

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO
13 27 36 43 44
Meganumber: 7
Jackpot: \$11 Million

FANTASY 5
4 12 14 18 28

DAILY 3
Daytime: 8 2 9
Evening: 5 7 0

DAILY DERBY
1st: 07 Eureka!
2nd: 06 Whirl Win
3rd: 11 Money Bags

RACE TIME: 1:48.77
Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site: <http://www.calottery.com>

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

From a Legal Notice of a Name Change in the Honolulu Advertiser, Aug. 24: from "Waiaulia Alohi anail ke alaamek kawaipi olanihenoheno Kam Paghmani" to "Waiaulia Alohi anail ke alaamek kawaipi olanihenoheno Kam."

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 285th day of 2005. There are 80 days left in the year. Yom Kippur, the Jewish Day of Atonement, begins at sunset.

On Oct. 12, 1492 (Old Style calendar; Oct. 21 New Style), Christopher Columbus arrived with his expedition in the present-day Bahamas.

In 1915, English nurse Edith Cavell was executed by the Germans in occupied Belgium during World War I.

In 1960, Soviet premier Nikita Khrushchev disrupted a U.N. General Assembly session by pounding his desk with a shoe during a dispute.

Ten years ago: After a 48-hour delay, the U.S.-brokered cease-fire in Bosnia-Herzegovina went into effect.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"When he (Columbus) started out he didn't know where he was going, when he got there he didn't know where he was, and when he got back he didn't know where he had been."

ANONYMOUS

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Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

(Above) Judith on Tuesday has lipstick applied by makeup artist Lucienne Zamit, while stylist Philip Carreon works on her hair as part of her makeover by actress Cynthia Nixon's 'Glam Squad.' (Below) Nixon and Vhalia share a moment during her makeover, which was done in recognition of October being Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Judith and Vhalia, both victims of domestic violence, received a day of relaxation at Sojourn, a domestic violence shelter in Santa Monica. The shelter is part of the Ocean Park Community Center's social services network.

Makeovers part of moving on from domestic violence

By Daily Press staff

MID-CITY — A fresh start on life often requires a fresh look. And that's exactly what two area women got on Tuesday — a new look to complement a new life.

The women — both victims of domestic violence and clients of Sojourn, a local battered women's shelter — received makeovers from hair and makeup artists, courtesy of Cynthia Nixon, who played Miranda on HBO's "Sex in the City."

Marshall's clothing store provided the attire.

In recognition of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the women spent the day at Sojourn, relaxing and getting makeovers. Judith and Vhalia, who preferred to use only their first names, have lived through life-changing encounters with domestic violence. Judith helped put her abuser behind bars, and Vhalia lost her daughter at the hands of a domestic violence

See **MAKEOVER**, page 5

Coach labeled as sex offender

BY RYAN HYATT
Daily Press Staff Writer

LAX COURTHOUSE — The former Santa Monica High School coach found guilty of nine felony charges related to sexual relationships he had with three teenage girls will spend two years in jail and carry the status of a sex offender for the rest of his life, the court ruled on Tuesday.

Mike Hearn, 38, was an assistant basketball and football coach at Samohi when he was arrested on June 2, 2004. He was subse-

quently freed on \$42,000 bond.

Hearn pleaded no contest last week to six counts of unlawful sex with a 17-year-old girl, two counts for having oral sex and performing a lewd act upon a 15-year-old girl, and one count for sharing pornographic materials with a third girl, also 15.

Superior Court Judge Katherine Mader sentenced Hearn to two years in state prison on Tuesday. Hearn will be required to register as a sex offender.

School district administrators main-

See **COACH**, page 5

Venice gang group aiming for solutions

BY RYAN HYATT
Daily Press Staff Writer

VERA DAVIS CENTER — This community center that resulted from a truce among Venice gangs in the 1990s has become a meeting place for a new group working to stave off more violence in its neighborhoods.

Dozens of members of the Venice Gang Coalition (VGC) took steps on Tuesday to solidify the mission statement and goals of their fledgling organization, which they hope will soon offer a long-term strategy to reduce gang violence in the community.

The group, which first met on Sept. 20, is comprised of a younger and an older generation of Venice residents, gang interventionists and city representatives who want to move beyond steps taken in the past to ensure a system is in place that will better address gang problems in the future, they said.

They acknowledged that many of Venice's problems spill over into other communities, including Santa Monica and Culver City, which have rival gangs fighting against each other.

VGC members on Tuesday

agreed to meet on a monthly basis as they continue to gather financial and political support for their cause. Discussion centered on the need to develop a long-term business plan that would provide youth with alternatives to gang life, as well as the need to muster support from the police and business communities to ensure success.

See **VGC**, page 6

STATE

Public sleepers in Ventura face jail time

By The Associated Press

VENTURA — Snoozing in public places could soon land sleepyheads in jail.

Instead of a citation, people caught illegally sleeping in city parks, beaches and other public places may soon face arrest and a jailhouse cot.

