

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

FANTASY 5

13, 29, 38, 5, 17

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 3, 5, 5

Evening picks: 5, 8, 9

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 3, Hot Shot
2nd Place: 5, California Classic
3rd Place: 9, Winning Spirit
Race Time: 1:47.16



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Fund manager Scott R. Sacane of Norwalk, Conn., defending himself in July against charges that he ignored Securities and Exchange Commission rules requiring investors to give notice when they buy large percentages of a publicly traded stock, said the mistakes were not his fault. In a filing with the commission, he said he had no idea that he had acquired 33 percent of one company (far exceeding the reporting threshold) and 78.5 percent of another, blaming the problem on a software failure over a three-week period.



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I like young girls. Their stories are shorter."

— Tom McGuane



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John Wood/Daily Press

Three suspects sit handcuffed moments after being arrested in Montana Avenue jewelry store holdup.

Smash and grab on Montana

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

Santa Monica police arrested three suspects who tore the counters off a glass display case in a Montana Avenue jewelry store Thursday and grabbed thousands of dollars worth of merchandise.

All three were booked for grand theft after the roughly 1:50 p.m. crime at JJ Design, 1307 Montana Ave., police said.

Just one employee was in the store at the time of the burglary.

"Thank goodness nobody was hurt," said the owner of the store, who asked to be identified only as Judy. "There was a woman sitting in a car who thought they looked suspicious and she took down the license plate."

Santa Monica police, responding to the crime, stopped a blue minivan near the 11th Street and Georgina Avenue, said Lt. Frank Fabrega, the department spokesman.

"They went into the store ... and they

See BURGLARS, page 6

Superintendent rejects bonus

Deasy says schools need the money more than him

BY JOHN WOOD
Daily Press Staff Writer



John Deasy

For the second year in a row, Santa Monica's top educator has turned down his annual performance bonus, citing the dire state of the school district's finances.

"When we're having to cut back on supplies and materials to kids, and we're having to lay off teachers, and trim and eliminate programs and classes, it's really hard for me to justify an enhancement to my salary," Superintendent John Deasy said.

Deasy's 7.5 percent bonus would have padded his \$150,000 salary by \$11,250. Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District board members granted him the bonus last week after evaluating his achievement over the past year.

The school district is struggling to maintain its services at current levels, said Deasy, who is the only employee eligible for an annual bonus. He credited Measure S, a parcel tax approved by voters in June, and extra contributions from the cities of Santa Monica and Malibu, with raising much-needed revenue but said local schools are still underfunded.

"We're barely going to break even because costs for services like fuel and utilities continue to increase," Deasy said. "Plus there's the labor costs, like workers' comp, and medical and health benefits continue to increase, and the costs of materials increase."

Board members praised Deasy's commitment to local schools and said they look forward to continuing to work closely with him during the current school year.

"We still have a long ways to go in terms of ensuring

See SUPERINTENDENT, page 5

Celebrity skaters hoping for SM holiday ice rink

Sponsor needed for outdoor rink

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

The largest outdoor ice rink in Southern California might be in downtown Santa Monica this winter, but the group behind the big freeze says it needs to find a major sponsor with some cold cash in the next eight days.

With a self-imposed deadline of Oct. 4, the group behind the project is scrambling to raise the second half of the funding needed and said Thursday that even if it doesn't happen this year, the rink will definitely be in town next year. If successful, it would become an annual event.

"Not everything is finalized, but the plans are big and exciting."

— KATHLEEN RAWSON

Executive director,
Bayside District Corp.

If everything falls into place, the rink would be open to the public for five weeks starting Nov. 28 and cost \$10 per hour, with skate rentals costing \$3. It would be in a lot at Santa Monica Boulevard and Second Street and feature the world's first-ever fiber optics display embedded in the ice.

"The ice just explodes with color," said Todd Fraser, who is working with world champion figure skaters Tai Babilonia and Randy Gardner to bring a Rockefeller Center-style holiday feel to Santa Monica. He declined to say how much the temporary ice rink would cost. "All the elements are there for success, but unfortunately the money's not, right now."

As part of the "Skate with the Stars" project, celebrity skaters would take to the ice each Sunday, and the proceeds would go to charity.

Bleachers and a large video screen would be set up around the rink. Though it would be covered by a tent in case of rain, the rink would be

See ICE RINK, page 5

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★★-So-so ★-Difficult

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, September 26, 2003:

Though you should rock and roll through this year, you might find a boss or authority figure particularly difficult. You will be unusually diplomatic and sensitive getting around most problems, but probably not this person. A new car or computer could be in the offing. You will be looking for more effective ways of communicating, be it a palm pilot, cell phone, etc. Some of you might opt to take a class in communication to learn new and better skills. You also will be completing an 11-year cycle and waving goodbye to many different things and people. Do be as graceful as possible. You are preparing for a new luck cycle. If you are single, carefully check out anyone you get involved with. This person might not be all that he or she appears to be. If you are attached, the two of you need more quiet time together to enhance your bond. LIBRA reads you cold.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ You might feel ready to charge out of the office, but experience a last-minute snafu. Giving 100 percent can make all the difference with a loved one. Distinguish what your priorities are before making strong decisions. Tonight: The only answer is "yes."

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Your diligence comes through, though you might be overwhelmed by what happens. Your gentleness helps a co-worker or an associate. A partner and/or a loved one could reverse directions. Tonight: Deal with the moment.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Use your imagination, and you'll come up with a solution. Expenses add up if you're not careful. Others reverse directions when you least expect it. Stay even, despite how others react. Your stability and humor can make or break a situation. Tonight: Finally, playtime.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Home needs to be your highest priority, though you do need to pace yourself in order to get out of the door at work. Your caring takes you in a new direction with a family member. Exhaustion hits; honor your energy levels. Tonight: Happy as can be.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Speak your mind, but know that your sixth sense might be off. Keep talking and asking questions. You will get answers if you remain persistent. Your gentleness goes a long way in helping another open up. Let your imagination speak. Tonight: Play all you want.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Expenses get way out of hand if you're not careful. How you view a situation might be colored by this fact, fortunately. Not being realistic could be more a part of the problem. You need to revise your lifestyle, and the sooner the better. Tonight: Out and about.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Your smile is a winner. You will understand a boss much better if you give him or her the room to express his or her grievances. In fact, not only can you identify them, but you can also help. Tonight: It's your night to howl.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Read between the lines with someone you care about. Not everyone is as they appear, but it might be quite comforting in a way. Deal with what you have, and watch someone come into his or her real self. Tonight: Vanish with someone special.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Although someone might rain on your parade, you could care less. You're focused and ready to deal with the moment. You demonstrate the results of a positive attitude. Others open up the pathways to what you want. Tonight: Where your friends are.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Don't hesitate to take the lead in different areas right now. Your focus might be getting out the door and achieving the goals you want. A call to friends isn't inappropriate. Start planning your weekend, and you'll be more encouraged to leave the office. Tonight: A must appearance.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Reach out for those at a distance, and you'll get results. You might be a bit surprised at what goes down if you're ready to break patterns and move ahead. You might want to ask for information from an expert, especially if you're looking at a trip or a special adventure. Tonight: Do the exotic.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Deal with others, even though it might frustrate your creativity. Work with someone close, with an eye to possibilities. You will notice that a boss points you in a whole different direction. Be responsive to those in charge. Tonight: Be with your favorite person.

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LOCAL

War is where the home is for a family in Baghdad

Commentary



BY KELLY HAYES-RAITT
Special to the Daily Press

Baghdad — "I told my children: 'If we are going to die, we should die together in the house,'" the solemn man

said through an interpreter, describing an early morning bombing in his neighborhood during the "shock and awe" campaign in Iraq.

When I visited Baghdad in February, just five weeks before the bombings and invasion, I saw Iraqis preparing for imminent war by taping their windows and stockpiling food and water. Urgent women stopped me on the street, imploring me to "please go home and tell Mr. Bush not to bomb us."

These were women who knew war. Even adults barely old enough to serve in the army had already lived through two devastating wars, 12 years of isolating sanctions and two decades of a political regime more brutal than my imagination allows.

In 1991, U.S. forces dropped 90,000 tons of explosives on Iraq during 42 days of relentless bombing. On the first day of bombing in Baghdad in March, U.S. forces dropped 10 times that much. We shocked. We awed.

Every morning during my return trip in July, I got into a car with a new driver and translator, and asked to visit a neighborhood that had been bombed.

Every morning, without hesitation, I was driven to a new neighborhood pockmarked by bullet holes and engraved with terrifying memories.

"It was a kind of destruction I cannot describe," said Isam Hindi, gesturing to the decimated statues in the park across the street from his home in Baghdad. "There were many dead bodies in front of us. They were shooting fire randomly from a helicopter. I was frightened and saw many dead bodies — and body parts — hands, legs. Helicopters were dropping rockets. These were the hours of death."

(The attack, like so many others described to me, came at 5 a.m., while Muslims prepared for morning prayers.)

Isam Hindi is a soft-spoken, 28-year-



Kelly Hayes-Raitt/Special to the Daily Press
"I told my children, if we are going to die, we should die together in the house," Isam Hindi said as he described an early morning bomb attack. His daughter and a neighbor peek through the gate pockmarked by bullets.

old computer professor at Al-Mansour University. As he cowered with his wife and two children in their living room, a rocket-propelled grenade pierced his wall and exploded.

"They shot my picture of Mohammed, our prophet," he said. Shrapnel tore into the middle finger on his right hand, leaving a gash black with infection. He cannot get antibiotics.

Since the war, Isam has been out of work. His 9-year-old daughter Sahar and 6-year-old son Ibrahim, still cry through sleepless nights. The foot-wide hole where the RPG intruded into his family's life is covered with a cloth.

A painting rested against a wall. Isam turned to me. I watched warmth melt his wistful sadness.

"I would like to show you the dignity and hospitality and honesty of the Iraqi people and give you this painting to remember us by," he said proudly.

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surf report

The remnants from the S will keep the surf decent today, though by the end of the day it'll be mostly NW wind swell responsible for whatever bump is out there.

OUTLOOK: It doesn't look good out there. Even the NW wind swell that has been so consistent will back down over the weekend. But by Monday a new, very modest swell will come up from the S. That's about it for now.

