

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

2 17 28 37 45
Meganumber: 5
Jackpot: \$9 Million

FANTASY 5

4 22 23 32 35

DAILY 3

Daytime: 0 9 7
Evening: 5 2 0

DAILY DERBY

1st: 06 Whirl Win
2nd: 10 Solid Gold
3rd: 08 Gorgeous George

RACE TIME: 1:40:59

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site: <http://www.calottery.com>

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

Evelyn Davison, 74, of Austin, Texas, filed a lawsuit in June against a neighbor who had failed to bring in her empty garbage can after a pickup. Davison discovered it in her driveway, and, attempting to move it by herself, she said she was seriously injured when she accidentally fell into it. And the Minnesota Court of Appeals sent a case back to trial in May, ruling that Jenell Casarez could indeed sue Amy and David Klema for injuries suffered as a guest in their home. According to the lawsuit, Casarez needed to use the bathroom, which was occupied by David, and so with Amy's acquiescence, went to the basement and attempted to relieve herself in a concrete laundry tub, but when she climbed on top, it tipped over and crushed her fingertips. (Alcohol was involved, according to the trial court.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 273rd day of 2005.
There are 92 days left in the year.

Fifty years ago, on Sept. 30, 1955, actor James Dean, 24, was killed in a two-car collision near Cholame, Calif.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Where apathy is master,
all men are slaves."

ANONYMOUS.

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Jury: Club 66 owner owes \$1

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN LA — Another chapter in the 10-year battle between a local businessman and City Hall came to a close this week when a jury found that city officials weren't liable for violating a lease on a restaurant at the Santa Monica Pier.

Following nearly four weeks of testimony, a Los Angeles Superior Court jury returned its verdict on Monday in the long-running dispute between City Hall and Russell Barnard. The jury sided with City Hall, finding that it didn't breach its lease with Barnard. To the contrary, the jury also found that Barnard had breached the lease himself by, among other means, failing to meet the deadlines for performance and failing to construct the premises.

In his lawsuit filed in 2002, Barnard claimed that City Hall breached its contractual duty of good faith by preventing him from constructing "Club Route 66," a nearly 20,000-square-foot space planned to be built at 370 Santa Monica Pier, which has been vacant since the late 1970s when Sinbad's Restaurant closed its doors.

The jury denied Barnard more than \$1 million in damages he claimed at trial. The jury awarded City Hall \$1 in damages it claimed in a cross complaint that alleged nearly \$600,000 in lost rent.

"This is an outright victory for the city," said attorney Gary J. Goodstein, who represents City Hall. "We never expected a big verdict in our favor. Our goal all along was to protect the city from Barnard's claims, which were factually specious and sought millions of dollars in speculative damages.

"The jury awarding the city \$1 was symbolic," he added. "It was

See **PIER LAWSUIT**, page 6



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Evidence of the raging fires along the Los Angeles-Ventura county line was evident yesterday throughout Santa Monica.

SMFD answers call of the wild

Thursday's air quality deemed 'unhealthy' as a result of rampant wildfires

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

BOX CANYON — Santa Monica firefighters were deployed here on Wednesday as part of a regional effort to hold off a blaze that's burned thousands of acres and filled the air with unhealthy levels of smoke.

Santa Monica Fire Battalion Chief Kent Cobel said nine local firefighters responded at 3 p.m. on Wednesday to help stave off a wildfire which began in Chatsworth. As of Thursday, the fire had burned at least 17,000 acres and consumed one home as it swept across miles of ridges along the line dividing Los Angeles and Ventura counties.

The SMFD led a local strike team as part of a regional emergency response effort to fight the blaze. The regional group, led by SMFD Battalion Chief Carl Bjerke, consisted of five engines staffed with four firefighters each. Santa Monica Fire engines No. 2 and 3 responded from Station No. 1, located at 1444 Seventh St. Also responding were two engines from Beverly Hills and one from Culver City.

Bjerke drove a Chevy Suburban and led the strike team to Box Canyon, where the group was assigned "structural protection," Cobel said, securing homes and other buildings that may have been in the fire's path.

"The typical strategy is to set up strike teams so if the fire reaches those structures we can fight it," Cobel said. "They were put ahead of the fire should it head in that direction."

Santa Monica's strike team was part of a larger command under the direction of the Los Angeles and Ventura county fire departments, as well as the National Park Service. As of Thursday, more than 3,000 firefighters had been deployed. The blaze was 5 percent contained, with more than 2,000 buildings saved, according to county officials.

One home and an attached garage have been destroyed.

Three separate fires are believed to have broken out in the same vicinity at approximately 2 p.m. on Wednesday, according to county officials. Investigators have not determined how the fires were caused, but arson is a possibility, they said.

The Santa Monica strike team helped secure Box Canyon. They spent the night there on Wednesday and at 8 a.m. on Thursday were re-assigned to conduct further structure protection in

See **FIRES**, page 8

LOCAL

Phony Katrina victims charged with felonies

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

LAX COURTHOUSE — The two people arrested Monday for allegedly bilking the local Red Cross chapter out of nearly \$1,000 by posing as Hurricane Katrina victims were charged with felonies on Wednesday.

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office charged Laurette Ollar Karaba and Derrek Orlando Wilkerson each with one count of second-degree burglary and two counts of grand theft of personal property, according to DA spokes-

See **CHARITY CASE**, page 8

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Microscopic grant keeps aquarium afloat

By Daily Press staff

A \$100,000 grant from the S. Mark Taper Foundation has enabled the Santa Monica-based environmental organization Heal the Bay to recently open an interactive and educational microscope lab at the non-profit's Santa Monica Pier Aquarium.

"During a time when school funding is being cut back, the S. Mark Taper Foundation grant has provided Heal the Bay with an amazing opportunity to offer vital scientific education to school groups and the general public," said Heal the Bay Executive Director Mark Gold. "Thanks to the foundation's generosity, the aquarium now has an entire area full of high-tech microscopes, computers and flat panel viewing screens to educate and inspire all Southern Californians."

The new S. Mark Taper Foundation Science Lab will serve to teach students and other aquarium visitors about the cornerstone of the ocean environment — microscopic organisms. With the foundation's donation, as well as time and materials donated by HO+K Interiors and others, the lab will accommodate up to 15 students during education field trips.

Heal the Bay has equipped the lab to provide an accessible learning environment intended for students in fifth grade through college. Students will collect and study microorganisms from the Santa Monica Bay, practice scientific methodology and discuss issues such as urban runoff and pollution prevention.

The lab also will be available to educate the public during visiting hours. Aquarium staff will use the microscopes to show visitors aspects of marine life not visible with the naked eye. A large television screen will be used for slideshows and to show documentary films on environmental issues and other marine themed topics.

The Santa Monica Pier Aquarium, located beach level at the Santa Monica Pier, is open to the public Tuesday through Friday from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., and weekends from 12:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. Reservations are required for school groups interested in attending an education program. Call (310) 393-6149, ext. 105, for more details.

New neighborhood group takes new direction

By Daily Press staff

The Ocean Park Association, Santa Monica's newest neighborhood group, will hold its first annual meeting on Oct. 1 with a board of directors' election and a short presentation on the history of the neighborhood by local historian and author Paula Scott.

Fifteen residents are running for the board of the 1-year-old Ocean Park Neighborhood Group in the election to be held in conjunction with the general membership meeting at Joslyn Park's community center, on Saturday, Oct. 1 at 2 p.m.

Ocean Park residents and the public are encouraged to attend. Residents may become members online at www.opa-sm.org or at the meeting and be eligible to vote in the election.

Scott, author of the recently-released "Santa Monica: A History on the Edge," will offer a short presentation on Ocean Park history. Refreshments will be served.

The following Ocean Park residents are on the ballot for the election: Dennis Allard, Pauline Bohannon, Joel Brand, Kristina Deutsch, Dana Ehrlich, Arlene Hopkins, Mary Hubbell, Jeffrey Jarow, Susan Lewis, Jan Ludwinski, Lori Nafshun, Jacob Samuel, Bob Taylor, Julie Weiss and Ted Winterer

For more information, visit www.opa-sm.org.

Democrats align to defeat propositions on election day

By Daily Press staff

A local democratic coalition will converge Saturday to campaign against many propositions on the Nov. 8 special election.

