

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY



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Jackpot: \$25M



12 15 32 43 45
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2nd: 03 Hot Shot
3rd: 05 California Classic
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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD



In July, according to a Canadian Press report, a Wal-Mart in St.-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Quebec, received a bomb threat and immediately dispatched about 40 employees on duty to look through the store to find the explosive. (Customers were allowed to leave, though, and ultimately, it was a false alarm.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 278th day of 2006.
There are 87 days left in the year.

1947 President Truman delivered the first televised White House address. (Speaking about the world food crisis, Truman called on Americans to refrain from eating meat on Tuesdays and poultry as well as eggs on Thursdays.)

1937 President Roosevelt called for a “quarantine” of aggressor nations.

1953 Earl Warren was sworn in as the 14th chief justice of the United States, succeeding Fred M. Vinson.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“The usefulness of a meeting is in inverse proportion to the attendance.”

LANE KIRKLAND
AMERICAN LABOR LEADER (1922-1999)

INDEX

Horoscopes	
Try a new look, Cancer	2
Surf Report	
Water temperature: 66°	3
Opinion	
Marketing in the school bus	4
State	
Time to reboot	5
National	
Keep the fire burning	8
Business	
Are you ready for some snowfall?	16
International	
North Korea's neighbors nervous	17
MOVIETIMES	
The reel thing	18
Comics	
Strips tease	19
Classifieds	
Ad space odyssey	20-23



TITTINGER

Copy cat: DP names editor

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN — A 12-year-veteran of the newspaper business has assumed control over the editorial department at the Santa Monica Daily Press (SMDP) — the city’s lone daily newspaper.

A native of Northeast Philadelphia, Michael Tittinger, 36, has spent the past four years at the SMDP, first serving as a columnist — “Tittinger’s Take” — then as associate editor.

Tittinger is expected to hire a second, full-time reporter within the next week, his first major move as editor.

See NEW EDITOR, page 12

Giving voice to disabled

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

MID-CITY — For residents who are blind or have lost their hearing, just walking the city’s streets can be a scary proposition, let alone crossing a bustling thoroughfare like Wilshire Boulevard.

On Wednesday, city officials attempted to lead the way.

Standing at the corner of one of Santa Monica’s busiest intersections, officials joined with the disabled for the installation of a new technology that tells those who are blind or hearing impaired when it’s safe to

cross the street. The technology, developed by Polara Engineering Inc., features a male voice that speaks to pedestrians, telling them which street they are on, what direction they are traveling and how

See SIGNALS, page 14



Kevin Herrera/Daily Press

SAFE AND SOUND: Sam Genensky (left), who is legally blind, makes his way across Wilshire Boulevard on Wednesday with the assistance of one of Santa Monica’s new talking crosswalk signals. The push-button signs (right) include Braille indicators.



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press



Feeling blue

Dodgers fans gather at Hooters restaurant on Santa Monica Boulevard on Wednesday to watch the club’s opening play-off game at Shea Stadium in New York. The Mets squeaked out a 6-5 win. The two teams meet again today at 5 p.m.

Alejandro Cesar Cantarero II/Daily Press

Courtroom for the homeless taking shape

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — A Santa Monica Superior Court commissioner with a background in family law will preside over a community homeless court in November, city officials said.

One day per month, Commissioner Bobbi Tillmon will hear roughly 15 cases in the City Council Chambers at City Hall.

The plan, modeled after a homeless court in New York City, is to connect social service providers with chronically homeless individuals who have numerous offenses for such things as defecating in public, camping, public intoxication and other low-level, “quality-of-life” crimes, city officials said.

See HOMELESS, page 14



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ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ The rug could be pulled out from under you, making you perceive a situation differently. You will be forced to re-assess a personal situation as a result. Others give you feedback that guides you and is well intended. Tonight: Take some downtime.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Friends and events point you in a key direction. Your ability to understand and make a difference comes through. You could find a close partner difficult or testy. This person could be changing his or her tune. Ouch! Tonight: Find your friends.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Accept your natural role as a leader, and you will be happier. Be ready to change directions if you hit too many obstacles. Listen to what is being said. You might not get the whole story. Someone might not be fessing up to everything. Tonight: In the limelight.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ You might want to carefully think through a decision that could impact your daily life. Perhaps it might be better if you take action rather than be affected by others. If you don't understand someone's actions, walk in his or her shoes. Tonight: Try a new vista or two.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ You might want to work with one other person directly. You will want to think before you charge into a situation. Your impulses could be off, and you could pay dearly. A little patience could go far. Think positively. Tonight: Have a good time.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Listen carefully to someone who can impact your domestic life. Review what is happening with an eye to less upheaval. You might want someone to answer questions or take the lead. Make that OK. Tonight: Say yes.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ You might be a bit out of sorts and exaggerate a situation. Yes, tempers can fly; control games run amok. Listen to someone you care a lot about. You will want to understand more. Tackle routine, and you'll mellow out. Tonight: Think about an early bedtime.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Allow more playfulness into your life, but less risking. You could be upset about a personal relationship. Allow someone to see that you can pull away. Think through a decision without taking action. Test out an idea. Tonight: Ever playful.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Anchor in and worry less. You might want to think positively and work with someone directly. If you would like to understand this person, you might need to be more relaxed. Let this person feel accepted. Tonight: Smile away.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Strong judgments might be tossing you into chaos, and you feel as if others are difficult. Talk, share and be open to alternatives. You could be surprised at how well a problem could work out. Tonight: Keep the lines of communication open.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ You need to pull back and look at what might be happening. Much gets tossed on you. You might not always have the right answers. Many people care much more than you realize. Give them space to express themselves. Tonight: In the limelight.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Allow yourself to approach your life with relish and enthusiasm. You might need to try something totally different. Allow others to try another approach or style. Join in and try a new path. Tonight: A boss could be difficult.

BORN TODAY Actor **Guy Pearce** (1967), songwriter **Bob Geldof** (1954).

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com> © 2006 by King Features Syndicate Inc

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Candidates forum gets clearance

By Daily Press staff

City Council candidates will be on the hot seat tonight, as the Concerned Residents Against Airport Pollution stages its second Santa Monica City Council candidate forum, from 6:30 p.m. until 9 p.m., at the Ken Edwards Center, 1527 Fourth Street. The forum will focus primarily on the environmental, noise, health, safety and other quality-of-life related issues pertaining to Santa Monica Airport and its impact on surrounding communities.

All 10 Santa Monica City Council candidates, including the three incumbents, vying for three open seats have been invited to participate. The forum moderator will be former Santa Monica Airport Commissioner, Dr. Jean Gebman. The candidates will have the opportunity to make an opening and closing statement and to answer questions from a panel of environmental organizations and community group leaders, as well as from the public.

Supporters of the forum include Friends of Sunset Park, a Santa Monica neighborhood association, and North Westdale Neighborhood Association, a Los Angeles neighborhood association.

The Ken Edwards Center has free on-site parking and is wheelchair accessible. The forum is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Martin Rubin at (310) 479-2529 or (310) 478-3069, or e-mail jetairpollution@earthlink.net.

Voters get a League of their own

By Daily Press staff

In an effort to keep the public engaged in local politics, the League of Women Voters of Santa Monica Education Fund is hosting several events in October.

On Monday, Oct. 9, the League speakers will discuss the 13 state ballot measures which will appear on the Nov. 7 ballot and answer audience questions. The event begins at 7 p.m. at the Montana Avenue Branch Library at 1704 Montana Avenue.

On Tuesday, Oct. 10, the League will hold three forums, taped by CityTV for replay at the Santa Monica-Malibu School District Central Office Board Room at 1651 16th St. Rent Control Board candidates will be questioned from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., Santa Monica College Board of Trustees candidates from 7:15 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. and Board of Education candidates from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Also, in partnership with the Center for Governmental Studies and CityTV, the League of Women Voters of Santa Monica Education Fund is co-sponsoring a live City Council Candidates Forum on Tuesday, Oct. 17, at 7 p.m., at the City Hall Council Chambers at 1685 Main St. The public is encouraged to attend any and all of these events. For information, call (310) 392-6252.

After Review comes the celebration

By Daily Press staff

The just-released fall issues of Santa Monica College's acclaimed Santa Monica Review, its national literary arts journal, will be celebrated through readings in Orange County and Los Angeles, beginning Wednesday, Oct. 18.

Scheduled are readings, all free, by contributors to the semi-annual journal:

- Colin Dickey, George Ducker and Vicki Forman will be appearing at 8 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 3, at Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd., Venice. Call (310) 822-3006 or go to www.beyondbaroque.org.
- Dickey, Ducker and Forman will again be featured at 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 17, at Dutton's Brentwood Bookstore, 11975 San Vicente Blvd., Los Angeles. Call (310) 476-6263 or go to www.duttonsbrentwood.com.

The fall issue presents a mix of short stories and essays. It includes a personal essay by Forman from her memoir-in-progress, "The Preemie Cantos," on the births of her severely disabled children. Los Angeles area writer Dickey presents the story of a deeply wounded Iraq war vet and the woman who tries to care for him. The story starts with the crash of a military transport helicopter right across the street from their home.

Santa Monica Review is available at the SMC bookstore and other areas booksellers. Copies area also available by subscription through Santa Monica Review, Santa Monica College, 1900 Pico Blvd.



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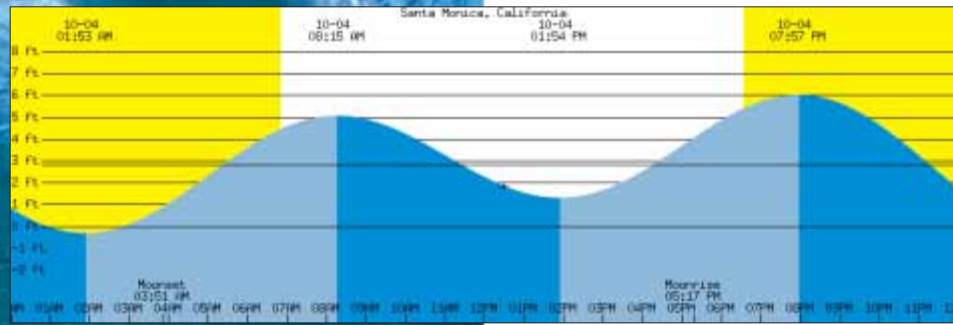
SURF CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 66°

SWELL FORECAST (2-3 FT)
We will likely see some early onshores, and strong winds Wednesday evening will likely leave AM sessions quite lumped up. The tide will also become excessively high early on.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS
LIGHT NW AND SW DURING THE WEEKEND...
TRACKING SW FOR 13TH..

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA



The QLine

City Hall has recently expanded its high-speed wireless network to 11 locations within the city, adding sites such as the Santa Monica Pier, the Civic Auditorium and its own building's lobby and courtyard, making it exceedingly easier for laptop users and Internet junkies to get their online fix. Several cities across the U.S. have pursued blanketing their entire region with "Wi-fi," allowing residents either free access or charging a monthly access fee in efforts to recoup the costs of installing such a network.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know:

"Should Santa Monica render the entire city a "hotspot," with Internet access for all? How should the costs be offset?

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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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Making the grade: High marks were well-deserved

Editor:
I am writing to back up Dean Kubani’s letter to the editor that was published in the Oct. 2 edition [“Report card clear-up,” page 4], regarding the development of the Santa Monica Sustainable City Plan and the review and approval of the Sustainable City Report Card.