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

Today the
water is:

67°

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

	LOW TIDE				HIGH TIDE			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	12:44	0.8	12:06	3.3	8:05	3.8	5:52	4.9
SUNDAY	1:22	0.4	12:54	2.9	8:15	4.1	6:44	5.3
MONDAY	1:54	0.0	1:32	2.4	8:30	4.4	7:28	5.7
TUESDAY	2:23	-0.2	2:09	1.8	8:49	4.7	8:09	6.0
WEDNESDAY	2:52	-0.3	2:47	1.3	9:10	5.1	8:50	6.1
THURSDAY	3:21	-0.2	3:27	0.8	9:35	5.4	9:32	6.0
FRIDAY	3:51	0.0	4:10	0.3	10:03	5.8	10:17	5.7

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Through tears, I gazed at the darkly moody painting of a solitary man walking through an empty souk. Isam's outstretched gesture of friendship provided a connection through this desolate painting. Perhaps we are all connected through our desolation. I shook Isam's injured hand and humbly accepted his gift.

"Old paint on canvas as it ages sometimes becomes transparent," Lillian Hellman wrote in *Pentimento*. "When that happens it is possible in some pictures to see the original lines: A tree will show through a woman's dress, a child makes way for a dog, a large boat is no longer on an open sea. Perhaps it would be as well to say that the old conception, replaced by

a later choice, is a way of seeing and then seeing again."

Isam's true gift to me was this opportunity to see — and then see again.

(Kelly Hayes-Raitt is a political consultant specializing in fundraising, public relations and community organizing for campaigns and non-profit organizations. She traveled to Iraq in February and July and has been addressing audiences throughout California about the people she met. To schedule a presentation, call (310) 581-4421 or e-mail C2CCampaigns@aol.com. Her photos may be viewed at www.CommunityCampaigns.com/Iraq.)

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OPINION

The QLine

Some residents say civil servants need civility

This past week, Q-line asked:

"What should be done, if anything, to improve customer service in City Hall."

Here are your responses:

■ "It would seem that the city of Santa Monica and its bureaucracy have lost sight of the fact that they should assist rather than resist when it comes to Planning and Building Department matters. It is quite apparent to those who have to utilize both the Planning Department and Building Department that there is no consistency between one planning authority and another. That is, there is a multitude of interpretations to the code, no level playing field in which one can make a determination as to which planner you should listen to, and accordingly, you must return time and time again until you're able to get at least a consistent opinion as to what the approach is to your particular Planning or Building Department problem. It would be nice if they would understand that they serve the community, as opposed to being proactively against the community."

■ "To improve customer service in City Hall, the City Hall needs to hire some intelligent people."

■ "The problem with City Hall is indicative of the problem with the seven-member council. They're not interested in the residents' concerns about the things in the city. They're just involved in their own projects."

■ "I think we have a very, very, nice City Hall with a lot of information and services. But there is only thing that is missing, and it's not only in ours, it's in every place that is a government office. People are very unfriendly and also they never smile and that is the most important thing for a person to see when you come to a public office, or any office. But for some reason government offices have the meanest people you see, starting with the DMV and going on, and on, and on. So that is what is missing in the City Hall in Santa Monica."

■ "The Santa Monica City Council, Building and Safety in particular, are arrogant and power hungry. They love control and always want more. They have lost perspective regarding common sense. I think if they just get back to common sense and show respect for those who elected them, and/or pay their salaries, we'd be a lot better off. It's a shame they need to be audited; it just shows their arrogance. They know what living hell they cause people and they refuse to change on their own. I think they actually probably enjoy it. Come down from your ivory towers and get a reality check on what your jobs are: to assist those who live and work here and to make Santa Monica a better place. It

is not to make people's lives slow, bureaucratic nightmares."

■ "To start with, we can get a new city manager and new heads of departments. They could set the tone for the rest of the departments to follow. What we have now is a runaway City Hall that is following its own muse and is not responding to the people they work for."

■ "Considering the diversity of the residents of Santa Monica, some are richer than rich, others are poorer than poor, and the influx of daily visitors to the city of Santa Monica, I believe the police and city employees do a very good job. My

only personal gripe would be the lack of cleanliness of the city sidewalks along Wilshire and Santa Monica Boulevards. I feel that they should be steam cleaned, at night, on a regular basis for a healthier environment. Steam does not require, like swimming pools do, the use of a great deal of water."

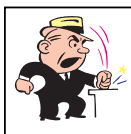
■ "All you have to do to realize the fiasco that's down there is look at page 1 of Monday 22, 2003, the article about the boy's playhouse. In it I believe the City Hall was going to have this boy's playhouse torn down because it was considered a two-story residence. It really is a fiasco, isn't it?"



Member: AAEC, NCS, SCS, SCS

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Neighborhood group takeover may further one group's agenda



**MY
WRITE**
By Bill Bauer

There was a changing of the guard in one of the city's oldest neighborhood organizations last Saturday.

In a coup backed and organized by school board member and Pico Family Youth Center executive director Oscar de la Torre, nine persons seized control of the Pico Neighborhood Association Board of Directors.

Most long-term board members lost their seats to newcomers, some of which had been PNA members for only a couple of hours. Four directors not up for election will stay on.

A rush of approximately eighty new members, most from the Mothers for Justice, an activist group backed by de la Torre, joined the PNA in the hours and minutes before the annual election held during the organization's annual Congress. The organization represents the Pico neighborhood, which is on the city's eastside, south of Interstate 10.

Armed with preprinted slate cards with candidate names and talking points, nine new members declared themselves write-

in candidates joining another dozen (mostly incumbents) seeking reelection.

Outnumbering the PNA regulars by more than two to one, the newcomers literally cleaned house. Gone were Chair, Don Gray; vice chair, Peter Tigler; secretary, Cece Bradley (who a co-founded the PNA 23 years ago); long time board members, Clyde Smith, Laverne Ross and Mat Millen.

Maria Loya — a leader of Mothers for Justice — Michael Jackson, Ana Jara, Irma Carranza, Bernice Onofre, Gina DeBaco, Belinda Ramos, Gina De Baca, Wes Thompson and Marc Sanschagrin received the highest number of votes cast and took seats.

But, what was up with City Councilman Kevin McKeown and Santa Monicans for Renters Rights co-chair, Patricia Hoffman who were invited to observe the vote count but ended up contributing lots of unwanted and unwarranted advice and suggestions? Observe means observe, not debate the counters.

Loya issued a personal press release stating, "the PNA board was definitely out of touch with its working class constituency and failed to push key issues such as affordable housing, jobs for youth and schools. The organization was not serving the interests of the community and our goal was to increase representation in the Pico neighborhood."

According to Tigler, the goals of the

PNA were virtually identical to those stated in Loya's press release and slate card. "There were minor differences. We advocated for ownership of affordable housing as opposed to rental housing," he said.

"Most of the new members had never approached the PNA with comments or suggestions. They had never attended a board meeting or made their positions known," Tigler continued. "We represented our members who supported us wholeheartedly. As a result, membership was increasing."

This raises some issues as to the real reason for the well-organized coup. If de la Torre, Lora and others were truly interested in the neighborhood, wouldn't they have made an effort to work with existing leadership?

It looks as if the real reason for the coup d'etat was to seize a well-established platform to promote self interests and a specific agenda rather than working in harmony with all the people that constitute the neighborhood.

The Pico neighborhood is the most diverse in the community. Thirty-five percent of its population is Hispanic, 35 percent is Caucasian, between 12 and 15 percent are African-American and the rest Asian or other.

Loya and de la Torre's claim of representing working class families is public notice their PNA will serve only one segment of Pico's population. Unfortunately,

this could further divide neighbors along social and ethnic lines.

Takeovers in Santa Monica politics are nothing new. City Council candidates Mike Feinstein and Abby Arnold both showed up at Santa Monicans For Renters' Rights pre-election conventions with dozens of supporters who "bullet voted" them as SMRR endorsements.

I hope the new PNA leadership broadens their outlook, maintains an open mind, is tolerant and helpful in of other points of view, and works with others for positive change.

However, other politically naive statements from Loya, de la Torre and directors-elect don't bode well for the organization.

Too bad most neighborhood groups have become little fiefdoms that promote the agenda of the handful of people who only speak for themselves — in many cases, not even their own membership, let alone the entire neighborhood they claim to represent.

Meanwhile, you can bet that SMRR leaders are wondering if de la Torre will power politic the important SMRR pre-election convention next year and seize power from their old guard like he did the PNA last weekend.

Stay tuned.

(Bill Bauer is a freelance writer and a longtime Santa Monica resident.)

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.

LOCAL



Superintendent won't accept performance bonus

SUPERINTENDENT, from page 1

that educational opportunities are afforded to all students in our district, but Deasy has put us on the right path toward achieving those goals," said board member Oscar de la Torre.

De la Torre pointed to Deasy's strategic planning processes and commitment to teacher training and improving instruction, and said he trusts Deasy will continue

to do his job with students in mind.

"Some of the real important goals that I'd like to see him focus on is to focus on those schools that have historically not achieved academically — on underperforming schools," de la Torre said. "We need to find a way to pair up the best teachers with the students that need the most help."

School board members ranked Deasy

on overall performance and achievement in four categories.

In the category of enhancing communication and building collaborative relationships, Deasy received a mark of "completely achieved." Deasy also scored perfect under the category of implementing a strategic plan. Board members said Deasy had "substantially achieved" his last two goals, which were developing models for assessment and instruction.

This is not the first time Deasy, who asked to have the annual bonus written into his contract when he was hired two

years ago, has turned down extra money. He also declined a 6.2 percent bonus last year that would have given him an extra \$9,375 and he turned down a 1.5 percent raise given to district employees last year.

"Both years since I've come to California the educational climate has been very different than the year I was hired," Deasy said. "I accept that you can get paid for the work you do. I think it's fine to accept a bonus based on meritorious work. But we're trying to do the best we can with what we've got."

Artificial snow in downtown forecast again this Winter

ICE RINK, from page 1

open-air the rest of the time, with a series of electric- and generator-powered holding plates keeping the surface frozen. The rink would be open from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m. and be available for private parties.

The grand opening would coincide with downtown's holiday-themed marketing push called "Winterlit" and be a huge boost to local merchants, said an official with the Bayside District Corp., the non-profit group that helps City Hall run the Third Street Promenade and the rest of the downtown shopping district.

"We're trying to put all the ducks in a row," said Kathleen Rawson, executive director of the Bayside District Corp. "Not everything is finalized, but the plans are big and exciting."

Winterlit includes five weeks of activities downtown, starting Nov. 28 with a full day of music, entertainment and celebrity guests. A "Surfing Santa" will cruise the Promenade before setting up his post at Santa Monica Place, KOST 103.5 will be hosting music in center court and, at 4 p.m., the skies will be pumped full of artificial snow.

Also part of the Winterlit installation are towering, 22-foot illuminated trees

and faux icebergs which will stay up through the first week of January. All told, the promotion will cost about \$100,000, said Rawson, adding that various partnerships have made the marketing push relatively inexpensive.

Santa Monica Place is also preparing for the busy holiday shopping season and plans to set up a 30-foot tree, hold a menorah lighting on Hanukkah weekend, show holiday short movies every Tuesday in December, and feature an ongoing light show on the exterior of the mall.