The Democratic Westside Coalition expects many elected officials to attend.

The meeting will run from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at 1508 18th Street.

For more information, call (310) 315-3013.



SURF REPORT

Southerly periods are averaging 10 seconds from 180 degrees, and NW periods are running eight seconds from 300. Most breaks are seeing knee-to waist-high sets but Friday is looking like a small day for surf with only ankle- to knee-high waves most everywhere.

Today the water is:

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	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
MONDAY	12:11	0.6	12:02	3.4	7:41	4.1	5:29	4.8
TUESDAY	1:00	0.4	12:52	2.9	8:00	4.3	8:29	5.0
WEDNESDAY	1:35	0.3	1:27	2.5	8:17	4.5	7:12	5.3
THURSDAY	2:04	0.2	1:57	2.0	8:33	4.6	7:50	5.4
FRIDAY	2:40	0.0	2:30	1.2	9:02	4.1	8:23	5.2

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City Hall is moving toward a new program that will change the face of the vending carts on the Third Street Promenade. The City Council earlier this year signed a multi-year contract with a new management company, which will require the cart operators to spend thousands of dollars more on improvements as well as raise their rents. Many operators might not even be renewed.

So, this week Q-Line wants to know: "Do you think the vending cart program needs to be revamped? And do you think City Hall is handling the situation with the merchants in a fair manner?"

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

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OPINION

EDITORIALS

Taking it to the street

 The day laborer situation on 11th Street, much to the chagrin of nearby residents and business owners, appears to be falling on deaf ears at City Hall. For years, hundreds of migrants have lined the street between Broadway and Olympic Avenue on a daily basis, hoping for under-the-table pay in exchange for manual labor.

Residents have been complaining all the while that their neighborhood has become blighted with trash, debris, loitering, and individuals urinating and defecating on the sidewalks and adjacent alleys.

Whether or not you agree with allowing migrants to accept pay without paying taxes, the issue is a quality-of-life one here in Santa Monica. In August, about a dozen residents waited for hours to speak to the City Council, looking for solutions to the problem. They were put off by the council, who said staff would investigate the situation. Some of those same residents returned this week, asking what's been done. There was no response from the City Council. However, city staff has suggested that portable toilets may be the solution.

But there's a problem. That's what they said two years ago and nothing was ever done — not that toilets are going to solve Santa Monica's day laborer problem anyway. One councilmember has even suggested that he doesn't think it's an issue, since he hasn't heard that many complaints from that many people.

One only has to take a drive down 11th Street to know it's a problem — just the sight of trash strewn all over the corridor is bad enough for Santa Monica standards. But try taking a stroll down the street, with the smell of urine permeating the air. Would this be acceptable in any of the councilmembers' neighborhoods — Sunset Park, north of Montana, or north of Wilshire — where they all reside?

Pasadena had a similar problem and it solved it by passing a law that prohibits vehicles from stopping in posted areas where day laborers used to congregate, as well as beefing up enforcement of existing laws. The city also allowed a non-profit to set up shop in Pasadena which serves as an organized way for day laborers to find work.

If communities like Pasadena can figure it out, Santa Monica should be able to as well. It shouldn't take an act from City Council to put in toilets, or enforce general municipal codes like loitering, littering and soliciting. For as progressive and cutting edge on labor-related issues as Santa Monica is, it's surprising the local government hasn't made strides in finding work for these people in an organized fashion.

 Last week, Santa Monica Place Mall put itself out in the forefront of the local business community and became a leader in social responsibility. One of the country's largest retail mall owners put homeless people to work.

Macerich Co., which owns the Santa Monica Place Mall, partnered with Chrysalis, a local non-profit organization that employs homeless individuals. The "StreetWorks" program provides cleaning and maintenance services throughout the mall property.

It takes a real leap of faith for a corporation to put its resources in people who have criminal backgrounds, past drug addictions and those who haven't held a job in years, or in some cases, decades. But what Macerich and Chrysalis are doing is giving those individuals a second chance, and deservedly so. If they want to work, they should be able to. And if they don't, they shouldn't be here.

Macerich serves as a model for other local businesses. If this community really wants to end homelessness, other businesses will step up to the plate and partner with Chrysalis, an effective organization that actually gives the down-an-out an opportunity to make money, gain their self-esteem back and obtain self-sufficiency.

If homeless exercised they'd be swept away



OUR TOWN

BY TED WINTERER

(Editor's note: Ted Winterer is on vacation. This is a reprint of a past column)

Some feel City Hall has been too soft on our homeless population, as if we ought to recruit John Ashcroft to round up all the street people and ship them off to Guantanamo Bay. Others decry any attempts to crack down on street living and antisocial behavior as "a Rudy Giuliani-esque solution that calls for sweeping the problem under the rug without actually solving it" — to quote a guest columnist from these pages.

Often forgotten when people recall the success Mayor Giuliani had in reducing New York's homelessness, using the "broken windows" school of policing which doesn't tolerate petty crimes, is the other part of the equation: New York built housing for those without homes. I have previously suggested that Santa Monica adaptively reuse the old RAND buildings to temporarily house those without homes and provide substance abuse treatment, job training and the like. If City Hall doesn't consider this option it will have to suffer charges of NIMFYism (Not In My Front Yard) and no longer scold residents leery of affordable housing or shelters in their neighborhoods.

New York and Philadelphia have pursued successful homeless policies which combine providing housing and making the streets less hospitable. Call it the carrot and the stick approach or charity and tough love: It works because it acknowledges that while many homeless need and want public assistance, some are scoundrels mired in a subculture of vagrancy.

It's not compassionate to run off the less fortunate when they have no place to live. At the same time, it's unfair to the housed to see their parks taken over as campgrounds, streets fouled with human waste, and children intimidated by menacing behavior.

Suppose you had a loved one living in one of our parks. You'd do your best to intervene rather than enable behavior which perpetuates degrading destitution. Yet here in Santa Monica that's just what we do. If I were to overindulge in holiday nog and urinate in the street in front of the police I'd be hauled off to the pokey. But I think we all know that's not what happens to the homeless. And if a citizen witnesses public intoxication or disorderly

conduct by a street person and calls the SMPD, often the response is underwhelming.

Pressed about this tolerance for antisocial behavior, our civic leaders caterwaul about the civil rights of the homeless while the SMPD laments its limited resources and the requisite triage by which higher profile crimes take precedence.

I suggest, however, that the real issue is simply a lack of institutional will, that City Hall can write and enforce ordinances which enhance everyone's quality of life. Consider Santa Monica Municipal Code, Article 4.20.010 governing the use of median planting strips. It states that "it shall be unlawful to use the median planting strips for anything but jogging or walking. All other activities are strictly prohibited." A few years ago signs citing this ordinance were posted at the median on Fourth Street between San Vicente Boulevard and Adelaide Drive, at the top of the stairs leading up from the floor of Santa Monica Canyon. Why? Some affluent homeowners nearby, dismayed by the presence of fitness enthusiasts who would climb those stairs and then stretch on the grassy median, used the clout of their wealth to prevail upon City Hall to enforce this law (ironically in the epicenter of the great hedge code debate of our last election).

Police officers began shooing away stair climbers, fitness classes and even mothers lounging with their babies and threatening those who disregarded the law with citations. I myself was chased off the median, for the unseemly offense of some sit-ups to tone my middle-aged gut, by not one but two of Santa Monica's Finest. The younger of this pair admitted he much preferred his work reducing gang violence in the Pico neighborhood but was assigned to the "Stair Climber Task Force" by his superiors. I suspect most folks in this town would rather have the police quell gang violence than suppress sit-ups.

It seems to me that if City Hall has the will and resources to prosecute dastardly crimes such as hamstringing stretching on public property, it ought to be able to more aggressively enact and effect laws restricting inappropriate behavior in our parks and streets. Or will that only happen if the homeless camp out on the ritzy turf at Fourth and San Vicente?

(Ted Winterer is a writer who lives in Ocean Park. After consulting his consultants, he has resolved to spend less time listening to Pacifica Radio and more time trimming the hair which sprouts out of his ears. He can be reached at ourtownsmdp@aol.com.)