As a member of the Santa Monica community (I have been a resident of Ocean Park for 22 years) and an expert in community involvement, I have been a member of the Sustainable City Task Force since it was created by the City Council in 2004. Seven years before that, I was a member of the Task Force on the Environment and was thoroughly involved in the design of the 15-month community process to update the Sustainable City Plan in 2001 and participated in most of the community meetings. So I can assure you that the plan and its goals represents the vision of a sustained quality of life for all of Santa Monica by a number of community leaders from businesses, schools and neighborhood groups.

I can also assure you that the grades of the Report Card is hardly an inside job on the part of City Hall. The Sustainable City Task Force, which is made up of experts in the various aspects of community sustainability who are either residents of, or work in, Santa Monica, has oversight of the Sustainable City Plan and its implementation, including the annual Report Card. Our annual review and approval of the Report Card is conducted in a public meeting, as are all of our deliberations, and we draw on the expertise of the Task Force on the Environment as well, also in public meetings.

I can speak for both task forces and say that using specific measurements to honestly show progress toward goals, especially when it’s not good, as is the case with the housing goal, and loudly publishing it for all the world (and press) to see, is courageous on the part of the city and demonstrates the Council’s and city staff’s commitment to sustainability. It would be a lot less work and way more politic to fudge the numbers.

Sandy Grant
Santa Monica Sustainable City Task Force

Council needs to clean up their act

Editor:
I am amazed that during this campaign some of the incumbent Council candidates can get away without being held accountable for some of the significant problems in the city that they have allowed to fester on their watch. I am talking about how our public areas have been allowed to turn into a skid row cesspool. Our sidewalks, parks, alleys and libraries are allowed to become tenement camps for the homeless and thugs. As a middle class renter, I cannot buy my own house and hire a security guard. I have to depend on the City Council to enact and enforce laws — rules whatever you want to call it — so that we can live in a clean, safe and civilized way.

You would think that would be the main job of the Council. You would think that residents’ votes would count. Well, it seems that instead, some on the Council are more concerned with getting the rest of the world to change its ways rather than take care of business here in SM.

Why not really support the taxpaying and voting residents, and actually propose some actions to clean up our parks? Why not give the police real power to get the crystal meth-using bums out of our city instead of facilitating a revolving door system where the police are ineffective and the bums know they can keep coming back?

We need a council that focuses more on the everyday problems facing this city, like cleaning up our streets and making them safe, and empowering the police to do their job, not handicap them. We all need to vote for the candidates that will focus on these core issues and not keep putting the same candidates back in office who created the problems in the first place.

Rose Dabney
Santa Monica

Dude, where’s our Constitution?

Editor:
What has happened to the Bill of Rights? It seems to mean nothing anymore. The current administration chooses to ignore our rights. One example is the Fourth Amendment.

The Fourth Amendment provides us with protection from unreasonable searches and seizures. The Bush administration has been conducting illegal wiretapping without warrants. Congress is now voting on legislation that allows the President to defy the Constitution by authorizing the NSA to wiretap our phones.

The President also wants to defy international law, namely the Geneva Conventions, by authorizing torture. He wants to take away the rights of Habeas Corpus. Some would say that this bill would help to combat terrorism. Interrogations that involve torture usually won’t hold up in court. Also, the new bill would allow anyone to be arrested as a “terrorist,” including ordinary people like you and me. They could be held indefinitely without ever seeing the evidence against them or having a trial.

Our senators and representatives have the duty to protect our civil liberties. They took an oath on their first day in office, that said, “I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic ... and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter, so help me God.”

I challenge our nation’s Congress to uphold their oath to protect the Constitution while voting on these bills.

Christopher Peak
Santa Monica

GUEST COMMENTARY BY JOHN W. WHITEHEAD

Advertising our children to death

Advertising has become a key defining characteristic of contemporary society. It’s everywhere. Schools used to be one of the few places that weren’t bombarded by advertisers. But even that is changing with the introduction of Channel One and BusRadio.

Channel One is a “news” show shown to millions of students in middle and high school. However, Channel One, as critics argue, is less of a news program and more of an entertainment program that coerces unsuspecting young people. The counterpart to Channel One is BusRadio, which supposedly allows children to enjoy the benefits of radio as they travel to and from school on a bus. While BusRadio executives concede that the show is geared toward entertaining the students, it supposedly incorporates educational content and safety awareness messages. But many critics think that, like Channel One, this is just another ploy by the corporate giants to tap into the teenager consumer market.

Introduced in 1990, Channel One is a news program of sorts that shows 12 minutes of programming to more than 12,000 schools across the country. The program is sent via satellite early in the morning, where it is taped and then shown to children at the school’s discretion. Proponents of Channel One argue that it provides students in impoverished areas with access to better technology that will facilitate the “learning process.” Critics, however, accuse Channel One of being more harmful than helpful through its discreet and indiscreet forms of advertising.

Indeed, in his comprehensive analysis of Channel One, Professor William Hoynes reveals that only slightly more than half of Channel One’s air time is devoted to news content. Features and profiles not related to breaking news events constitute 57 percent of news time, meaning that after sports, weather and plane or train crashes are subtracted, the figure is around 20 percent. The remainder of the show is made up of ads, a “Pop Quiz” section, contests and activities, and the music and banter that serve as filler. This means that in the course of a school year, students spend the equivalent of six school days watching Channel One, with another day lost to the commercial breaks that occur during every show. One study found that advertisers such as Nabisco, Pepsi, Proctor & Gamble (with ads for Clearasil skin cream and Pringles potato chips), movie studios and the U.S. Armed Forces (for recruitment) pay premium rates of up to \$200,000 for a 30-second spot to reach Channel One’s audience of 8 million students.

In fact, the channel’s advertisement-to-media buyers states that the show “is viewed by more teens than any other program on television.” Another industry advertisement refers to the channel as “the smartest place to reach tweens,” a term for children between 9 and 14 years of age. “Many children, and especially teens, are difficult for advertisers to reach,” said Gary Ruskin, executive director of the public advocacy group Commercial Alert. “So the product hawkers are going where the kids are — where they are forced to be, in school.”

In addition to luring teens through advertisements, Channel One also contains what many critics consider to be inappropriate content targeted toward unsuspecting teenagers. In testimony before a Senate

Committee, Phyllis Schlafly of Eagle Forum expressed concern that “commercials are the hard-sell ads for movies and television shows that contain vulgarities, obscenities, blasphemies, sexual innuendoes or violence.” According to Schlafly, the ads induce students to see the movie over the weekend so they can answer a question the following week and win fabulous prizes. Channel One even advertises PG-13 movies to pre-teens in middle school. For example, in a recent show, Channel One featured actress Rosario Dawson, who was there to promote her movie “Rent.” Dawson claimed that the movie is entertaining for the whole family, but she did not mention that the R-rated movie dealt with topics such as homosexuality and AIDS, which might not be suitable for young audiences.

Not surprisingly, numerous national educational groups oppose Channel One, including the National Parent Teacher Association, the American Federation of Teachers, the National School Boards Association and the National Education Association. BusRadio is a new radio show that will begin in the fall of 2006. Unlike Channel One, which claims to be educational, BusRadio’s web site clearly states that while “kids across the country will be listening to the dynamic programming of BusRadio,” advertisers will have a “unique and effective way to reach the highly sought-after teen and tween market.”

BusRadio plays music, public-service announcements, contests and ads, all aimed at kids. For each hour of programming, 44 minutes will be set aside for music, six for public-service announcements, two for contests and eight for advertising. According to its web site, by September 2006, BusRadio will be heard by 100,000 students between the ages of 6 and 18 on 850 school buses in Massachusetts. By 2007, BusRadio hopes to have a base of one million students.

Cover Concepts, the corporation that owns BusRadio, is a multi-million dollar enterprise that relies on advertising for profit. It presently reaches 43,000 schools and 30 million children by providing schools with free supplies, namely book covers, but also stickers, posters, calendars, bookmarks and other materials. The catch is that each has an advertisement on it from various companies such as McDonald’s, Nike and Calvin Klein. Whereas in traditional print media a client gets a 4 percent to 5 percent brand recall, Cover Concepts advertisers get up to 74 percent at the end of the school year. For their free supplies, schools provide Cover Concepts with demographic data on students’ family incomes, gender, age and race. This means that Cover Concepts can target specific groups to meet the demands of its advertisers.

The bombarding of our young people by corporate America is not healthy. Gary Ruskin is concerned that the companies are using “the compulsory education law to compel kids to listen to ads.”

BusRadio claims that it aids in making kids quieter and more well-behaved on buses. But Ruskin says, “So what? They’d be quiet if we gave them cigarettes, but that doesn’t mean we should.”

Constitutional attorney and author John W. Whitehead is founder and president of The Rutherford Institute. He can be contacted at johnw@rutherford.org.

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Hewlett-Packard spying campaign leaves journalist dilemma in wake

BY MICHAEL LIEDTKE

AP Business Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Hewlett-Packard Co.'s intrusion into the private lives of 10 journalists has created an ethical dilemma for their bosses as they weigh whether well-connected reporters should be allowed to cover the scandal despite possible conflicts of interest.

The approaches have varied among the five news organizations employing the reporters whose personal phone records and Social Security numbers were obtained by HP as part of a covert scheme that may result in criminal charges.

Some of the affected reporters aren't being permitted to write about HP at all while at least one has been allowed to dig up more details about a corporate soap opera that has attracted intense news coverage for the past month.

"The default position in something like this is that there is a conflict of interest and the reporters shouldn't cover the story," said James Bettinger, director of the Knight Fellowships for Professional Journalists at Stanford University.

"But there is also a high value to getting the complete story and getting it out to the reader. And if you take some of these reporters off the story, you lose their institutional knowledge," he said.

To further complicate the decision, some of the reporters may have legal claims against HP for prying into their personal affairs.

Both CNet Networks Inc. and The Associated Press have temporarily removed reporters from the HP beat after concluding their objectivity could be compromised by the company's invasive tactics.

CNet's decision affects three reporters — Dawn Kawamoto, Tom Krazit and Stephen Shankland. AP has reassigned Rachel Konrad, who is married to Shankland and was covering the scandal before learning that HP's investigators had obtained her phone records and Social Security number.

"I wanted to avoid any appearance of a conflict presented by her reporting on a possibly illegal investigation that may have targeted her family," said John Raess, chief of AP's San Francisco bureau.

The affected CNet and AP reporters have continued to provide information to other reporters writing about the scandal.

The New York Times also isn't allowing another targeted reporter, John Markoff, to write about the scandal, but that won't prevent him from writing about other topics affecting the company, said Times spokes-

woman Diane McNulty.

BusinessWeek magazine has assigned one of its top technology reporters, Peter Burrows, to write about the imbroglio's fall-out so its readers can benefit from his insights and contacts.

Meanwhile, The Wall Street Journal hasn't ruled out the possibility that one of its targeted reporters, George Anders, may contribute to its coverage of the scandal.

Both Burrows and Anders wrote books about HP that exacerbated the company's concerns about the boardroom leaks that triggered its spying campaign.

Burrows "has a deep knowledge of the company that serves BusinessWeek readers well," said Stephen J. Adler, the magazine's editor-in-chief. "He has always hewed to the highest ethical standards in his coverage of HP, and will continue to do so."

