upland game are not allowed in the house unless they have been thoroughly stuffed and are ready to mount on the wall — along with the other ducks, pheasant, deer head and elk antlers.

"He makes jerky out of the birds. They're not too bad," she says, optimistically.

But the main objection to a hunting season is the time it takes from Tina and the family. Kidding aside, she says, it can become a serious, even fatal issue for the marriage if its not kept in check.

"We've had some difficult discussions," she says, her smile vanishing.

Darin says there is no way to describe the pull that hunting and the outdoors has on him.

When he was 8, he inherited much of his father's hunting equipment. That's part of the draw the bowhunter feels, but it's more than that, it's more than letting

the arrow fly into a 1,000-pound wild animal standing 20 yards in front of you.

"It's being one with nature, whether you harvest an animal or not," Darin says. "It's the solitude. You're in the animals' living room, on their terms. It's a feeling and an emotion."

That's exactly right, said Nick Sanyal, assistant professor of conservation social sciences at the University of Idaho College of Natural Resources.

"When you talk to a hunter, you get a whole litany of responses," he said.

"They're replacing Mother Nature by controlling the herd. Or it's tradition — a connection to the past. Killing an animal is kind of secondary, even incidental. It's the connection to the land. To lose yourself," Sanyal said.

There is also a deeply male, tribal-like attraction for male group-hunts, he said. Most hunting parties for big game, such as deer or elk, are all male.

"You never see single women or parties of only women hunting big game," Sanyal said.

After 20 years of negotiating hunting seasons, Tina and Darin have worked out a system of sorts that helps keep the home fires burning.

Darin does not hunt as many days as he once did, Tina said. There were years where it was simply too much, especially when their two daughters were younger.

Now, Darin is limited to one or two long trips a season, and Tina gets to keep him at home at least one weekend a month.

They have some advice for other couple, particularly younger ones, who might be in the same situation.

"Accept it, even learn to help him in it," says Darin. "Understand that it's not just what I do, it's who I am."

Tina's advice to hunters is more cautionary:

"Watch your step. Don't overdo it — don't kill it. If you do, it will turn off your wife and cause a lot of frustration and tension."



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NATIONAL



Mainers hope to make potatoes into premium vodka

BY DAVID SHARP

Associated Press Writer

FREEPORT, Maine — A farmer looking to add value to his low-priced potato crop has launched a business partnership in hopes of turning humble Maine spuds into high-priced premium vodka.

Maine Distilleries Inc. plans to trade on the state's image of pristine water and traditional New England farms as it creates a niche product to compete with the Grey Gooses and Belvederes of the world.

It'll be produced in small batches, much like microbreweries that produce specialized beers, said Don Thibodeau, who is in now in the midst of his fall harvest of 525 acres of potatoes in Fryeburg.

"This is all going to be hand-crafted by the batch," said Thibodeau.

Maine Distilleries already has cleared its first hurdle with the town's project review board. It anticipates having federal and state regulatory approvals to start production this spring.

It would be Maine's first commercial distillery, officials say. White Rock

Distilleries in Lewiston makes and markets a full line of spirits, but the alcohol used in White Rock products is imported.

The vodka concept originated with Thibodeau, who was frustrated by market conditions that have led to low potato prices.

The idea is not necessarily new.

Maine farmers have tossed around the idea of distilling vodka to utilize Maine-grown potatoes for years, but the consensus was that it wasn't cost effective to produce large quantities at low prices.

Creating smaller batches of a premium product makes more sense, and potato farmers will be watching the project with interest, said Don Flannery, executive director of the Maine Potato Board in Presque Isle.

There's thought to be only one distillery in the United States that currently makes vodka from potatoes. In Rigby, Idaho, Silver Creek Distillers Inc. produces vodka carrying the Teton Glacier, Blue Ice and Zodiac labels.

Vodka is the most popular of the spirits, accounting for 26.2 percent of U.S. liquor consumption last year, according to

the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States. Rum was second at 12.3 percent.

"It's definitely a growing market," said Shawn Kelley, the trade group's director of public relations in New York.

The robust growth is due to the popularity of high-priced super premium brands and flavored vodkas, along with a resurgence in the cocktail culture that has boosted liquor consumption in general, she said.

Maine Distilleries Inc. plans to start small with one or two batches — up to 500 bottles — each week, said Bob Harkin, a partner in the venture. Each batch will use 4,000 to 5,000 pounds of potatoes grown by Thibodeau's Green Thumb Farms.

The company hopes to win regulatory approval from the federal and state government and purchase the equipment in time to begin production this spring. The goal is to be on the market by summer in Maine and New Hampshire.

From there, company officials plan to press deeper into the northeastern market, Harkin said. If successful, the company

could end up buying potatoes from additional farmers in the state, he said.

The name and label for the vodka have been chosen, but they're closely guarded secrets, along with the water source.

Harkin recently returned from a trip to Europe to look at equipment. The company plans to invest several hundred thousand dollars in distillery equipment produced in Stuttgart, Germany.

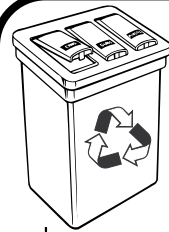
The entrepreneurs view their efforts as similar to those of microbreweries that proliferated in the early 1990s and have taken market share from big brewers like Coors, Budweiser and Miller.

Like those microbreweries, Maine Distilleries sees demand for a premium brand — aiming even higher than Absolut and Stolichnaya to the "super-premium" brands like Grey Goose, Chopin and Belvedere.