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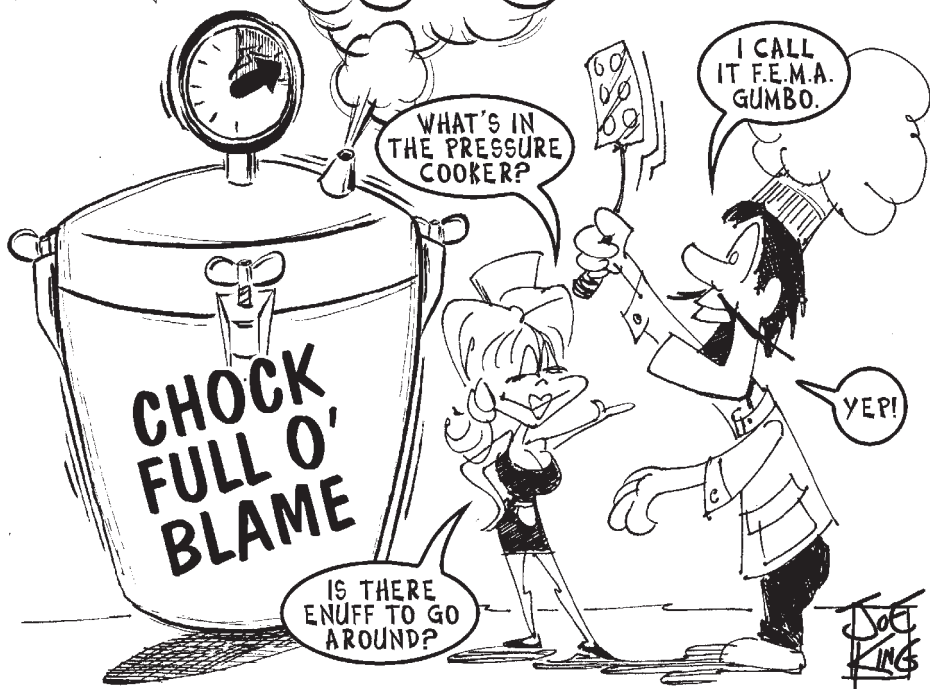
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OPINION



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thanks for the rules of the road

Editor:

Thanks very much for publishing the letter from Toby Tobler regarding bicycle riders and what is legal (SMDP, Sept. 26, page 4). This is a big problem, especially in Santa Monica, and possibly now we can all be on the same page.

Mary Duncan
Santa Monica

'Gas station' a drain of public resources

Editor:

My office is near the huge bus depot on Fourth Street and Colorado Avenue. At the off-ramp of the 10 onto Fourth Street there is this "gas station" that was built for public vehicles to use to gas up. This "gas station," which is not in a common area where people would see it every day, is constructed of inlaid marble and glass and was under construction for what seemed like a year, with a good portion of that time being used to create this wall of granite or marble. How much did this little "gas station" cost the taxpayers?

Since Santa Monica is basically a socialist experiment, you would think someone would have complained about this obvious waste of money.

Billy G. Woody
Santa Monica

Give bicyclists some breathing room

Editor:

While the recent death of two bicyclists on the Pacific Coast Highway is a tragic event, let's take a closer look at conditions for bikers like me to ride safely in town right now.

The city has done a good job by creating bike lanes on surface streets like Broadway and Arizona Avenue. But what about major boulevards like Santa Monica and Wilshire? It's outright dangerous there and I have no life insurance. Shouldn't I or better, we, not be rewarded by not polluting the air or contributing to the parking mess situation? I believe so. Have bikers in this town/country no lobby at all like in other countries in Europe like Germany or the Netherlands. Been to Amsterdam lately? At this point, many streets remain in disrepair/potholes and making my ride not a pleasant one and unsafe.

And a last note to car drivers. Can you please utilize the mirror in your car before opening the driver's side door to make sure no bicycle is approaching? The mirrors were installed there for a reason. Thank you. We all can work this out better with support and cooperation from the city.

I don't know if I speak for myself alone, but I can't count how many times during the last year I have avoided a bad accident only by pure luck. Who is paying for my medical bills, or worse for my funeral if something goes wrong? I consider myself a responsible person, law abiding and hope that after Lance Armstrong won the Tour de France seven times in a row, more can and will be done by the city for people like me who ride their bikes as transportation, exercise or pure pleasure. Otherwise, it will be more like playing roulette. I hope Santa Monica City Council will agree and support my request.

Stefan Treff
Santa Monica



John McGrail, C.Ht.

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City Hall attorney seeking \$1M in fees

PIER LAWSUIT, from page 1

really just the icing on the cake.”

Barnard's attorney, Alex Cornelius, said the verdict was nothing more than a compromise among jury members who couldn't agree.

Barnard will appeal the verdict and still plans to open the pier restaurant — he has \$6 million to develop it and the backing of local investors, Cornelius said, who added that the 9-3 jury verdict doesn't necessarily mean a victory for City Hall.

“Russ always wanted to build an upscale restaurant there and still does,” Cornelius said. “He has a lot of faith in the pier and has always had a vision for that space.”

Barnard planned a restaurant/bar/entertainment facility/retail outlet with a “Route 66” theme. Barnard, who also owns Rusty's Surf Ranch, a separate restaurant and bar on the pier, was selected by City Hall in 1988 from a pool of applicants that sought to develop the popular piece of property. He signed a lease with City Hall in 1993.

Once he signed the lease, Barnard said it took him several years to obtain the proper permits for the new venue because city officials kept changing the parameters of the restaurant's front footage. In 1998, City Hall issued Barnard building permits. He moved forward with the business arrangements, hired staff members and obtained a liquor license for the property.

Barnard said he received an extension in February of 2000 on the building permits so that he could complete the extensive project. But by 2001, Barnard said city officials had revoked those permits and stopped returning his calls and e-mails.

That's when he turned to the courts. He

originally sought nearly \$23 million in lost profits spread out between himself and his investors, based on a 10-year lease with 30 more years in options to renew. His suit also included attorneys fees, and other punitive and exemplary damages.

But that amount was reduced to just more than \$1 million after an expert witness, who is an economic forecaster, was barred from testifying on Barnard's behalf the day before the trial, which began Aug. 22, Goodstein said.

The judge held hearings outside of the courtroom to determine the expert witness' credibility. The judge ruled that the data the expert witness was going to use to project Barnard's \$23 million loss was insignificant — it mostly relied on a 2003 National Restaurant Survey, and didn't take into account the Santa Monica economy.

“It is really significant that he was excluded (from the trial),” Goodstein said. “\$23 million was just a jump-start to negotiations. (Barnard) set the ceiling so high that he figured they were going to pay him something just to get rid of him.”

Cornelius said \$23 million in damages was never presented to the jury and Barnard is still out \$1 million in out-of-pocket costs for trying to develop the property, as well as argue his legal case.

“The lost profits component was really to get a settlement with the city,” he said. “We needed to get a liability verdict for specific performance.”

City Hall's cross complaint accused Barnard of moving too slowly on the project and denied any responsibility in the lawsuit.

City attorneys have said that Barnard enlarged the scope of the project several



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

The fate of a 'Route 66'-themed restaurant and retail outlet, which would have been constructed on this open space on the Santa Monica Pier, remains uncertain after this week's decision.

times and failed to file the proper paperwork with City Hall that would allow him to begin construction.

After hearing the testimony of 15 witnesses, many of whom were city employees, and reviewing the nearly 250 documents admitted into evidence, the majority of jurors concluded that City Hall's version of the facts was more credible.

“The trial was reduced to a credibility contest,” Goodstein said. “(The jury) just didn't believe him.”

Cornelius said City Hall will have a difficult time in the appeal process because a \$1 verdict proves that the jury couldn't agree. The jury deliberated for three days after the trial finished on Sept. 19.

“The city has high hurdles because when you're awarded \$1, it's a compromise verdict,” he said.

Meanwhile, Goodstein plans to file a motion to recover attorney fees for City Hall, which amount to nearly \$1 million. Goodstein estimates that his bill to City Hall accounts for about \$750,000 and the rest are in-house city attorney costs.

As for the fate of the restaurant on the pier, it appears the space will remain empty for at least as long as it takes to resolve the case in the court of appeals, because if Barnard prevails, he plans to move forward.

“If (City Hall) tries to do something it's at their risk,” Cornelius said.