The City Council voted 5-1 on Monday to support making illegal sleeping in public a misdemeanor. Police want the penalty hiked from an infraction to give them a tool to curb

See **SLEEPING CRIME**, page 9



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Out late, Taurus

Santa Monica Daily Press

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS The stars show the kind of day you'll Have:
★★★★-Dynamic ★★★★★-Positive ★★★★★-Average ★★-So-so ★-Difficult





ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ Avoid a negative person. Although, you might need to be more realistic, especially about a loved one or a creative project. As a result of seeing more clearly, you will be able to enjoy greater success. Focus on meetings; listen to others' ideas. Tonight: Where the crowds are.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You might get some unusual flak from a boss or authority figure. Visualize more of what you want through a discussion. The person you are dealing with has great ideas. Work with him or her. Not all ideas need to be practical; they could become realistic with some work. Tonight: Out late.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You might want to detach rather than become glum. You will find that you can visualize and create a solution to a hassle. Use your mental processes to the max. Be spontaneous too. Tonight: Talk to a person you consider a resource.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ You might need to defer to someone else, as you see a situation bleakly. Others seem to be able to work through negativity and come up with grounded solutions. A relationship deepens. You might think others are in dreamland. A mix of cynicism and ingenuity works perfectly. Tonight: Togetherness.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ You might be a bit more serious than usual. Curb negativity, if possible. Defer to others who might have a different perspective. Discussions open doors for you and others. Handle your funds carefully. Tonight: Accept an invitation.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Your ability to get work done and focus on key issues might be instrumental in getting past a bad mood or depression. Others respond to your innovative approach at work. You view finances differently from many. Tonight: Off to get some exercise.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Your libido energies are on high. If you are artistic, you might choose to funnel this energy into a project. Others decide to add more romance to their lives. Use this moment well. You are lucky. Tonight: Let your imagination choose.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Family and home take a greater priority than usual. You have a strong sixth sense. Use this ability to deal with others. You might not be seeing a situation clearly — and you might not want to, either. Tonight: At home.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Your ability to visualize, speak and infuse others with enthusiasm is contagious. Use your ability to intuit others' needs. A meeting could become a brainstorming session. Let it happen. Tonight: With favorite people.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Though you might think you have a firm handle on a money matter, you don't. A fact or perspective is missing. Be the wise Goat and take your time with a decision. Meanwhile, others watch your savvy. Tonight: A promised visit.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You want to break away from the here and now. Nothing bores the Water Bearer more than routine. Experiment with different ideas. Some might want to sign up for a class. Pursue a dream. Tonight: As you wish. Others go along.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★ Pull back and do some heavy thinking. A discussion with a close friend or loved one provides much insight. Know when to hush up and not tell others what is happening. Recognize that you might be overtired. Tonight: Vanish.



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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

A fashionable day for cancer research

By Daily Press staff

Friendship, the importance and power of angels, and fashions all held center stage at the annual John Wayne Cancer Institute Auxiliary (JWCIA) Membership Luncheon and Fashion Show held recently.

Held at the Regent Beverly Wilshire Hotel, JWCIA treasurer and CFO Donna Rosen presented John Wayne Cancer Institute Board Chairman Patrick Wayne with a ceremonial check in the amount of \$620,000, representing the amount of funds the Auxiliary has given to the Institute throughout the past year.

Wayne presented Institute patient Peggy Maddox with the Auxiliary's 2005 Ellen Cooperman "Angel" Award, which is given to a woman who has made a significant contribution as a role model to women. Diagnosed with melanoma in 1984 and given a 5 to 10 percent chance of surviving, Maddox found her way to the Institute. It was there that she became the first human to receive the experimental melanoma vaccine developed by Dr. Donald Morton, the Institute's medical director and surgeon-in-chief. Now celebrating 20 years of recovery, Maddox accepted the award and gave thanks to all of the "angels" that have made a difference in her life, the first of whom had "a crew cut and red hair." "Thank you, Dr. Morton," said Maddox, "for saving my life."

Based in Santa Monica, the John Wayne Cancer Institute Auxiliary was founded in 1982 when two women who had been treated for breast cancer at the Institute pledged to help win the fight against the disease. Noreen Nelson and Sandy Cohen asked their friends to join their campaign, and from the original nucleus of 14 women, the Auxiliary has grown to more than 800 members. Proceeds raised at all Auxiliary events support the John Wayne Cancer Institute, one of the world's foremost cancer research centers, providing funds for research projects, equipment and fellowships. Since its inception, the Auxiliary has raised more than \$14 million.

In other news at the Institute:

Helen Mabry, M.D., has been appointed assistant director of the Joyce Eisenberg Keefer Breast Center at John Wayne Cancer Institute. Dr. Mabry will collaborate with breast cancer pioneer Armando E. Giuliano, M.D., founder and director of the Joyce Eisenberg Keefer Breast Center, on current research involving sentinel lymph node biopsy, ductal carcinoma in situ and other novel treatments for breast cancer.

"We are pleased to introduce Dr. Mabry to our dedicated team of breast cancer experts," said Dr. Giuliano. "I am confident that Dr. Mabry's clinical and surgical excellence will have an immediate impact on the Joyce Eisenberg Breast Center and its commitment to improving the quality of life for breast cancer patients."

Dr. Mabry studied breast disease at the University of Southern California and completed general surgery training at the University of South Florida. After attending Smith College for her undergraduate degree, she continued her studies at Bowling Green State University, where she received her master's degree in chemistry. She then received her doctoral degree from Ohio State University.



Photo courtesy

(Left to right) Diana Thom, John Wayne Cancer Institute COO and CFO; Gary Grubbs, board chair; Patrick Wayne, senior vice president, public affairs and marketing; Alex Carter; and Joyce Green (seated), senior vice president of public affairs and development, enjoy the John Wayne Cancer Institute Auxiliary membership luncheon and fashion show. Monies raised support the Institute, one of the world's foremost cancer research centers.



SURF REPORT

Wednesday is looking like a repeat of Tuesday with chest-high SW and waist- to chest-high NW wind swell. Thursday is when size backs down further. South- and west-facing breaks are looking at knee- to waist-high surf. This will be the smallest day of the week.

Today the water is:

62°

Write us at alex@smdp.com and tell us what the surf is doing today at your local break.