Keeping Burrows on the beat already helped BusinessWeek. He scored the first extensive interview with the company's chief executive, Mark Hurd, after HP pressured its non-executive chairwoman, Patricia Dunn, to relinquish her job four months ahead of schedule.

The article included an editor's note disclosing Burrows' personal involvement in the scandal.

HP's detectives focused on two other BusinessWeek journalists, Ben Elgin and Roger Crockett, even though they have rarely written about the company. If they do write about HP in the future, their ties to the scandal also will be disclosed, BusinessWeek spokeswoman Kimberly Quinn said.

Anders hasn't written about the scandal yet, but the Journal may allow him to pursue the story because "we have seen no evidence that shows (him) to have been a target" of HP's invasive tactics, said Robert Christie, a spokesman for Dow Jones & Co., the paper's owner.

That stance contradicts HP's own accounting of its investigation as well as a Forbes magazine article by Anders' wife, Elizabeth Corcoran, who wrote that the company had obtained her work and cell phone numbers while trying to dig up information about her husband.

Another targeted Journal reporter, Pui-Wang Tam, can't write about the scandal but can cover other topics affecting the company, Christie said.

HP's investigators evidently respected Tam's skills. Internal company documents turned over to a congressional panel describe her as "sharp" and "a seasoned reporter."



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Democrats ditch their campaign tour for public works bonds

BY AARON C. DAVIS

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — The Legislature's Democratic leaders on Tuesday abandoned plans to campaign with Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger for the massive package of public works bonds on the November ballot, a development that signals an abrupt end to the bipartisan dealmaking that has buoyed the governor's re-election bid.

It also could jeopardize the record \$37.3 billion borrowing plan. Polls released last week show voters supporting the four infrastructure bonds, but just barely.

Tuesday's about-face came after Schwarzenegger and the two top legislative leaders — Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez, D-Los Angeles, and Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata, D-Oakland — had said they would campaign publicly in support of the bonds in the weeks leading up to the election.

Nunez and Perata attended a private fundraiser with Schwarzenegger on Tuesday morning in Los Angeles but did not appear with him at three campaign events around the state to promote the bonds, which would provide money for transportation, levees, schools and housing.

"I think we've been pretty consistent in our message, but now it's October and we need to consolidate the Democratic base, and the Republicans need to consolidate their base," he said.

Nunez said he and Perata plan to use their time to raise money for television commercials for the bonds.

That contrasts with what Nunez said as recently as August, when he promised to travel the length of the state campaigning with Schwarzenegger for the bonds — even

if it seemed politically awkward.

With five weeks to go before the election, Nunez acknowledged a shifting political reality. He said he will continue to appear with Schwarzenegger at fundraisers for the bonds but has no plans to campaign publicly with him before November.

"Are we going to fund-raise for the bonds with the governor? The answer is yes. Are we going to campaign for the governor's re-election? The answer is no," Nunez said.

Paul Hefner, spokesman for the Rebuild California Plan, the coalition supporting the bonds, confirmed that Nunez and Perata would not attend any public events Tuesday or Wednesday with the governor to campaign for the public works package.

Perata was expected to attend another private fundraiser for the bonds Wednesday with Schwarzenegger in the San Francisco Bay Area, but would not attend a news conference scheduled later in the day in Sacramento.

Hefner acknowledged partisan politics were at play.

"My understanding is that the speaker and the pro tem — both obviously being Democrats — had more pressing demands on their time than to be campaigning with the Republican governor," he said.

Schwarzenegger has used his dealmaking with the Democrats who control the Legislature to great political advantage this year, a strategy that has undermined his Democratic opponent, state Treasurer Phil Angelides, who also supports the bonds.

Schwarzenegger has struck deals with Democrats on a wide range of popular issues, including raising the minimum wage, cutting prescription drug prices and signing

a Democrat-sponsored bill to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. He also has surrounded himself at highly orchestrated bill-signing ceremonies with some of California's most influential Democrats, including Nunez, Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom.

Those appearances have been like a poke in the eye to Angelides, a former California Democratic Party chairman who is trailing Schwarzenegger in the polls.

The decision by Nunez and Perata to back out of the public campaign for the bond could hurt Schwarzenegger on two levels: It robs him of chances to continue appearing with leading Democrats and might threaten the outcome of one of his signature policy priorities.

The fate of the bond package on Election Day, however, might not be as important for Schwarzenegger as the fact that it made it on the ballot in the first place.

The governor has been able to hold the bonds up as a key bipartisan victory since he and the Legislature placed them on the Nov. 7 ballot last spring. He still might be able to capitalize if voters perceive Democrats as running away from the plan.

Appealing to moderates and centrist Democrats is important for the Republican governor because about two-thirds of California voters are registered as Democrats or independents.

California Democratic Party spokesman Bob Mulholland called the move by Nunez and Perata a serious setback for Schwarzenegger.

"For two weeks, he's been saying the Democrats would be on the plane with him, and today they were not," Mulholland said. "The bill-signing honeymoon is over;

Schwarzenegger has been orphaned. Now Democrats across all of California are going to fight like hell to defeat Schwarzenegger."

Katie Levinson, communications director for Schwarzenegger's re-election campaign, said the governor was pleased to have joined Perata, Nunez and state Republican leaders Tuesday for the private fundraiser.

She said his efforts to support the bond would not be affected by the absence of the two Democrats on the campaign trail.

"The governor will continue to campaign up and down the state for these bonds," she said. "Roads, schools and levees are not Republican or Democrat. They are for all Californians, and the governor will continue to work in a bipartisan way for their passage."

Schwarzenegger appeared Tuesday in Bakersfield without the bipartisan entourage he promised five months ago.

In May, the governor told a Bakersfield crowd he and Democrats were not there "to hype the initiatives ... you will see us traveling up and down the state this fall" to do that, he promised.

A handful of local Democrats joined the governor instead.

Whether that will be enough remains to be seen, said John Matsusaka, president of the Initiative and Referendum Institute at the University of Southern California.

Visible, bipartisan support was thought to be crucial in persuading voters to approve the bond package, given its record price tags.

"The regular voter doesn't really know if new schools are needed or not, so they rely on people they trust to help make decisions," Matsusaka said. "When you have leaders of both parties standing up, that's going to ease people's concerns — assuming they do."



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Bonds' trainer takes back his guilty plea

BY DAVID KRAVETS

Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Barry Bonds' personal trainer wants to withdraw his guilty plea because prosecutors based their steroid distribution case on an illegal recording, his lawyer said Tuesday in a court hearing.

Greg Anderson, who is jailed for refusing to testify before a grand jury probing whether Bonds committed perjury, already served a three-month prison sentence after pleading guilty to the steroid charge.

But attorney Mark Geragos said Tuesday that an illegal tape recording of Anderson was the basis for the federal case against him in the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative scandal. A federal prosecutor acknowledged having a tape of Anderson discussing Bonds and undetectable performance-enhancing drugs at least a month before the trainer's guilty plea last year, but said Geragos' claims were "ludicrous and speculative."

"That's speculation by Mr. Geragos. He's wrong," said Assistant U.S. Attorney Jeff Nedrow.

The claim was the latest effort by Geragos to get a federal judge to free Anderson, who is being held for refusing to testify before a grand jury investigating whether Bonds lied when he told a grand jury in 2003 that he never knowingly used steroids.

Anderson served three months in prison and three months of home confinement after pleading guilty to distributing steroids

and laundering money in the BALCO case. He served 15 days in prison in July for refusing to testify to a grand jury about Bonds, and was jailed again Aug. 28 for refusing to testify before a new grand jury.

Authorities have refused to release the tape to Anderson. Nedrow maintained Tuesday that the recording was legal and said he first learned of it in 2004 from the San Francisco Chronicle.

Nedrow said prosecutors didn't get access to the tape until a month before Anderson's plea deal. But Geragos suspects investigators had it all along and used the tape as an illegal roadmap to build a case against Anderson.

It has not been publicly revealed who made the recording. The government said the recording was made of a face-to-face conversation, while Anderson suspects it was made of a telephone call.

On the tape, according to the Chronicle, Anderson said: "The whole thing is, everything I've been doing, it's all undetectable. The stuff I have, we created it. You can't buy it anywhere else, you can't get it anywhere else."

Four other men also have pleaded guilty in the BALCO scandal for participating in the distribution or manufacturing of undetectable steroids to elite athletes.

Geragos said authorities only recently revealed the tape so they could build a perjury case against Bonds.

"The strategy is a perjury trap, obviously," Geragos said.



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As of Early October 2006 average price of Single Family Homes listed for sale <table> <tbody> <tr> <td>Santa Monica Canyon</td> <td>= \$ 3,886,600</td> </tr> <tr> <td>North of Montana</td> <td>= \$ 3,274,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Between Wilshire & Montana</td> <td>= \$ 1,990,100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>South of Wilshire</td> <td>= \$ 1,201,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sunset Park</td> <td>= \$ 1,353,247</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ocean Park</td> <td>= \$ 1,911,125</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Santa Monica Canyon	= \$ 3,886,600	North of Montana	= \$ 3,274,000	Between Wilshire & Montana	= \$ 1,990,100	South of Wilshire	= \$ 1,201,000	Sunset Park	= \$ 1,353,247	Ocean Park	= \$ 1,911,125	All information updated weekly
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DNA could lead water sleuths to the septic tanks of Malibu's stars

BY NOAKI SCHWARTZ

Associated Press Writer

MALIBU — The mystery: Just whose waste is befouling the most celebrity-saturated stretch of California coast?

The suspects: Malibu residents whose septic tanks might let what gets flushed down the toilet flow down the hills and into the Pacific.

The strategy: DNA testing and a pledge, if need be, to get court warrants to inspect leaky tanks buried beneath the backyards of Hollywood stars.

"This is going to get messy," predicts Mark Pestrella, the Los Angeles County public works official tasked with the project.

Loyalty to septic system runs deep in a city that was incorporated to stop construction of a sewer line. Residents who fiercely deny that their tanks are the source of ocean bacteria also fiercely guard their privacy and their right to flush the estimated 2,400 septic tanks in a city strung along 25 miles of coast.

After decades of wrangling, county officials are promising to get tough — threats of hefty fines by clean water regulators were an important push.

Over the next few months, investigators will begin testing sea water. If DNA tests show waste is human and not from, say, raccoons or coyote, they'll follow the trail up

creeks that traverse neighborhoods in Malibu, where clean water advocates such as Pierce Brosnan and Ted Danson live.

Where the tests show a concentration of human waste, inspectors will sleuth out the source. Though they won't request DNA samples from residents to match waste with its human source, they say they may ask a judge for authority to inspect tanks of property owners who bar them from taking samples.

"It is a big deal that the county is now saying 'We're willing to go on to properties to see what the source of fecal contamination is,'" said Mark Gold, executive director of the local environmental group Heal the Bay.

Malibu leaders have argued that pollution comes from a wastewater treatment plant, storm runoff and bird droppings. The lack of a sewer system limits development and preserves rustic details amid million-dollar homes. Oak-shaded private paths that wind through the canyons and spill onto the beaches have attracted numerous environmentally minded celebrities over the years including Sting and Tom Hanks.