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LOCAL



CRIME WATCH

By Daily Press staff

Manager arrested for embezzlement

At 10:27 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 26, the Santa Monica police responded to the 100 block of Santa Monica Place mall regarding a theft investigation. When officers arrived to the scene, they spoke to the director of operations who stated that an employee had taken home the cash receipts for four days. When they interviewed the employee, she said the manager asked her to take the cash receipts and deliver them to her. Apparently when the deposits were made, one of the bags was missing and the director of operations believed the money was taken by the manager. Danielle Irene Simpson, 39, of Los Angeles, was placed under arrest for embezzlement and parole hold. The estimated loss was \$1,400. No bail was set.

At 10:44 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 20, the Santa Monica police responded to the 1300 block of Fourth Street, at a Washington Mutual bank, regarding a fraud in progress. When officers arrived to the scene, they spoke to a bank employee, who said the suspect attempted to cash a fraudulent check in the amount of \$1,250. The employee had contacted a check verification service that verified the check was not authentic and called police. Lawrence Terron Young, 32, of Glendale, was arrested for fraud, burglary and attempted grand theft. No bail was set.

At 3:19 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 21, the Santa Monica police responded to the 1600 block of Santa Monica Boulevard, at a 7-11 convenience store, regarding a theft. When officers arrived to the scene, they spoke to an employee, who said the suspect entered the store and removed several packages of batteries valued at \$23.55. The suspect fled, but was subsequently apprehended. Futu Futu, 32, a transient, was arrested for petty theft and a parole violation. Bail was set at \$21,000.

At 11:50 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 21, the Santa Monica police responded to the 1500 block of Second Street, at McDonalds, regarding a threats investigation. When officers arrived to the scene, they spoke to the victim, who said for unknown reasons the suspect threatened to pour hot coffee over him and after making the threat, assaulted the victim. The suspect had three outstanding misdemeanor warrants and a metal belt buckle in his possession that officers considered a weapon. Rudell James, 26, a transient, was arrested for criminal threats and possession of a deadly weapon. Bail was set at \$52,745.

This report was prepared by Daily Press staff writer Ryan Hyatt.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

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VIOLET-At Violet restaurant the atmosphere is casual, comfortable, and, like its cuisine, is uncluttered. Chef Jared Simons' flavorful small plate fare has something to suit everyone, from light eaters to those with a taste for a more robust fare. The Braised Short Ribs with Shallot Potatoes (\$14.50) melt apart while the Multi-Colored Beet Salad with Eel delights with Kumquat and Ginger Vinaigrette (\$9) and the favorite among the regulars is the Baked Macaroni and Gruyere Cheese with Serrano Ham (\$7.50). Unique selection of new and old world wines by the bottle, glass or flight as well as an impressive list of domestic & imported artisan beers. Hours: Lunch: Tuesday-Friday, 11:30am-2pm. Dinner: Tuesday-Friday, 6pm-10pm & Saturday and Sunday, 5:30pm-10pm. 3221 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica. www.violetrestaurant.com (310) 453-9113.



LOCAL

Area residents are urged to check air quality

FIRES, from page 1

the Las Virgines area.

Cobel said the Santa Monica strike team will be utilized until the fire is sufficiently contained and county emergency officials determine it's time to scale back resources. In the meantime, firefighters typically enjoying their days off have replaced those already sent to fight the blaze, he said.

CLEAN AIR: DON'T HOLD YOUR BREATH

The Southern Air Quality Management District, a government body which oversees environmental issues, advised people in Santa Monica and surrounding areas that air quality was unhealthy on Thursday due to the considerable amount of smoke.

Sam Atwood, SAQMD spokesman, said that because of the unhealthy air quality, people should minimize outdoor activity.

"We're going to have an onshore flow of smoke and soot later on today which could bring some of this air pollution down into the West LA area," Atwood said.

"People should avoid exercising vigorously outdoors for more than an hour."

Atwood said sensitivity to the air pollution would vary from person to person, but those with heart and lung conditions should be cautious.

According to Atwood, the SAQMD wouldn't comment on what the air quality will be like on Friday or over the weekend. He said the air quality may change daily depending on the vigor of the fire. To receive the most recent air quality reports, he suggested visiting the SAQMD's Web site — www.aqmd.gov — today at noon, when it's updated.

FIRE PREPAREDNESS

Tony Morris, a Topanga resident and emergency-preparedness advocate, said the fire was within eight miles of his home on Thursday.

"I'm watching it closely," Morris said. "The fire is definitely not contained and anything can happen."

Morris helps spearhead a nonprofit organization called the Wildfire Research Network, a group of concerned citizens interested in minimizing the impact of wildfires.

One of the WRN's goals is to help create a fire research center which would help coordinate firefighting efforts in the Western United States — an umbrella organization that would help firefighting research and efforts at the local, state and national levels.

The WRN also supports better firefighting initiatives and technology at local levels. Due to the encouragement of the WRN and other emergency groups, Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky recently helped coordinate the creation of an emergency survival guide book designed for outlying areas.

"The guide is focused on fire, floods, earthquakes and is a model of emergency preparedness which will really set the tone for the unincorporated parts of Los Angeles," said Ben Saltzman, a field deputy director for Yaroslavsky's office.

Saltzman said not only are Topanga residents active about emergency preparedness issues, they also live in an area very susceptible to several forms of natural disaster, so it made sense to develop a prototype plan for that portion of the county.

The guide also will be sent to other unincorporated areas, Saltzman said. Two copies are being mailed to every home in Topanga. The information will soon be available on the Web site www.topangasurvival.org.

"This fire is exactly the kind of reason people need to be prepared," Morris said.

Charity case: Couple tried to con Red Cross

CHARITY CASE, from page 1

woman Jane Robison.

The two were arraigned in Los Angeles Superior Court on Wednesday and remain in custody. They pleaded not guilty to all of the charges. Karaba, 32, a transient, and Wilkerson, 37, of Canoga Park, were arrested by the Santa Monica Police Department for burglary, grand theft, obtaining money under false pretenses, conspiracy and probation violation.

Santa Monica Red Cross officials called the SMPD on Monday after they were tipped off by an anonymous source who was staying at the Travelodge on Pico Boulevard, alleging that the pair might not be legitimate hurricane victims.

Karaba allegedly collected \$705 from the Red Cross, as well as a hotel voucher after she told officials on Sept. 14 that she had just arrived in Santa Monica from Louisiana, where she was a traveling nurse and was displaced because of the hurricane, SMPD Lt. Frank Fabrega said.

She received a voucher from the Red Cross for \$665 for two weeks of residency at the Travelodge.

Karaba allegedly claimed to local Red Cross officials that she purchased a home in New Orleans and it was destroyed as a result of the hurricane. However, inquiries into various computer databases revealed that neither suspect had ties to the Louisiana area.

Both Karaba and Wilkerson have obtained public defenders to represent them. Their next court date is scheduled for Oct. 10.

Karaba apparently had just been released from jail days prior to showing up at the Santa Monica chapter of the Red Cross. She was arrested in Van Nuys on Sept. 4 for a misdemeanor charge and had been in the Twin Towers Correctional Facility until at least Sept. 7, according to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department inmate information Web site.

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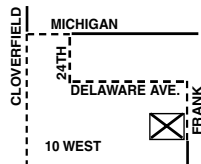


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STATE



Pakistani man indicted on arms smuggling charges

BY SETH HETTENA

Associated Press Writer

SAN DIEGO — A convicted Pakistani arms dealer was indicted Thursday on charges of conspiring with others to illegally export plane parts to Malaysia, Belgium and the United Arab Emirates.

The lawyer for Arif Ali Durrani, 56, said that most of the equipment was destined for Iran, but insisted his client was innocent and was set up by the U.S. government.

The five-count indictment, returned by a federal grand jury in San Diego, makes no mention of Iran.

Prosecutors charged this week that Durrani conspired with others in 2004 and 2005 to illegally export engine components for the F-5 fighter jet to Malaysia and Belgium and a cockpit canopy panel for the T-38 Talon to the United Arab Emirates, according to a complaint filed in federal court in San Diego.

Defense attorney Moe Nadim said he believed the F-5 engine parts were ultimately destined for Iran. Nadim said that a man, identified by prosecutors as an uncharged co-conspirator, traveled to Iran and sold the aircraft parts, but did not do so at Durrani's instruction, as prosecutors have alleged.

