

FREE

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2003

Volume 2, Issue 270

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

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FANTASY 5

13, 18, 25, 37, 11

DAILY 3

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DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 08, Gorgeous George

2nd Place: 06, Whirl Win

3rd Place: 03, Hot Shot

Race Time: 1:42:07



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

There was a conflict reported in August in an aggravated assault in Skowhegan, Maine, as to who had stabbed Paul Venaire, according to police. Jean Lampron, 46, was charged with the stabbing, but she said Venaire's ex-wife did it. Venaire, however, said that the ex-wife "ordered" the stabbing but that Lampron actually carried it out. Police attributed both explanations to alcohol, since Venaire's ex-wife died long before the incident occurred.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"What the hell you looking at?"

— License plate slogan for NY suggested by Steven Pearl

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A holy run



Ross Furukawa/Daily Press

Hundreds of people run in the St. Monica's 5K Walk/Run to raise money for the church. The Saturday event was one of many over the weekend as part of St. Monica's 'Octoberfair,' the church's largest annual fund-raiser.

Schwarzenegger takes lead in polls, gets more aggressive

By The Associated Press

REDDING — With the campaign to recall Gov. Gray Davis entering its final full week, a poll of the most determined voters released Sunday showed the Democrat could lose office by a wide margin, and put Arnold Schwarzenegger way ahead of everyone else trying to become governor.

Schwarzenegger bamboozled around California on Sunday, appearing before enthusiastic crowds in airport hangars. "This is now hand-to-hand combat. We are in the trenches. This is war," Schwarzenegger said, adopting a newly aggressive tone.

The Davis campaign unveiled another television commercial Sunday, accusing Schwarzenegger of ducking tough questions and refusing to debate, despite an offer this weekend by CNN's Larry King to have them face off on King's talk show.

The ad responds to Schwarzenegger's distortions of the governor's record on spending, health care and the environment, according to Davis campaign manager Larry Grisolan. The governor himself tried to stay above the fray Sunday, signing several bills dealing with HMO reform and patients' rights.

All the other major replacement candi-

dates gathered for a public forum in Sacramento.

And some of California's major newspapers made their endorsements Sunday, urging voters to reject the recall on Oct. 7 and recommending nobody to replace him. "Davis is lucky: there are no replacement candidates worth a recommendation," wrote the San Jose Mercury-News.

The endorsements came out as a survey taken in the days after last week's pivotal candidates' debate showed Davis losing by a wide margin and Republican Arnold Schwarzenegger way ahead.

The CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll released Sunday had 63 percent of probable voters saying they would vote "yes" on the recall question, and 35 percent voting "no."

Schwarzenegger was the choice of 40 percent, Democratic Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante 25 percent and Republican state Sen. Tom McClintock 18 percent of those surveyed — suggesting Schwarzenegger could become governor even if Republicans split their vote.

The poll of 787 registered voters used a model for probable voters that assumes a relatively high 50 percent turnout among the state's voting age population. It

See RECALL, page 6

Neighborhood group takes aim at city's issues

Takeover or no takeover, new board in Pico ready to make some changes

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

While some have described last weekend's election of a neighborhood group as a political takeover, its new board members say they want to effect change in an area of the city that has been overlooked for too long.

The Pico Neighborhood Association, which represents Santa Monica's eastside and is largely populated with minorities, is one of the oldest in the city. And many of its board members have been on the board since its inception in 1979.

That all changed last Saturday.

Dozens of residents descended on the PNA's annual

See PICO, page 6

Santa Monica bank robberies mount to 10

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

The man authorities believe robbed a Santa Monica bank last week has hit at least 14 others in the Los Angeles area in the past six weeks.

Called by the FBI as the "Both Hands Bandit," because he uses both hands to hold up the demand note, has allegedly been on a bank robbery spree since Aug. 13. "That's a lot of robberies in a short time," FBI spokeswoman Laura Bosley said.

The bandit's last job occurred on Sept. 20 at First Federal Bank, which marked Santa Monica's 10th bank robbery this year. Bosley said while it appears to be a lot, it's pretty typical. In 2001, Santa Monica had 18 bank robberies, she added.

Santa Monica may be a target for bank robbers because the city is condensed into eight square miles or because it has a high concentration of financial institutions.

"The city is crowded so it would be easy to blend in but also it makes for more witnesses so it's a doubled edged sword," Bosley said. "There is no way to determine what's going through a bank robber's mind."

Santa Monica also is known for its affluence, which may be another attraction for bank robbers.

"There's a perception that there is more money in Santa Monica," Bosley said. "But we don't see serial

See BANKS, page 5

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Monday, September 29, 2003:

You have much going for you this year, including high magnetism and the ability to understand where others are and are not coming from. Express yourself in the most appropriate way you know, and you will gain in many different ways. Also, let your creativity and imagination flow into your conversations. Your love life develops an unusually dynamic and interesting overtone, though don't count on anything being long term. Carefully check out those you are involved with, as they might not be all they appear to be. If you are attached, your relationship will grow through greater understanding and communication. You will gain new insights about yourself if you exchange freely. SCORPIO understands you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
 ★★★★★ Work with others emotionally. You might not be sure what will work. Evaluate more of what you would like from a loved one or a friend. Reach out for someone else, especially in the work arena. The two of you could become moneymaking machines. Tonight: Reach out for someone at a distance.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 ★★★★★ You might be surprised by what a boss offers or wants. Know that you're not the only one who brings that reaction to the table. Be diplomatic and listen. You will find options at a later point. Relate on a one-on-one level. Tonight: Get together with a key friend.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 ★★★★★ Getting your work done needs to be your highest priority. Take time to think. Evaluate what others bring to the table, without feeling the need to express yourself immediately. Take your time making decisions. Tonight: Work a couple of extra hours.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 ★★★★★ Your imagination takes you in new directions. Think about what would work to make you more content or more "together." Don't lose your sense of continuity, which helps you bring together different approaches. Don't lose your fire in the midst of a power struggle. Tonight: Join a friend immediately after work.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 ★★★★★ Stay anchored within yourself. You might not like what comes down the pike, but you can choose to sit back and observe. In fact, you might find the situation most entertaining, rather than irritating, if you do just that. Tonight: Nap and then decide.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 ★★★★★ Anchor in and listen. You might find some problems rather outrageous and difficult; look at the source, and you will be far from surprised. Use your creativity and dynamic energy to pacify a partner or an associate. Tonight: Run home, lock the door and vanish.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 ★★★★★ Your more-possessive side emerges when dealing with an ongoing money matter. The question remains whether you can find the answer. You can count on a major risk backfiring. Listen to a child or loved one more carefully, even if you're not sure about his or her thinking. Tonight: Hang out.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 ★★★★★ Defer to someone you care about, and listen more carefully. Though you might have a strong reaction, you might not want to talk about what is on your mind. Absorbing information rather than spewing it forth could make quite a difference. Tonight: Do for yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 ★★★★★ Stay back, even if you feel compelled to say something in the middle of outrageous accusations and actions. Understanding when to put your foot down could mean the difference between success and failure. Tonight: Just wait and see what comes down the pike.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 ★★★★★ Friends surround you, both at work and at home, though you might have difficulty sorting one from the other. You might want to revive your thinking about a friend's inappropriate behavior. Use extreme caution financially. Tonight: By all means, make it an early night.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 ★★★★★ How you deal with someone could make a big difference, ultimately. You might want to try to calm down and not be as reactive as in the past, even if this person might trigger you. Use special care with money dealings. Tonight: Where your friends are.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
 ★★★★★ Your ability to read between the lines is quite unique. You also might be the only person who can do that right now. Follow a pre-ascertained path, walking around present obstacles. You also gain remarkable insight into someone else. Tonight: A must show.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Kids to cruise the coast

By Daily Press staff

With a \$250,000 grant from the Coastal Conservancy, the California State Parks Foundation has announced the launch of its new environmental education program, Coast Alive. The \$1.3 million Coast Alive program combines classroom education, field study and investigation at local state parks in four California counties.