At least one Malibu resident believes septic tanks aren't the problem. Actress and animal rights activist Pamela Anderson said that the real polluter is animal agriculture, such as chicken farms.

"When the results of these tests come

back, I'll bet that once again we'll find that it's people's meat addiction, not their septic tanks, is causing this pollution," Anderson wrote in an e-mail through her publicist. "The best thing any of us can do to fight pollution is to adopt a vegetarian diet."

County officials initially will focus on properties with heavier commode traffic, such as restaurants and Barbra Streisand's old estate.

In 1993, the singer donated her property to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, a state organization that has held weddings, conferences and public tours at the 22-acre estate. Conservancy spokeswoman Dash Stolarz said the site has a sophisticated septic system but still hasn't hosted a wedding in two years and in June temporarily halted tours.

If county officials locate suspect systems, they'll inform the Los Angeles Water Quality Board. The board could fine homeowners or require them to upgrade their systems at an estimated cost of \$30,000.

Board president H. David Nahai said he's optimistic that residents will want to comply with the investigation.

"The very cachet of Malibu and the high property values they enjoy are dependent upon a clean ocean," he said.

Some of the areas' most famous spots, including legendary Surfrider Beach, have

repeatedly received poor grades in Heal the Bay's annual beach report card. Most contamination happens during winter when heavy rains overload storm drain and sewage systems, washing waste directly into the sea. Swimming in such waters can cause gastrointestinal, respiratory and other illnesses.

Pollutants in Santa Monica Bay have been a problem for decades. The water quality drastically declined in the 20th century as the Los Angeles area boomed and dumped sewage and trash into the ocean. In 1985, the director of Los Angeles County's health services declared septic tanks a health hazard after 12 miles of coast were closed for more than two months because of overflows.

Water quality has improved through programs mandated by the Clean Water Act and the dogged efforts of various conservation groups. A major boost came in September, when the water board decided to fine Los Angeles County and municipalities surrounding Santa Monica Bay up to \$10,000 a day if they don't meet clean water standards.

Still, skeptics see the DNA testing program, which will cost an estimated \$1 million, as a delay tactic that will let the county blame Malibu.

"It's time for us to find real solutions to our bacteria problems," said Tracy Egoscue, who heads the Santa Monica Baykeeper, "and stop chasing ghosts up the watershed."

Feds barking up the wrong tree with its salvage logging

BY MATTHEW DALY

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The federal government spent nearly \$11 million to salvage timber from an Oregon wildfire in 2002, yet it stands to get less than \$9 million from selling the wood, congressional investigators say.

The Bush administration and its Republican allies in Congress have said lawsuits filed by environmentalists caused delays that added to the cost of the fire.

The report by the Government Accountability Office acknowledged that the delays cost money, but said the administration's decision to dramatically increase log-

ging, coupled with the size of the fire and the complexity of environmental laws, were actually to blame for the delays.

The study by the GAO, the investigative arm of Congress, was being released Wednesday. The Associated Press obtained a copy of it in advance.

The wildfire, dubbed the "Biscuit fire" because of its proximity to a nearby waterway, burned almost 500,000 acres in Oregon and California in 2002, making it largest wildfire in the continental United States since 1997.

Overall, 12 salvage sales in the burned areas were completed by the end of 2005, resulting in harvests of about 67 million

board feet of timber, the GAO report said. The total was less than one-fifth of the 367 million board feet proposed for sale in an environmental impact statement issued by the Bush administration in 2004.

A board foot is the volume of a piece of wood 1-foot square and 1-inch thick. It takes about 10,000 board feet to build a modest two-bedroom home.

"Forest staff overestimated the timber available for harvest," the report said, adding that administration estimates that salvage logging would create about 6,900 local jobs and \$240 million in regional economic activity now appear overly optimistic.

The Forest Service and other agencies

have spent \$5 million and expect to spend an additional \$5.7 million on the salvage sale of wood and other related costs, the report said. Timber sales from the logging are expected to generate about \$8.8 million in revenue, GAO investigators said.

While final answers are premature, "we would expect the actual economic results to be less than the (2004) estimate," the report said.

New Mexico Sen. Jeff Bingaman, ranking Democrat on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, said the GAO report demonstrated that the Bush administration overreached in its efforts to log large areas burned by the Biscuit fire.

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The following is a summary of Ordinance Number 2205 (CCS) prepared by the Office of the City Attorney:

Ordinance Number 2205 (CCS) ("the Ordinance") incorporates into the Municipal Code the provisions of Interim Ordinance Number 2172 (CCS) that established development standards for the Sunset Park and North of Wilshire Boulevard areas of the R1 Zoning District. The Ordinance requires additional development standards, and in some cases architectural review, in the Sunset Park and North of Wilshire Boulevard areas of the R1 Zoning District. Additionally, the Ordinance clarifies a restriction related to second floor parcel coverage for R1 properties north of Montana Avenue, as well as the Sunset Park and north of Wilshire Boulevard neighborhoods, requiring first floor volume space that extends taller than 18 feet in height to be counted toward second floor parcel coverage.

Ordinance Number 2205 (CCS) was adopted on September 27, 2006, and shall become effective 30 days after its adoption.

The full text of the above Ordinance is available upon request from the office of the City Clerk, located at 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica. Phone: (310) 458-8211.

An embattled Foley claims he was abused

BY BRIAN SKOLOFF

Associated Press Writer

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — Former Rep. Mark Foley, under investigation for sending lurid Internet messages to young male Capitol Hill pages, issued a series of revelations from rehab, including a claim that he had been sexually abused as a teen.

Attorney David Roth, speaking on Foley's behalf at a Florida news conference Tuesday, said Foley was molested between ages 13 and 15 by a clergyman. He declined to identify the clergyman or the church, but Foley is Roman Catholic.

"Mark does not blame the trauma he sustained as a young adolescent for his totally inappropriate e-mails and instant messages," Roth said. "He continues to offer no excuse whatsoever for his conduct."

Roth, who spoke for Foley while the congressman is in rehab for alcohol abuse and mental illness, said Foley denied having inappropriate sexual contact with minors and said he was under the influence of alcohol when he wrote the notes.

Asked why he didn't disclose this information sooner, Roth said, "Shame, shame."

"As is so often the case with victims of abuse, Mark advises that he kept his shame to himself for almost 40 years," Roth said.

"There was absolutely no inappropriate sexual contact with any minor... and any suggestion that Mark Foley is a pedophile is false," Roth said.

Roth also acknowledged for the first time that the former congressman is gay, saying the disclosure was part of his client's "recovery."

"Mark Foley wants you to know he is a gay man," Roth said.

Foley, who is 52 and single, represented parts of Palm Beach County for 12 years until he abruptly resigned Friday. The FBI and Florida law enforcement officials are

investigating whether he violated any laws.

The lurid communications were first reported last week by ABC News, which released more instant messages Tuesday that indicate Foley allegedly interrupted a vote on the House floor to chat online with a teen.

"I miss you," Foley said in one message, according to ABC.

"ya me too," the teen replied.

"we are still voting," Foley responded.

Roth said Foley was never under the influence of alcohol while conducting business on Capitol Hill. He could not explain his previous comments that Foley was intoxicated at the time he sent all the messages.

The race Foley abandoned is suddenly receiving national attention as Democrats seek to win 15 Republican seats to regain power in the House. Foley was considered a shoo-in for re-election. Tim Mahoney, the Democratic candidate for the seat, said the only thing that has changed since Foley's resignation is that he is now receiving national media attention.

Mahoney declined to comment Tuesday on the latest revelations.

Florida's Republican Party leaders on Monday selected state Rep. Joe Negron to replace Foley as their candidate in the Nov. 7 general election, but under state law, Foley's name cannot be removed from the ballot even though he has withdrawn. Votes for Foley will be tallied for Negron.

At the Capitol, House Speaker Dennis Hastert cast aside calls for his resignation Tuesday amid talk from Democrats that Republicans knew of Foley's questionable communications months ago but failed to act.

President Bush, speaking at a Stockton, Calif., elementary school, on Tuesday said he was disgusted by Foley's actions. The House ethics committee scheduled its first meeting on Foley's actions for Thursday.

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Hawaii reaches out to shore up labor shortage

BY KARIN STANTON

Associated Press Writer

KAILUA-KONA, Hawaii — An acute labor shortage on Hawaii's Big Island is prompting employers to reach out across the Pacific to fill job openings.

"It's a multipronged problem," says Mark McGuffie, executive director of the Hawaii Island Economic Development Board. "We've really got some work to do, but we've also got some things that are starting to percolate."

Attracting new industries that offer higher paying, skilled jobs is one priority.

McGuffie notes that since statehood in 1959, the labor market on all of the Hawaiian Islands has been heavily focused on tourism, the military and agriculture.

"Now we are starting to see niche agriculture, and astronomy and the marine sciences coming in," he said. "Eventually, that will help shore us up so we are not so dependent on tourism and the military."

The state labor force topped 650,000 in August, with 632,200 employed and 18,200 without jobs. In August, the state returned to a familiar place, once again posting the lowest unemployment rate in the nation: 2.8 percent, down from 3 percent in July. Nationwide unemployment was at 4.7 percent.

Although companies across the state are in need of workers, the situation is particularly acute on the western side of the Big Island. The Sunday, Oct. 1, edition of West Hawaii Today included five pages of job vacancies, from landscape maintenance and golf cart attendants to hotel executives, nurses and construction project managers. Some ads listed signing bonuses of up to \$1,000.

The availability of jobs on the island sparked the private non-profit development board to create Kamaaina Come Home, a program designed to entice "kamaaina," or locals, to return to Hawaii Island, the largest of the state's seven populated islands.

Many of the state's young professionals historically have had to leave the islands to

pursue careers, but that is changing as the high-tech, bio-tech and niche industries are growing across the islands.

For example, McGuffie said, a new agriculture research facility in Hilo is expected to create 200 jobs, including 30 positions for scientists with PhD degrees.

Now, McGuffie said, his job is making former residents aware of opportunities at home, specifically by conducting job fairs up and down the West Coast.

"The program shows quite a bit of promise," he said.

One advantage is that former residents often have an existing support system of family or friends, including a place to live where they can avoid rising rents, as well as a familiarity with Hawaii, its lifestyle and culture.

Job fairs with the Hawaii Island and Maui economic development boards and state Labor Department are scheduled for Oct. 13 in Las Vegas and Oct. 15 in Torrance, Calif. Spring job fairs are slated for San Jose, Calif.; Portland, Ore.; and Seattle.

Jon Sakurai-Horita, president of Kamaaina Careers, said targeting former Hawaii residents is a logical step for some companies.

"People have tried their best to get workers who are living there already," he said. "It's difficult to find employees because of housing and salaries."

Mainland recruiting used to be done only at the executive level, but that's changing, but that's changing.

Sakurai-Horita said he is busy planning several Hawaii-theme events on the West

Coast. "There is a big group of kamaaina who do want to come back," he said.

The Big Island can tap that market, he said.

"We have the lowest unemployment rate on this island ever. It's at 3.3 percent, but realistically it's about 5 percent in Hilo and down at 2 percent in Kona," McGuffie said. "And a large chunk of that are unemployable for one reason or another. Right now, we have a civilian labor force of between 84,000 and 85,000, the largest ever."

Typically, McGuffie said, Hawaii has 28,000 jobs that need to be filled each year. High school graduates total about 15,000 each year, with more than 3,000 leaving the islands to pursue college or employment.