"This case is all about lies," Nadim said in a telephone interview. "Durrani was set up."

Durrani was convicted in Connecticut in 1987 of selling guidance systems for Hawk anti-aircraft missiles to Iran.

Throughout the trial, Durrani maintained Oliver North, a former National Security Council aide, told him to make the shipments and not worry about an export license. The prosecution called him a liar and Durrani spent five years in prison.

"Despite my conviction and imprisonment, I have borne no grudge against the United States," Durrani said in a 2002 affidavit filed in an unsuccessful attempt to have his federal conviction overturned. "In fact, I have gone out of my way to assist U.S. intelligence efforts in the fight against terrorism."

In the affidavit, Durrani claimed that an FBI agent sought his help in 1996 in catching Mir Aimal Kasi, who killed two CIA employees in a shooting rampage outside the spy agency's headquarters three years earlier. Durrani said he advised the agent, Bradley Garrett, how to deal with Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence, the country's equivalent of the CIA, the affidavit states. Kasi was captured in 1997 in Pakistan.

Debbie Weierman, an FBI spokeswoman in Washington, says the bureau doesn't comment on whom its agents consult or interview during an investigation.

After the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, Durrani claimed that he had information to pass along from his contacts in Pakistan regarding the whereabouts of Osama bin Laden. April Langwell, an FBI spokeswoman in San Diego, confirmed that FBI agent David Duke traveled to Mexico and met for four hours with Durrani, who provided information that was publicly available.

"He is absolutely not helping us with any information," Langwell said.

Durrani was kicked out of the United States and moved in 1998 to Baja California, Mexico, where he opened a restaurant.

Prosecutors say he also resumed his illegal military parts supply business with the aid of Richard Tobey, who ran Airpower Supply in Temecula, and another

unnamed man, according to the complaint. Tobey pleaded guilty in August to conspiring to violate U.S. arms export control laws and, as part of his plea, said that Durrani instructed him to send a T-38 cockpit canopy to the United Arab Emirates in 2004. Durrani has been in U.S. custody in Los Angeles since June when he was expelled from Mexico and charged in a different case.

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Entertainment

Latest Disney tale's got 'Game'

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

Sports films about long shots triumphing despite near impossible odds have served Disney well at the box office in recent years ("The Rookie," "Miracle"),

Review

so as you might expect they're sticking with the formula. The Mouse enlisted actor-cum-director Bill Paxton to helm "The Greatest Game Ever Played," which recounts one of the most incredible upsets in sports history — 20-year-old American amateur golfer Francis Ouimet's (Shia LeBeouf) victory over eventual six-time champ, Britain's Harry Vardon (Stephen

Dillane), at the 1913 U.S. Open. "Greatest Game" isn't the greatest sports movie ever made, but it's pretty darn good all the same. Paxton flagrantly incorporates numerous staples of the genre (slow-mo action shots, an operatic score, flag-waving nationalism) yet manages to keep the overall sappiness factor at a tolerable level. Best of all, you don't have to be a golf fan to find this film up to par.

Several themes are addressed within, among them class struggle, the power of determination, and the possibility that Francis Ouimet may have been a time-traveler from the 21st Century — how

else to explain LeBeouf's curiously modern dialect in a film set nearly 100 years ago? (Pretty sure they didn't talk like us back then, but I can't be fo-shizzle.) Speech impediments aside, there is plenty to like about this family-friendly fare, especially Dillane's nuanced performance as Vardon. Diminutive actor Josh Flitter provides many of the film's laughs as Francis' pre-pubescent caddy, Eddie Lowery. This is one underdog you can't help but root for.

(Rated PG for some brief mild language. Running time: 120 minutes)



'Blue' heaven: Divers down and looking good

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

THE DIRECTOR: John Stockwell
THE STARS: Jessica Alba, Paul Walker, Ashley Scott, Scott Caan, Josh Brolin

You think spending two hours watching a group of hot-bodied young stars with suspect acting ability parade around nearly naked in the Bahamas sounds like fun? Yeah, me too! Jessica Alba, Paul Walker, Ashley

Review

Scott and Scott Caan let it all hang out (or, at least, most of it) in this undeniably entertaining update of the 1977 ocean-bound thriller, "The Deep." Those old enough to recall the worldwide libidinal jolt Jacqueline Bisset produced with her wet-tee turn in the original surely will appreciate Alba's equally arousing performance. So will almost anyone else. But go beyond skin depth and you'll find that the real scene-stealer in "Into the Blue" is Caan, who displays a knack for comedy that is as solid as his abs.

Jared Cole (Walker) is a dive bum and part-time treasure hunter who dreams of finding priceless booty in the sea. He's already found it on land in gal-pal Sam (Alba), a shark handler at a local resort who doesn't care how little dough poor

Jared has — she loves him just the way he is. A guy should be so lucky, right? Jared's happy-go-lucky buddy Bryce (Caan) arrives with a promiscuous babe, Amanda (Scott), who he met just hours before. They head out to sea on a free diving expedition, and before you can say "schwiiiiing!" find evidence of an ancient shipwreck alongside a recently downed cargo plane full of cocaine. Again, a guy should be so lucky. Jared and Sam want no part of the drugs, but Bryce and Amanda see it as a way to get the dough they'll need to salvage the treasure, which they estimate could be worth hundreds of millions. Bad guys lurk everywhere, from Tyson Beckford's shady nightclub owner to Josh Brolin's ruthless treasure hunter.

Our young protagonists clearly are headed for troubled water and director John Stockwell ("Blue Crush," "Crazy/Beautiful") leads them there competently, working off a tight script by Matt Johnson ("Torque"). The action is gripping, the underwater sequences eye-popping, the scenery Alba-lightful. Getting into this one won't leave you feeling blue.

(Rated PG-13 for intense sequences of action violence, drug material, some sexual content and language. Running time: 110 minutes)


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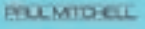
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Arts and culture honored at '05 Abbot Awards

By Daily Press staff

The 2006 season of The Other Venice Film Festival officially kicked-off on the main stage of the Abbot Kinney Street Festival last weekend when, in association with The Venice Community Trust, the OVFF presented the 2005 Abbot Awards for Excellence in the Arts and Community.

Born from The Other Venice Film Festival, The Abbot Awards are presented to members of greater Venice who have demonstrated excellence to local art and culture. In this, the year of the Venice Centennial celebration, Abbot Award recipients include: actor Orson Bean for "Outstanding Achievement in Theatrical Arts;" Gregory Hines for "Outstanding Achievement in Performing Arts;" Ed Ruscha for "Outstanding Achievement in Fine Arts;" and Carol Tantau, for "Outstanding Achievement in Community Service."

The Other Venice Film Festival (OVFF), a community event dedicated to screening full-length, short and animated films that embody the spirit, energy and diversity of Venice, is now accepting film submissions of all lengths for its third season, March 17-20, 2006. Applications are available for download at www.venice-offilmfest.com.



Photo Courtesy

(Top) Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villagairosa and OVFF co-founder Rueben dela Casas at the Abbot Awards. (Bottom left) The late Gregory Hines' beloved Negrita accepting an Abbot Award for Excellence in the Arts & Community, on his behalf. (Middle) dela Casas and actress Alley Mills, who accepted an Abbot Award on behalf of her husband, Orson Bean. (Bottom Right) OVFF co-founder AJ Peralta with Abbot Award winner and fine artist Ed Ruscha.



THE IMBIBER

BY DAN DUNN

Whisky's a go-go: It's hip

Let's face it, it's not often the graybeards that dominate the Scotch industry use the word "hip," and if they do it's probably because it's time to have theirs' replaced. Scotch whisky has been produced in Scotland for hundreds upon hundreds of years, and over the centuries distillers have embraced change in much the same way Christian fundamentalists in Kansas embrace evolution. This unwavering respect for Scotch's noble lineage is a big part of its charm; after all, cocktail trends come and go, but the robust flavor of a fine single malt or unique character of a revered blend are timeless. Unfortunately it has also helped foster the belief, held by a majority of the youth market along with budget-conscious consumers, that Scotch is only to be enjoyed by old farts and corpo-

rate CEOs (who are often one in the same).

With a mind to shake things up a bit, a trio of fun-loving best buds named Jon, Mark and Robbo created the Easy Drinking Whisky Company (or "JMR" after their initials) and introduced a "Ben & Jerry's" vibe to the Scotch industry.