But for now, organizers say the ice rink is still in question. Many businesses that want to sponsor it can't until next year, because this year's holiday funding is already budgeted elsewhere, organizers said. Still, no company is being overlooked — from soup sellers and clothes outlets to food and music companies. Gardner, who grew up in Los Angeles and lives in Marina Del Rey, said he's eager to make the rink a reality.

"I go to the Third Street Promenade a lot," he said. "It's like, 'Wow, right up the street I can go (to skate).' It's kind of unique having a rink in Santa Monica, where there are beaches and palm trees, but it's a great holiday thing, I think, for the community."

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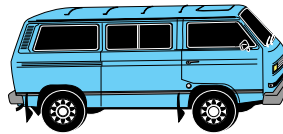
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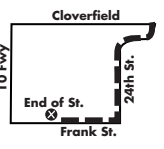
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LOCAL STATE

CALIFORNIA BRIEFS

Teen arrested in stabbing of Pacific Palisades student

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — School police arrested a 15-year-old Pacific Palisades High School student who allegedly stabbed a teenager during an off-campus fight.

The 14-year-old victim was hospitalized with a single stab wound and a collapsed lung, authorities said.

The alleged attacker was arrested Wednesday and booked for investigation of assault with a deadly weapon, Sgt. Jose Santome said.

The fight occurred along Temescal Canyon Road in Pacific Palisades, witnesses said. The boys fought with their fists, but as the 14-year-old began to walk away, the older boy took out a Swiss Army knife and plunged it into the victim's back, Santome said.

The names of the youths weren't disclosed.

Oxnard recycler cited for pollution

By The Associated Press

VENTURA — Halaco Engineering Co., the embattled Oxnard metal recycling firm, was placed on three years' probation and fined \$7,500 for polluting the air around Ormond Beach.

Last month, a Superior Court jury convicted Halaco on three misdemeanor pollution counts.

"This was a good result for air quality in the county," Senior Deputy District Attorney Mitchell F. Disney said after Wednesday's sentencing.

Prosecutors said the metal recycling company violated its air quality permit by releasing a plume of noxious smoke on Jan. 8. The smoke got out without going through Halaco's emission control system, which was turned off.

The company also failed to put a fume hood on its furnace when smoke was being released, prosecutors said.

Under the terms of probation, the company must install monitoring equipment, including a leak-detection device in its dust-control unit.

Environmental groups and government regulators allege the recycling company has been polluting the air, water and wetlands around Ormond Beach for years.

Gang members guilty in gay bar killing

By The Associated Press

RIVERSIDE — Three gang members pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter for their roles in last year's stabbing death of a homosexual man outside a downtown gay bar.

Under terms of the plea deal announced Wednesday, the trio won't be required to testify against a fellow gang member charged with stabbing Jeffrey Owens, 40, of Moreno Valley outside the Menagerie nightclub.

Owens and a friend were allegedly attacked to enhance the street gang's reputation, a prosecutor said.

Viviano Cruz Marin, 26, and David Leal Martinez, 29, agreed to plead guilty to involuntary manslaughter. Superior Court Judge Edward Webster sentenced Marin to nine years in prison and Miguel Angel Ramos, 29, to three years on a count of being an accessory to murder. Martinez will be sentenced Oct. 31.

Martinez attorney Frank Peasley said the defendants belonged to a "small party crew" known as the Dark Side.

Trial for Dorian Lee Gutierrez, 20, is expected to start next year. He is charged with killing Owens and trying to kill Owens' friend Michael Bussee. During a preliminary hearing, police said Gutierrez admitted stabbing Owens.

If convicted, he could face a prison sentence of 40 years to life.

Cops nab looters red-handed

BURGLARS, from page 1

pried open several display cases, removing several thousand dollars worth of jewelry," said Fabrega.

A witness identified the two men and the woman arrested as the looters, Fabrega said, adding that the stolen jewelry was found on the suspects and in the minivan.

JJ Design is a locally owned independent business that has been in Santa Monica 11 years, the owner said. She was trying to determine what was taken Wednesday evening.

Police withheld the names of the suspects, who were locked up in the Santa Monica jail.

Hugo Toscano, a construction worker who was in front of the house on 11th Street when the suspects were pulled over, said police were trying to talk to the suspects in several languages. Apparently, they did not speak English well.

After being pulled over, the suspects stayed in the van for about 15 minutes until police ordered them out, Toscano said.

Separately, prosecutors charged three men arrested Wednesday morning in Santa Monica for several home burglaries.

Bruce Campbell, 24, was booked for burglary and felony probation violation; Clayton Henderson, 18, was booked for burglary and felony probation violation; and Brandon Robinson, 21, who was booked for burglary, Fabrega said. Campbell and Henderson were denied bail, while Robinson was being held in lieu of \$75,000 bail, he said.

The three, all Los Angeles residents, were stopped about 10:30 a.m. in the 800 block of Yale Street, and police found evidence from a burglary in Los Angeles, Fabrega said.

In a search of their homes, detectives also found other evidence linking them to burglaries in Santa Monica, he said, though he did not have specifics on the crimes.

Anyone with more information about these crimes was urged to Sgt. Lowe at (310) 458-8453 or Detective Bambrick at (310) 458-8932.

STATE

Limits of suburban sprawl seen in move to drop huge development

BY LAURA WIDES
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES

The state announced plans this week to turn a proposed housing project into a nature preserve, ending more than a decade of fighting between environmentalists and developers and signaling what some experts say are the limits of suburban sprawl in California.

The move comes as California's housing crunch is driving home prices higher and pushing developers into areas such as the eastern deserts that were once considered undesirable.

Environmentalists heralded the state's decision to buy the 2,800-acre Ahmanson Ranch from developer Washington Mutual as a major victory for the preservation of open space.

Experts say the victory is mostly symbolic, as the state doesn't have the money to shell out for every swath of environmentally sensitive land slated for development. But they say successful opposition to the project signifies a larger shift in development for a state desperately in need of housing.

The tentative, \$150 million deal will protect the oak-covered hills bordering Ventura and Los Angeles counties from what would have become a 3,050-home and golf course community. It is expected to be finalized in October.

"Ahmanson Ranch says we can't look to the hills anymore for more housing. We have to look back at the cities," said University of Southern California demographer Dowell Myers.

Guy Bjerk, president

of the Home Builders Association of Northern California, said more builders around San Francisco Bay are looking to do "infill," placing homes in remaining open, urban spaces, and building more multi-family dwellings within cities.

"We're seeing redevelopment projects springing up throughout Oakland and other East Bay communities," he said.

In Southern California, Pasadena and downtown Los Angeles have attracted developers in recent years. A decade ago about 400 units were built annually in Los Angeles, according to the city's department of building and safety. Last year, about 5,000 units were in the pipeline.

But building homes in urbanized areas is not easy.

Smaller spaces mean smaller projects, with higher costs. Materials are often more expensive because they must be bought in smaller quantities. And liability insurance shoots up, as developers attempt to limit the effect of construction on existing nearby infrastructure and communities.

And while projects such as Ahmanson face opposition from environmentalists, "infill" projects face resistance from even more determined adversaries — neighbors.

"Neighbors are going to have to adjust their expectations about how much growth they're going to tolerate, so we can preserve nature on the edges of our cities," Myers said.

To avoid these hassles and the wrath of environmentalists, other builders are looking past the edges

of existing cities and are staking out projects in the state's interior, including the Central Valley and Southern California's inland counties.

In the so-called Inland Empire east of Los Angeles, new homes continue to sprout along desert highways at a dazzling pace. Roughly 400 housing developments were under construction in the first six months of this year in Riverside and San Bernardino counties. That's more than twice the number in Ventura and Los Angeles, according to the Meyers Group, a national real estate consulting company.

No matter where developers build, it's unlikely construction will be able to keep pace with the state's exploding population and existing housing deficit.

In 2002, the state faced a deficit of about 100,000 homes, according to Meyers.

The desperate need for more housing has pushed prices out of reach for many.

The median price of California houses and condos rose in August to \$325,000, a 20.4 percent hike from \$270,000 a year ago, according to DataQuick Information Systems.

For developers such as the Newhall Land & Farming Co., the housing shortage remains good news. Newhall is planning one of the last giant housing developments in Los Angeles County, a 20,885-home project to be built out over the next 20 years to the north end of the county.

"With the potential removal of Ahmanson's homes, the shortage is even more pronounced and the need greater," said Newhall Land spokes-

woman Marlee Lauffer. "That means a more demand for our homes."

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State makes \$20M refund error

By The Associated Press

SANTA ANA — The state mistakenly sent Orange County about \$20 million in vehicle license fees that should have been withheld because of the California budget deficit.

The state finance director wants the money back, but county officials said no.

State officials this summer decided to keep vehicle license fees collected in July, August and September and use the money to help offset the state's budget deficit. The money is normally collected by Sacramento and distributed among local governments.

The state said it plans to repay the money it was withholding, plus interest, to the cities and counties in 2006.

Under agreements after Orange County's 1994 bankruptcy, the state taps the vehicle license proceeds for the county to make monthly payments on the county's nearly \$900 million bankruptcy debt. After its debt payment is covered, the state sends Orange County the balance of the fee revenue.

The state used vehicle license fees to pay the county's \$2.3 million debt payments in July and August. But the state also sent Orange County its ordinary share of the vehicle license fees — about \$20 million — that the state claims should have been withheld.

Supervisors Chairman Tom Wilson said lawyers for the state controller and the county believe the county was entitled to all the money under the bankruptcy agreement.

"I'm saying until they sort it out, let's keep the money," Wilson said. "If the lawyers say, 'Pay it back,' and Wall Street says, 'You can pay it back,' we'll just send it back."

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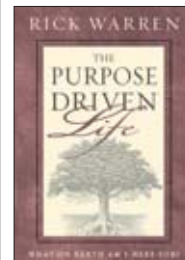
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What's Playing

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

ANYTHING ELSE

As Woody Allen flicks go, it ranks in the middle of the pack with the likes of "Mighty Aphrodite" and "Small Time Crooks."

SECONDHAND LIONS

Duvall and Caine try to push this unwieldy family fare along, but the old hands can't quite advance beyond the ordinary.

MATCHSTICK MEN

An evocatively honest look at the dishonest lives of two con men, featuring stellar performances by Nicolas Cage and Sam Rockwell.

ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO

There is no shortage of entertaining, eye-popping pyrotechnics and hyper-kinetic fight sequences, but what this film is sorely lacking is a sense of clarity.

DICKIE ROBERTS: FORMER CHILD STAR

Has a lot in common with star David Spade's filmography: It shows early promise, but quickly degenerates into an unfunny mess.