The conventional wisdom is that vodka was created in Poland using potatoes. But Harkin says 99 percent of vodka sold today is produced from grains like barley, wheat and corn.

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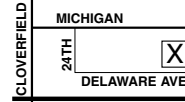
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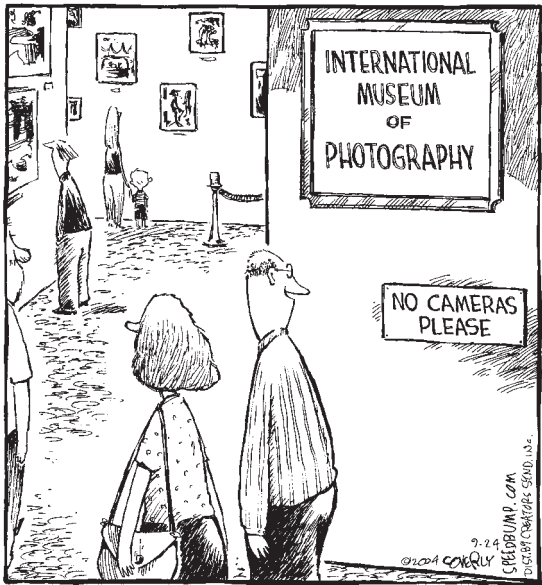
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ACROSS

- 1 Jab
- 5 Goes bad
- 9 Opera features
- 11 Take — (guess)
- 13 Coffee bar buy
- 14 Plant life
- 15 List-shortening abbr.
- 16 Paper dolls, e.g.
- 18 Prepares leftovers
- 20 "Skedad-dle!"
- 21 Medicinal herb
- 22 Friend's pronoun
- 23 Negating word
- 24 Particle
- 25 Weakens
- 27 Entice
- 29 Hubbub
- 30 Network workers
- 32 Grail seeker
- 34 Pertness
- 35 Spry
- 36 Chosen few
- 38 Break-away groups
- 39 Scout's work
- 40 Map areas

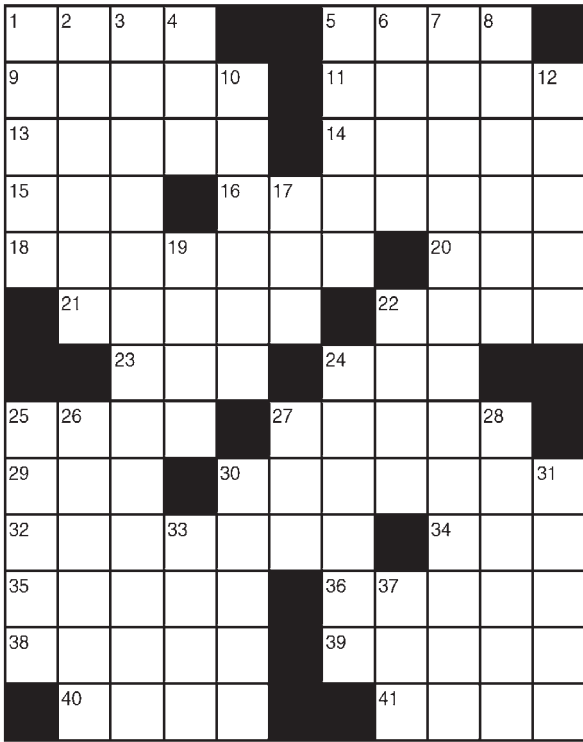
- 41 Polite fellow

DOWN

- 1 Less colorful
- 2 Speaks
- 3 They're on mess duty
- 4 Chow down
- 5 River floats
- 6 Capital on a fjord
- 7 Orwellian officers
- 8 Raid
- 10 Line through a curve

- 12 Sample
- 17 Acting teacher
- 19 Adam's grandson
- 22 Allen and Curry
- 24 Spree
- 25 Long stories
- 26 Saws
- 27 Brewed drink
- 28 Son of Poseidon
- 30 Kasparov's forte
- 31 Used up
- 33 Lady Bird's middle name
- 37 Trip segment

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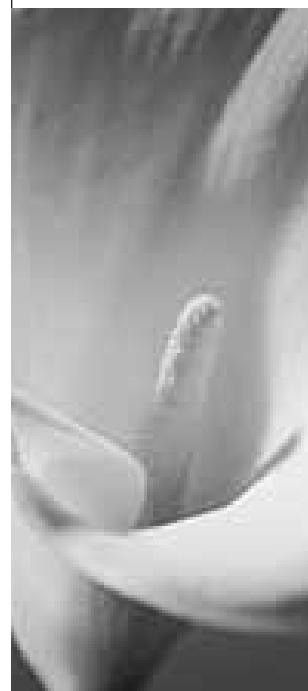
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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE
NO. 042205047 FIRST FILING. The following per-
son(s) is (are) doing business as Tsalutions, 13739
Valley Vista Blvd., Sherman Oaks, CA 91423. The
full name of registrant(s) is/are : Brady Tsurutani,
13739 Valley Vista Blvd., Sherman Oaks, CA 91423
This Business is being conducted by, an individual.
Signed: The registrant commenced to transact
business under the fictitious business name or
names listed on (Date)8/26/2004. /s/: Brydy Tsuru-
tani

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of
LOS ANGELES County on 8/26/2004. NOTICE: THIS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES
FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS
BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRI-
OR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement
does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a
fictitious business name statement in violation of
the rights of another under federal, state, or com-
mon law (see Section 14411et seq., Business and
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publish 9/24/2004, 10/1/2004, 10/8/2004,
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