"We've completely chucked the whisky rule book. So you can toss your tie and drink it where you like, when you like, and how you like. It is for enjoying, not worshipping," says Robbo, a former master distiller of The Macallan who is JMR's resident mixologist.

Don't let the JMR boys' youthful exuberance fool you, however: They're as serious as a heart-attack (or, better yet, a hip replacement) about making whisky, and the proof is in every bottle. With input from Jon and Mark, Robbo produced three different blends: The Rich Spicy One, the Smokey Peaty One, and the Smooth Sweeter One (all retail for around \$30). The latter, a blend of Cooley's Single Irish Malt and Bunnahabhba, is recommended for new whisky drinkers, while the others should delight more experienced palates.

(Thirsty for more Imbiber? Pull up a barstool at www.TheImbiber.com)

MUSIC REVIEW

Interpol starts slow, finishes strong

BY JAYA GUPTA

Special to the Daily Press

Thousands were brought to their feet last week at the Greek Theatre by the four chic New Yorkers who comprise the alternative band Interpol. Amidst a backdrop of fir trees, concentrated violet lasers and the haze of a smoke machine, band members dressed in formal business attire took to the stage and sonically summoned the audience to their feet.

Despite weather forecasts calling for rain, the audience's spirits couldn't be doused. Still, many in attendance at the sold-out concert — located on the side of a canyon in Griffith Park — lugged in their unwieldy rain gear with one hand, dampened cigarettes in the other.

The ethereal experimental-rock of Cincinnati-based Boom Bip started off the chilly night. Citing the likes of Sonic Youth, Jimi Hendrix and Mogwai as influences, it seemed fitting that Boom Bip's repertoire consisted mostly of lengthy, lyric-less, guitar-driven compositions.

Each song was filled to capacity with raunchy guitars and weaving bass lines atop soothing harmonies provided by keyboards and a backup guitar. Though most people probably hadn't heard of Boom Bip before the show, they seemed to enjoy the auditory ambiance the band provided.

When Interpol took to the stage, they kicked off their roughly two-hour set with "Next Exit," the opening track off their year-old sophomore release "Antics." Even as they followed it up with "Slow Hands," an alternative take on a fast dance rhythm, the band seemed a little lethargic at first. With the exception of guitarist Daniel Kessler, who has the footwork of a ballroom dancer and was prancing across the stage, and drummer Sam Fogarino — pounding away emphatically — the rest of Interpol seemed to be lacking stage kinetic. As they eased into their set, playing many of the songs off "Antics" before digging into the recent past and breaking out the "Bright Lights" hits, the rising energy levels were clearly palpable.

Although the vocals of guitarist Paul Banks were a little bit off, the band played the rest of their set with anxious enthusiasm.

The majority of Interpol's songs document exquisite heartache, mechanical isolation or other abstract concepts. Most in the audience appeared to be fervent Interpol listeners by the way they sang along. The audience was brought to their feet by the forcefulness with which they played and the symbiosis each member had with his instrument. Hearing them live is an entirely different experience.

Interpol feigned the concert's ending twice, waving good-bye, leaving for a few minutes and returning each time to the collective summons of "Encore! Encore!" and copious applause. They ended their set with "The Specialist" and graciously exited the stage for good.



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STATE

Gloomy voters see no economic fix in election

BY TOM CHORNEAU

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — Anxious over the hurricane disasters on the Gulf Coast and rising gas prices here at home, a majority of California voters are growing increasingly pessimistic about the direction of the state and the nation, according to a new poll from the Public Policy Institute of California.

Most voters said they are bracing for bad economic times and see no solutions in the slate of ballot measures that are set to be decided in the November special election.

“There’s a lot of negativity out there right now,” said Mark Baldassare, poll director. “There’s lots of concerns, lots of insecurity and a lot of people looking at the national economy and are worried about the possibility of recession.”

The poll found that most voters — 53 percent — continue to believe the upcoming Nov. 8 election is a bad idea. A third of voters said they are not following news of the election closely either.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who called the election

and helped qualify three measures for the ballot, also is suffering: Just 38 percent of likely voters said they think the governor is doing a good job.

The pollsters said they found no significant change in voter sentiments before or after Schwarzenegger’s announcement on Sept. 16 that he was running for re-election.

Voters’ disenchantment extends to the Legislature, which has just 28 percent approval.

The overall gloom, Baldassare said, creates even more difficulties for Schwarzenegger in his efforts to convince voters to support his ballot measures.

“Voters don’t see the special election as an event that is going to make them feel better about their current circumstances,” he said. “That’s the challenge the governor faces.”

Indeed, the new poll found voters rejecting all three of the measures that the governor helped qualify for the ballot:

■ Proposition 74, which would lengthen the probationary period for public school teachers, is favored by 43 percent with 47 percent opposed and 10 percent undecided.

■ Proposition 76, which would impose a new spending cap on the state, is favored by just 26 percent with 63

percent opposed and 11 percent undecided.

■ Proposition 77, which would give authority for drawing legislative and Congressional districts to a panel of retired judges, is supported by 33 percent with 50 percent opposed and 17 percent undecided.

Campaign managers for Schwarzenegger’s California Recovery Team have said that their private polling shows the governor with much better approval ratings and his measures with much more voter support.

The poll included voter opinions on just two others on the ballot, the rival measures aimed at cutting prescription drug rates.

Proposition 78, drafted by pharmaceutical companies, is favored by 43 percent of voters with 38 percent opposed and 19 percent undecided. The measure would provide a voluntary program for drug companies to provide discounts.

Proposition 79, put on the ballot by consumer groups, has the support of 34 percent of voters with 40 percent opposed and 26 percent undecided.

The poll was based on telephone interviews with 1,013 likely voters during the seven day period ending Sept. 19. It had a sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

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STATE BRIEFS

Top school official not keeping faith

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The state’s top school official vowed to resist any attempt to teach the “intelligent design” theory of life on Earth in California classrooms, calling it a threat to the integrity of education.

“I will fight tooth and nail to protect California’s high academic standards,” Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O’Connell said Wednesday.

Intelligent design does not belong in the realm of science because it is based on faith, he said.

California schools teach evolutionary theory, in which man evolved from less-complex beings.

Proponents of intelligent design argue that life on Earth is the product of an unidentified intelligent force, and that Charles Darwin’s theory of natural selection cannot fully explain the origin of life or the emergence of complex life forms.

O’Connell’s announcement was prompted by a federal case in Harrisburg, Pa., where a school system is being challenged for teaching the intelligent design concept.

There is no organized effort to teach intelligent design in California schools, which would require a curriculum change at the state level.

The concept has gained attention since President Bush said it should be taught in schools. Other states are considering measures to teach intelligent design as an alternative to evolution.

Students stop smelling the roses

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — An urban high school is ending an agricultural program that for nearly three decades taught students to grow flowers, avocados and citrus trees along with other landscaping techniques.

The program at Grant High School in the Van Nuys

area was set to end Friday, said Colin “Doc” Wainwright, who taught the classes for 28 years.

Principal Linda Ibach said enrollment at the 2,900-student campus declined by 300 this year, forcing her to displace four teachers, consolidate classes and cut the program.

Wainwright pointed out that Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed a bill Tuesday that will pump \$20 million into vocational education. Some of that money should trickle down to help fund the program, he said.

The school district “needs to wake up and literally smell the roses,” he said, asserting the program has kept many students from dropping out of school.

“Not everyone is going to be a brain surgeon,” added Tobi Milroy, 43, a former student who now teaches at an elementary school. “Some people need to have those hands-on techniques.”

School board member Jon Lauritzen plans to investigate whether the program can be funded.

Latino cop is now the tops

By The Associated Press

DOWNEY, Calif. — He and his family members were the first Latinos on their block.

Now, Roy Campos, 48, will become the city’s first Latino police chief.

City Council members named Campos to the position Tuesday to replace Police Chief John Finch, who is retiring.

Campos said the importance of inclusion in a community has always stayed with him. He recalled his parents introducing themselves and their nine children to neighbors with a celebration including mariachi music and Mexican food.

Campos joined the Downey Police Department in 1979, eventually becoming a detective and sergeant. He was promoted to captain in 2002.