"We've got an average job gap of 16,000 and that alone means we need to attract people back or find new ones," McGuffie said.

Along the Kohala and Kona coasts, hotels and resorts still account for a huge number of jobs, and right now they have a huge number of vacancies.

Although the exact number is not tracked, economists and tourism experts say it likely is hovering around 1,000 openings.

"Recruitment is always a challenge" said Kurt Matsumoto, general manager of the Mauna Lani Bay Hotel & Bungalows. "We just have to get creative."

Hotels typically are in a constant state of recruitment, Matsumoto said, and there is a need in every area, from housekeeping to food and beverage. Salaries range from minimum wage plus gratuities to about \$15 an hour.

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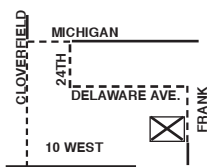
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Federal judge in Seattle upholds new rules for relicensing dams

BY GENE JOHNSON

Associated Press Writer

SEATTLE — A federal judge has upheld the Bush administration's interpretation of dam-relicensing rules in the 2005 Energy Policy Act, although critics had argued it could lead to lesser protections for the environment.

U.S. District Judge Marsha Pechman said Tuesday the administration did not exceed its authority when it established procedures for letting dam operators challenge environmental requirements, such as installing fish ladders and monitoring water quality.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issues licenses to operate dams, and often those 30- or 50-year licenses incorporate conditions set by other federal agencies to protect wildlife.

The Energy Policy Act lets dam operators challenge such conditions in a hearing before an administrative law judge. It also allows them to suggest alternative environmental measures, and requires the judge to approve those measures if they are "adequate" and will be less expensive or allow for greater electricity production.

A coalition of environmental and recreational groups, led by Washington, D.C.-based American Rivers, did not challenge the law itself. Instead, the coalition challenged the Bush administration's decision to apply it to dam relicensing applications that were already under way when the law took effect. The opponents also said the administration did not conduct a proper public notice period before implementing the law.

Pechman rejected those arguments. She said Congress didn't indicate whether it wanted the law applied to pending applications, and that it was within the administration's authority to apply it to them.

Furthermore, she said, no public notice period was required.

Dave Kymme, a spokesman for Portland, Ore.-based PacifiCorp, welcomed the ruling. He said dam operators previously had no avenue for challenging environmental requirements that could cost ratepayers millions of dollars.

"All this does is allow a licensee to find lower-cost ways of complying with federal prescriptions that can benefit fisheries, and we believe that's a good thing," he said.

In August, pursuant to its new rights under the Energy Policy Act, PacifiCorp appealed a federal requirement that it build expensive fish ladders on its Klamath River dams. It lost: An administrative law judge ruled last week that the company's alternative proposal — capturing the fish and trucking them around the dams — wasn't good enough. The company plans to keep pursuing the alternative.

Jan Hasselman, the Earthjustice lawyer who handled the challenge, said a big concern is that the Forest Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service and other agencies that propose the conditions might not have the resources to conduct hearings and review alternative proposals for all dam operators that request them. That would leave dam operators in a good position to negotiate for weaker requirements, he said.

That happened at the West Fork dam on Boulder Creek in Utah, environmental groups say. The Forest Service set a minimum water flow as a condition of relicensing the dam, but when the Garkane Energy Cooperative requested a hearing, the parties entered settlement talks, and the agency agreed to lesser flow requirements.

Hasselman said he did not know if the groups would appeal the ruling.

Pair of women plead guilty for UW ecoterrorism attack

BY CURT WOODWARD
Associated Press Writer

TACOMA, Wash. — Two women who helped carry out an ecoterrorism firebombing at the University of Washington pleaded guilty to felony charges Wednesday in deals that could drastically reduce their prison time.

Jennifer Kolar, 33, of Seattle, and Lacey Phillabaum, 31, of Spokane, were released without bail after entering the pleas in U.S. District Court in Tacoma. Authorities said the two turned themselves in and have cooperated with ongoing investigations.

Neither woman commented to reporters after leaving the courtroom.

Federal prosecutors said they were part of a five-person team behind the May 21, 2001, firebombing that destroyed the UW's Center for Urban Horticulture. The blaze, one of the Northwest's most notorious acts of ecoterrorism, caused some \$7 million in damage.

The center had done work on fast-growing hybrid poplars in hopes of limiting the amount of natural forests that timber companies log. The Earth Liberation Front, a shadowy collection of environmental activists, claimed responsibility five days after the fire, issuing a statement saying the poplars pose "an ecological nightmare" for the diversity of native forests.

After the hearings, U.S. Attorney John McKay said the conspirators had "the misguided belief that they would influence public policy. They have not."

"These violent acts of destruction are not a valid form of political speech," he said, calling the arson an act of domestic terrorism.

Kolar and Phillabaum each pleaded guilty to charges of conspiracy, arson and use of a destructive device.

Kolar also pleaded guilty to an attempted

arson charge for a failed 1998 firebombing that damaged a Wray, Colo., gun club that organized a multistate turkey shoot.

Under the plea agreement, prosecutors will ask U.S. District Judge Franklin Burgess to waive mandatory minimum sentences on the charges of arson, attempted arson and use of a destructive device. That bomb charge alone would otherwise carry a statutory minimum of 30 years, and a maximum term of life.

The plea deal instead will ask that Kolar serve five to seven years. Phillabaum will face a recommended sentence of three to five years. Sentencing is scheduled for Jan. 5.

Authorities allege three others were primarily involved in the UW firebombing.

Briana Waters, of Berkeley, Calif., has pleaded not guilty and is scheduled for trial in May 2007. William Rodgers, of Prescott, Ariz., committed suicide in jail after being charged with other acts of ecoterrorism.

Authorities Wednesday said the fifth person named in the case, Justin Solondz, formerly of Jefferson County, Wash., is still at large.

Kolar remained composed during Wednesday's hearing, answering "Yes, your honor" to a series of routine questions about her understanding of the plea deal. She and attorney Michael Martin declined comment outside the courtroom, and Kolar turned her back on news reporters as she entered an elevator.

Phillabaum was more emotional in court, crying when she first spoke in response to Burgess' questions about her age and education. She paused a few times to confer with her attorney, Gil Levy, and thanked Assistant U.S. Attorney Andrew Friedman as he left the courtroom. Phillabaum declined to make any statement afterward.

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Story unfolds

NEW EDITOR, from page 1

“There’s a lot to look forward to in terms of the SMDP right now,” Tittinger said. “Its popularity is at an all-time high and continues to climb ... We will continue to make the Daily Press the people’s paper and get more community members involved, expand our coverage, include more voices and present the news in an entertaining and informative way.”

Tittinger took control of the Daily Press’ editorial department earlier this week, following the departure of Carolyn Sackariason, who served as editor since the

paper’s inception in November 2001. Sackariason is heading to Aspen, Colo., where she will spend the next three months on sabbatical.

A founding partner of Newlon Rouge, LLC., the parent company of the SMDP, Sackariason, 38, will continue to have input in the direction of the paper and contribute to content. She will serve as editor at-large.

“I’m excited for Mike to take the paper to the next level of coverage for Santa Monica and the surrounding communities,” Sackariason said. “I have complete confidence in the editorial staff in continuing the mission of the SMDP, which is to be the dominant news source for residents and visitors.”

A newshound since graduating from

Temple University with a degree in Communications and Journalism, Tittinger is no stranger to the fast-paced, high-stress world of reporting. Before serving as contributing editor and columnist for the SMDP, Tittinger was a news editor for Metro — Philadelphia’s largest, free daily newspaper. He also served as reporter and photographer, then ultimately editor, for Town and Country, a weekly newspaper in Pennsburg, Penn.

“At Town and Country, I developed a motto for the paper which was, ‘To inform, to educate, to entertain,’” Tittinger recalled. “That is what I am looking to bring to the SMDP. I really see journalism as a way to affect change in the community. That is what I will strive for.”

Ross Furukawa, the publisher of the SMDP, said he has full confidence in Tittinger’s ability to lead the newspaper as it heads into its sixth year of operation.

“While other newsrooms across the country seem to be shrinking, we’re excited to announce the addition of another reporter, who will add to the breadth and depth of our coverage,” Furukawa said. “In the beginning, no one trusted us. People thought we would be gone in six months.”

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Making the scene

Photo courtesy Santa Monica Fire Department

Police have identified the driver involved in an accident on Tuesday at the corner of Berkeley Street and Broadway (being attended to by emergency responders) as 24-year-old Isabel Sotelo. According to the LAPD, officers pursued Sotelo from Santa Monica Boulevard and Butler Avenue in West Los Angeles for fleeing the scene of an earlier accident. Sotelo suffered minor injuries when she collided with an SUV and then a stop sign, and was transported to UCLA-Westwood Medical Center. She has since been discharged and booked on felony hit-and-run charges.

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Officials hear 'chirping' signals can be confusing

SIGNALS, from page 1

many seconds they have left until the traffic light changes.

The "Accessible Pedestrian Signal," or push-button, includes a raised directional arrow and Braille lettering so the blind can find out what street they are crossing and if they are headed in the right direction. The push-button also vibrates when it is safe to enter an intersection.

If someone pushes the button when the light is still red, the voice warns them to not cross. City officials can also program the push-buttons so that the male voice can alert pedestrians to the presence of an emergency vehicle, such as an ambulance or fire truck. Three different languages can be programmed into the system, something which could come in handy in Santa Monica, a prime tourist destination.

Pedestrians may have become accustomed to traffic signals that say, "walk, walk," while others emit a loud "chirping" sound, but city officials contend those crosswalks do not provide enough information.

"The chirping sound can be confusing for some people because of an echo," said Ken Ward, a traffic signal technician for City Hall. "This tells people what to do, where to cross and when to cross."

The push-buttons alone cost around \$4,000 to install at all four corners of an intersection. Currently, there are four such systems in Santa Monica, three of which are located on Ocean Avenue between Colorado Avenue and Santa Monica Boulevard. The fourth, put into place on Wednesday, is located at Wilshire Boulevard and 23rd Street, a bustling corner that features Whole Foods grocery store, O'Brien's Irish Pub and Earth Wind & Flour, a popular restaurant.

Sam Genensky, a legally blind member of the city's Disabilities Commission who helped pioneer the first closed-circuit television, was instrumental in getting the push-buttons installed, city officials said.

Genensky, who also lobbied for architectural modifications for people with impaired sight, particularly the shape modification for public restrooms (triangle for men, oval for women), lives just north of Wilshire Boulevard and often shops at Whole Foods. He was present at Wednesday's installation of the new push-buttons, which he feels should be installed at every intersection in the city.

"This is going to help me out a lot," he said. "These signals give us a lot of additional information so we can focus on other things going on around us. I think it's great."

Genensky isn't the only one who likes the new push-buttons. Elizabeth Bogen, who is

partially deaf, said she "has been waiting for this for a long time."

"Now I don't have to worry as much about crossing the street," Bogen said. "I can take my time and don't have to run. Before, the lights would turn really fast."

Mike Morgan, the lead traffic signal technician for City Hall, said there are talks of replacing all traffic signals with the technology, however, at this time there are no plans for a complete roll-out.

The technology was installed at the Wilshire Boulevard location because of Genensky's request, Morgan said, and he expects more as the technology catches on.