THIRTEEN

Nabbed the top director's prize at the 2003 Sundance Film Festival, and deservedly so. This is one of the most compelling films of the year.

JEOPERS CREEPERS 2

Relies on far too many stale clichés. The result is a film that is as lifeless as, well, most of the cast is by film's end.

AMERICAN SPLENDOR

Based on the cult-classic comic book series of the same name, the film is funny and sad and disheveled and, most of all, it's us. In his first go as a leading man, Paul Giamatti just flat-out nails it.

STEP INTO LIQUID

Whether you're a SoCal beach bum or a mainland who doesn't know a point break from a coffee break, you'll likely enjoy this exciting, beautifully crafted love letter to surfing.

THE MEDALLION

The only thing missing from all the new, well-appointed multiplexes are barf bags for use in case of unexpected turbulence or films such as "The Medallion."

OPEN RANGE

Boasts enough eye-popping scenery and well-choreographed gun battles to make it one of the better westerns in recent memory.

THE MAGDALENE SISTERS

Powerful and thought-provoking tale of three young women imprisoned inside a convent in 1960s Ireland.

FREDDY VS. JASON

For fans of the series, both of which lost their luster roundabout their sixteenth or seventeenth installment, the film is likely to be the ultimate letdown.

S.W.A.T.

With a compelling story, strong characters and a plethora of gritty action sequences, the film is a vast improvement over the mediocre television series that spawned it.

FREAKY FRIDAY

This remake strives to be a little more inventive than the 1977 original, and with the help of Jamie Lee Curtis and Lindsay Lohan succeeds to a large degree.

AMERICAN WEDDING

Doesn't succeed like its predecessors, but it's a serviceable send-off to one of the more likable film franchises of the past decade.

SEABISCUIT

A nice film that makes the heart swell with patriotic pride and nostalgia, while the head marvels at the depth and complexity of some truly wonderful performances.

SPY KIDS 3-D: GAME OVER

A muddled special effects spectacle that invites you to play along with the game, and hopes you forget that you actually paid to see a movie.

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN

Without a doubt the best Big Screen adaptation of a theme park ride ever, this film goes a long way toward redeeming Disney for the sin that was "The Country Bears" movie.

Entertainment

'The Rundown' is an action movie that 'rocks'

Review

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

"The Rundown" will leave you breathless! I say this not only because it may very well be true, but also because that is precisely the sort of easily digestible nugget that might get plastered all over the movie ads (which would make my mother very proud of me). But where was I? Ah, yes, "The Rundown." A rollicking, action-adventure tailor-made for Hollywood's contempo action hero, Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, who could very well be the next Schwarzenegger — if only he'd quit being such a decent actor.

The Rock stars as Beck, a teddy bear in a grizzly's body, who makes his living as a "retrieval expert" for a surly Los Angeles bookie. Beck hates guns because when he uses them, "bad things happen to people ... really bad things." So he gets the job done with his bare hands, as we discover right out of the gate when Beck pounds the stuffing out of a pro football team in a



nightclub. In a year in which there is no shortage of high-voltage cinematic action, this balletic brawl ranks as the most exciting sequence to date. Watch it, and you'll surely want to jump up and shout "Go, The Rock, go!"

But our hero wants out — wants to trade in his brass knuckles for some stainless steel cookware and open his own restaurant. His boss, Walker, makes him a deal: Complete one last mission,

collect a big reward, and retire to the kitchen. So Beck journeys to the jungles of Brazil to retrieve Walker's wise-ass wayward son, Travis (Seann William Scott) who dropped out of Stanford to pursue a long-lost Amazonian treasure. Beck locates Travis almost immediately, and they begin exchanging what ultimately amounts to a glut of not-so-witty jabs. Imagine Stifler riffing with Rambo. But director Peter Berg overcomes

the dialogical failings and Scott's incessant overacting by inserting Rosario Dawson as Mariana, a smoking-hot bartender/freedom fighter, and the irresistible Christopher Walken as Hatcher, an unstable despot who enslaves the natives to toil in his diamond mines.

Soon, Beck, Travis and Mariana are working together to find the extremely-valuable Gato Diablo idol while being hotly pursued by Hatcher and his henchmen. This entertaining game of cat-and-mouse, highlighted by some hilarious bon mots courtesy of Walken, gives way to an ultimate showdown during which Beck finally disregards his no-guns policy — a dubious contrivance to begin with — and blasts the hell out of a whole slew of baddies while barely breaking a sweat. Even more impressive than his expert marksmanship is Beck's uncanny ability to kill without bloodshed, thus preserving the film's invaluable PG-13 rating. Now that's what I call a real action hero.

(Rated PG-13 for adventure violence and some crude dialogue. Running time: 104 minutes.)

'The Rock' gives 'The Rundown' on his success

BY DAN DUNN

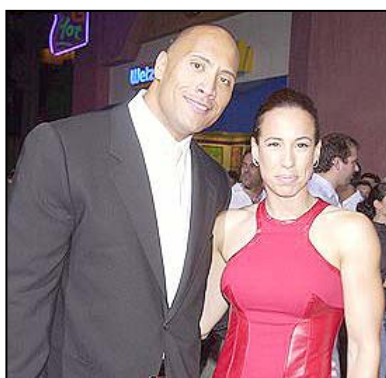
Special to the Daily Press

It's quite a thing to be so famous that only one name is required. The list of monomarked superstars is an impressive one that includes the likes of Cher, Madonna and Prince, just to name a few. Beloved treasures all, but as these venerable performers have gotten long in the tooth without any worthy single-sobriquetted successors to speak of, celebrity worshippers the world over have been bracing for the grim likelihood that a day will come when one name DOES NOT say it all.

Well rest easy, ye lovers of luminaries, because in the young artist formerly known as Dwayne Douglas Johnson we have a solid rock upon which to indulge our adulatory impulses for many years to come. And not just any rock, mind you — THE Rock. The former University of Miami football star turned pro wrestling champion turned matinee idol made his feature debut in the "The Mummy Returns." He then established himself as a bona fide box office phenom playing the title role in the 2002 epic, "The Scorpion King," which has grossed upwards of \$400 million to date.

But THE Rock is more than just a hunky Hollywood cash cow. In 2000, he addressed both the Republican and Democratic National Conventions lobbying young people to get out and vote. He cut a rug impressively in Wyclef Jean's music video for "It Doesn't Matter," and his autobiography, "The Rock Says," shot to No. 1 on The New York Times bestseller list.

The Rock sat down recently to talk about his latest action-adventure, "The Rundown," which teams him with Seann William Scott, Christopher Walken and Rosario Dawson.



'The Rock' with wife Dany Johnson

Question: "You play an action hero in a buddy movie. What, if anything, did you try to do to distinguish your character and this movie from all the others that have come before?"

The Rock: "No. 1, I wanted Seann and I to do something special. I wanted to create a non-buddy, buddy feel like 'Midnight Run' or even '48 Hours.' With my character, I tried to make sure he appeared flawed and always in jeopardy. He's different from most action heroes in that he's reluctant to fight."

Q: "The biggest action hero of them all, Arnold Schwarzenegger, does a cameo in the film. How did that come about?"

TR: "He came by to have lunch one day. Peter Berg (the director) came over, sat down to have lunch with us, and whispered to me 'Should I ask him to be in the movie?' and I said 'Hell, yeah, ask him.' So he did, and Arnold was, like, (impersonates

Schwarzenegger) 'Ah, yes, let's do it right now.' (laughs) And within 15 minutes we're shooting. It was almost surreal."

Q: "Christopher Walken is a strong presence in every film he's in, and 'The Rundown' is no exception. What was he like on set?"

TR: "He carries himself in that Walken way. He really does have an amazing presence. And he's a good guy — a solid guy who went out of his way to help me raise my game. And then there's that rhythm he has. It's almost as though he reads the script without punctuation getting in the way."

Q: "As recently as seven years ago, you were sleeping on the floor at a friend's apartment with seven bucks to your name. And today you're one of the most bankable stars in the world. Back then, did you envision things turning out anything like the way they have?"

TR: "I always thought I wanted to act one day, but I didn't know how I was going to get there. I wanted to entertain people, and the convenient route — especially after I got cut from playing football — was to try pro wrestling. But never, ever did I anticipate this. Never. I never anticipated making a lot of money, or being in big, fun, energetic movies. I just wanted to make more than the \$300 a week I was making. I just knew that whatever I did, I was going to swing for the fences, and try to outwork my contemporaries."

Q: "How have your humble beginnings influenced the way you behave now that you're a superstar?"

TR: "Well, I have a 2-year-old daughter and I'm spoiling the hell out of her. But it's important to me that she understands the value of a dollar, and the value of hard work. Because I do."

ENTERTAINMENT



DeVito's 'Duplex' too predictable, unforgiveably ordinary

Review

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

In director Jay Roach's "Meet The Parents," Ben Stiller brought down the house as Gay Focker, a male nurse whose pursuit of everlasting love is stymied by his own bungling ways and a meddling father-in-law to-be. With "Duplex," Danny DeVito attempts to mimic Roach's successful concept, this time pitting first-time property owners Stiller and Drew Barrymore against a pesky elderly tenant. The former is a brilliant comedy of errors; the latter, a comedy that errs. There are laughs to be had in "Duplex," but overall it's too predictable and unforgivably ordinary to merit recommendation — this is a retreat that disappoints more than it delivers.

The leads play Alex and Nancy, a couple of New York yuppies with very bright

futures. He's working on his second novel; she's an editor at a trendy magazine. With the help of a duplicitous realtor (Harvey Fierstein) they find their dream home — an exquisite duplex on one of those charming tree-lined Brooklyn streets that show up regularly in Woody Allen and Nora Ephron movies. The place has everything Alex and Nancy ever wanted: three fireplaces, stained glass windows, a library and a spacious second floor apartment. Sure, there's a little old lady living in the rent-controlled unit, but Fierstein assures the couple that ailing Mrs. Connelly (Eileen Essell) isn't long for this earth or their duplex. Besides, when they meet the ole' gal she seems perfectly sweet and completely harmless.

Wanna guess what happens next?

Essell does a nice job as the manipulative battle-ax who systematically ruins her young landlords' lives, but when it comes

to generating laughs at Stiller's expense, she's no Robert DeNiro. The gags are watered-down even further by the presence of Barrymore, who is featured in most of the comic set pieces, but simply doesn't have the comedic chops to keep up with Stiller or pump up the flat material. The film loses what little momentum it has when Alex and Nancy begin conspiring to kill Mrs. Connelly. While DeVito was able to pull off this sort of pitch-black

humor once before, in his directorial debut "Throw Mama From The Train," he stumbles here primarily because above all he wants us to like this irksome couple of murderous yuppies. Stiller gives it his all, and almost gets to us, too, but ultimately, his character — and this movie — is a hum-drum imitation of a really funny Focker.