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NATIONAL

After Katrina: Lots of ideas, little direction

BY ROBERT TANNER

AP National Writer

A month after Hurricane Katrina roared in, political leaders are taking their first steps toward rebuilding New Orleans and the Gulf Coast region, but they are heading off in different — and possibly conflicting — directions.

The mayor of New Orleans is creating one commission to oversee the task. State officials say they are best suited to handle the reconstruction. And some on the Gulf Coast and in Washington want to see a strong federal role to coordinate the huge undertaking and guard against mispending or corruption.

“Right now, it’s just like our leaders were dazed during the disaster. I think they’re still a bit dazed with just the enormity of the situation,” said Rolfe McCollister Jr., publisher of the Greater Baton Rouge Business Report. “Normally, cities build over time. Now suddenly they say, ‘Where do we start?’”

The disaster’s scope has made it difficult even to bring federal, state and local leaders together to discuss the challenges, said U.S. Rep. Charlie Melancon, a Democrat who represents a huge swath of southeastern Louisiana.

“Until you get the people back into the community,

where do you meet with them? Who are they? Are they the same people that used to be, or is it a whole new cadre of people?” he said. “If I said I knew the answer, I’d be lying to you.”

Still, some efforts are moving ahead:

— Mayor Ray Nagin has appointed 18 local leaders — racially balanced, with Hispanic and Vietnamese representation — to a new Commission for the Future of New Orleans, said prominent developer Joseph Canizaro, who is on the commission.

— Gov. Kathleen Blanco is rumored to be exploring her own panel on rebuilding, several business leaders said. Her administration is gathering input from officials in the state and beyond, but no group has been formed yet, said Michael Olivier, the state’s economic development director.

— The Louisiana congressional delegation has called for \$250 billion in federal aid to rebuild flood-ravaged New Orleans and repair hurricane damage elsewhere across the state.

Others have floated the idea of a regional group that ties together the entire Gulf Coast. Some have cited as inspiration the government-driven Tennessee Valley Authority of the 1930s that spurred development across much of the South.

U.S. Rep. Bobby Jindal, a Republican who represents New Orleans suburbs, suggested a public-private rede-

velopment authority that can integrate federal support with local needs. “Every day we don’t get something like this in place, that’s another day of lost opportunity. I don’t think we can do this soon enough,” he said.

President Bush said Tuesday he is also considering how best to coordinate the recovery efforts.

“The vision and the element of reconstruction is just beginning and there may be a need for an interface with a particular person to help to make sure that the vision becomes reality,” he said.

Politicians, business leaders and urban planners all point to different challenges and questions facing the region, many of which are interconnected: how to keep a below-sea-level city safe from the water that surrounds it, how much of the city’s housing to rebuild, how to address the poverty endemic to the city.

Along with the urgency comes worries of political turf fights, no-bid contracts and Louisiana’s legendary corruption. Some of that’s already happening, said Buddy Roemer, a former Louisiana governor and four-term member of Congress.

“The majority thread I see, unfortunately, from the political forces, are the ‘let’s-serve-my-interests’ thread,” he said. “Now they see the cash cow of government and they see the prospect of getting the sweet milk of fulfillment.”

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Imelda Marcos’ \$10M worth of gems, shoes may be auctioned

BY TERESA CEROJANO

Associated Press Writer

MANILA, Philippines — Former first lady Imelda Marcos’ vast collection of shoes, gowns and jewels worth \$10 million could soon be auctioned off, a Philippine official said Thursday.

Ricardo Abcede, of the Presidential Commission on Good Government that has recovered ill-gotten wealth of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos and his family, said his agency is looking at whether her possessions should put up for sale.

“I believe that with all the publicity generated by Imelda Marcos ... the jewelry collection and other items would be (worth) much, much more than the appraised value,” he said. “There are also eccentric collectors, they might be interested in the shoes or in the gowns.”

International auction houses Christie’s, Sotheby’s and Bonhams have expressed interest in holding the auction

for the jewelry collection, initially estimated to be worth at least \$10 million.

At the height of her husband’s power, Marcos gained notoriety for shopping trips to the world’s swankiest boutiques, glitzy parties and lavish beautification projects in the midst of the Philippines’ grinding poverty.

When the Marcoses fled the Philippines at the climax of a “people power” revolt, Imelda Marcos left hundreds of gowns and 1,220 pairs of shoes behind at the presidential palace.

The shoe collection, including many expensive foreign-made brands, astounded the world and became a symbol of ostentation. Some of the shoes have been turned over to a shoe museum in suburban Marikina city.

The presidential palace museum displays Imelda Marcos’ five locally made pairs of satin shoes, at least two of her gowns, and her bulletproof vest, parasols, paintings, silverware and period pieces of furniture.

Fewer female grizzlies with cubs in Yellowstone

By The Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. — Bear biologists this year counted the lowest number of female grizzly bears with cubs in and around Yellowstone National Park since 1997, but they say it’s not an indication that the population is declining.

Wildlife officials estimate that 400 to 600 grizzlies live in the Yellowstone ecosystem, enough to warrant removing them from the endangered species list. A delisting proposal expected this summer has not yet been released.

Counting the pairs helps biologists gauge the success of the Yellowstone population.

This year, biologists spotted 31 pairs, according to figures released Tuesday. They observed an average of 43.6

pairs during the previous five years, including a high of 52 in 2002 and 49 last year. The last time they counted only 31 pairs was in 1997.

The dip doesn’t necessarily mean the population is shrinking, said Mark Haroldson, a biologist for the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team, a group of government scientists based in Missoula.

Other factors likely contributed to the low number, including a “bumper crop” of cubs in recent years that left many females unable to breed, and persistent snow at some feeding sites that kept away bears that otherwise would have been counted.

“It’s not a big red flag right now,” Haroldson said.

The numbers probably will rebound next year, said Chuck Schwartz, who led the study team.



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Santa Monica Daily Press

NATIONAL



Two women succumb to brain-wasting disease

BY CHRISTOPHER SMITH

Associated Press Writer

BOISE, Idaho — Preliminary tests on the remains of two Idaho women show they died of the brain-wasting illness Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, but additional tests are needed to determine whether it was the naturally occurring form or the variant related to mad cow disease.

Idaho Department of Health and Welfare officials announced the findings Wednesday after notifying the families of the women, one of whom was in her 60s and lived in Twin Falls County and the other who was previously identified by her family as 53-year-old Kathy Isenberg of St. Maries. Because of privacy restrictions, state health officials do not release names of individuals suspected of dying from the disease, which can only be conclusively diagnosed post-mortem.

The results bring to three the number of confirmed deaths this year in Idaho due to diseases related to "prions," or malformed proteins. Earlier this year, tests by the National Prion Disease Pathology Surveillance Center at Case Western University in Ohio determined that another Twin Falls County woman had died from a prion-related

disease believed to be Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

Additional tests are under way at the lab to determine what form of CJD was responsible in the three confirmed cases.

"Generally, 85 percent of the tests come back as the sporadic, or naturally occurring form, 14 percent come back as the familial form that is passed down through generations and less than 1 percent come back as the variant form," said Tom Shanahan, spokesman for the Idaho agency. "There's never been a variant case acquired in the United States."

The incurable illness causes normal brain proteins to fold in half, resulting in brain damage and rapid deterioration of body movement and speaking ability. Scientists don't know what causes the sporadic form of CJD. The most well-known prion disease in animals is bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or mad cow, which humans can get if they eat meat from an infected cow.

There have been eight suspected cases of CJD in Idaho since January. Of the four cases from Twin Falls County, one has been ruled out, an autopsy was not conducted on another and two are now confirmed, along with the confirmation of Isenberg's case in Benewah County. Autopsies also were not conducted on reported CJD vic-

tims in Bear Lake and Minidoka counties. Preliminary tests have not been received for an Elmore County man in his 60s who died last month and whose doctor suspected CJD as the cause.

This is the first year a new state law requires doctors to report possible cases of the fatal neurodegenerative disease. Idaho officials have never recorded more than three cases in a single year and the disease usually infects only one out of every 1 million people worldwide.

In 2002, one case of variant CJD was diagnosed in a Florida resident who had lived in the United Kingdom.

Idaho officials acknowledge the unusually high number of CJD cases may be due to the new reporting requirement, but are working with the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to determine whether the reports represent a cluster and whether there is anything in common among the victims.