Coast Alive is designed to bring fifth through ninth grade students and their teachers into several southern coastal state parks and coastal conservancy sites. The program allows teachers and students to examine California's marine ecology and its role in preserving the coast's natural and cultural history. Coast Alive's main goals are to protect and restore the natural habitat of the coastline and to promote educational projects that are accessible to urban populations.

The California Institute for Biodiversity and state parks are creating the project curriculum and coordinating teacher preparation. More than 2,500 teachers in the urban, suburban and rural areas of Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego Counties will be trained to bring 50,000 students to upland and coastal sites in their local watersheds. Through interactive and multi-media technology, Coast Alive will engage and educate more than 90,000 school children in the classroom. Over the life of the project, 180,000 southern California students will be educated on coastal restoration and conservation.

This is the California State Parks Foundation's first program that directly involves teacher training and enhances the science and environmental education curriculum. Phase one of Coast Alive, which began in August, involves the planning and implementation of the program, securing funding and conducting outreach to teachers in Southern California. Phase two of the program involves intensive week-long training workshops to ensure that participating teachers are certified and to instruct those participating to recruit additional teachers.

The California State Parks Foundation helps protect, enhance and advocate on behalf of California's 277 state parks. Since its inception in 1969, the foundation has raised more than \$110 million.

At-risk youth need mentors

By Daily Press staff

Volunteers are needed for a new mentorship program that pairs adults with at-risk youth ranging from 12-18 years old in an effort to help the students increase their life options and inspire them to create a better future for themselves.

The program is part of Saint John's Child and Family Development Center's Youth Development Project, which serves about 150 youth annually with on-site counseling at three Santa Monica schools.

Mentors need to be able to spend at least four hours per month with their student, have additional contact with them via phone or e-mail, be at least 22 years old and attend monthly peer meetings for ongoing training and support.

"Many of the students involved in our youth development program suffer from depression and low self esteem," says Dion-Cherie Raymond, program developer of the mentorship program. "Having a role model to talk to in a comfortable, supportive environment can really make a difference in their lives."

An aspect of the program is that mentors are supported and trained by professional therapists already involved in the youth development project, a school-based intervention program dealing with issues such as school dropouts, gang involvement, suicide prevention and drug abuse.

"Programs that involve mentors help bridge the gap between failure and success for many at-risk kids. The students are not the only ones who benefit — the mentors feel a great sense of accomplishment and pride as the relationship grows and flourishes," Raymond said.

To find out more about the mentorship program, call (310) 829-8495.

surf report

The weekend proved to be less than consistent when it came to the NW wind swell that was supposed to bring in the waves.

A new, very modest swell will come up from the S today and make for some nice waves. The week should be better than what we've had in recent days.

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.

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	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	4:21	0.4	4:56	0.1	10:33	6.0	11:05	5.2
SUNDAY	4:53	1.0	5:48	0.0	11:07	6.1	N/A	N/A
MONDAY	5:26	1.6	6:49	0.1	12:01	4.5	11:46	6.1
TUESDAY	6:02	2.2	8:04	0.3	1:11	3.9	12:31	5.9
WEDNESDAY	6:47	2.8	9:37	0.3	2:54	3.4	1:32	5.6
THURSDAY	8:17	3.3	11:07	0.1	5:18	3.5	2:57	5.3
FRIDAY	10:39	3.3	N/A	N/A	6:40	3.9	4:35	5.2

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The Q-Line

With only a week left before the state's historic recall election, gubernatorial candidates are coming out strong on their positions. While many have made up their minds already, there are still a lot of Californians on the fence on who they are going to vote for.

This week, Q-Line wants to know,

"What is the deciding factor for you in the election?"

Call (310) 285-8106 with your response before Thursday at 5 p.m. We'll print them in Friday's paper. Please limit your comments to a minute or less. It might help to think first about the wording of your response.



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LETTERS

Bustemante called out on racism

Editor:

Why is it Bustemante gets a free pass on his racist connections and attitudes?

Why is it those who claim to want racial equality gather around one who is racist? Bustemante is associated with a group (as we all know) that stands for the complete take over of the western United States. It seems like so far fetched that I think most intelligent thinkers don't pay it much attention. However, even that slightest shade of racism I think should not be tolerated from a candidate for governor. Just to remind those who forgot what racism is they need to look again:

"Racism: To exclude, or include a people based on their race, skin color, or ethnic origin."

What we don't need in California is a division making, miely-mouthed, passive-aggressive racist.

Derek Lantzsch
Santa Monica

Reclaiming labor policy from the extremists

Editor:

On Sept. 18, this paper published a front page article on the campaign by workers at the Four Points Sheraton to win representation with the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union (HERE). The article provides several quotes from anti-union workers — including one comparing union officials to "roaches" — but none from pro-union workers, even though a majority of the workers have signed cards requesting HERE representation. The article also describes the National Right to Work Foundation (NRTWF) as a "non-profit that gives free legal aid to workers who claim they've been strong-armed into unionizing" — language taken almost word-for-word from the organization's Web site. It fails to mention that the NRTWF is an extreme right-wing organization dedicated to destroying the fundamental freedom to form a union. The NRTWF has no interest in the workers at the Four Points Sheraton other than to use them to advance its "nationwide" campaign against workers who seek to form unions. In support of this national campaign, it receives millions of dollars from far-right foundations and organizations such as the Olin Foundation, the Evergreen Freedom Foundation and Castle Rock.

The article alleges that union organizers have adopted heavy-handed tactics and invaded the privacy of employees by visiting them at home. It fails to mention that, under U.S. law, unions are denied access to employees at the workplace and that employers relentlessly invade employees' privacy and intimidate them through

mandatory anti-union meetings at the workplace (a form of false imprisonment), anti-union literature predicting job losses in the event of a union victory, and one-on-one meetings between workers and supervisors, who can be sacked for refusing to participate in the anti-union campaign.

Aggressive and illegal anti-union campaigns are a pervasive and routine aspect of workplace relations in America. The right to form a union now exists only on paper. In practice, employers are able to exercise virtual veto power over that "right." But don't take my word for it: Human Rights Watch, one of the world's most respected human rights organizations, recently delineated the full extent of employer and consultant coercion in the United States. It concluded that "many workers ... are spied on, harassed, pressured, threatened, suspended, fired, deported or otherwise victimized in reprisal for their exercise of the right" to choose a union.

The Human Rights Watch report indicates the real reason why workers seeking to form unions have increasingly turned to the process of card certification — (where the employer recognizes the union on the basis of membership cards signed by a majority of employees) — their desire to circumvent employers' lengthy, aggressive and frequently illegal anti-union campaigns. The NRTWF opposes card certification because it realizes that, unlike National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) elections, card certification provides little opportunity for employers to intimidate workers. As the NRTWF well understands, workers seeking to form unions have nothing to fear from free and fair elections. According to research by Harvard economist Richard Freeman, there are now over 40 million workers in the United States who would like union representation but are unlikely to get it under the current system. The problem with NLRB elections is that, as a result of employer coercion, they are neither free nor fair: They are elections without democracy.

The reasons that these 40 million workers want to form unions are clear. Recent research by the Economic Policy Institute has demonstrated that unions raise wages and health benefits by about 28 percent, that unionized workers receive better pension plans than their non-union counterparts, and that unionized workers receive 26 percent more vacation time. Just last week HERE negotiated raises of 44 percent over eight years and pension increases of 80 percent for almost 3,000 low paid clerical workers at Yale University.

Extremists committed to eviscerating workers' rights have hijacked labor policy in this country. This is why millions of Americans lack decent health benefits and pensions while failing CEOs continue to plunder the nation's wealth. And this is why 40 million Americans who want to form a union are unable to do so. It is time to put extremists like the NRTWF out of business and reassert the fundamental right to form a union.