(Rated PG-13 for sexual content, language and some violence. Running time: 89 minutes)

Malibu Film Festival starting

By Daily Press staff



The best in the independent cinema business will assemble at the New Malibu Theater this week for the annual Malibu International Film Festival.

The festival, now in its fourth year, is an exhibition of work that showcases many of the top independent cinema films. The festival's programming staff will view more than 1,000 submissions and select approximately 30 feature-length documentary and dramatic films, and 20 shorts for presentation to an audience of more than 20,000.

The festival runs from Sept. 26 to Oct. 2. Festivities will kick off on Friday with a star-studded opening night party that starts at 8 p.m. and costs \$100.

The week will be capped off with an awards night party on Oct. 2 that begins at 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$100. This year, party will be held at an undisclosed Malibu location and will again honor a select distinguished celebrity and the fes-

tival independent filmmakers.

Independent film screenings, which run throughout the week cost \$8.

Tickets are available through TicketWeb.com or by calling TicketWeb at 1-866-468-3399. Ticket also are available at the New Malibu Theater box office.

The New Malibu Theater is located at 3822 Cross Creek Road.

Past celebrity attendees to the festival include: Sean Penn, Merv Griffin, Joe Bologna, Renee Taylor, Sally Kirkland, Nev Campbell, Tony Danza, Suzanne Summers, Lilly Lawrence, David Woelfel, Martin Landau, Arthur Hiller, Alan Hamill, Adam Sandler, James Cameron, John Frankenheimer, Roger Corman, Seymour Cassell, Charles Bronson, Arthur Hiller, Barry Spinkings, Shirley Maclaine, Jeff Bridges, Nick Nolte, Katrina Bronson and hundreds of independent filmmakers.

Past honorees of the awards night party include: Arthur Hiller, James Cameron, John Frankenheimer, Roger Corman, Seymour Cassell, Charles Bronson, Shirley Maclaine, Lloyd Bridges, Nick Nolte, Katrina Bronson and hundreds of independent filmmakers.



Anyone with a heart will love 'Under The Tuscan Sun'

Review

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

Diane Lane stars as a recently divorced woman on the mend in this gorgeous, thoroughly enjoyable romantic dramedy about second chances, and the healing power of both friendship and flings with Italian heartthrobs. Shot on location by veteran director of photography Geoffrey Simpson ("Shine") in the postcard-pretty Italian countryside, "Under The Tuscan Sun" is surely one of the most aesthetically winning films of the year. And the revitalized Lane is once again a joy to behold as Frances Mayes, a San Francisco-based, 40-something writer whose life is turned upside down when her husband suddenly leaves her for a younger woman.

Hoping to lift her out of a serious funk, Patti (Sandra Oh of "Arli\$\$," playing the requisite gay best friend) surprises Frances with a 10-day trip to Tuscany. Once there, she impulsively buys a bro-

ken-down villa called Bramasole (which translates to "something that yearns for the sun"), and the reparation project is under way. The likable cast of supporting characters includes Frances' kindly realtor Signor Martini (Vincent Riotta), fun-loving British hedonist Katherine (Lindsay Duncan) and Marcello (Raoul Bova) an Italian hunk who passes through town, but not before stopping by the villa to help Frances with some much-needed, uh, "repairs."

What could have amounted to nothing more than a glorified "Lifetime" movie of the week turns out to be a genuine affirmation of the power of the human spirit, thanks to a clever script by writer-director Audrey Wells that eschews the conventions of the romance genre and allows some very identifiable characters to explore provocative emotional territory. It's hard to imagine anyone with a heart not finding something to embrace "Under The Tuscan Sun."

(Rated PG-13 for sexual content and language. Running time: 113 minutes)



Santa Monica locals host first annual 'Homie Palooza'

By Daily Press staff

A slew of local bands will play at Rusty's Surf Ranch on the Santa Monica Pier on Saturday in the first annual "Homie Palooza" that will raise money for two youth groups and is designed to re-energize skateboarding in the community.

Organized by local musician Mark Dominique, Homie Palooza will feature Sancho's Revenge, Front Side Gring, N9, Left Hand Side and Horny Toad. The music ranges from punk rock to reggae to alternative. The band members all grew up in Santa Monica and Venice, and come from skateboarding and surfing cultures.

They want to keep those cultures alive with local youth so all the proceeds of the event will go toward the Pico Youth and Family Center and the Boys and Girls Club of Santa Monica. Half will go to the

youth and family center and the other half will pay to re-sheet the skate park at the boys and girls club.

"I'd been hearing the ads for Lallapalooza," said Dominique, who is the singer in Sancho's Revenge and a drummer for Horny Toads. "I wanted to do something positive for the kids because they get overlooked and it's too bad because they are our future."

Dominique hopes to educate youth on the skateboarding community in the area and about the anticipated new skateboard park being built by the city at Memorial Park. Several sponsors including Horizons West Surf Shop and a host of skateboard companies, will donate plenty of skateboarding schwag to be given away in raffles all night long.

The price is \$10 for the all ages show and includes raffle tickets. Show starts at 8 p.m.

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STATE

Davis to sign anti-spam bill, identity theft legislation

BY TOM CHORNEAU

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — California will prohibit Internet advertisers from sending unsolicited e-mails known as spam in what would be the toughest law of its kind in the nation, providing for fines up to \$1 million, under legislation Gov. Gray Davis said he would sign Tuesday.

The anti-spam legislation targets not only the firms that package and send the unwanted e-mails to consumers, but also the companies whose products and services are being advertised. The measure covers all unsolicited commercial e-mail sent or received in California and imposes fines of up to \$1 million per incident.

"There are no loopholes, no way of getting around it," said the bill's author, state Sen. Kevin Murray, D-Los Angeles. "We are confident that this is going to stop the billions that we are losing to spam."

Murray said California is taking the most aggressive step yet to prevent spam.

Washington state passed an anti-spam measure in 1998, but it didn't go as far. The Washington law provides civil penalties of \$500 per message for bulk or commercial e-mail with misleading information in the subject line, invalid reply addresses or disguised paths of transmission.

A San Francisco-based marketing firm, Ferris Research, estimated that unwanted e-mails cost U.S. companies nearly \$9 billion in 2002 in lost productivity, consumption of communication bandwidth and drain of technical support.

"California is sending a clear message to Internet spammers: we will not allow you to litter the information superhighway with e-mail trash," said Davis in a statement.

The bill, which would become law Jan. 1, allows the state attorney general to target spam operations anywhere in the United States and offshore.

Murray noted that past attempts to reg-

ulate the e-mail ads have failed because many of the spam operations are located outside the country. But the new California law empowers state officials to go after bank accounts and other financial holdings of foreign companies convicted of illegally sending unwanted e-mail into California.

Consumer groups first opposed the bill, because they thought it contained loopholes and weaknesses in assessing penalties. But Jordanna Beebe, spokeswoman for the Privacy Rights Clearinghouse, a nonprofit consumer advocacy group, said they now support the bill after improvements were made.

Davis announced he has signed several bills aimed at protecting consumers against identity theft and intends to sign at least one other.

One measure prohibits companies from mailing any documents that includes a Social Security number visible on the envelope. Another bill gives consumers more control over the distribution of personal information to third parties. The governor also said he supports a bill that helps victims of identity theft obtain more quickly documents and other information needed to clear their names and close new accounts or extended credit illegally opened.

A new study was also released Tuesday that estimates as many as 10 million Americans were victims of identity theft last year — crimes that cost business nearly \$300 billion a year.

The study was conducted by Dale Pletcher, from California State University, Sacramento and the Identity Theft Resource Center in San Diego.

More sophisticated criminals are making it harder for law enforcement to investigate identity theft and harder for victims to recover from it, researchers said. The study was based on surveys from 173 victims of identity theft who contacted the center for help in 2002.

Davis signs gun safety lock bill

BY ANNA OBERTHUR

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — California will become the first state in the nation to require handguns to have two new safety devices under a bill signed by Gov. Gray Davis earlier this week.

Gun safety advocates said the bill, which will require semiautomatic pistols to have both a chamber load indicator and a magazine disconnect device by 2007, will make the state safer and bolster California's reputation for tough gun laws.

While opponents said part of the law could actually make guns more dangerous, supporters of the legislation applauded Davis and Sen. Jack Scott, D-Altadena, who wrote the bill.

"We are so tired and sickened at heart to hear about all the children who die from guns every day, day after day," said Jane Roth, president of the Million Mom March's California State Council. "This new law will save lives and will prevent further accidents."

The bill requires gun manufacturers to add indicators that show if there is a bullet in the chamber or make it impossible to fire if the ammunition magazine is not inserted in the gun. One of the options must be implemented by January 2006, and both must be in place by 2007.

"If this had been a law a long time ago my son might be alive," said Lynn Tsumoto Dix, whose 15-year-old son was killed when his teenage friend shot him with a gun both boys thought was empty. "But we're looking forward. This is quite a victory."

Supporters cited a recent Johns Hopkins University study showing that the devices used together could prevent 24 percent of accidental shootings.

Assemblyman Ray Haynes, R-Murrieta, argued that requiring load indicators could end up making handguns less safe, and called it "headline legislation."

He said it was unwise to teach people to rely on technology to tell them if a gun is loaded or not.

"The best gun safety rule is to treat every gun as if it's loaded. Every responsible gun owner knows that," Haynes said. "There's a highly likely possibility that someone could be misled by that and think the chamber was empty when it wasn't."

But the point of the legislation isn't to remove human judgment, said Eric Gorovitz, policy director of the Washington, D.C.-based Coalition to Stop Gun Violence.

"We know what happens when you rely on people to check the firing chamber," Gorovitz said. "Kids die, that's the consequence."

STATE



Carmakers showcase latest eco-friendly car technology

BY TERENCE CHEA

Associated Press Writer

SONOMA — The world's major automakers are gathering in California this week to show off more than 100 vehicles powered by electric motors, hybrid engines, hydrogen fuel cells and other eco-friendly technologies aimed at reducing pollution and boosting fuel economy.

Grabbing much attention was a General Motors Corp. car called Hy-wire, which puts fuel cell technology in a futuristic body, and lacks foot pedals, steering wheel or even an engine.

Automakers say fuel cells could reach the market within a decade and eventually eliminate today's internal combustion engine as a source of air pollution.

"The industry is moving toward cleaner, lower emission vehicles," said Ron Musgnug, project leader for the Michelin-sponsored media event, known as Challenge Bibendum. "Many alternatives for the consumer will be available as the industry continues its progress."