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
MONDAY	N/A	N/A	11:10	0.2	N/A	N/A	2:42	5.2
TUESDAY	10:35	3.4	12:09	-0.1	6:50	3.9	4:29	5.2
WEDNESDAY	12:09	-0.1	12:01	2.8	7:09	4.3	5:49	5.5
THURSDAY	12:55	-0.3	12:58	2.0	7:33	4.8	6:52	5.7
FRIDAY	1:34	-0.1	2:02	1.7	8:04	4.6	7:40	5.2

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The Q Line

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The City Council has initiated the process to fill the position of city manager, one of the most important jobs in Santa Monica. Thus far, much of the discussion in regard to the hiring process has been behind closed doors. City Hall has hired a headhunter to help in the search, and the City Council hopes to interview the candidates in coming weeks.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "What kind of qualities and abilities would you like to see in the person who runs Santa Monica?"

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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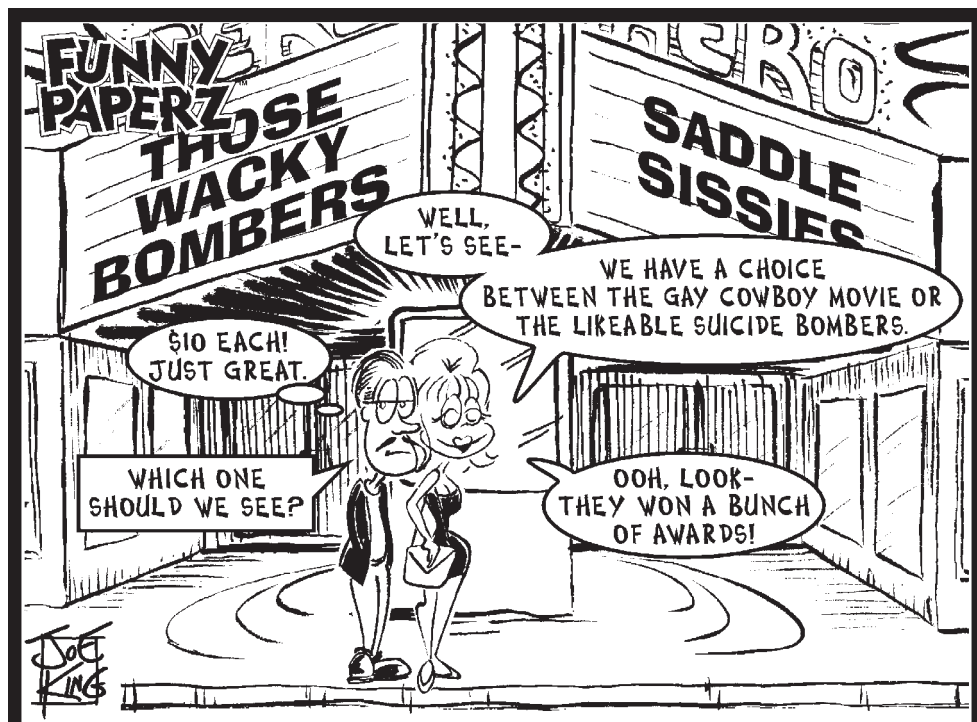
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OPINION



NEWS ITEM - "TICKET SALES ARE DOWN..."

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Keep going, Garver

Editor:

I just wanted to say my big "Thank you" to Mr. Garver for his articles on U.S. political life in your newspaper. I really enjoy his political wisdom, unique writing style and great sense of humor. Looking forward to future encounters with his materials.

Vladimir Korobko
Santa Monica

A thought for the thinkers

Editor:

I wonder what President George W. Bush would have done were Rehnquist to have died after Roberts was confirmed for the O'Connor seat, rather than before — nominate Harriet Miers for Chief Justice of the United States of America? Imagine the reaction not only of the Bible-thumping conservatives of this country, but of thinking people as well.

David Stoughton
Santa Monica

Preserving Social Security vital to Americans

Editor:

Many public officials are unwilling to acknowledge the value of family insurance for millions of Americans. More than 17 million people who are not retired get insurance through the Social Security program. This includes more than 7 million people with disabilities, their spouses and children. People with disabilities receive all three types of Social Security: Survivors, retirement and disability insurance.

It is very unfortunate that President Bush and others promoting private accounts do not understand how much families across the country rely on monthly Social Security benefits. We must protect the Social Security program so that it can continue to provide guaranteed benefits for American families who turn to it at the time of their greatest needs.

Private accounts will not provide the same security. Instead, they will cut guaranteed benefits and greatly increase both the budget deficit and national debt. Congress must request a beneficiary impact statement on every major part of any serious Social Security proposal to understand the actual impact of changes on people's daily lives.

Kevin Berkery
Burbank

Miers nomination makes the liberal media pucker



THE WITNESS STAND

BY CLIFF NICHOLS

Sphincter contractions: noun — sphinc-ter con-trac-tions — What liberals in media experience repeatedly and often when they do not know what a judicial nominee thinks about such things as abortion, gay rights and the separation of church and state.

The morning President Bush nominated White House counsel Harriet Miers to replace retiring Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor that is exactly what members of the liberal media in this country seemed to be experiencing. By watching the major networks, one would think they were reporting about an event approaching the proportions of a national crisis, if not disaster.

How often in the last week have we been told by commentators bearing furrowed brows:

"Ms. Miers has never been a judge. She has no track record of judicial opinions or any other significant paper trail for that matter. How is one supposed to determine whether to rake Ms. Miers over the coals or give her a hug? What is Bush trying to pull? Is he being sneaky? Or even possibly ... dare we say it ... underhanded?"

"Bush claims to have nominated Ms. Miers because he happens to hold her in high esteem as an attorney. What an odd criteria. Who does Bush think he's kidding? He wants us to believe he nominated her largely because he thinks she is just a darned good attorney and would make an excellent judge? Why, that's like saying he nominated her because he thinks she is qualified. Surely, none of us are so simple-minded as to believe such tripe, are we? In this country, we in the media are to make that determination, are we not? Most certainly, something nefarious is afoot. It's just that we can't yet tell for sure exactly what that something is. But, be assured ... we in the mainstream (i.e. liberal) media will figure it out soon. Then we will be able to 'report' that 'news' to America and, when we do, all of you out there will at least then be able to understand the source of our sphincter contractions that recently have been approaching epidemic proportions."