John Logan
Santa Monica

Pop star sees beyond the label of homelessness



I was recently fortunate enough to meet someone who is a former member of the British pop band "All Saints." As Shazney Lewis was eating with her assistant at the restaurant next to Starbuck's on the Third Street Promenade, I said hello to her and we struck up a conversation. I was honestly amazed at how personable and how down to earth she was. We had a very long conversation about the politics of our two countries, music and other minor topics.

I had explained to her about the homelessness situation here in America. She listened and was very interested in my opinions. She was kind of amazed at the fact that I was writing for this newspaper. And,

though I will not elaborate on any of the things we talked about, I will say this about her, she is a very intelligent, witty and good natured person.

You might wonder why I am bringing this up. Well it is very simple ... this person has made it and yet would still find the time to talk to a homeless person. She was interested in what I had to say and told me it was some of the best conversation she has had since she arrived here. She looked beyond the "label" of homelessness and saw that the human being inside was intelligent and has feelings. And I looked beyond the "label" of pop star and saw a very sweet and caring woman inside.

I am not saying that all people who make it are all uncaring or can't look beyond the "labels" we all wear at some point in our lives. And I am not saying that I have never "labeled" anyone or a group of people in my life. But, there are a select few who would "label" all homeless as less than human in order to disconnect from the humanity of the situation of homelessness. They would "label" all

homeless as dirty, "label" all homeless as lazy, "label" all homeless as mentally ill, "label" all homeless as drug or alcohol dependent, and "label" all homeless as criminals. These few would use "labels" to dehumanize anyone who would get in the way of the power and money they wield. It is very close to the same thing an addict does with people to get and maintain his or her drug of choice.

These are a select few who cannot see beyond the "label" of homelessness because their own "label" of "powerful" or "rich" or "elite" is too much in their eyes, like blinders, not letting them see beyond the "label" to the person underneath. And sooner or later their own "labels" blind them to the point of them their losing their own humanity.

They seem to forget the lessons of the past and how "labels" were used to segregate the blacks in the south. Or the Chinese and Mexicans in the west, the Irish, Germans and Italians in New York and Chicago, and the Native Americans from their very own land. They seem to forget how these groups reacted to these

"labels" and what the end result was. They forget the lessons of history and hide behind their own "labels" whenever history repeats itself.

"Labels" which are used by one group of people to dehumanize another group of people in a negative way for the sake of power and greed should be outlawed. Or better yet, the group using these "labels" should have to wear the other groups' "label" for a day and then they might begin to see what harm they are really doing. Labels belong on toothpaste, designer cloths, soup cans and paintings, not on human beings.

Thank you, Shazney, for seeing beyond this "label." Maybe others can learn to do the same.

(Charles Springer is a "non labeled" resident of Santa Monica who lives on the street. He is a freelance artist and writer. He can be reached at Chaz_59@yahoo.com)

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.

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LOCAL



Not all of the bank robbers got away with money

BANKS, from page 1

robbers in Santa Monica ... They usually hit one and don't come back."

In last Saturday's robbery, the bandit wore a light blue fisherman's cap and sunglasses. He approached a teller with a note that said, "You are being robbed. I want your hundreds, fifties and twenties," Bosley said. No weapon was ever produced — a common practice used by bank robbers. Bank tellers are trained to comply with the robber's demands, regardless if a weapon is not visible.

"We have to assume that they have a weapon and tellers are told to comply so it doesn't escalate the violence," Bosley said. "(Robbers) use either a demand note or they literally take the bank over and hold it hostage. They are less common but they have been on the increase, which concerns us."

Bosley said it's the FBI's policy not to disclose how much money is taken from the banks, but it's usually a small amount.

"These bank robbers are going to jail for a long time, especially if they use a gun," she said, adding that there is an automatic five-year jail sentence if a gun is used in the robbery. "That's federal time so there's no parole ... It's not worth it for a small amount of money."

Here is a rundown of this year's bank robberies in Santa Monica.

■ Feb. 19 — US Bank, 400 Wilshire Blvd.

4:08 p.m. A bank employee called Santa Monica Police officers reporting a bank robbery in progress. Officers arrived at the scene in less than two minutes. Witnesses then pointed out the suspect, who was walking away from a parked car in the alley. The suspect, a black male, was arrested. Police found a sack of cash and hand gun replica in his car.

■ April 17 — Wells Fargo, 2444 Wilshire Blvd.

10:30 a.m. Calvin Tyrone Combs, a 36-year-old transient, was stopped at gunpoint by several Santa Monica Police officers at 21st Street and Wilshire Boulevard after he allegedly pointed a rifle at a Wells Fargo bank teller and fled on foot with more than \$1,000. He left the bank, allegedly dumped the rifle in a trash can and headed west on Wilshire Boulevard before he was caught.

■ May 12 — US Bank, 400 Wilshire Blvd.

4:57 p.m. Suspect is described to be in his early 20s, wearing sunglasses, a silver piercing with two balls on the end of his left eyebrow, white T-shirt with a black native Indian symbol, and black and blue jeans. He threatened the teller with a weapon. His demand note read, "I have a gun. Give me \$10,000 in cash right now."

The teller said that all of her money had been taken and the bandit replied, "Oh really?" and walked out of the bank cashless.

■ May 28 — Bank of America, 1301 Fourth St.

11: 58 a.m. The suspect is described as a white male, 35 years old, dirty blonde hair, stocky build. He had a goatee, circle tattoo on the back of his left hand and small tatoos on his fingers. He carried a large duffel bag. His demand note said, "I have a gun in my bag. Give me all the money in your cash drawer and no will get hurt." He stood at the counter while the teller advised the manager of the robbery. He left the bank after waiting a short while.

■ June 18 — Washington Mutual, 1333 Fourth St.

2:40 p.m. The suspect is described as male Hispanic, between 35 and 40 years old, 5', 2", 130 pounds, dark complexion, thin build and a mustache. He spoke with a thick accent and produced a weapon. He

told the teller, "Robbery, hurry. Give me the note." The demand note read, "I have a gun, give me all your cash and loose change. Don't talk to anyone."

■ June 23 — US Bank, 3302 Pico Blvd.

2: 55 p.m. The suspect is described as a male black, in his early 30s, 5'4", chubby with short black afro hair and a dark complexion. His demand note said, "Give me all the hundreds, fifties and twenties and no bait."

■ Sept. 20 — First Federal Bank, 401 Wilshire Blvd.

The "Both Hands Bandit" strikes again.

The other banks robbed, but no information was available by presstime:

■ Jan. 14 — US Bank, 1401 Wilshire Blvd.

■ Feb. 11 — First Federal Bank, 1630 Montana Ave. The bank also was robbed last October.

■ April 11 — US Bank, 2221 Santa Monica Blvd.



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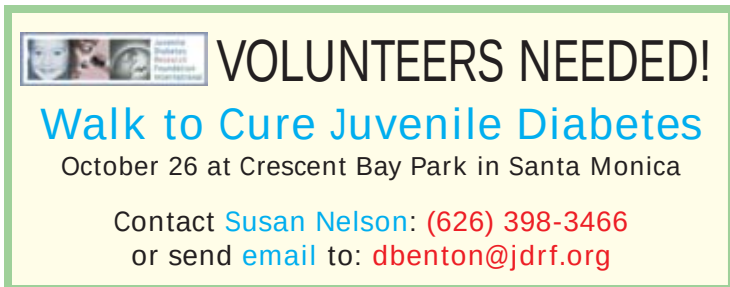
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LOCAL □ STATE

Neighborhood group to survey local residents

PICO, from page 1

meeting and overwhelmingly voted in nine new board members. They said they felt disconnected from the association because they perceived it as opposed to the interests of schools and low-income workers.