But environmentalists say the auto show, complete with test-drive opportunities at Sonoma's Infineon Raceway just north of San Francisco, clouds the pollution debate. While encouraged by the long-term potential of these next-generation technologies, they complain that auto makers keep opposing higher fuel efficiency standards — and keep selling gas-guzzling SUVs.

"The auto companies are using these long-term solutions like hydrogen fuel cells to distract us from these near-term options."

— ROLAND HWANG

Natural Resources Defense Council

"The auto companies are using these long-term solutions like hydrogen fuel cells to distract us from these near-term options," said Roland Hwang, a vehicle technology expert at the Natural Resources Defense Council.

"If the auto industry was serious about reducing our petroleum dependency, it would support raising fuel efficiency standards at the national level," Hwang added.

Carmakers are investing billions of dollars to develop more eco-friendly vehicles to meet stricter standards on auto emissions and fuel efficiency. But so far only hybrid cars, which combine battery power and the internal combustion engine, have reached the market, and environmentalists are impatient for more consumer choices.

"There will be a market for this technology, but it's still in its infancy stages," assures Mike Wall, an automobile analyst at CSM Worldwide in Farmington Hills, Mich.

Toyota and Honda introduced the first hybrid cars three years ago, but the market is still small because hybrids are relatively expensive and don't perform as well as con-

ventional cars. The hybrid's cost outweighs savings from better mileage, Wall said.

"Fuel economy is not a driving factor for most consumers right now," Wall said. "What's selling is higher horsepower."

This week's event demonstrates the wide spectrum of alternative fuel technology under development.

Several carmakers exhibited diesel-powered cars that are popular in Europe but have yet to break into the U.S. market outside commercial vehicles.

"People have this long-lasting impression of dirty, stinky diesel — black smoke and a lot of noise," said Reg Modlin, director of environmental and energy planning at DaimlerChrysler. "We've made great strides with diesel in the last few years. We think the market will grow over time."

Modlin said diesel engines consume 30 percent less fuel than internal combustion engine, release fewer emissions and "feel great to drive."

DaimlerChrysler featured several prototypes of diesel-powered vehicles, including cars that run on "bio-diesel,"

which combines diesel fuel with renewable resources such as corn. Next year, the company plans to introduce diesel-powered versions of its Jeep Cherokee and Mercedes Benz.

Almost all carmakers believe hydrogen fuel cells will power the cars of tomorrow. Fuel cells generate electricity from a chemical reaction between hydrogen and oxygen and only release water as waste.

General Motors is perhaps most bullish on fuel cells. The Detroit-based company has invested \$1 billion and spends more than a quarter of its annual research budget on fuel cell development, said Scott Fosgard, General Motors' communications director for advanced technology vehicles.

"Our long-term vision is that the country will move toward a hydrogen economy, and fuel cells will steadily become the fuel of choice," Fosgard said.

While most car makers believe fuel cells won't hit the mainstream market for 15 to 20 years, General Motors wants to start selling fuel cell vehicles by 2010, Fosgard said. He said fuel cells are "taking the automobile out of the environmental debate."

Asked why General Motors opposes raising fuel efficiency standards, Fosgard said the company doesn't have the money to develop fuel cells and more efficient gas-powered cars at the same time.

"As big as car companies are, there's a finite amount of resources," Fosgard said. "We don't have the resources to do both."

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NATIONAL

Land-bridge design first in river series for Lewis and Clark bicentennial

BY PEGGY ANDERSEN

Associated Press Writer

SEATTLE — The first phase of the Confluence Project, which will mark key river sites on the final stretch of the Lewis and Clark Expedition to the Pacific, would reconnect Fort Vancouver and the Columbia River with a land bridge covered in native grasses and flowers.

Three designs for the bridge, prepared by Jones + Jones Architects of Seattle with Maya Lin, overall designer of the multiphase project, were presented to the public Wednesday at the Fort Vancouver Historic Site in Vancouver, about 160 miles south of Seattle.

Lin, an international figure since she designed the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in the early 1980s, will provide artwork to be integrated into the bridge's final design. Her design also will link the sites, which extend from the Idaho border to the coast.

Construction of the Vancouver land bridge is scheduled to start in 2005 with completion in 2006. The overall project is to be completed by 2007 at an estimated cost of \$16.1 million, which includes \$2 million for a maintenance endowment.

The bridge will reunite the historic U.S. Army fort — built on the site of a Hudson's Bay Co. trading post — and the river, divided for nearly 100 years by highways and railroads.

It also marks the confluence of the river with the Klickitat Trail, a well-used trading route that extended as far north as present-day Seattle.

"More than 600 people from 35 cultures" — Native, European, Asian and Pacific Island — "lived at the end of the Klickitat Trail," said Jane Jacobsen, executive director of the Confluence Project. "They lived together, worked together, traded together, had fun together."

"This river was a huge attraction," Jacobsen said, and its connection to the land "has been missing since the highway came in."

The proposed bridges have "very organic design," said architect Johnpaul Jones.

Where most bridges are concrete and connect one landscape with another, this one aims to become part of the landscape.

"This thing is 40 feet wide," Jones said. "And when you're on the bridge, it'll be very difficult to see the highway," State Route 14, below.

Instead, visitors will see the river and Portland, Ore., to the south and the fort to the north. A 12-foot-wide path will meander through the grasses and plants — including the blue-flowering camas lily, whose starchy bulb was a staple for area tribes.

"So part of the year there'll be a beautiful blue path across the highway," Jones said.

"It's re-establishing the land back to the

way it was, pulling the prairie up and over and back to the river," said the architect, who also designed the Native American Museum in Washington, D.C.

The design that has generated the most positive comments so far — from project staff and officials with the National Park Service, the city of Vancouver, the state Department of Transportation and Pearson Field — uses a path tunneled through the railway berm. From there, visitors would take the land bridge to the Columbia.

**"It's re-establishing
the land back to the way
it was, pulling the
prairie up and over and
back to the river."**

— **JOHNPAUL JONES**
Architect

"The river was the corridor. The river was the passage," Jones said.

Public comment is being sought on all three designs, but all seek to restore "that feeling of connection," Jacobsen said.

The Confluence Project calls for public artworks at key points in the Columbia River Basin, marking important confluences of rivers, ecosystems and cultures. Lin, who did not attend Wednesday's event, was chosen to interpret the region's complicated history over the past 200 years.

The goal is to reflect environmental concerns and the tremendous changes that resulted from the explorations of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark.

The other sites are:

■ Confluence of the Clearwater and Snake rivers at Clarkston, in the homelands of the Nez Perce Tribe, who advised the explorers and tended their horses while they followed the rivers west.

■ Confluence of the Snake and Columbia Rivers at Pasco, homelands of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla and site of Sacajawea State Park.

■ Confluence of the Willamette and Columbia Rivers, in the homelands of the Chinook Nation.

■ Confluence of the Columbia River and the Pacific Ocean. Lewis and Clark reached this site — now Fort Canby State Park — in November 1805.

■ A sixth site in Oregon is being reviewed for possible inclusion in the project.

Fund-raising is under way and so far has generated about \$4 million in state and federal funds. The goal is a 50-50 split of private and public funds, Jacobsen said.



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NATIONAL



United, Frontier battle for customers, gates in Denver

BY CINDY BROVSKY
Associated Press Writer

DENVER — Ben Gilad, who backpacked through the West with two friends this summer, doesn't worry about perks when he books an airline ticket.

"The cheapest price is why I buy a ticket," the native Israeli said as he walked through Denver International Airport. "I don't care if there is less leg room, only if the ticket is less expensive."

United and Frontier airlines are battling for cost-conscious customers, like Gilad, and for gates at the sprawling Denver International Airport in a competition that could have a rippling effect across the West.

United plans to launch a carrier based in Denver next year to offer lower fares and fewer frills in an effort to help restore finances and move out of bankruptcy.

While analysts are skeptical about whether the new carrier will succeed, they say nation's second-largest airline has little choice but to try something in the face of competition from low-cost discount carriers.

The battle reflects a nationwide trend where traditional airlines are adopting different strategies to respond to the growth of discount airlines.

For example, Delta Air Lines launched a low-fare unit earlier this year while American, America West and others have been experimenting with reduced last-minute fares.

Since filing for Chapter 11 reorganization last year, United has restructured labor contracts to save \$2.6 billion a year through 2008. The Elk Grove Village, Ill.-based airline is trying to end years of heavy losses.

Frontier, meanwhile, is planning to expand its fleet by 60 percent over the next five years. It posted its first profit in five quarters in August, earning \$10.9 million.

Since 1997, United's dominance has eroded from about 77 percent of the Denver market to 51.9 percent from January through July of 2003. Frontier has increased from 3.5 percent in 1997 to 14.17 percent from January through July.

United's struggles and Frontier's success have put them at loggerheads over gates at DIA.

United has a 30-year agreement that requires it to average three flights a day per gate through 2025. It leases 43 gates on Concourse B and eight gates on Concourse A. Airline officials are trying to renegotiate the lease before a Dec. 15 bankruptcy court deadline.

Frontier, DIA's second-largest carrier, leases 11 gates on Concourse A. It has threatened to expand to other cities unless it can lease eight additional gates, and claims that United underutilizes its gates.

City officials have delayed expansion airport plans and are trying to figure out how to best serve both airlines.

Analysts speculate United's low-cost carrier is a good excuse to lock up those gates for years.

"There is nothing wrong with United not giving up the gates, especially to a competitor and when they will need the gates in the future," said Michael Boyd, who is critical that the city didn't build enough gates.

Linda Rawlings, regional director of the American Society of Travel Agents, said United's bankruptcy will play a role in the negotiations. "If the gates are not being used, that's lost revenue for the city," she said.

"It was too expensive to fly. We ended up taking a road trip."

— SEAN CROW
Traveler

Few observers take serious Frontier's threat to move some operations to another city if it doesn't get more gates at DIA. "Frontier wants to work it out there," travel analyst Ray Neidl of Blaylock & Partners said.

Jean Maschinot, vice president of the American Society of Travel Agents, said neither airline is likely to budge. "United is never going to give up those gates to Frontier," she said, but added, "DIA is so important to the West, there's no way Frontier would leave."

As the largest airport in the Rockies, Denver serves as a hub for many states so the battle at DIA will have a direct impact on residents across the West.

For example, Wyoming travelers connect to 38 cities out of Denver, said Chuck Howell of Great Lakes Aviation in Cheyenne, Wyo. "Geographically, Denver is the No. 1 choice for a hub for Wyoming and the West," he said.

United's new carrier, which has not been named, will fly beginning in February to Reno, Nev., Las Vegas, Phoenix, Ontario, Calif., New Orleans, and Orlando and Tampa in Florida — all destinations that attract mostly leisure travelers.