Reduced to its basics, isn't their concern really that Ms. Miers hasn't telegraphed to them in advance how she will rule on issues near and dear to their sweet pea-picking liberal hearts? For them to not be able to know with certainty what her opinion will be before she is elevated to the bench terrifies them. Sadly, it is obvious they only want judges of whom they can know with certainty that the "fix" is in. Well, too bad. That also happens to be a concern shared with people like members of the Mafia who are about to go on trial for murder. If we don't like judges who could be influenced by mobsters, why would we want judges who are susceptible to pressures imposed by, say ... a biased, yet powerful, media? After all, when it comes to judicial decisions a "fix" is a bad thing, and isn't a fix a fix, no matter who's doing the fixing?

Apparently, many in the media have

confused the role of judges with that of politicians. It is the latter that presumably are voted into office and allowed to remain there, largely because their personal attitudes, beliefs and opinions reflect those of a majority of the electorate. Thankfully, however, that is not the job description of judges. Ideally, aren't judges to be above the sway of popular opinion? On a day-to-day basis, they are supposed to be about applying the laws passed by politicians to particular facts set before them on a case-by-case basis, and consequently to render decisions that are impartial. In fact, no one should really want judges who would allow their personal persuasions to torque their judgments — much less judges who are capable of being certified by the media as being susceptible to a fix. Otherwise we would be opening the door to a host of corruptions that most certainly would eventually undermine our entire system of government, as the meanings and effects of our laws would no longer be ascertainable in advance. Rather, they would come to mean whatever judges want them to mean at the moment. And, if that were to be permitted in our society for very long, who knows where it would lead. If you can imagine, ultimately we could be brought to the point where liberal judges and others would be found justifying corrupt judicial decisions by saying things like:

"The Constitution of the United States of America is a living document that doesn't necessarily mean what its plain language would seem to imply to those of a simple mind. Rather, it is a most magnificent document that has penumbras containing meanings, rationales and rights that emanate from, and evolve with, our popular culture. Therefore, from this reality it should be obvious even to those of you of limited intellect that it simply is not possible for the average simpleton to know in advance what the Constitution means until we inform you of what it shall mean today, which, it goes without saying, may not be what it meant yesterday. Please, on this point you must trust us. Otherwise, there simply is no way for you to understand, much less accept, many of our decisions. For example, if you accept on faith that what we have just told you is true, it will help you to accept such things as why lethal injection for a convicted murderer should be considered a violation of the Constitutional prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment, while the scientifically demonstrable excruciating pain that is experienced by a fetus being dismembered is not. The reasoning is really quite simple. Were the latter procedure to be found cruel and unusual in accord with a simpleton's misunderstanding of that phrase that is found in the Constitution, that would interfere impermissibly with the constitutionally guaranteed right to dismember those fetuses which we have found to be of surpassing importance, notwithstanding the complete absence of any language in the Constitution itself that would even remotely suggest that such a right should exist at all. You do understand, don't you?"

(Cliff Nichols is an attorney practicing criminal defense/entertainment law in Santa Monica. He may be contacted at either 310-917-1083 or www.cliffnicholslaw.com, or you may join his blog at www.thedailystand.com.)

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Santa Monica Daily Press



Two former Samohi instructors face music

COACH, from page 1

tained the 17-year-old girl wasn't a Samohi student, but said the other two victims were. The girls' identities were not released because they are minors who are victims of sex crimes, but two of them spoke prior to Hearn's sentencing, according to court officials.

Sources said Hearn's family — a wife and children who once attended local schools — moved away from Santa Monica during the court proceedings.

Neither Hearn's attorney, James Brewer, nor the prosecutor, Kelly Read, would comment on the case.

John Deasy, superintendent of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, said Hearn was a seasonal employee who was not rehired after the charges were filed against him.

Deasy said the Santa Monica public schools will continue to offer support in any way they can to the families who have been affected by Hearn's crimes.

Hearn's no-contest plea comes just before his case was slated to go to trial, although it had been pushed back for

about two months. Hearn was ordered not to harass or assault the three victims and stay at least 100 yards away from the three girls and the Samohi campus.

The victims have been treated at the Stuart House in Santa Monica, which often deals with sexual abuse cases. The Stuart House is overseen by officials from the Rape Treatment Center, based at the Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center.

Hearn was remanded by law enforcement officials in court on Tuesday.

Samohi in the past year has had its share of employees involved with underage girls.

Carl Hammer, 39, was a former Samohi band director who was sentenced in July following an agreement in which he pleaded no contest to a felony charge of false imprisonment related to a sexual encounter that occurred with a 15-year-old girl on June 6, 2004. By pleading no contest to the false imprisonment charge, Hammer avoided facing at least three years in prison and the status of being a registered sex offender for the rest of his life, according to the DA's office.

Piano man



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

As part of SMC's Chopin/Mendelssohn Minifest, Dr. David Goodman plays Nocturne, Opus 62, No. 1. The first portion of the minifest, a three-part series, was held on Tuesday. The next performances will be on Thursday and Saturday.

October is dedicated to raising awareness of domestic violence

MAKEOVER, from page 1

perpetrator.

Established in 1977, Sojourn provides battered women and their children a safe space to regroup, rebuild and reestablish their self-esteem and lives. The shelter's programs serve women and children of all classes, cultures and religions, regardless of economic circumstances, physical and

mental disabilities, or immigration status. This includes those who are traditionally underserved, such as lesbians, elderly women, prostitutes, women with HIV and the substance-dependent.