Maria Loya, one of nine new board members, said the group will address youth violence, affordable housing, social services for working-class families and creating more jobs.

The PNA is regarded by local politicians as an important and powerful group that coalesces the neighborhood, and frequently acts as a liaison to City Hall, residents said.

"The Pico Neighborhood Association is especially important because we are disenfranchised," said Clyde Smith, a native who has participated in the PNA since its inception. "We don't have a single member of the City Council that lives in, or has ever lived in our neighborhood."

"It advocates on behalf of people who do not have a singular voice to represent them. They can have a collective voice."

Loya said residents were rallied into action by the recent shooting of Jalonnie Carter, 19, and a perceived inaction by the neighborhood group. Carter was fatally shot in the back in the alley behind 20th Street last month and is the most recent example of increased violence in the neighborhood.

Loya said she and a handful of others met weekly for about a month leading up to the election to discuss their concerns and the direction they want the neighborhood group to go in. They then took their concerns to friends and neighbors, and quickly learned that they weren't alone, Loya said.

"When we started informing them that there was an opportunity to have representation, we found that there was definitely that desire and the need to really go out there and exercise their voice," Loya said. "It was a great turnout and we had people that had never really participated in this type of process before. It was really exciting."

Before the next meeting, Loya said board members are working on a survey that will be conducted door-to-door in the

neighborhood to get a better idea of residents' concerns.

Oscar de la Torre, director of the Pico Youth and Family Center, applauded the change and said he is hoping more residents will get involved. He said to characterize the election as a takeover is not accurate.

"It's an issue of increasing participation of groups that have historically not participated," he said. "Groups that have been marginalized, not just in the Pico neighborhood but in Santa Monica."

Smith, a current board member, was not reelected. But he said he plans to continue to work with the group, whether as an appointed board member or simply as a participant. Though the board has traditionally had 13 members, Smith said board members can adjust that number.

"It has been 13 historically but it could be anything," he said. "It could be 25. It's not a competition."

"After all the hoopla, after all the reporters have left the room, after everything has quieted down, how many people are still in the room? It's usually 10 people," Smith added.

Though Smith said he is unaware of the exact agenda of the newly elected board members, he pointed to the long relationship between PNA and the Community Corporation of Santa Monica, which creates and manages affordable housing projects.

He said he was glad the residents want to participate but questioned why they had never been to any meetings before they descended upon the annual election.

Asked if there is any contention between the newly elected board members and the long-standing PNA members, Smith said, "There's more absence of knowledge than there is contention. If I was a member of the Boy Scouts and a bunch of people wanted to show up and join, one of the things the Scouts would require is that I know about the organization and agree with its goals."

Papers make endorsements, majority say 'no' on recall

RECALL, from page 1

had a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points, and was conducted Thursday through Saturday, CNN said.

Davis's campaign spokesman, Peter Ragone, attacked the numbers, noting that previous polls by other organizations showed much less support for the recall.

"It's a joke," Ragone said. "It is so far from what every other public poll and every other internal poll by both Democrats and Republicans have found."

Gallup executive editor Frank Newport said 55 percent of the full sample of registered voters supported the recall — a number more in line with previous polls. But support went up when Gallup looked at those who were very interested and said they were likely to vote. The 63 percent figure represented a best estimate of probable voters. "It looks like the turnout is skewed toward those who are anti-Davis," Newport said.

Schwarzenegger touched down in the tiny central coast town of Santa Maria Saturday, speaking before an enthusiastic crowd of

about 1,000 people in an airport hangar, then flew on to the Monterey and Redding airports.

He delivered now-familiar promises to reform Sacramento and restore California's lost glory, then ended with a dark warning to his supporters to be on the lookout for Davis to go negative.

"Desperate Davis is going to do all kinds of tricks, he is going to do all kinds of tricks, he is going to start a dirty campaign now, we know how he is," Schwarzenegger said.

Actually, the Schwarzenegger campaign went negative first, airing anti-Davis ads all last week before the governor began responding in kind on Friday.

The Los Angeles Times, Mercury News and Sacramento Bee each called for "no" on recall and made no candidate recommendations for the second part of the ballot. The San Diego Union-Tribune editorialized that, while recalling the governor would set a dangerous precedent, Davis' performance demands his removal — and Schwarzenegger is the one who can turn Sacramento around.

STATE

Austrian-American Day seems made for Schwarzenegger

BY TIM MOLLOY
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Helmut Placek expects this year's Austrian-American Day to pass like any other lately at his Viennese-style bakery. Customers will stop in to sample some apple strudel or sacher torte, and then the conversation will inevitably take a familiar direction.

Many of the more than 60,000 Californians of Austrian descent celebrate the little-known holiday in low-key ways, if they know it exists at all. But for the Austrians who will mark the celebration Friday, Arnold Schwarzenegger's run for governor personifies its theme of celebrating friendship between Austria and the United States.

"It's very exciting," said Placek, who counts the Republican actor among the customers of Old Vienna Strudel Co., his Culver City bakery. "People ask about Arnold every day."

Placek, like many U.S. citizens of Austrian descent, was unaware of the holiday until informed of it by a reporter. Maybe because it's relatively new.

Austrian-American civic leaders proposed the celebration to mark the day in 1945 when representatives of the nine Austrian provinces met to unify the nation, paving the way for the first post-war provisional government recognized by the United States. President Clinton proclaimed the first Austrian-American Day on Sept. 26, 1997.

Refusing to take a tip from Boston politicians who know the importance of a good spot in St. Patrick's Day parades, Schwarzenegger isn't trying to make his candidacy part of the celebration. He says he's focusing more on his adopted country than his roots.

"Even though this is a very special day, and as you know in my heart I will always be an Austrian, but I celebrate every day to be an American," he said this week at an appearance in Sacramento. "I celebrate every day that America has opened up its arms, given me the opportunities that I have. If I hadn't come to America, I wouldn't have 10 percent of what I have."

In the close race to replace Gov. Gray Davis if he's recalled Oct. 7, Austrian-American Day didn't seem like a big part of any campaign's election strategy.

Richie Ross, a consultant for Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante, the only major Democrat in the race, said he hadn't realized Friday was the big day. But he wasn't about to write off thousands of votes.

"I think the lieutenant governor wishes them all well," Ross said. "He's been a champion of the diversity that is the strength of California and that certainly extends to our brothers and sisters whose country of origin is Austria."

"I think the lieutenant governor wishes them all well. He's been a champion of the diversity that is the strength of California and that certainly extends to our brothers and sisters whose country of origin is Austria."

— **RICHIE ROSS**
Consultant for Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante

Whether or not they'll vote for Schwarzenegger, many Austrian transplants look at him as the best example of an immigrant from their country who has made good by trading long winters for year-round sunshine. More than 700,000 Americans are of Austrian descent, including California celebrity chef Wolfgang Puck.

"Mr. Schwarzenegger's career seems like the dream-come-true career," said Peter Launsky-Tieffenthal, the Austrian consul general in Los Angeles. "There are many Austrians who've also been very successful here, but didn't get the same kind of media attention."

Last weekend, 200 people gathered at the home of the Austrian trade commissioner to mark Austrian-American Day with central European food and 18th and 19th century operettas in a traditional wine garden setting. Launsky-Tieffenthal took advantage of the moment to tell guests that Schwarzenegger's candidacy is creating a surge of interest between California and Austria.

Patricia Helletzgruber, the secretary general for the American Chamber of Commerce in Austria, said there had been no increase in calls from either Austrian or American businesses since the election campaign started. Still, Austrians do seem more aware of California, she said.

Placek, 42, arrived in California in 1985 and stayed for five years. He went back to Vienna but returned to California two years ago, and is now a U.S. citizen who plans to vote for the Republican actor.

Schwarzenegger, who comes into the bakery about twice a year, won Placek over when he stopped in for strudel in the mid-1980s. Back then, Placek says, the talk at the Old Vienna wasn't always about politics.