Pat Jordan, the public information officer for the Center for the Partially Sighted, said that as the population ages, such signals will become a necessity. She said Santa Monica is "ahead of the curve" in installing the new signals.

Homeless court expected to be up and judging by November

HOMELESS, from page 1

Only those charged with low-level offenses will be eligible for the court. Those homeless individuals charged with more serious, violent crimes will go through the standard judicial process.

The ultimate objective of the special court is to use the judicial system to move homeless men and women off the streets of Santa Monica and into supportive services and housing.

With the criminal court located at the Airport Courthouse near LAX, "many of the homeless people who are cited (by Santa Monica police officers) never get there," said former Los Angeles County Supervisor Ed Edelman, City Hall's homeless czar. "It also makes it more difficult for residents to get to court to testify, so we are hoping this homeless community court will make it easier for everyone, including the service providers, who will be better able to locate those who need assistance the most."

Tillmon, who received her law degree from the University of Southern California, established a private practice with an emphasis in family law in 1979.

In December 1994, she was appointed as a Los Angeles Superior Court commissioner assigned to the family law department in the West District, where she presides over matters involving dissolution of marriage, paternity, domestic violence and requests for temporary restraining orders.

Judge Bernard Kamins, who currently presides over the West District's drug court and handles all arraignments for Santa Monica, was solicited by City Hall to head up the homeless court. In an interview with the Daily Press, however, he expressed reservations, fearing the court would take time away from his other duties.

Judge Linda Lefkowitz, who presides over the West District, had similar concerns, and instead recommended Tillmon.

"Judge Kamins spends a lot of time working with the drug court, and we have a pretty sizable arraignment court, so we all felt it was just too much for him to handle and it would distract him from something he is good at — connecting with those with drug-abuse issues," Lefkowitz said.

"Judge Tillmon said she was really interested in heading up the homeless court and I felt she had a fresh attitude and more than 10 years of experience with underrepresented communities and heart-wrenching family issues," Lefkowitz added. "She just felt like a good choice."

An official start date for the court has not been set, according to Lefkowitz, but should be hearing cases at some point in November.

City officials tried to locate the homeless court in the Santa Monica Courthouse, however, there was no space available.

"We also found that those who are cited don't like courtrooms because of the police presence, the handcuffs, so we felt the courthouse was not the ideal place for these people to get their lives together," Lefkowitz said. "We'll try it out for a while and see how it goes. We may move it somewhere else if needed."

Tillmon said she is looking forward to serving on the homeless court, but would not comment further.

The court is funded by a \$458,000 grant from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, who last week approved an \$80 million plan to combat homelessness.

The plan includes \$32 million for city and community programs, and \$48 million for county programs. Of the \$32 million, \$11.6 million is earmarked for emergency and transitional shelters, affordable housing and

on two new "safe havens" to serve homeless single adults with mental illness and substance abuse problems.

To get other communities involved in the effort to end homelessness, the county plan will dedicate \$800,000 for an outreach campaign to "deal with adverse community reaction" to proposed homeless shelters and plans to locate centers throughout the county.

EATING INDOORS

In related news, the Santa Monica City Council recently approved a plan to move two of the city's largest outdoor homeless feeding programs indoors at a cost of \$197,000.

Hand to Hand and Helping Other People Eat (HOPE) will both be relocated next to the existing OPCC Access Center on Colorado Boulevard and Seventh Street. The money will be used for minor modification to the space to provide areas for indoor queuing, supply storage, conference rooms for social services, food service and seating. The program will have a seating capacity of approximately 150 persons, according to a city staff report.

The facility will be available for the feeding programs until August 2007, when the building will be demolished to make room for the Big Blue Bus campus expansion. The council has asked for frequent updates on the program, particularly in its beginning weeks.

City officials have tried for years to move public feedings indoors so that the homeless could be linked with social service providers. There was also a concern about public safety.

The council went so far as to pass a law prohibiting public gatherings of 150 or more people without obtaining a permit. The law requires food distributors to obtain permits every 90 days from City Hall and the Los

Angeles County Department of Health. Permits are restricted to three per group or individual.

NO MOVEMENT ON VA SITE PLANS

City Councilman Bobby Shriver provided an update last week on efforts to house homeless veterans in Westwood, where there are vacant buildings on the Veterans Administration campus.

So far, he has received no word from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, nor Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Los Angeles, and Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Cal., whom he said are running for re-election, and therefore, may be influenced by some local opposition from neighborhood groups located around the VA property.

"We have been unable to get the land-use designation we need," Shriver said. "Feinstein has the capacity to make this happen quickly, but so far we haven't heard from her ... It's an insult to (homeless veterans) who served in the armed services that these buildings are sitting empty."

Shriver urged residents to write letters and make phone calls to the legislators and put pressure on them to act.

"Feinstein is running for re-election ..." Shriver said. "She's a smart lady. She'll respond (to the calls from her constituents)."

Calls to Feinstein's office were not returned.

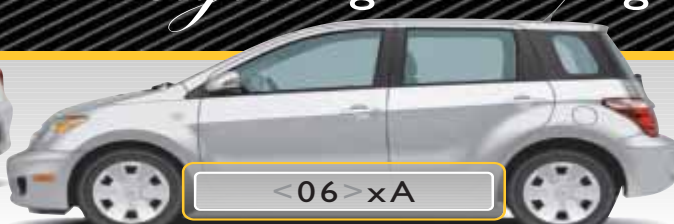
Waxman said he is supportive of all efforts to house the homeless.

"Veterans face a full range of housing needs, including emergency and transitional housing," Waxman said. "I strongly believe the West LA VA should provide therapeutic, supportive housing, and my goal is to continue to work with our veterans for programs they believe will best serve their needs."

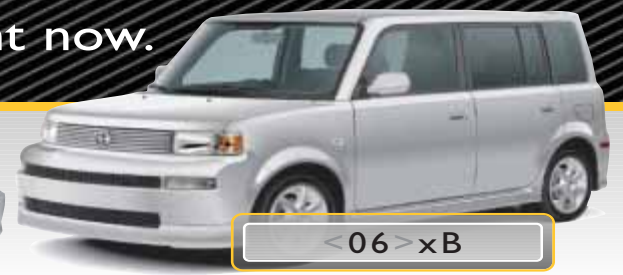
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Firefighting efforts cost a record \$1.5B

BY REBECCA BOONE

Associated Press Writer

BOISE, Idaho — Wildfires in the Lower 48 states have burned a record number of acres this year, and with the scorched land comes a record bill, a federal official says.

The U.S. Forest Service's firefighting efforts for fiscal year 2006, which ended Sept. 30, cost more than \$1.5 billion, at least \$100 million over budget, said Mark Rey, the Agriculture Department undersecretary for natural resources and the environment.

To cover the overage, money was transferred from other programs that had surpluses, including a reforestation program, said Kent Connaughton, a veteran Forest Service official now also serving as the agency's comptroller.

The fiscal 2006 tab compares with \$690 million spent out of a nearly \$1.2 billion budget in 2005 and \$726 million spent out of a \$959 million budget in 2004, Forest Service spokesman Dan Jiron said. Both the 2004 and 2005 fire seasons were mild compared with the current fire season, he said.

This year, for the first time, the Forest Service had a comptroller overseeing expenses, and fires that reached certain expense levels automatically triggered an independent review, Rey said Tuesday.

"We're getting better results in terms of cost, as a consequence of making cost efficiency and cost containment something that we spend a lot of time on," he said. "There's a three-way tension: The safety of firefighters, protecting homes and property and not spending a gazillion dollars. I think we've made some strides."

The wildfire season is not over yet, but so far 9.93 million acres have burned in the Lower 48, Rey said. That's the most acres burned since at least 1960, when the Boise-based National Interagency Fire Center began keeping reliable records. The previous record was in 2005, when more than 8.6 million acres burned. The average of the past 10 years has been 4.9 million acres.

This fire season was exacerbated by seven large-scale dry lightning storms, more than double the number normally seen, Rey said. Such storms can ignite several thousand small fires, he said, forcing crews to scramble to make sure all are extinguished.

"Even if you lose one or two, then you've got a larger fire. Eighty-five percent of the money we spend fighting fires is consumed by the less than 2 percent of fires that escape initial attack," he said. "So if you have more dry lightning events, you're going to have more escapes, and when you have more escapes, you're probably going to spend more money."

Much of that money goes to structure protection. So far this year, 674 homes — primary residences, not vacation houses — have burned in wildfires, Rey said. That's a drop from 2002, when roughly 2,000 homes burned, and 2003, when about 3,000 burned.

That indicates property owners and federal and state entities are making progress in reducing fuels around homes and developing wildland protection plans, he said.

The Forest Service is working to tighten agreements with states over who pays firefighting costs. Cost-sharing plans currently vary from state to state, Rey said, and the agency is often left arguing over the cost long after a fire's been extinguished.

"California is well-defined, and Arizona needs some tying down. Idaho is kind of in the middle of the pack," Rey said. "We're arguing in Oregon over a fire last year and we'll probably have a vigorous discussion over the Tripod Complex fire in Washington."

The agency may also change how it deploys firefighting aircraft, he said. Fixed-wing planes are faster, and will continue to be used when speed is important, and heavy air tankers have proven cost-effective for initial attacks. But he said helicopters, although they cost more per hour, can often make more runs and carry more water overall to fires.

The Forest Service hopes to save money in the future by using a new software program that will enable fire managers and budgeters to better predict the course large fires will take, Connaughton said. The agency expects to begin using the new software sometime in the next 24 months.

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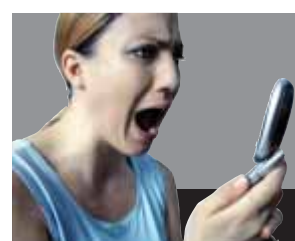
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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Ready for some snow? Resorts looking skyward for help during football game

BY PAT GRAHAM

Associated Press Writer

DENVER — With “Monday Night Football” bringing its cameras to Denver next week for a Broncos game, Colorado ski resorts are praying for a little snow — nothing big, just enough to remind a national audience that the ski season is just around the corner.

“You can’t buy exposure like that,” said John Sellers, director of communications for Loveland Ski Area. “It gets everyone thinking about the ski season.”

Colorado resorts are eagerly watching the weather and their reservation lines as the season approaches. Loveland and Arapahoe Basin are making artificial snow around the clock, racing to be the first to open. Silverton Mountain says it’s in the race, too.

Last year, Loveland was the first to open, on Oct. 14, and has opened as early as Oct. 3.

Silverton has no snow machines but already has recorded 36 inches of natural snow from a late September storm.

With a base high in the mountains at 10,400 feet “it doesn’t take a whole lot for us to get open,” said Silverton co-founder Aaron Brill. “We just need a little more precipitation. There’s a chance (we’ll be first). We just have to keep our fingers crossed.”

Colorado ski resorts reported a record 12.53 million skier visits last season, easily making it the nation’s top destination for skiers and snowboarders. No. 2 California gets nearly 8 million, followed by Vermont and Utah.

Ski officials in Colorado are optimistic about another banner year.

“The Farmer’s Almanac is calling for a good season,” Sellers said. “I don’t subscribe, though, because it gets my hopes up. I like to think the early snow is a good sign.”

Klaus Wolter of the University of Colorado’s climate center cautioned against reading too much into early snowfall.