Frontier goes to 19 of the top 25 destinations, when five years ago it traveled to 10 destinations, Frontier spokesman Sean Menke said.

United's new carrier will have little effect on Frontier, he said. "They're already offering low-cost tickets and their costs will not decrease," he said. "The only savings will be greater utilization and that won't be significant."

The bottom line will be cost for most travelers, Maschinot said.

"Travelers are just looking for the best deal," she said. "The airlines have spoiled customers by offering lower fares."

Sean Crow of Denver agreed. He decided against flying to San Francisco for a summer trip. "It was too expensive to fly," he said. "We ended up taking a road trip."

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—Vanity Fair, April 2002



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NATIONAL

Buy venerable roadside attraction for \$3.5M

BY JEFF BARNARD
Associated Press Writer

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For just \$3.5 million, you can buy the Oregon Vortex, a venerable roadside attraction off the beaten track where ... Brooms stand on end! Balls roll uphill! And walking from one spot to another makes you shrink or grow!!

"People that know what's here know that it's worth it," said Cooper. "I have no qualms asking that. Because I know."

Despite its remote location in the wooded hills behind this old Gold Rush town and little advertising, the Oregon Vortex has become so well known that Mulder mentioned it on "The X Files," and it is widely considered the inspiration for a dozen similar attractions around the country.

Scottish mining engineer John Lister opened the Oregon Vortex as a tourist attraction in 1930 on the site of the Old Grey Eagle Gold Mine. He claimed the property was on the confluence of mysterious forces he called terralines. The story goes that he was so frightened by what he discovered, he burned his notes before his death.

After Lister died, Cooper's family left a service station and motel in town and bought the property in 1961, when Cooper was still in high school. When her father had heart trouble, she quit her job as a psychiatric social worker at a prison and took over the vortex in 1980.

Cooper, 60, now wants to retire. Her son is more interested in computers, so she is looking for someone — a family perhaps — to carry on.

"There is so much potential here," said Cooper. "There could be an espresso bar here. People are always asking about food. There could be a hotdog stand. There is nothing to the overhead. It's all natural setting."

She won't say how many visitors each year pay the \$8 admission, beyond "thousands."

The deal includes 22 acres of wooded hillsides, and a three-bedroom house. Within the vortex is a gift shop, the twisted remains of an old mining assay office dubbed the House of Mystery, two sites for demonstrating the growing and shrinking effect, and the willingness of visitors to believe in something they don't understand.

"John Lister's definition was it's an anti-gravitational electromagnetic field," of which there are many around the world, Cooper explained. "This is a repelling one. The Bermuda Triangle is an attracting one."

The primary demonstration puts a person between two posts about 8 feet apart in the shade of a madrone tree. The posts have rulers on facing sides. A certificate from a surveyor says they are both level. Anyone can grab the carpenter's level hanging from the tree to see that the posts are vertical and the plank on the ground between them is level.

A guide instructs a person standing at the north post to look straight across and find their eye level on the south post. Then walk to the post. There is an overwhelming feeling, verified by onlookers, that the walker is shrinking as they

approach the south. Turn around and head north, and they feel like they are growing.

"You can't even measure the measures you measure with because everything is affected," said Cooper. "It sounds like double-talk, but it's not."

"I'm no scientist, but it doesn't take a rocket scientist to see what happens here."

Ray Hyman, professor emeritus of psychology at the University of Oregon, spent three days here and presented his findings to the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal in 1997.

He concluded the shrinking and growing effect was an optical illusion known as the Ponzo Illusion, and can be duplicated on any sloping ground with trees to obscure the horizon.

Described by Mario Ponzo in 1913, the effect is caused by distorting perspective with a background of converging lines. When visual references are skewed enough, people can actually feel dizzy.

Russ Donnelly, a professor emeritus of physics at the University of Oregon, visited the Oregon Vortex in 1966, and came away "underwhelmed."

"I work on vortices for a living," said Donnelly. "That's the name of my cat. I work on smoke-ring vortices, but in water. I work in quantum vortices in superheated helium. Vortices are definitely my trade."

A vortex is a fluid or gas circulating around a core, where the pressure is lower inside than out, explained Donnelly. A vortex forms when water swirls down the bathtub drain. Tornadoes are vortices. Vortices form when big airplanes pass through the air.

What is happening at the Oregon Vortex is not a vortex, said Donnelly.

"I thought it was just a sort of optical illusion," he said. "That stuff on the Web about a circular magnetic web is just nonsense."

Cooper agrees that what people see in the House of Mystery — balls appearing to roll uphill and a pendulum hanging askew — is optical illusion distorted by the wacky angles of the twisted building. But she insists something else is going on outside the house to make people appear to grow and shrink, though what it is remains a mystery.

Doug Kirby, one of the editors of RoadsideAmerica.com, has visited a dozen mystery spots around the country, and likes the Oregon Vortex best.

"It's the classic," said Kirby.

Typically, they are in a remote location, adding to the belief that something strange is happening, said Kirby. They generally have the twisted house where balls appear to roll uphill. The story includes legends that Indians and animals shunned the places. Trees grow in weird shapes. The effect is enhanced by having a grizzled old-timer telling the story, rather than a gum-snapping teenager.

Kirby, who works on Web sites for a telephone company, loves visiting roadside attractions, and was once tempted to buy a Santa's Village in Vermont, but finds it hard enough to persuade his wife to visit these places, let alone buy one for \$3.5 million.

"That's a little bit rich for us," he said.

He noted that Mermaid Springs, a famous roadside attraction in Weeki Wachee, Fla., had to be given away to keep it alive.

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WORLD BRIEFLY

OPEC cuts output, crude price rises

By The Associated Press

■ **VIENNA, Austria** — Fearing a coming decrease in demand, OPEC lowered its oil output ceiling by 3.5 percent in a surprise pre-emptive move that caused crude futures to surge more than \$1 a barrel.

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries defied expectations on Wednesday and lowered its output ceiling by 900,000 barrels a day to 24.5 million barrels starting in November.

The cut startled the market, where oil futures jumped more than \$1 a barrel.

OPEC defended its decision as an effort to keep prices from plunging when demand slackens early next year. Some analysts also said the cut would have little impact on the prices consumers pay for heating oil and gasoline.

Four Palestinians killed in West Bank

By The Associated Press

■ **JERUSALEM** — Israeli troops killed four Islamic militants in gun battles in the West Bank and Gaza Strip early Thursday, the army said. Five soldiers were wounded in the fighting.

In one clash, in the Bureij refugee camp in Gaza, soldiers surrounded a hideout and a gun battle erupted. After fighting died down, the bodies of two Palestinian militants — one from Hamas and one from Islamic Jihad — were found in the area, Palestinian sources said. Five

soldiers were wounded, the army said.

In the West Bank city of Hebron, Israeli troops backed by tanks and jeeps surrounded a one-story building in a field where an Islamic Jihad militant was hiding, the army said. A fierce firefight erupted.

The two raids are part of Israel's ongoing attempt to hunt down militants from Islamic Jihad and Hamas.

Meanwhile, 27 Israeli air force pilots drew wall-to-wall condemnation Thursday for refusing to carry out air strikes in the Palestinian areas. In a letter to the air force commander, the group said Wednesday that it would refuse to participate in such attacks, denouncing them as "illegal and immoral."

The air force commander, Maj. Gen. Dan Halutz, accused the rebels of meddling in politics and said they would be punished.

Bush stands firm on postwar Iraq

By The Associated Press

■ **NEW YORK** — A resolute speech and two days of personal diplomacy by President Bush are failing to soften resistance to his postwar strategy for Iraq, and a U.S. resolution designed to bring fresh peacekeeping troops and financial support remains stalemated.

Resistance from other nations is so stiff that Bush did not solicit contributions from the leaders of France, Germany, India and Pakistan and none were volunteered. Secretary of State Colin Powell discussed the possibility of Turkish peacekeepers with Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul — without getting a clear commitment.

Administration officials had hoped to reach a consensus on the U.S. resolution before Bush spoke Tuesday to the General Assembly. But work was halted, and while talks have resumed, a senior U.S. official acknowledged Wednesday it may take a month to work out a solution.

Bush will have a chance this weekend to lobby Russian President Vladimir Putin at the Camp David presidential retreat. Russia has tended to align itself with France in demanding a prompt end to the U.S. occupation, with control of Iraq turned over to Iraqis.

Recall debate spirited despite script

By The Associated Press

■ **SAN FRANCISCO** — The so-called "Super Bowl of debates" between the top candidates vying to replace Gov. Gray Davis turned out to be less scripted than originally feared, with rivals frequently trading barbs and talking over each other.

The debate Wednesday was the only recall forum that Republican Arnold Schwarzenegger had agreed to attend, and Californians tuned in to see how the Hollywood star fared in his debut as a political ad-libber.

Although the questions had been made available to the candidates long before the debate, the event remained lively. The moderator at one point said he was dizzy from the quick, loud and aggressive banter.

Schwarzenegger was criticized for supporting a divisive ballot initiative nine years ago that would have prevented services for the children of illegal immigrants.

Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante, a Democrat, came under fire for taking millions of dollars in Indian casino money. Republican state Sen. Tom McClintock was told he had the facts backward on the economy, and independent Arianna Huffington was hit for barely paying income taxes.

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- ACROSS**
- 1 Troublesome
 - 5 Tract of land
 - 9 Succulent plants
 - 11 Cold
 - 13 Man of many words
 - 14 Hooded reptile
 - 15 Haggard book
 - 16 Gray for one
 - 18 Beset by woes
 - 20 Maiden name lead-in
 - 21 Contemptible sort
 - 22 Hogwarts letter carriers
 - 23 "— a deal!"
 - 24 Numerical prefix
 - 25 Glen
 - 27 Disrobes
 - 29 Online address
 - 30 Spotty ailment
 - 32 Trail mix staple
 - 34 — bind
 - 35 Moderate
 - 36 Les —

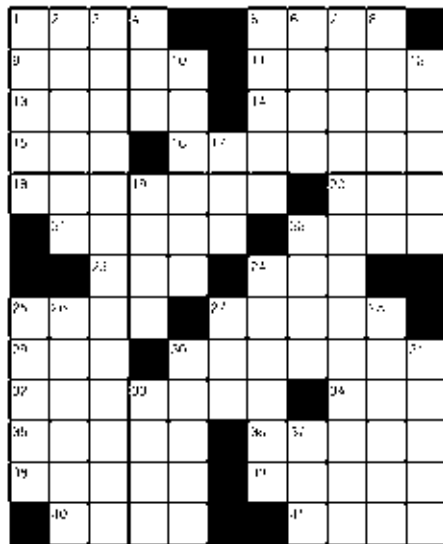
- DOWN**
- 38 Simple fellow
 - 39 Story-telling uncle
 - 40 Nile reptiles
 - 41 Spot

P	I	C	S					H	O	M	E	S
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Yesterday's answer

- DOWN**
- 1 Severe
 - 2 Island greetings
 - 3 Rhode Island founder
 - 4 Ruby of "Do the Right Thing"
 - 5 Stood up to
 - 6 Sleep like —
 - 7 "One Hour Photo" actor
 - 8 Bit at the table
 - 10 Tankards
 - 12 Trio of myth
 - 17 Rebel leader
 - 19 Ceremony
 - 22 Metal sources
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 - 25 Writer Marguerite
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 - 27 Signing need
 - 28 Parodied
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 - 31 Pert
 - 33 Cease
 - 37 Links need

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Personals

OUR COMPASSIONATE SON, DANIEL B. MAY, has been missing since June 20, 2002. He is educated, spiritually oriented and in the hearts of many people who miss him. We will be very grateful for your prayers for Daniel and/or for your phone call if you have seen him recently. The numbers are (310)392-5911 and (310)456-1578. Thank you and God bless.