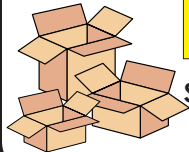
"He's always a nice guy," said Placek. "We were just talking about Austria a little bit."

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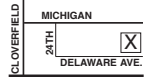


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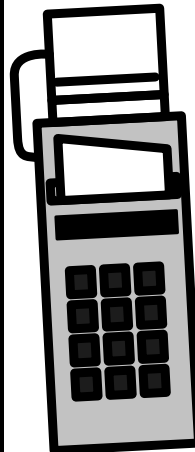
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NATIONAL

U.S. economy gets a burst of strength and high hopes

BY MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — The U.S. economy, powered by a red-hot housing market and a huge dose of spending for the war in Iraq, grew at a surprisingly strong 3.3 percent clip last quarter and raised hopes for an even better performance the rest of the year.

The increase announced Friday in the gross domestic product for the April-June period represented an upward revision from a 3.1 percent estimate a month ago, reflecting greater strength than previously thought in housing and several other sectors.

Analysts said growth in the just-ending third quarter would be at a significantly higher rate, fueled by President Bush's third round of tax cuts and continued low interest rates. That potent stimulus combination has helped push auto and home sales to record levels.

"The economy is firing on all cylinders," said Sung Won Sohn, chief economist at Wells Fargo in Minneapolis. "The strong economic growth we are predicting in the future should create some new jobs."

That would be welcome news to Bush, who is facing stepped-up attacks from Democratic presidential candidates who contend he has the worst jobs record since Herbert Hoover was president.

Reacting to the upward GDP revision, presidential spokesman Scott McClellan said, "The economy is continuing to move in the right direction." He said Bush wants Congress to act on presidential initiatives in the areas of energy, expanding trade and curbing lawsuits to lay the groundwork for more robust growth.

Added to the mix, the Census Bureau said Friday that poverty increased for a second consecutive year in 2002 with 1.7 million more people dropping below the poverty line, as incomes slid downward as well. The poverty rate was 12.1 percent last year, up from 11.7 percent in 2001. That meant nearly 34.6 million people were living in poverty.

Before the 2000-2001 increases, poverty had fallen for nearly a decade to 11.3 percent in 2000, its lowest in more than 25 years.

The better-than-expected GDP report failed to lift spirits on Wall Street, where stocks extended their slide. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 30.88 points to close at 9,313.08, wrapping up a week in which the Dow lost 3.4 percent, its worst weekly performance in six months.

Many analysts said based on the GDP revisions and reports on activity in July and August, they now believe the economy is growing at a rate in excess of 5 percent in the current quarter and should be able to maintain growth above 4 percent in the final three months of the year.

That forecast, if it proves to be correct, would represent the strongest back-to-back growth rates since the last two quarters of 1999, a period in which the economy was headed toward a record 10-year long economic expansion.

Since then, however, the United States has endured rough times that began with the bursting of the stock market bubble in the spring of 2000 followed by a recession that started in March 2001.

While the country has officially been out of recession since November 2001, it has yet to mount a sustained rebound strong enough to prompt companies to begin rehiring laid-off workers. Job losses just this year

That forecast, if it proves to be correct, would represent the strongest back-to-back growth rates since the last two quarters of 1999, a period in which the economy was headed toward a record 10-year long economic expansion.

have totaled a half-million workers.

Economists said the new round of government stimulus from the tax cuts and increased military spending coupled with the Fed's low interest rates should be enough to get the economy out of its funk.

"We have seen a real pop in activity in July and August. People have been spending their tax cuts," said David Wyss, chief economist at Standard & Poor's in New York.

Still, analysts cautioned that they have predicted second-half economic rebounds for three years that have failed to happen as companies and consumers remained uncertain about the future.

In a second report Friday, the University of Michigan said the final reading on its consumer confidence index slipped to 87.7 in September, down from 89.3 in August.

"Higher gas prices and continued job losses had the greatest impact on lower-income households, and these households reported larger declines in confidence," said survey director Richard Curtin.

Mindful that the economy has struggled to mount a sustained rebound, the Federal Reserve has stressed that it plans to leave a vital short-term interest rate, currently at a 45-year low, unchanged for as long as it takes to allow the rebound to gain momentum.

Friday's GDP report showed that the implicit price deflator, an inflation gauge tied to the GDP, rose at an annual rate of just 1 percent in the second quarter, down from a 2.4 percent rate of increase in the first quarter.

The 3.3 percent GDP growth rate in the second quarter followed two consecutive quarters in which growth averaged an anemic 1.4 percent. Reflecting the prolonged weakness, after-tax corporate profits shrank by 5 percent in the second quarter, the government said.

Among the various GDP components, consumer spending, which accounts for two-thirds of total economic activity, rose at a 3.8 percent rate in the second quarter, with spending on durable goods such as cars shooting ahead at a 24.3 percent rate.

Home construction was rising at a 6.6 percent annual rate in the second quarter.

Military spending, reflecting the war in Iraq, surged at an annual pace of 45.8 percent in the second quarter, helping to push overall federal spending up at a 25.5 percent pace.

NATIONAL



Deportation through border shuffle criticized

BY MARK STEVENSON
Associated Press Writer

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico — Migrants caught in the deserts of Arizona are being put on planes by the U.S. Border Patrol and deported hundreds of miles away along Texas' southern border, in many cases to cities in Mexico they've never seen.

U.S. officials say deporting migrants from Texas — instead of at the border where they crossed — reduces repeat attempts and cuts migrants' links to the smuggling networks in Arizona, the most popular route for undocumented crossings.

The pilot program has caused anger on the Mexican side, where town officials say they are ill-equipped for the influx of deportees.

"We don't like Juarez being used as a point for massive deportations," city spokesman Ricardo Chavez said. "The city is not prepared to deal with this, and there is already a shortage of jobs here. It's a bad situation. People are sleeping in parks and under bridges."

The program has created a class of unwanted people, ejected from the U.S. side of the border to the Mexican cities of Ciudad Juarez, Nuevo Laredo, Reynosa and Matamoros. Once they are in Mexico, city officials often hustle the migrants aboard public buses, give them a free meal and rush them to the nearest terminal with a bus ticket out of town.

"They shouldn't deport us so far away, in places where we don't know anybody," said Cesar Pinacho, 26, a cannery worker who has slept in a Ciudad Juarez park and the yard of a nearby house since he was deported several days ago.

The pilot program started Sept. 8 and is set to end Tuesday, but U.S. officials say they may revive it because they consider it a success.

It has taken more than 3,000 migrants from the Arizona desert, where authorities were recording roughly one migrant death per day, usually from dehydration or heat stroke.

"Since the program started, we haven't had a single migrant death" in the Arizona desert, said Frank Amarillas, a Border Patrol spokesman. "If you can't take the danger out of the border, you can take the immigrant away from the danger."

The migrants are placed aboard chartered flights to four cities along the more populated and better-guarded Texas border. More than 1,100 have been deported to Ciudad Juarez, swelling the normal flow of deportees by more than a third.

Smugglers in the Arizona desert often agree to try as many times as needed to get a migrant across. Some agree to receive payment once a migrant reaches a U.S. city, and deporting their clients so far away hurts their income.

U.S. officials say only a fraction of those deported through the program are caught trying to sneak across the border again in Texas, and total detentions in the Arizona desert fell 19 percent after the program started.

Returning to the Arizona border from Texas is difficult and costly because the region in between is desolate, with few roads or cities.

The Mexican government has protested the U.S. practice of handcuffing

"Since the program started, we haven't had a single migrant death in the Arizona desert. If you can't take the danger out of the border, you can take the immigrant away from the danger."

— FRANK AMARILLAS
Border Patrol spokesman

migrants with a chain that wraps around their waists during the airplane ride.