“There’s no correlation with September snow and later on,” said Wolter, who will soon deliver his annual state of the snow season address. “It has no bearing on the season. It’s not going to last.”

Last season will be difficult to top for Colorado resorts, which recorded nearly 500,000 more skier visits than the

previous record set in 1997-98. Timely storms helped, said Molly Cuffe, communications director for Colorado Ski Country USA, an industry trade group. She said snow fell early, around the holidays and late into the spring.

“It kept people’s interest all the way through,” Cuffe said.

Ski magazine published a reader poll in October that put six Colorado ski areas in the nation’s top 10, with Vail at No. 1.

“It’s significant,” Vail communications manager Jen Brown said. “It demonstrates what skiers who come to the resort already think. These are people who’ve truly experienced Vail.”

With leaves changing color and temperatures falling, ski officials say they are seeking more ski racks on cars, skis and boards getting tuneups and people trying to get in shape.

Michael Berry, president of the National Ski Areas Association, said he would like to see a good chunk of the resorts open by at least Thanksgiving.

“It’s one of those dates that’s become important to the industry,” Berry said. “Thirty years ago, it was a hit-or-miss proposition. But with snowmaking, people want to get going and want to ski over Thanksgiving. For skiers, skiing supplants Thanksgiving football.”

The first two months of the season may not produce the best snow, but they do quench the appetite for skiers who’ve been counting down the days until the lifts open again.

“Skiers are walking around right now with their eyes looking at the sky all day long,” Berry said. “They want to get out. The first day is always much more populated than the last.”

Cuffe said the lure of the Rockies is strong internationally, too, with resorts reporting brisk sales of international vacation packages.

Australians are among the Colorado resorts’ biggest customers, and that comes as no shock to Andrew Ramsey, CEO of the Australian Ski Areas Association. Ramsey said some Australian mountains had the worst skiing conditions since 1973 this past season, so skiers are eager to hit the slopes — anywhere.

“Australians are passionate skiers,” Ramsey said in a phone interview from Melbourne. “It doesn’t surprise me that a lot are heading to North America.”



MARKET MATTERS

BY BRIAN HEPP

Gray matters: Planning for retirement

After years of accumulating assets to fund your retirement, you eventually reach a point when it’s time to start making use of those funds. When preparing to access your employer-sponsored retirement plan or IRA balances, you’re going to need to make some important decisions. By understanding your alternatives, you can make the appropriate choices for your retirement distributions.

We’ll take a look at some of the key decisions here.

Please keep in mind that for tax and legal advice, you’ll want to be sure to consult your attorney or tax advisor for information regarding state and federal tax laws.

For starters, there are two basic types of employer retirement plan distributions — periodic (or partial) payments and lump sum distributions. Pension plans, for example, generally pay distributions exclusively through monthly payments, and the total benefit is usually calculated based on life expectancy. Typically, you have the option of receiving periodic payments over your own single life, the joint life expectancy of you and your spouse, or a specified number of years (sometimes referred to as term certain). The number of options you have is determined by your employer.

Instead of periodic payments, some retirement plans require or allow participants to receive their balances in the form of a lump sum distribution. If you decide to go this route, there are two basic options for handling your lump sum: you can take receipt of your distribution directly, or you can roll your distribution into an IRA.

As you can see already, you may have several options you need to consider. If you have a choice between receiving your retirement distribution through periodic payments or in a lump sum, you may be wondering which to choose. As you would expect, the answer depends heavily on your individual situation. But to help you decide which option is best for you, following are a few important points to consider.

■ **Life expectancy.** The last thing you want to do is outlive your retirement assets by depleting them too quickly. A monthly pension option — if you have one available to you — would alleviate such concerns by providing you a regular check for the rest of your life. However, you do give up control of your principal in exchange for this dependable income. Receiving your retirement plan balance in a lump sum gives you the opportunity to invest your assets elsewhere to help meet your particular retirement needs. You may wish to generate income or growth from your investments, or a combination of the two.

■ **Inflation.** You need to remember the impact inflation can have on your investments and the income you expect to generate from them. It’s not safe to assume that today’s income will be enough to cover your expenses a decade or more from now. Choosing to receive a monthly pension benefit locks you into a specific dollar amount paid out over your retirement years. Pension plans generally do not increase these payments to compensate for inflation.

Once you’ve decided on the type of distribution you want, you may still have many investment decisions to make. Your goals and objectives will be different now that you’ve actually reached retirement. To help assess your situation, you should work with your financial consultant to address your new financial needs. Together, you can successfully hatch the nest egg you’ve worked so hard to build.

Brian Hepp is a financial consultant for Santa Monica-based A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc. Member SIPC. He can be reached at (310) 453-0077 or at brian.hepp@agedwards.com. A.G. Edwards is a full-service retail brokerage firm.

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N. Korea's neighbors warn it not to conduct any nuclear tests

BY JAE-SOON CHANG

Associated Press Writer

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea's neighbors issued stern warnings Wednesday against Pyongyang's threat to carry out an unprecedented nuclear test, but the isolated communist country insisted that such a move wouldn't be meant as a provocation.

South Korean officials said there was no sign a test was imminent and warned that such a test could prompt Japan to developing atomic weapons and threaten a regional arms race.

A newspaper in Japan, meanwhile, reported that two Japanese spy satellites had not observed any preparation activities at a suspected underground test site.

China — the North's main ally and key benefactor — called on Pyongyang to show calm and restraint, issuing an unusually pointed statement that referred to North Korea by name. The statement contrasted with earlier Chinese responses, which have typically called for restraint from all sides in the dispute.

"We hope the North Korean side will be sure to keep calm and restrained on the nuclear test issue," Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said on the ministry Web site.

China, Japan and South Korea also announced a series of summits among their leaders next week, ratcheting up diplomacy over tensions caused by the North's announcement Tuesday that it intends to detonate a bomb.

Such a test would confirm the North's claim that it has atomic weapons, and would severely undermine efforts to prevent an Asian nuclear arms race by getting Pyongyang to disarm.

South Korea's top official on dealings with the North, Unification Minister Lee Jong-seok, said Wednesday that there were no definite signs that the test is imminent.

However, Lee also told lawmakers there was "a high possibility" it would eventually take place if "efforts to resume the six-party talks fail."

Japan's Asahi newspaper, citing unidentified government sources, reported that two Japanese spy satellites focusing on a suspected underground test site had not observed any activities that could appear connected to test preparations as of Tuesday.

North Korea has boycotted six-nation nuclear talks with China, Japan, Russia, South Korea and the U.S. for nearly a year, angered by American financial restrictions imposed over the North's alleged illegal activities such as money laundering and counterfeiting.

An official at the North's embassy in Australia, Pak Myong-guk, who described himself as a minister, insisted Pyongyang's planned nuclear test "is not provocative."

"It is just the corresponding measure for defense, for us to defend ourselves," Pak told The Associated Press. "It is the really essential process for nuclear deterrent."

The North often insists it needs nuclear weapons to deter a U.S. attack, although this was the first time that Pyongyang had publicly announced its intent to conduct a nuclear test.

South Korea's President Roh Moo-hyun urged a "cool-headed and stern" response to the North's announcement. The Foreign Ministry said a nuclear test by North Korea could cause a change in its engagement policy toward the communist regime.

"If North Korea pushes ahead with a nuclear test, North Korea should take full responsibility for all consequences," Foreign Ministry spokesman Choo Kyu-ho said after an emergency meeting of South Korean security ministers.

Asked to elaborate on what the consequences would be, Choo said a North Korean nuclear test could bring about a "shift" in Seoul's engagement policy toward the North, but stressed that wouldn't mean abandoning that policy altogether.

South Korea has pursued dialogue with North Korea since their leaders first met in a historic summit in 2000. That approach has caused a rift with Washington, which favors a harder line toward the communist regime.

Seoul is one of the main aid providers to the impoverished North, but it suspended regular relief shipments after Pyongyang carried out missile tests on July 5. However, the South later agreed to send emergency aid to help the North cope with the effects of massive floods that struck the country in mid-July.

Despite the nuclear test threat, the South on Wednesday shipped previously promised aid to the North, including 6,400 tons of cement, the Unification Ministry said.

"As North Korea has yet to conduct a nuclear test, it is difficult to immediately halt sending flood relief aid, which is being provided on a humanitarian basis," a ministry official said on condition of anonymity, citing official policy.

After the missile launches, the U.N. Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution banning all U.N. members from missile or missile-related dealings with the North.

South Korean Vice Foreign Minister Yu Myung-hwan said the Security Council is expected to take stronger action against Pyongyang if it tests a nuclear weapon.

North Korea "will face a strong and united response from the international community" if it conducts a test, Yu told a regular news briefing.



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MOVIEGUIDE

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AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4

1441 3rd Street
(310) 458-6232

The Black Dahlia (R)
2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30

Hollywoodland (R)
2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15

The Illusionist (PG-13)
2:30, 5:15, 7:50, 10:20

Invincible (PG)
2:45, 5:30, 8:00, 10:45

AMC 7 SANTA MONICA

1310 3rd Street
(310) 289-4262

Crank (R)
7:30, 9:45

Everyone's Hero (G)
2:20, 4:50

Gridiron Gang (PG-13)
1:30, 4:20, 7:15, 10:20

The Guardian (PG-13)
12:40, 2:10, 3:40, 5:10, 7:00, 8:30, 10:10

The Last Kiss (R)
2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 9:40

Open Season (PG)
12:50, 1:50, 3:00, 4:30, 5:30, 7:10, 7:50, 9:30, 10:00

LANDMARK NUWLSHIRE

1314 Wilshire Blvd
(310) 281-8228

The Last King of Scotland (R)
1:00, 4:15, 7:00, 9:50

The Science of Sleep (R)
1:45, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00

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1332 2nd Street
(310) 394-9741

A Guide to Recognizing Your Saints (R)
11:30am, 1:55, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40

Half Nelson (R)
11:30am, 2:05, 4:40, 7:20, 9:55

Little Miss Sunshine (R)
12:00, 2:30, 5:05, 7:40, 10:10

The U.S. vs. John Lennon (PG-13)
11:45am, 2:15, 4:50, 7:30, 10:00

MANIN'S CRITERION THEATRE

1313 3rd Street
(310) 395-1599

All the King's Men (PG-13)
1:00, 4:10, 7:20, 10:20

Flyboys (PG-13)
12:40, 3:40, 6:50, 9:50

Jackass: Number Two (R)
12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:30

Jackass: Number Two (R)
12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30

Jet Li's Fearless (PG-13)
11:50am, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

School for Scoundrels (PG-13)
12:20, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10

Springer in step TV host enchants with his dancing

JERRY SPRINGER'S latest step into the spotlight — honing his moves on “Dancing with the Stars” — has the public smitten with the host known for his bawdy TV talk show.

Springer decided to appear on the ABC reality show to learn the waltz for his daughter's upcoming wedding. He and part-

ner Kym Johnson have so charmed viewers that they've avoided elimination for the last two weeks.

“This is the first time I've done TV being myself,” Springer told The Cincinnati Enquirer for a story published Tuesday. “My TV show isn't really me or about me. I just introduce the guests

and let them go at it.”

Springer acknowledged he's not a very good dancer. The judges ranked his tango second-worst last week, but viewers liked him far better. Half of the vote total comes from the public.