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EVENTS
Meet The Illustrator
Meet illustrator Kathryn Hewitt, famous for her children's books. 3:30-4:30 PM
Fairview Branch (Santa Monica Library System)
(310) 450-0443, 2101 Ocean Park Bl., Santa Monica

For Men Only
For Men Only is an ongoing support group for men, 56 and older. An open forum environment allows participants to share ideas and discuss any issues of concern. 11:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.
Center for Healthy Aging (310) 576-2554
2125 Arizona Ave

CULTURE
Dirty Work
Creators/performers Dayna Hanson, Gaelen Hanson and Peggy Piacenza explore life's excesses from the sacred to the profane. Inciteful audiences will notice several sources of inspiration from Anton Chekhov's Swansong to Roger Whittaker's "New World in the Morning." Thurs.- Sun., 8:00p.m.
33 Spells at Highways (310) 315-1459
1651 18th St., Santa Monica

Puppetoloi!
Watch a puppet show at the Santa Monica Puppet and Magic Center. This is a great place to take the kids and to unwind after a long day.
1255 2nd Street Santa Monica, CA 90401
(310) 656-0483

Mary Mary, Quite Contrary
The Santa Monica Playhouse presents one of their many fantastic plays for children. This time around a young girl wonders if she has outgrown her favorite fairy tales. The show is family friendly, with bright colors and fun characters. It is perfect for kids and those who are young at heart. 1211 Fourth Street Santa Monica, CA 90401
For more information call: (310) 394-9779

Because of You: The Life and Loves of Sholom Aleichem
Evelyn Rudie and Chris DeCalo created 'Because of You' a musical based on the letters and stories of Sholom Aleichem, the creator of the characters in 'Fiddler on the Roof.' Aleichem wrote about the Russian-Jewish experience, including works in Yiddish at a time when there was no literature in the language.
Santa Monica Playhouse (310) 394-9779
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ENTERTAINMENT
Temple Bar
Here visitors can enjoy concoctions like White Chocolate Martinis, a Gingirini or a Razzmatazz. Those who are really hungry can enjoy a Chicken Tamale Plate with Fried Plantains. Temple Bar even offers vegetarian options like veggie eggrolls and burgers. But no good bar would be complete without live music. Tonight features DJ Josh Kun and the following: 9:00 Pure, 10:15 Jaqueline, 11:00 Bou Jou and Diata. \$7.026 Wilshire Blvd. Santa Monica (310) 393-6611

Harvelle's
Established in 1931, Harvelle's is the oldest blues club on the west side. This is the kind of blues joint you'd expect to find in a dark Chicago alley; yet even if it's your first visit, it feels familiar. Tonight Harvelle's features Maeter (new world acid jazz with a funk twist)
1432 4th St., Santa Monica, (310) 395-1676

14 Below
An intimate and well-equipped club that is leading the Westside music scene with live performances seven nights a week. Tonight features: 8:30 Solstrom, 9:30 Carnel, 10:30 El Jefe, 11:30 Sugar Sugar. 1348 14th St. Santa Monica (310) 451-5040

MOVIE °GUIDE

LAEMMIE'S MONICA 4-PLEX
1332 2nd Street
American Splendor R - 1:45, 4:25, 7:05, 9:45
Dumy R - 1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:20
Thirteen R - 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50
LANDMARK NU-WILSHIRE
1314 Wilshire Blvd
Casa de los Babys R - 2:15, 4:30, 7:30, 10:00
Party Monster (not rated) - 1:45, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45
LOEWS CINEPLEX BROADWAY CINEMAS
1441 Third Street Promenade
Anything Else R - 11:00a.m., 1:50, 4:30, 7:15, 9:50
The Fighting Temptations PG-13 - 11:15a.m., 2:00, 4:45, 7:35, 10:30
Lost in Translation R - 10:45a.m., 12:00 noon, 1:10, 2:30, 3:45, 5:00, 6:10, 7:45, 8:40, 10:20
AMC SANTA MONICA 7
1310 Third Street Promenade
Dickie Roberts: Former Child Star PG-13 - 12:15, 2:20, 4:45, 7:20, 9:50
Once Upon a Time in Mexico R - 1:10, 4:00, 7:05, 9:45
Pirates of the Caribbean PG-13 - 12:45, 3:45, 7:00, 10:10
Seabiscuit PG - 1:00, 4:10, 7:15, 10:05
Secondhand Lions PG - 12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 7:55, 10:30
Step into Liquid (not rated) - 2:35, 5:15, 7:30, 10:25
Under the Tuscan Sun PG-13 - 12:00 noon, 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:00
MANN CRITERION 6 THEATERS
1313 Third Street Promenade
Cold Creek Manor R - 1:15, 4:15, 7:20, 10:20
Duplex - 12:00 noon, 2:00, 3:30, 5:00, 7:00, 9:30, 10:10, 12:25a.m.
Matchstick Men PG-13 - 11:20a.m., 2:15, 5:00, 7:50, 10:30
The Rundown XXX - 11:00a.m., 1:45, 4:35, 7:10, 9:50, 12:20a.m.
Underworld R - 11:15a.m., 1:00, 4:00, 7:15, 9:25, 10:00 p.m., 12:45a.m.

If you know of an upcoming event which may be included in the calendar please send the information to calendar@smdp.com or fax it to (310) 576 9913



Aretha, queen of soul, gets no R-E-S-P-E-C-T

By The Associated Press

■ **BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP** — Township officials have fined Aretha Franklin for not removing a tennis court at the site of her Detroit-area home, which burned down. The \$225 fine issued Wednesday is the latest in a battle between the singer and township officials over clean-up responsibilities following the Oct. 25, 2002, fire at her 10,000-square-foot Oakland County home.

Franklin had received three prior citations from townships officials for failing to promptly clean up the debris outside the nearly gutted mansion. Along with demolishing the tennis courts, officials also want her to remove other debris from the lot.

Without a house on the lot, township property should look like country land, "not a vacant lot," Tina Burton, code ordinance enforcement officer, told the Detroit Free Press. Also, once the site is cleared, it must be seeded or sodded, said Burton, noting it's "a mud mess now."

The 61-year-old singer's attorney, David Bennett, said the case "should be over, as far as I'm concerned."

Franklin also issued a statement Wednesday thanking state Attorney General Mike Cox, who said Monday that no charges would be filed against Franklin's son. Officials had investigated Edward Franklin, 45, as a suspect in the fire.

The singer, who owns two other homes in Bloomfield Township, was on tour in Houston at the time of the fire that nearly gutted the \$1.2 million mansion.

■ **HOUSTON** — While his plans to fly to the international space station were canceled last year, 'N Sync singer Lance Bass remains an avid supporter of space travel.

He'll return to Houston, where he trained a year ago at NASA's Johnson Space Center, to promote space, math and science to students as part of World Space Week.

"I'm very excited about flying in space one day," Bass said Wednesday. "What excites me even more is the possibility that eventually nearly anyone will be able to travel in space just as easily as taking a plane from L.A. to Houston. But that day will only arrive if today's young people choose to build an extraordinary future for themselves. The keys to that future are a solid foundation in math and science."

During World Space Week, from Oct. 4-10, Bass will visit several Houston elementary and middle schools and review design proposals for "Lance's Lab," a competition in which students will create a hypothetical space station module in which the singer could live.

Bass, 24, would have been the youngest person ever in space. He had to cancel plans to fly to the space station aboard a Russian Soyuz spacecraft last October because he failed to raise the estimated \$20 million fare.

World Space Week, which the United Nations General Assembly established in 1999, is a celebration with events around the world.

■ **MILWAUKEE** — Lisa Marie Presley says she was suffering physically when she went on her first tour, opening for Chris Isaak.

"I was having a lot of stomach problems and acid reflux and this and that," she said in a telephone interview published Thursday in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

"I had to fly home at one point and get an endoscopy on one of my days off. ... I flew back and I was on stage the next night."

A number of subsequent reviews were negative.

"It was like a crucifixion to some degree," she said of the reviews. "I was on the frying pan. Every reviewer was there every night. That's not going to happen with the normal opening act. So I'm trying to be upfront about it. I wasn't trying to be dramatic about it, but I was having a really hard time."

As the daughter of Elvis Presley and a celebrity since birth, she attracted attention the moment she decided to make a record at age 35.

"It's not that I don't enjoy it, but it is an enormous amount of pressure on me," said Presley, who's scheduled to perform Sunday in Milwaukee. "The crowds are great, the audiences are usually awesome, but then they come and try to review me. Get out of here. You're looking to find something wrong? You're going to find it."

■ **PASADENA** — The theme of the 2004 Rose Parade is "Music, Music, Music," so it was only fitting that composer John Williams should be the grand marshal of the New Year's Day extravaganza.

Williams was named to the honorary post Wednesday by the Tournament of Roses.

"I've never been to the Rose Parade, so I can't wait," said Williams, who added that he was excited the parade would be a "celebration of music and musicians."

Williams has won five Oscars: for the original scores of "Jaws," "Star Wars," "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial" and "Schindler's List," and for adaptation and original song score on "Fiddler on the Roof." He has received 42 Oscar nominations, making him the most nominated living person, and he is an 18-time Grammy winner.

The 71-year-old has written the music and served as musical director on more than 90 productions, including the "Indiana Jones," "Harry Potter," and "Jurassic Park" films.

Tournament President Michael K. Riffey said the theme was chosen because music touches everyone.

The 2004 celebration will be the 115th Tournament of Roses. Past grand marshals have included Walt Disney, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Bob Hope, Gregory Peck, Fred Rogers, Jimmy Stewart, Shirley Temple, and Kermit the Frog.

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