"If they have to deport us, they shouldn't treat us like criminals," said Martin Romero, 38, a field worker from Durango. "It's humiliating. We're just working people."

Responding to other concerns about the program, the Border Patrol has halted the deportation of female migrants to Ciudad Juarez, a city plagued by a series of slayings of young women over the past decade.

The patrol also has tried to deport relatives through the same city, after complaints that families were split up and had a hard time finding each other on the Mexican side.

While one of the biggest complaints is the dislocation caused by the long-distance deportations, the Mexican government rejected a U.S. offer to deport undocumented migrants back to their hometowns, at the U.S. government's expense.

Mexican Assistant Foreign Secretary Enrique Berruga said a previous program that deported migrants home in the mid-1990s was abandoned because Mexicans objected to being flown home.

"That kind of thing has been tried before," Berruga said. "I don't think anything has changed to expect any different results this time."

There are signs, however, that Mexico is cooperating with U.S. efforts. Mexican officials have been hesitant to give returning migrants free bus tickets to one of the destinations they requested most — Agua Prieta, the jumping-off point for undocumented trips across the Arizona desert.

Juventino Gonzalez, a 28-year-old dishwasher from Chimalhuacan, near Mexico City, was a repeat offender.

He and his friend were caught in Arizona last week after trudging seven hours through the desert. Deported through McAllen, Texas, they spent the last of their money to return to the Arizona desert and try again with the same smuggler — only to be caught and deported through El Paso, Texas, across from Ciudad Juarez.

"Of course we're going to try again. We can't go home beaten and with empty hands," he said, sitting in a public park and planning his next crossing. "We're going to try and get ahead. All they are doing with this program is making our lives harder."



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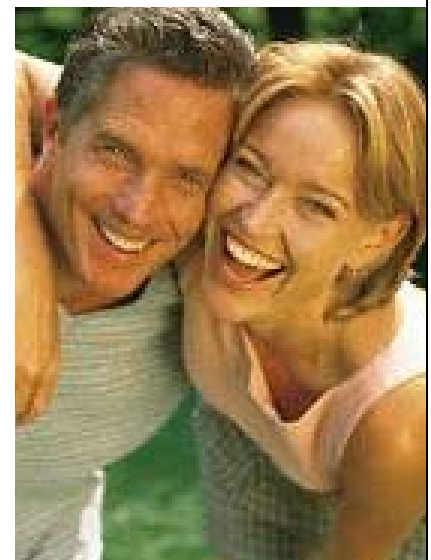
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INTERNATIONAL

al Qaida network dissolved throughout Afghanistan

BY KATHY GANNON
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — Afghan President Hamid Karzai, who believes Osama bin Laden is hiding in the rugged mountain peaks that border Pakistan, said the al-Qaida terrorist network in his country has been wiped out.

But Karzai warned that unless the world steps up its aid and sends more troops, Islamic radicals could regain control in Afghanistan and stage more terror attacks in the West. He called on the United States to press Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf to crack down on religious leaders helping Taliban fighters stage attacks across the border.

"There is no al-Qaida network anymore in Afghanistan," he said in an interview with The Associated Press at his heavily guarded hotel in New York. "They are in hiding. Their leadership is in hiding. Their rank-and-file is in hiding. They are no longer a viable underground organization."

A recent U.S. intelligence report, however, suggests that al-Qaida is still active in Afghanistan.

"Al-Qaida, Taliban, and (other) elements have pooled their resources to secure successful strikes against U.S. and coalition forces," the report said. "While each has different motivations, the desired end state is the same: to remove U.S./coalition presence and return control of Afghanistan to a government that is more sympathetic to them."

Karzai argued for more international soldiers to be deployed beyond the Afghan capital, Kabul, and into the regions where increasing lawlessness — often by thieving warlords and their private armies — is causing many Afghans to long for the security that marked the rule of the rigid Taliban regime.

Before being toppled by the U.S.-led coalition in late 2001, the Taliban imposed a harsh rule that saw the hands of thieves amputated and convicted killers executed in stadiums before thousands of spectators. Their rule by terror brought relative security to most parts of Afghanistan.

"If we do not receive the assistance we need, if we do not receive the security assistance we need ... Afghanistan will not stabilize and the instability in Afghanistan will again cause damage to the rest of the world like it did (before)," referring to the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in the United States.

A decision will be made in the coming weeks on whether to expand the NATO-led peacekeeping mission in Afghanistan outside of Kabul, NATO Secretary-General Lord Robertson said Friday. NATO took charge of the 5,000-member international force last month from Germany and the Netherlands, but its operation is confined to Kabul.

Karzai said that while Musharraf is hitting out at al-Qaida, he isn't tackling the Taliban with the same fervor or punishing their Pakistani supporters.

"Pakistan has done quite a lot on the al-Qaida elements. They have delivered a lot of al-Qaida elements to the Americans, but Pakistan has not done enough on the regional elements of terrorism, the local elements. That is where we want Pakistan to take more action."

The Taliban are coming by the thou-

"There is no al-Qaida network anymore in Afghanistan. They are in hiding. Their leadership is in hiding. Their rank-and-file is in hiding. They are no longer a viable underground organization."

— **HAMID KARZAI**
Afghan President

sands from Pakistan to carry out attacks in Afghanistan, he said. Attacks in recent months have been increasingly bold, often targeting international charities, Afghan aid workers and Afghans working with Karzai's government.

While he did not implicate Musharraf's government, Karzai alluded to extremist religious clerics in Pakistan who openly support the Taliban and even suggest it is a religious duty to protect the defeated religious militia. Karzai said the clerics use their madrassas, or Islamic schools, to train and indoctrinate recruits to wage war on his administration.

"There is no doubt that they are coming from Pakistan and a lot of them (are) conducting operations in Afghanistan," he said. "We see them. There is also no doubt that they receive some assistance from inside Pakistan."

In a speech Thursday to the Council on Foreign Relations in New York, Karzai called for Musharraf to shut down some madrassas.

In the AP interview, Karzai called for a quick and decisive attack against "all those (in Pakistan) trying to destabilize Afghanistan ... those who are promoting extremist activity in Afghanistan, all those who are using places disguised as madrassas to hurt Afghanistan."

In last year's general elections in Pakistan, the hardline religious right, campaigning on a strong anti-American platform, gained control of two key provinces that border Afghanistan and where fugitive Taliban are believed to have found a safe haven.

Pakistan's religious right has been strongly critical of Musharraf, who has warned against "Talibanization" of the region. Since taking office, the provincial authorities have restricted the mixing of males and females, outlawed male doctors from treating women and banned music on buses — all restrictions that the Taliban imposed in Afghanistan.

While saying he has a good personal relationship with Musharraf, Karzai said the Pakistani leader hasn't forced everyone in his country aboard the anti-terrorist campaign.

"I believe it is important for us all to work together and to work on the same platform, that we cannot have platforms within platforms," Karzai said. "It has to be one platform and that has to be shared in terms of tactical and strategic objectives by all."



WORLD BRIEFLY

Greenspan: Education will lead to less fraud

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Improved education of Americans in the area of financial literacy is critical if the country is going to combat financial fraud, Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan said Friday.

Greenspan, delivering a speech on financial education to the Congressional Black Caucus, said the financial marketplace has grown increasingly complex since the era four decades ago when all Americans needed to know was how to write a check and open a savings account.

Americans now have more choices than ever on where to invest their money and more places where they can obtain loans, Greenspan said.

He said this increased competition was good for consumers but with the larger array of choices came a need for more financial education so that consumers can make the best choices and avoid falling victim to unscrupulous practices.

"Consumers empowered with the information to make educated financial choices are less susceptible to fraud and less likely to become entangled in financially devastating credit arrangements," Greenspan said.

He called financial education critical in the fight to halt such fraudulent practices as abusive home mortgage lending that target vulnerable populations.