“Obviously, everyone is a better dancer than I am,” Springer said.

Springer said he put a lot of effort into learning the waltz so he could dance it with his daughter, Katie, during her wedding in December. The waltz was featured on Tuesday's episode.

“I try to do all of the dances well, but this one is more important to me,” he said.

Viewers have seen the self-dep-

recating humor that helped Springer, 62, get elected to the Cincinnati City Council in the 1970s and serve one term as mayor.

He later anchored a local TV newscast, then went on to host the “The Jerry Springer Show,” infamous for its trashy topics and brawling guests.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

‘Dances’ alone? Costner wants solitude

KEVIN COSTNER has gone to the South Dakota Supreme Court in a legal shootout over a Deadwood casino he owns.

The actor-director is asking the court to send the case back to a judge.

The actor wants to sever his relationship with his two partners and become the sole owner of the Midnight Star, an eating and gambling establishment where costumes Costner wore in various movies line the walls.

Costner filmed much of “Dances With Wolves,” which won the Academy Award for best picture in 1990, on South Dakota's plains and in the Black Hills, where Deadwood is located.

Costner owns 93.5 percent of the casino. He hired Francis and Carla Caneva to manage the operation and gave them ownership of 6.5 percent. He fired them in July 2004, asking them to part ways as partners, too. When they declined, he chose to dissolve the partner-

ship.

In order for that to happen, the casino's fair market value had to be determined. Costner hired an accountant who put the value of the Midnight Star at \$3.1 million. The Canevas got another Deadwood casino owner to testify that he would pay twice that — \$6.2 million.

A judge went along with that figure and ordered Costner, as the majority property owner, to buy the business for \$6.2 million, or it was to be sold on the

open market.

Costner appealed, arguing the value wasn't derived from a hypothetical buyer and seller, as is required by the IRS, and the value was set without viewing any financial documents.

His lawyer said the Canevas want a fixed value of over \$4.9 million because only then would they receive any money. That's the amount of money Costner has in the project and he's entitled to be paid first.

AP

‘Hustle’ star, director eye Pride biopic

“Hustle & Flow” director CRAIG BREWER says he and Terrence Howard are working on a movie biography of country singer Charley Pride.

Howard got an Oscar nomination for his work in Brewer's “Hustle & Flow,” portraying a pimp who longs to be a rap artist.

Howard will portray Pride in the new movie, Brewer told The Commercial Appeal of Memphis.

Pride, who was born poor in Sledge, Miss., played baseball for the Memphis Red Socks of the Negro American League before beginning his career as a country singer in Nashville in the 1960s.

Many of Pride's No. 1 hits, including “Kiss An Angel Good Morning,” are considered country music classics.

Brewer said he has been discussing the movie project with Pride for several months. Howard, a guitar player and country music fan, came up with

the idea, Brewer said.

“Everybody's been speculating as to what my and Terrence's next project would be, and I'm ecstatic that this came out of Terrence's passion,” Brewer said. “Charley Pride is a character, man.”

AP

THEY REALLY GOT HIM

The former frontman of the groundbreaking British rock band the KINKS was presented with an Icon award for what organizers said was his enduring influence on generations of music makers.

With artists as diverse as Morrissey, Blur, Oasis and Who guitarist Pete Townshend all crediting Ray Davies for having influenced their sound, the legendary lyricist was feted at a lavish dinner at the Dorchester Hotel.

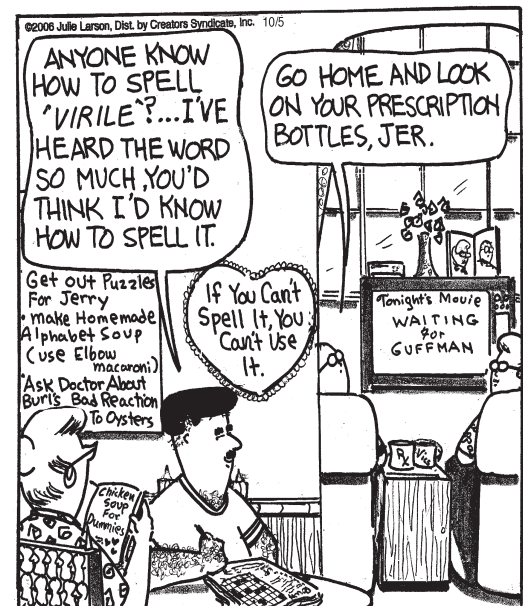
The awards were hosted by BMI, a nonprofit group representing more than 300,000 songwriters, composers and music publishers.

Davies, 62, co-founded the Kinks with his brother, Dave, in London. They went on to become one of the most influential and long-lived bands of the 1960's, best known for such classics as “You Really Got Me” and “Lola.”

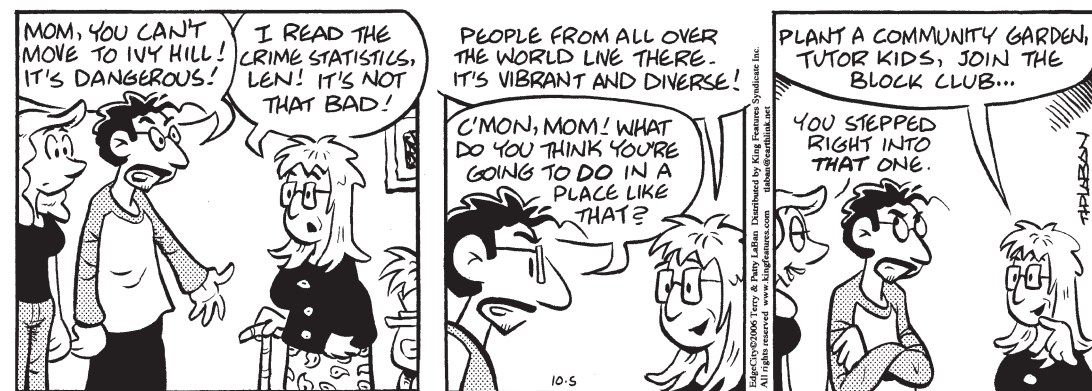
AP

The advertisement features a blue background with a subtle pattern of ice cubes. In the upper left, there is a logo consisting of a blue diamond shape with a yellow outline, containing a white teardrop-like shape. Below this logo, the words "LIQUID ICE" are written in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font, with "ENERGY DRINK" in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font underneath. To the right of the logo, the phrase "This Is No 'Bull'" is written in a large, red, italicized, sans-serif font. In the lower left, the text "If you're gonna play the game you're gonna need the energy" is written in a yellow, sans-serif font, with "the game" and "the energy" in a larger, bolder font. On the right side, there is a detailed illustration of a blue can of Liquid Ice Energy Drink, tilted diagonally. The can has a yellow and blue label with the brand name and a small logo. The overall design is clean and energetic, typical of a beverage advertisement.

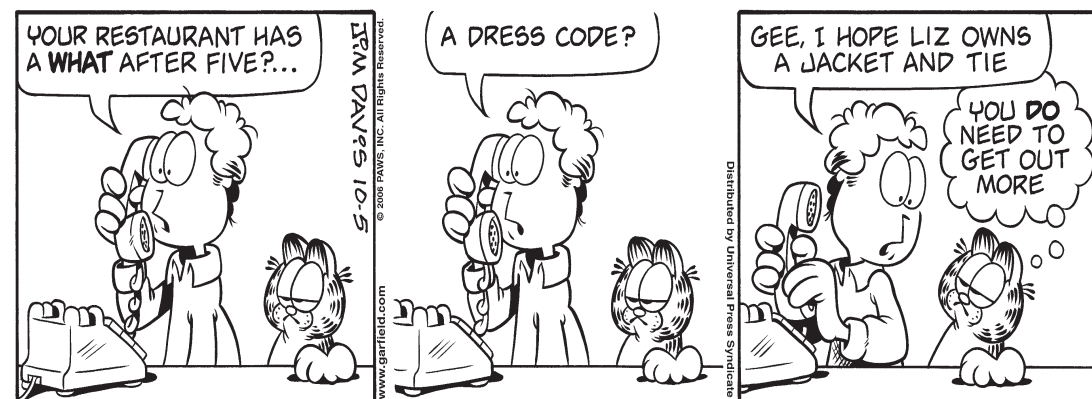
The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



edge city by TERRY & PATTY LABAN



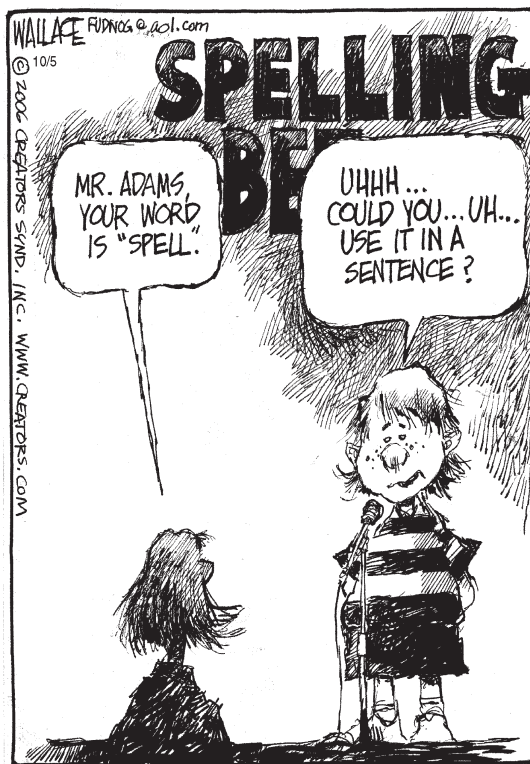
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ACROSS

- 1 Fig pollinator
- 5 Long-standing
- 11 Cavern sound
- 12 One-pointer in horse-shoes
- 13 Easy run
- 14 Caesar's friend
- 15 Treacherous ones
- 17 Cinch
- 18 Rope
- 22 Ring addition
- 24 Patriot Allen
- 25 Bank offering
- 26 Corrida cry
- 27 Surrenders
- 30 Bulletin board items
- 32 Cologne
- 33 Tick off
- 34 Deserts
- 38 Philip-pines city
- 41 Uncover
- 42 Makes amends
- 43 Infamous czar
- 44 Sidewalk stuff
- 45 Irishman

DOWN

- 1 Moistens
- 2 Parcel of land
- 3 Radio type
- 4 Dish with a crust
- 5 Country star Jackson
- 6 Soothing
- 7 Bothers
- 8 Music's Yoko
- 9 Author Deighton
- 10 Parched
- 16 Sushi choice
- 19 Violent disruption
- 20 Vaccine dis-coverer

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Yesterday's answer

- 21 Addition column
- 22 Lively dances
- 23 Rocker Clapton
- 28 Car part
- 29 Hot, in a way
- 30 Frank McCourt book
- 31 Like our numerals
- 35 League division
- 36 Vaccine variety
- 37 Pre-Easter time
- 38 Brit's raincoat
- 39 Snacked
- 40 — de plume

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42							43			
44							45			

10-5

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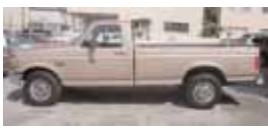
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Exterior Color: Bronze
Stock #: PL15599
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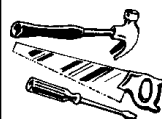
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