To raise awareness and funding for domestic violence prevention, Marshalls on Friday, Oct. 14, is donating 1 percent of all sales to The Family Violence Prevention Fund as part of its "Shop 'Til It Stops" program.



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Group seeking the help of local police officers

VGC, from page 1

Brad Carson, who served as a Venice probation officer from August of 1989 to January of 2000, said he was one of many individuals who helped mediate the truce to a gang war that occurred in the early 1990s and turned the prison system into its own "Vietnam." The gang war quickly spread among black and Latino gangs near Venice, erupting in a spate of violent crimes.

As part of that truce, Carson said places like the Vera Davis Center were formed as means of providing a forum for career and recreational opportunities for youth gripped by the gang lifestyle. As worthy as those efforts were, Carson and others said the violence continues.

Since January, there have been seven gang-related homicides in the Venice area, speakers said on Tuesday. Many pointed at the need for more resources to combat the systemic ignorance and hopelessness that breeds gangs. In order to do that, speakers said more support within the community was needed.

"This is about getting resources together," said Bill Martinez, a gang interventionist who also attended a gang workshop this past spring to address gang violence in Santa Monica.

One way VGC members want to solicit community support is through representatives from the Los Angeles Police Department's Pacific Division, none of whom attended Tuesday's meeting.

"Without the police department, nothing can come out of this," said Cliff McClain, manager for the Vera Davis Center.

VGC members said police participation is necessary because officers are in charge of public safety and the group's legitimacy depends on their endorsement.

To work better with police, Brodie Seagrave, field deputy for Los Angeles 11th District Councilman Bill Rosendahl, suggested VGC members develop a program whereby they can show how their efforts may reduce crime. By proving such, the police would naturally ally itself with the VGC, Seagrave said.

Once the VGC has an endorsement from the police, it can overcome a crucial obstacle in achieving legitimacy through the political chain of command. Support from the business community, as well as sources of funding for programming would follow, Seagrave said.

Melvin Haywood, whose father also was involved in resolving the gang conflicts of the 1990s, currently works as a

gang interventionist.

Haywood's team frequents violent crime scenes to try to preserve the peace and thwart retaliations, he said. Haywood is meeting with LAPD representatives to better relations, which have a shaky history, he said.

One way VGC members want to solicit community support is through representatives from the Los Angeles Police Department's Pacific Division, none of whom attended Tuesday's meeting.

Haywood said it could be useful to require gang interventionists and police officers at crime scenes to fill out reports in which both groups would comment on how the other behaved.

The intent of such reporting would be to provide a basis for public dialogue as to the problems police and interventionists often have with each other. Police tend to consider gang interventionists as "illegitimate" and "uncooperative," speakers said. The interventionists, meanwhile, believe their role of smoothing out conflict is often misunderstood by law enforcement.

VGC members decided to mull over the concept of police and interventionists reporting on each other. Later, they said they may present the idea to the LAPD.

Commenting on cynicism expressed by some at the meeting, Carson said he was impressed to see Haywood and other young community members taking up where the "gray hairs" left off.

Carson suggested one way for community members to befriend police is to play basketball with them or take part in other activities that may strengthen relationships.

Carson was optimistic the VGC can be successful.

"I've spent thousands of hours at meetings like this," Carson said. "The good thing is, the meetings haven't stopped."

"You have to give 100 percent to make it work."

The next meeting will be held Nov. 8.

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STATE



Third power outage hits parts of downtown LA

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A power outage hit downtown government buildings, Chinatown and adjacent areas on Tuesday. It was the third significant electrical failure in the city since mid-September.

The outage cut power to as many as 1,000 customers including City Hall, the Los Angeles County Hall of Administration and police headquarters at Parker Center, said Gale Harris, a spokeswoman for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

A problem was detected in a North Hill Street distribution station around 5 a.m. and outages began occurring at 9 a.m., she said. One line was restored but about 750 customers remained affected by late morning.

The cause remained under investigation, Harris said.

tion, Harris said.

Blacked-out traffic signals snarled traffic through parts of Chinatown and in sections of downtown.

Power failures last month affected 2 million people on Sept. 12 and 40,000 customers in downtown and eastern neighborhoods on Sept. 23.

The Sept. 12 outage lasted 1 1/2 hours after a utility crew cut several control lines in the San Fernando Valley. A subsequent report by the DWP cited faulty work plans, a failure to double-check the designs and miscommunication.

The Sept. 23 power failure involved a substation where a bank of transformers that had been shut down for maintenance was brought back online. That accidentally triggered other banks of transformers to go off-line. Power was restored in about five minutes and the cause was under investigation.

Navy SEALs launching public effort to recruit new members

BY SETH HETTENA

Associated Press Writer

CORONADO — The Navy SEALs prefer to operate in the shadows, but the Pentagon's need to increase the ranks of the elite terrorist-hunting commando force is prompting an unusually splashy recruiting effort.

Navy SEAL Mitchell Hall, who won a Bronze Star in 2001 in Afghanistan, hopes to use the upcoming Ironman Triathlon in Hawaii to spread the word about the need for more recruits.

The competition will make the 31-year-old chief petty officer a spokesman for the community of self-described quiet professionals and put him in front of the cameras he spent years avoiding.

The change in recruiting methods comes amid the Pentagon's increasing reliance on special operations and the call for a 15 percent increase in SEALs over the next several years.

The SEALs have a legendary reputation as an elite, highly skilled fighting force, but it is hard to find candidates with the necessary physical conditioning.

Just to get a chance to try out, SEAL recruits must swim 500 yards, then breeze through a series of push-ups, sit-ups and pull-ups and run 1.5 miles — all within strict time limits. This year, 500 of the 823 SEAL recruits — or 60 percent — failed the test in the first days of boot camp.