"There are a lot of different diseases that look like CJD and it is so rare many doctors may never even see it in their years of practice," said Shanahan. "We don't have a lot of experience with it, so we're asking the CDC to review the cases where autopsies were not done to give us an expert opinion on whether they were likely CJD cases."

Endangered Species Act rewrite passed by House

BY ERICA WERNER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The House passed legislation Thursday that could greatly expand private property rights under the Endangered Species Act, which is credited with helping keep the bald eagle from extinction but which also has provoked bitter fights over land use.

By a vote of 229-193, lawmakers approved a top-to-bottom overhaul of the 1973 act, perhaps the nation's most powerful environmental law. The law has led to contentious battles over species such as the northern spotted owl, the snail darter and the red-legged frog.

The rewrite faces an uncertain future in the Senate, where Republican Sen. Lincoln Chafee of Rhode Island, head of the panel that oversees the law, has expressed concerns about the House bill.

The bill would require the government to compensate property owners if steps to protect species thwarted development plans. It also would make political appointees responsible for some scientific determinations and would stop the government from designating "critical habitat," which can limit development.

The changes were pushed through by the chairman of the House Resources Committee, GOP Rep. Richard Pombo. The California rancher contends the current rules unduly burden landowners and lead to costly lawsuits while doing too little to save plants and animals.

"You've got to pay when you take away somebody's private property. That is what we have to do," Pombo told House colleagues. "The only way this is going to work is if we bring in property owners to be part of the solution and to be part of recovering those species."

Many Democrats and moderate Republicans said Pombo's bill would eliminate important protections for species and clear the way for large handouts from the government to property owners.

The bill sets a "dangerous precedent that private individuals must be paid to comply with an environmental law," said Rep. Nick Rahall of West Virginia, the committee's top Democrat.

"What's next? Paying citizens to wear seat belts? ... This bill will not improve species' ability to recover," he said.

A White House statement on Thursday supported the bill. But it noted that payments to private property owners could have a "significant" impact on the budget.

The Congressional Budget Office estimated that those payments would run less than \$20 million a year. The bill's opponents predicted a much higher total.

The Fish and Wildlife Service says there are 1,268 threatened and endangered plants and animals in the United States. About a dozen have gone off the list over the years after they were determined to have recovered; nine have become extinct.

Opponents of the existing law said the numbers show

it's not working, while supporters say the same figures show it's successful because it is keeping species alive.

Pombo's bill would:

- Eliminate critical habitat. That is area now required to be designated when a species is listed and is protected from adverse actions by federal agencies. Instead, "recovery plans" for species, including designation of habitat, would have to be developed within two years. The recovery plans would not have regulatory force and the habitat would not be protected from federal actions.

- Specify that landowners with development plans are due answers from the interior secretary within 180 days, with a 180-day extension possible, about whether the development would harm protected species. If the government fails to respond in time, the development could go forward. If the government blocks the development, the landowner would be paid the fair market value of the proposed development.

- Give the interior secretary the job of determining what constitutes appropriate scientific data for decision-making under the law.

An alternative from a group of Democrats and moderate Republicans would have strengthened the recovery plans, eliminated the payments to landowners for blocked developments and created a scientific advisory board to assist the interior secretary. The proposal failed by a 216-206 vote.

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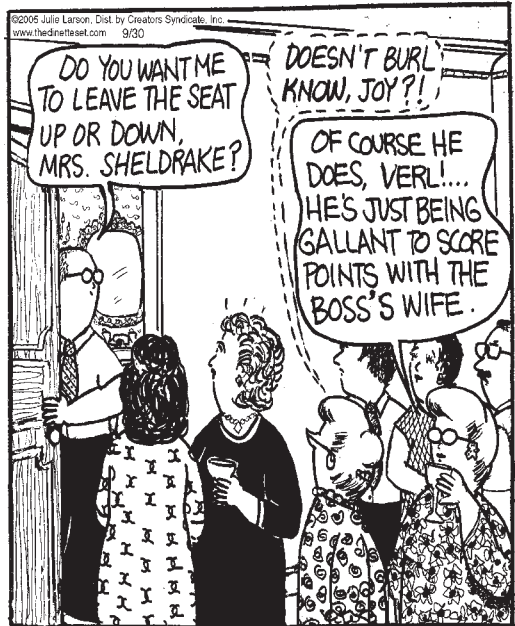
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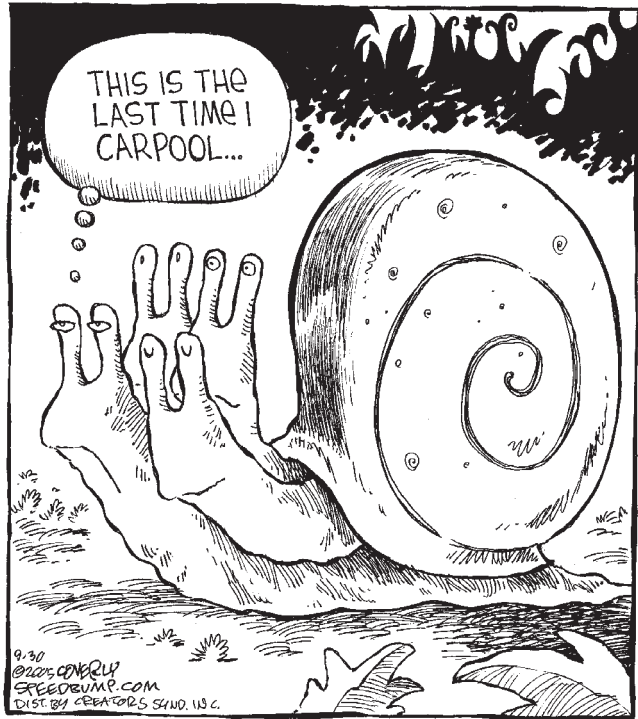
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DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 2001817 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Pierre Pascal, Leatherupls.com, AI #/ON 2524406, 1234 Santee Street, #A, Los Angeles, CA 90015. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Grand Saz Global, Inc., CALIFORNIA, 1234 S. Santee Street, #A, Los Angeles, CA 90015 This Business is being conducted by, a corporation. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: Grand Saz Global, Inc., President, Albert Bootesaz This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 8/19/05. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 9/16/2005, 9/23/2005, 9/30/2005, 10/7/2005

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 1999504 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Mision Evangelica Dios Habla Hoy, 9521 Van Nuys Blvd., Panova City, CA 91402. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Hector Acevedo, 200 S. Mariposa Ave., #106, Los Angeles, CA 90004 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)8/19/2005. /s/: Hector Acevedo This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 8/19/2005. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 9/16/2005, 9/23/2005, 9/30/2005, 10/7/2005

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 2001579 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Graffiti Removers, 4754 Garrick Ave., Pico Rivera, CA 90660/ PO Box 2227, Montebello, CA 90640. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Daniel Fernandez, 4754 Garrick Ave., Pico Rivera, CA 90660 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)7/1/2005. /s/: Daniel Fernandez This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 8/19/2005. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 9/16/2005, 9/23/2005, 9/30/2005, 10/7/2005

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DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 2001539 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Diablo Trucking, 13450 Meyer Rd., #27, Whittier, CA 90605. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Juan Rodriguez, 13450 Meyer Rd., #27, Whittier, CA 90605 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)8/16/2005. /s/ Juan Rodriguez

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 8/19/2005. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 9/16/2005, 9/23/2005, 9/30/2005, 10/7/2005

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≈ Sushi and Uni Cooking Contest ≈

≈ Sake Tasting ≈

≈ Koto and Jazz ≈

≈ Karate ≈

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By Japanese Restaurant association of Southern California

Raffle Prizes

**Grand prize of a round trip ticket for two to Japan and more.
A Gift Bag will be given to the guests.**

Sunday, Oct. 30, 2005 11:00am ~ 3:00pm

The New Otani Hotel & Garden

Golden Ballroom & Japanese Garden

120 S. Los Angeles St., Los Angeles, CA 90012

Ticket Fee : \$30.00 (\$30.00 Food and Beverage ticket value)

Ticket must be purchased in advance for admission

Ticket Sale : JRA Office (213) 687- 4055

Japanese Food Festival Committee wishes to thank the following supporters:



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