Poverty in America on the rise

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Poverty rose and income levels declined in 2002 for the second straight year as the nation's economy continued struggling after the first recession in a decade, the Census Bureau reported Friday.

The poverty rate was 12.1 percent last year, up from 11.7 percent in 2001. Nearly 34.6 million people lived in poverty, about 1.7 million more than the previous year.

Median household income declined 1.1 percent between 2001 and 2002 to \$42,409, after accounting for inflation. That means half of all households earned more than that amount, and half earned less.

The poverty rate rose again after having fallen for nearly a decade to 11.3 percent in 2000, its lowest level in more than 25 years. Income levels increased through most of the 1990s, then were flat in 2000 and fell the last two years.

Bill Spriggs, director of research and public policy at the National Urban League, said the numbers were frightening. "This may become one of the worst downturns in income in 30 years," he said. "We see that people are digging themselves deeper into poverty because the economy is not generating jobs."

Experts had predicted that rising unemployment last year and the still shaky economy would increase poverty and lower income for most people, even though the recession officially ended in November 2001.

Tobacco farmer gets time

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The tobacco farmer whose protest on the National Mall caused massive gridlock in the capital last March was convicted Friday of two federal felony charges.

Dwight Watson, 50, of Whitakers, N.C., was convicted of making a false threat to detonate explosives, and of destroying federal property. Each count could carry a prison sentence of as long as 10 years.

The jury, which deliberated barely an hour, found that Watson had inflicted more than \$1,000 in damage when he drove across Constitution Gardens and dug up part of a small island in a shallow pond between the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial.

His protest — he had a permit to demonstrate against tobacco policies he contended had ruined him financially — triggered a 47-hour standoff with police that led to huge traffic jams as commuters backed up in downtown Washington and Northern Virginia. Nearby buildings were closed.

U.S. District Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson set a pre-sentence hearing for Dec. 9.

Watson, whose 51st birthday was on Sunday, had testified that he had merely engaged in civil disobedience and

that he had told police he had an "organophosphate bomb" in a box. For two days, Watson held police at bay with what turned out to be a pair of aerosol cans of Raid insecticide he had purchased at a store in Rocky Mount, N.C., before making the 10-hour journey to Washington.

Politician pleads innocent to manslaughter

By The Associated Press

FLANDREAU, S.D. — Rep. Bill Janklow pleaded innocent Friday to second-degree manslaughter in the traffic accident that killed a motorcycle rider last month.

The Republican former governor also pleaded innocent on three lesser counts, four days after he told reporters he "couldn't be sorrier" for the Aug. 16 crash that killed Randy Scott, 55, of Hardwick, Minn.

Authorities allege Janklow was driving a Cadillac 71 mph in a 55-mph zone and had just run a stop sign at a rural intersection when he collided with Scott's motorcycle.

Trial was set for Dec. 1.

Besides manslaughter, Janklow also was charged with reckless driving, running a stop sign and speeding. Authorities allege he was driving 71 mph in a 55-mph zone.

Janklow is allowed to remain free on a personal recognizance bond.

Drug czar: Dutch must do more to stop ecstasy production, smuggling

By The Associated Press

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands — Faced with massive smuggling of Ecstasy, a U.S. official said Friday the Dutch government needs to give authorities the power to use wiretaps and infiltrate criminal gangs to crack down on its production.

The Dutch government "isn't serious enough" about closing down laboratories that ship tons of synthetic drugs to the United States, said John Walters, director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy. Walters, attending a conference in Rome, spoke by telephone with The Associated Press.

The Netherlands is seen as the largest source of Ecstasy in the United States and the rest of the world.

Speaking to reporters in Rome on Friday, Walters also took European countries to task for their lax punishment of marijuana use, calling their policies "fundamentally irrational."

Some officials in Europe are "very vocal about their view that it's an appropriate policy to be more free about allowing drug use," said Walters. This is "a fundamentally irrational health policy and social policy," he said, insisting that they created a new generation of drug addicts.

Many European countries follow a policy of therapy instead of punishment for possession of drugs for personal use, with prison a last resort for drug users. Dutch authorities have legalized marijuana and concentrated police efforts on hard drugs.

Moroccan court convicts preachers

By The Associated Press

CASABLANCA, Morocco — A court has convicted two Muslim preachers known for fiery anti-Western sermons for involvement in suicide bombings in Casablanca and sentenced them to 20-30 years in prison.

Abdelwaheb Rafiki, known as Abou Hafs, and Hassan Kettani were arrested in February and March — months before five near-simultaneous suicide attacks on May 16 in Casablanca that killed 45 people — 33 bystanders and 12 bombers.

The prosecution portrayed them as closely tied to the attacks, saying they were the brains behind the Salafiya Jihadia, a clandestine Muslim extremist movement that the Interior Ministry says has "organizational links" to the al-Qaida terror network.

Rafiki has referred to al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden as "a hero of the Muslim world."

The Casablanca court Thursday sentenced Rafiki, to 30 years in prison, and Kettani to 20 years behind bars. A prosecutor had recommended the death penalty.

The preachers were convicted of attacking state security and attempted murder, among other charges.

Teenager charged with killing students

By The Associated Press

St. CLOUD, Minn. — A 15-year-old boy was charged with second-degree murder Friday in the death of one of two students he is accused of gunning down inside his high school.

John Jason McLaughlin, a freshman, was charged as a juvenile in the Wednesday morning shootings at Rocori High School in Cold Spring.

Senior Aaron Rollins died in the attack. Freshman Seth Bartell, 14, remained hospitalized in critical condition Friday with gunshot wounds to the chest and head.

McLaughlin's family issued a statement expressing their "deepest sympathy" for the victims and their families. "The devastation that has been caused is irreparable," the statement said.

Dan Eller, McLaughlin's attorney, said the teen is "sort of overwhelmed by everything."

"It's just difficult for him to understand how it happened," Eller said.

Rape victims get contraception in New York

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — New York is poised to become the fourth state to require hospitals to offer emergency contraception to rape victims, but a campaign to extend the policy nationwide faces tough opposition.

Particularly wary are Roman Catholic hospitals; their administrators worry that the requirements might in some cases conflict with their refusal to perform abortions.

With Gov. George Pataki expected to sign a bill within days, New York will join California, Washington and New Mexico in requiring hospitals to provide access to emergency contraceptives. But bills pending in Congress that would impose the requirement nationally do not appear to be a priority for the Republican leadership.

"Our opponents try to frame this as an abortion issue, but it's not — it's a crime victims' issue," said Destiny Lopez, who lobbied for the New York bill on behalf of the state chapter of the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League.

There are no national statistics on hospital policies regarding emergency contraceptives, but NARAL and its allies say surveys from several states indicate that fewer than half of all hospitals routinely offer the so-called morning-after pills to rape victims.

The Planned Parenthood Federation of America estimates that 300,000 U.S. women are sexually assaulted each year, with about 25,000 becoming pregnant as a result. More than 80 percent of these pregnancies could be prevented with use of emergency contraceptives, Planned Parenthood contends.

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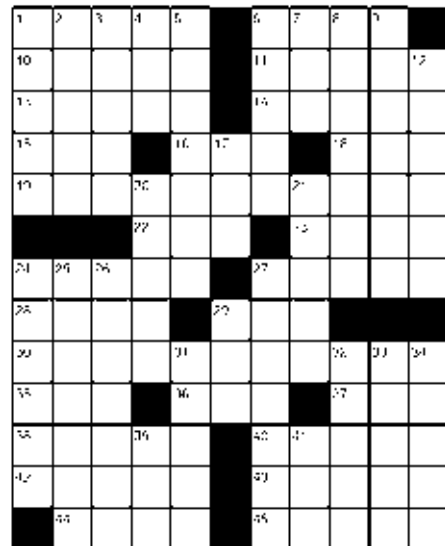
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Announcements

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP meeting. Last Wednesday of the month; at Sunrise Assisted Living, Pacific Palisades call (310)573-9545/Linda.