"We can't survive on that any longer," said Master Chief Petty Officer Andy Tafelski, 51, who has a key role in the recruiting effort. "The pipeline has to

become more efficient."

For the SEALs, who consider themselves the best of the best, lowering their standards is out of the question.

Hall, 31, will be competing in the Oct. 15 Ironman — a 2.4-mile swim, a 112-mile bike ride and a 26.2-mile marathon — wearing a blue jersey emblazoned with a Navy SEAL insignia. He won the Navy SEAL's Superfrog Triathlon in September and now his goal is to finish among the top 100 in Hawaii's Ironman.

"When I'm out there at hour five or whatever it is, and I feel like I'm hurting pretty bad, I've had experience with the same things doing activities in the SEALs," he said.

To boost the SEALs' ranks, the Navy is also working with recruiters to begin testing potential SEALs before they get to boot camp and making sure they have the physical skills. Mentors will work with those who qualify to prepare them for what comes next.

Every SEAL must finish one of the world's toughest entrance exams, a six-month training program that typically weeds out three of every four candidates.

The Navy also is creating a SEAL rating — a formal job description — that should allow candidates to more quickly begin formal SEAL training. Previously, SEALs — the name stands for Sea, Air, Land — had to attend school to learn traditional jobs held by Navy sailors.

Driving the changes is the need to add 400 men by fiscal 2008, bringing the total number of SEALs from 2,600 to about 3,000.

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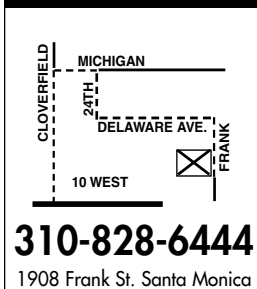
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Schwarzenegger enlists McCain to help ailing initiatives campaigning

BY MICHAEL R. BLOOD
Associated Press Writer

BURBANK, Calif. — With his popularity at an all-time low, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger turned Monday to another political star — Sen. John McCain — to help sell his November ballot proposals to a skeptical public.

During joint appearances with the governor in Burbank and Oakland, the Arizona senator and former presidential candidate urged California voters to support the four initiatives backed by Schwarzenegger on the special election ballot. They depicted the measures as important steps to make government more accountable.

"I have campaigned for reform efforts all over the country," McCain said at the first event, at a Burbank hotel. "What happens in California has significant effect in states like mine that are nearby. It's just a reality."

Schwarzenegger is pushing a quartet of proposals that he has described as medicine for a sickly government. They would strip political clout from public employee unions, give the governor a tighter grip on state spending, toughen tenure requirements for teachers and deny legislators the power to draw their own district boundaries.

The election has created a showdown between the Republican governor and the unions, with both sides raising millions of dollars for the campaign.

McCain was particularly critical of allowing officeholders a hand in how districts are created, saying the current system has given "permanent incumbency status" to members of Congress and the state Legislature. The proposal backed by the governor would designate a panel of retired judges to carve out districts, a change supporters have said would create a more moderate, less gridlock-prone Legislature.

"We need more competitive races," McCain said in Burbank. "We need the voice of moderation."

Known nationally for his efforts to retool the campaign-finance system, McCain emphasized his support for Proposition 77, the redistricting initiative, again during the afternoon event in Oakland.

He and Schwarzenegger addressed about 200 women from the business community and Bay area Republican groups at a hotel near Oakland International Airport, fielding questions about the initiatives, illegal immigration and other issues.

"The ones that are fighting us the most are the politicians," Schwarzenegger told the Oakland audience as he responded to questions about the redistricting measure. "They're trying to scare the people, saying it's a right-wing plot or a left-wing plot. It's not a plot at all. It's a plot for the people."

McCain's visit comes at a crucial time for Schwarzenegger. With the election less than a month away, three of the four initiatives he supports are trailing in polls, and many Californians have turned cold on his leadership.

Once a politician without peer in the state, Schwarzenegger's popularity collapsed after months of squabbling with firefighters, nurses and teachers who

oppose his policies and ballot initiatives.

Recent polls have found only one in three voters approve of Schwarzenegger's performance, and he is broadly unpopular within some key voter groups, including independents and Hispanics.

One of the governor's other problems is time — some voters have already received vote-by-mail ballots. But those same polls show a significant number of voters has yet to focus on the election, suggesting their votes are in play.

"The governor's initiatives are running behind but he still has a chance to turn opinion around," said John Pitney, a political scientist at Claremont McKenna College, who once worked as an analyst for House Republicans.

The governor must "frame the issue as a referendum on whether Sacramento is working," Pitney said. "If the opposition frames it as referendum on Schwarzenegger ... the initiatives are in trouble."

Roger Salazar, a consultant to the California Democratic Party, said McCain would do little to help Schwarzenegger's cause.

"John McCain was here campaigning for President Bush and (former U.S. Senate candidate) Bill Jones. He didn't do much for them," Salazar said. "Californians can make up their own minds."

The governor called the special election to bring three initiatives to the ballot: whether to cap state spending and give the governor greater authority to make midyear cuts, whether to make teachers work five years instead of two to pass probation, and whether to strip lawmakers of their power to draw political boundaries. He has since endorsed a fourth proposal that would require public employee unions to get members' permission before dues could be used for political purposes.

The election is being viewed as a major test of his political strength as he heads toward a re-election campaign next year.

Schwarzenegger and McCain appeared to enjoy sharing the stage Monday, but they haven't always agreed. The governor and McCain backed rival candidates this month in an Orange County special election for a vacant U.S. House seat. The governor's hand-picked candidate, state Sen. John Campbell, easily captured the Republican nomination.

McCain was asked about the glut of special-interest money pouring into the California election. He didn't fault Schwarzenegger, saying the governor "played by the rules of the game."

"Do I like the game?" McCain added. "No."

In Burbank, about two dozen union members and activists protested outside the hotel. About a hundred protesters stood outside the Oakland gathering.

Before leaving, the governor made a surprise visit to another meeting room where about 100 nurses of GSG Associates, which reviews workers' compensation claims, were having lunch. Despite his long-standing political feud with nurses, he was cheered and applauded.

With McCain at this side, he put in a plug for his ballot proposals. He went on to praise nurses, saying they had been a comfort to him in the last decade as he had medical problems.

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STATE



STATE BRIEFS

Cost-cutting measures starting to pay off

By The Associated Press

RIVERSIDE, Calif. — Cost-cutting measures have boosted city coffers.

Fiscal year 2004-2005 closed with \$49 million in the city's general fund reserve, \$10 million more than anticipated. Much of the savings came from not filling vacant positions and \$2 million came from the sale of a public garage, Assistant City Manager Paul Sundeen said.

City Manager Brad Hudson wants to spend \$7.3 million of it to hire 16 new police officers, four new detectives, three sergeants and two lieutenants. He also wants to continue funding the anti-gang program Project Bridge and hire an Eastside neighborhood coordinator to run a teen center at Cesar Chavez Community Center.

Hudson also plans to set aside \$1 million more for Orange Terrace Library construction and keep the rest in the general fund reserve. The general fund pays for police and fire protection, recreation and parks, street maintenance and other services.

Commission: Internal investigations must move faster

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The new Police Commission wants police use-of-force investigations speeded up.

State law gives agencies one year to discipline officers and the commission is tired of racing against the calendar and holding special meetings to make decisions in use-of-force cases. Commissioners are still waiting to consider 28 incidents in 2004.

Police Chief William Bratton, the officers' union and community groups support the commission's initiative to speed up investigations.

"We share the interest in expediting these investigations, while at the same time we're hoping that trying to expedite does not equal incompleteness," said attorney Hank Hernandez of the Los Angeles Police Protective League, which represents rank-and-file officers.

The Police Commission gets use-of-force reports at the end of a process that starts with the Police Department's Force Investigation Division and winds its way through a department review board and the chief of police. It often leaves the commission with little time.

"The commission is concerned they're getting cases too close to the statute of limitations," said Andre Birotte, the commission's inspector general.

Police officers filing fewer workers' comp claims

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Police officers and firefighters are reporting fewer on-the-job injuries.

Last year, police officers filed 3,096 workers' compensation claims — a 27 percent drop from five years ago. Firefighters and workers in other city agencies also had fewer claims.

"Claims are down, costs are down, the amount of time that people are injured and off duty is down, and productive work is up," said Tom Coultas, assistant general manager of the city's Personnel Department.

Overall, there was a 13 percent citywide decline in workers' compensation claims last year for an unexpected \$36 million windfall to city coffers.

The reason for the big drop in Police Department claims wasn't clear. Some credit a younger or more careful police force, department efforts to root out fraud or the benefits of exercise.

Injuries are a big problem in the LAPD, the city's largest department. Nearly one out of three officers files a worker's compensation claim each year.

Change would boost public sleeping to a misdemeanor

SLEEPING CRIME, from page 1

illegal camping, particularly in city parks.

The council will formally consider the change next week.

Currently, those caught "passed out" in city parks or public streets can only be cited and fined, City Attorney Bob Boehm said. Often, the infraction is ignored and the pattern of illegal camping continues, he said.

Since police began making river bottom sweeps to clear out the homeless, many vagrants migrated to downtown and other neighborhoods.

Brian Lee Rencher, who is homeless and running again for the City Council on Nov. 8, said it was immoral to not allow someone to sleep. Rencher said the real problem is a lack of housing, which forces people to sleep in the river bottom and other places.

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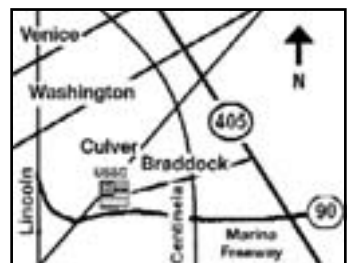
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Real Estate

Is there a bust or a boom on the horizon?



DAYS ON THE MARKET

BY JODI SUMMERS

fashion. Ironically, those that disagreed most with the idea that real estate gains had impacted their spending were those in higher income brackets (defined as those making more than \$100,000) and those that had already experienced the biggest real estate gains, the RBC reported.

There are several aspects of the housing boom that make analysts nervous. One factor is the rise in interest-only mortgages. This popular option — which accounted for 61 percent of homes loans in 2004 — allows buyers who would not qualify for 30-year fixed mortgages to get approved for low fixed rates for three or five years. These later convert to loans with sharply higher payments, which may force some owners to sell their homes, possibly flooding the market.

David Soleymani, managing director of First Capital Mortgage is already observing. He has borrowers that are three years into an interest-only five-year fixed loan at 4.25 percent are switching to mortgages that are fixed at 5.87 percent for 10 years. Essentially, they've traded a \$3,400 monthly payment for one that's guaranteed at \$4,700 for 10 years.

"They're paying a huge premium, but they're getting 10 years' protection instead of the two they had left," Soleymani said. "They can now ride out a whole interest-rate and housing cycle without worrying about an increase in their payments."

Economists say if long-term mortgage rates rise no more than 2 percentage points, there should be a big drop in the real estate market. But the Fed is aware of the fact that if there is a radical rise, it may result in an increase in foreclosures and a reverse in housing activity.

Los Angeles can be feel comforted by the third quarter housing and economic forecast released by the University of California, Los Angeles.