Santa Monica Friends with Diabetes invites you to join their walking group. call(310)452-0851.

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2003

EVENTS

Law Clinic

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2640 Lincoln, Santa Monica

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Wild Oats Market
500 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica

CULTURE

Todd Christopher

Todd Christopher, a 2000 Princeton graduate and currently an agent at the Gersh Agency's television and literary department, will be discussing literary marketing and breaking into Hollywood. Free. 7 p.m.
Santa Monica College
1900 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica
(310) 434-3777 for more information

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 Whittake's "New World in the Morning." Thurs.-Sun., 8:00p.m.
33 Spells at Highways (310) 315-1459
1651 18th St., Santa Monica

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 "Fidler 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. Sat., 8 p.m.
Santa Monica Playhouse (310) 394-9779
1211 Fourth St. Santa Monica, CA 90401

Oedipus Text: Los Angeles

An intriguing spin off of Sophocles' play adapted by Charles A. Duncombe. The classic story has been thrust into futuristic Los Angeles, and new changes in the story line make this a must see for "Oedipus lovers."
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ENTERTAINMENT

Temple Bar

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MOVIE °GUIDE

LAEMMLE'S MONICA 4-PLEX

1332 2nd Street
American Splendor R — 1:45, 4:25, 7:05, 9:45
Dummy R — 1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:20
Whale Rider R — 1:50, 4:25, 7:00, 9:35

LANDMARK NU-WILSHIRE

1314 Wilshire Blvd
Casa de los Babys R — 4:30, 7:30, 10:00
My Life Without Me R — 4:15, 7:00, 9:45

LOEWS CINEPLEX BROADWAY CINEMAS

1441 Third Street Promenade
Anything Else R — 11:00a.m., 2:00, 4:45, 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 — 2:20, 4:45, 7:20, 9:40
Once Upon a Time in Mexico R — 1:50, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30
Pirates of the Caribbean PG-13 — 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:05
Seabiscuit PG — 2:10, 5:00, 8:15
Secondhand Lions PG — 2:00, 4:30, 7:05, 9:45
Step into Liquid (not rated) — 2:30, 5:15, 7:40, 9:45
Under the Tuscan Sun PG-13 — 1:40, 4:30, 7:30, 10:10

MANN CRITERION 6 THEATERS

1313 Third Street Promenade
Cold Creek Manor R — 1:15, 4:15, 7:20, 10:20
Duplex PG-13 — 12:00 noon, 2:00, 2:30, 4:30, 5:00, 7:00, 7:30, 10:10
Matchstick Men PG-13 — 11:20a.m., 2:15, 5:00, 7:50, 10:30
The Rundown PG-13 — 11:00a.m., 1:45, 4:35, 7:10, 9:50
Underworld R — 11:15a.m., 1:00, 4:00, 7:15, 9:25, 10:00



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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Car dealership makes its sale of the year to J Lo and Ben

By The Associated Press

HINESVILLE, Ga. — For car salesman Greg Stanley, it started as a call like many other calls he gets at work: A man asking for a Dodge Ram pickup truck, with four-wheel drive.

OK, sure. We've got some on the lot. Name please?

"Ben Affleck."

Yeah, right. "And my name is George Bush," Stanley thought to himself.

He bit his tongue and treated the customer with respect, though. His colleagues had played practical jokes before, but Affleck and Jennifer Lopez own a home on nearby Hampton Island and they were in the area.

The man on the other end of the phone said he'd be in later that day to take a look at the vehicle.

Affleck and Lopez showed up in a black Range Rover, followed by a small army of photographers: "I thought to myself, 'Both of them. Wow,'" Stanley told the Savannah Morning News for Friday's editions.

He said the actors asked a lot of questions about the truck and took a short test drive on the lot, but there was very little haggling over the vehicle's \$37,000 sticker price.

At one point, Affleck turned to Lopez and asked whether she liked the color and the options. She said she did.

The deal was done. And the Hollywood stars were on their way.

LONDON — Police arrested a man Friday who used a catapult to launch paint-filled balloons at the plastic box

that holds street illusionist David Blaine dangling near the River Thames.

A 28-year-old man from London was charged with criminal damage after he fired several balloons filled with pink paint at Blaine's box from a nearby upper floor window, hitting his target at least once, police said.

The alleged assault was the latest in string of attacks; the New York magician has been pelted with eggs, golf balls and insults as he attempts to live for 44 days in a glass box suspended by a crane near Tower Bridge.

Blaine has been asked to pay for the cost of policing his endurance attempt since the Metropolitan Police said the numbers of people coming to see the 30-year-old had escalated.

Two TV companies that have coverage rights have agreed to pay an undisclosed fee for one sergeant and six police constables to patrol near Blaine's box on weekends.

"We have now asked the organizers to pay for it, as it is having a considerable effect on the people of Southwark," the district on the south bank of the Thames where Blaine is suspended, police Commissioner John Stevens said. "It is important to say there has been considerable expense."

As well as attacks on his temporary home, the magician has had to endure people banging drums and baring their breasts or buttocks at him in an attempt to keep him awake at night.

A man was arrested Sept. 16 when he scaled a nearby scaffold tower and allegedly tried to cut off Blaine's water supply.

One British newspaper has dubbed

Blaine-baiting as "the new national sport."

NEW YORK — Elvis Costello felt like he had some big shoes to fill when he performed on A&E's "Live by Request."

"When I saw Tony Bennett do this, he made it look easy," he said, referring to Bennett's 1996 concert which was the first in the cable channel's "Live by Request" series.

Costello made it look easy, too, taking phone, e-mail and audience requests and calmly cracking jokes during a two-hour live show Thursday night.

The 49-year-old sang old favorites including "Radio Radio," "Accidents Will Happen" and "Everyday I Write the Book," which he performed the way he said he originally wrote it — with a guitar-heavy, '60s rock sound.

Songwriter Burt Bacharach, with whom Costello has collaborated frequently, called from Canada to request "All This Useless Beauty." And a woman named Alison phoned from Wilmington, Del., asking to hear — what else? — "Alison."

Costello also performed songs from his new album of ballads, "North," which came out this week.

Among the celebrities in the audience were his fiancée, jazz singer Diana Krall, and Willie Garson, who plays Carrie's gay confidant, Stanford Blatch, on HBO's "Sex and the City."

LONDON — 50 Cent grabbed three awards at the eighth annual MOBO (Music of Black Origin) awards at London's Royal Albert Hall.

The American rapper, whose real

name is Curtis Jackson, won best album for "Get Rich or Die Tryin'," best single for "In Da Club" and also was named best hip-hop act Thursday night.

50 Cent arrived late at the ceremony to pick up his awards, which meant fans at his gig across town in Wembley Arena were kept waiting for about two hours.

The rapper kept up his "gangsta" image by arriving on stage to collect his best-album award with a 10-member posse, all wearing bandanas covering their faces.

"I've won a lot of awards this year from a lot of different people. I'd like to thank God for blessing me with the talent," he said.

Justin Timberlake was named best R&B act and Christina Aguilera's "Dirrty" won best video. Kool & the Gang won the MOBO outstanding achievement award.

DALLA S— It's a baby girl for Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban and his wife, Tiffany, who welcomed their first child into the world.

The as-yet-unnamed baby was born at 10:35 a.m. CDT Thursday. She weighed 8 pounds, 9 ounces and was 21 1/2 inches.

"Mom and baby are healthy and happy, and the baby will be starting her first year in the Indiana MBA and music schools in six weeks," Cuban was quoted as saying in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram's Friday editions.

The wife of the Internet billionaire and Indiana University grad was six days past the due date when the delivery came.

Cuban and his business partner recently bought Landmark Theatres' 54 theaters, the nation's largest art-house chain.

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