"The slowdown is now considered to be more gradual than predicted in June as the projected reduction in housing construction is still in the future," according to an announcement from forecast spokesperson Michael Bazdarich. "In California, there are hopes for a 'soft landing' as the economy weakens over the next two years. The Los Angeles forecast mirrors that of California, as a number of risk factors including payroll employment and residential real estate pose a threat to the moderate growth currently being experienced." The forecast calls for a slowdown in the U.S. economy through 2006, with declines in housing construction on the horizon.

"Any trouble in real estate markets is more than six months out, so our forecast is for a slowdown in housing in early 2006, leading to a broader economic slowdown in 2006-2007," said UCLA Anderson senior economist Ryan Ratcliff. "At this time, there is not enough evidence from our leading indicators to suggest that this slowdown will become a full-blown recession."

(Jodi Summers is director of the investment division at Boardwalk Realty Santa Monica. Contact her at jodis@boardwalkrealty.com, or call 310-309-4219. Visit her Web site at www.santamonicalandmarks.com.)

Let's talk about the boom towns in the residential real estate market and figure out what markets will stay strong. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. announced that it has identified 55 boom metro markets at the end of 2004 — 21 of which are in California. A real estate boom market has been defined by the FDIC as an area where real-price growth increases at least 30 percent over three years. 2004 saw 55 boom markets — up from 32 a year prior. Those areas are concentrated in California (21), the Northeast (18) and Florida (11).

Home-growth prices (appreciation minus inflation) have risen to their highest levels since the FDIC began collecting data in 1977. But few are speculating that this bubble is going to burst. According to the FDIC studies, only 17 percent of all housing booms end in busts. A bust is defined as a drop of 15 percent over five years. Data indicates that busts are preceded by a significant stress in local economies, such as loss of jobs, because the new president is from another part of the country, and shifting development from that area. Disasters such as earthquakes, fires, floods and riots can also contribute to a bust.

"Fixed mortgage interest rates have fallen compared with a year ago, and remain below 6 percent," said Jim Hamilton, president of the California Association of Realtors. "This continues to propel both sales and the median price of a home as consumers gauge current market conditions against future interest rate increases."

According to the Federal Housing Finance Board, the average effective mortgage interest rate for existing homes was 5.83 percent during the second quarter of 2005, up from 5.77 percent in the first quarter. The rate was 5.73 percent in the second quarter of 2004.

"I don't see anything likely to cause any radical changes in the market," said Michael Carney, finance and real estate professor at Cal Poly Pomona. "If people start getting panicky about the bubble business, that can have a psychological effect on the market, but that's not happening."

Nationally, approximately 60 percent of homeowners expect the value of their homes to increase by at least 5 percent annually during the next several years, according to an online survey of 1,001 American consumers calculated by RBC Capital Markets. The study revealed that 24 percent anticipated annualized gains of 10 percent or more over the next few years. A minimal 3 percent of respondents said they expect their home values to decline over the next few years.

Ten percent of the respondents said rising home values have affected their spending habits. And over half of those surveyed disagreed with the notion that real estate gains impacted their spending even though 51 percent either sold their home or borrowed against their home equity in some

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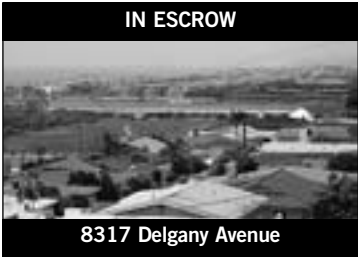


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PLAYA DEL REY	8505 GULANA AVE #5104	CONDO	1 BEDROOMS	1.00 BATHROOMS	N/A	\$450,000	N/A
PLAYA DEL REY	6690 VISTA DEL MAR #D	CONDO	2 BEDROOMS	3.00 BATHROOMS	N/A	\$719,000	N/A
SANTA MONICA	2132 21ST ST	SINGLE FAMILY	3 BEDROOMS	2.00 BATHROOMS	N/A	\$1,298,000	N/A
SANTA MONICA	2422 25TH ST	SINGLE FAMILY	2 BEDROOMS	2.00 BATHROOMS	N/A	\$1,299,000	N/A
SANTA MONICA	355 22ND ST	SINGLE FAMILY	5 BEDROOMS	4.50 BATHROOMS	N/A	\$2,995,000	N/A
SANTA MONICA	1871 10TH ST #D	CONDO	2 BEDROOMS	2.50 BATHROOMS	N/A	\$795,000	N/A
SANTA MONICA	2519 4TH ST #9	CONDO	1 BEDROOMS	1.00 BATHROOMS	N/A	\$585,000	N/A
MALIBU	24727 VANTAGE POINT TER	SINGLE FAMILY	4 BEDROOMS	3.50 BATHROOMS	N/A	\$2,295,000	N/A
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MALIBU	30181 PACIFIC COAST HWY	SINGLE FAMILY	3 BEDROOMS	3.00 BATHROOMS	N/A	\$2,495,000	N/A
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PACIFIC PALISADES	558 SWARTHMORE AVE	SINGLE FAMILY	4 BEDROOMS	3.50 BATHROOMS	N/A	\$3,295,000	N/A
PACIFIC PALISADES	17339 TRAMONTO DR #102	CONDO	2 BEDROOMS	2.00 BATHROOMS	N/A	\$799,000	N/A
VENICE	899 COMMONWEALTH AVE	SINGLE FAMILY	4 BEDROOMS	3.50 BATHROOMS	N/A	\$1,875,000	N/A
VENICE	1337 VIENNA WAY	SINGLE FAMILY	4 BEDROOMS	4.00 BATHROOMS	N/A	\$1,950,000	N/A
VENICE	905 PALMS	INCOME	# UNITS: 3		LOT SIZE: 5,400	\$1,500,000	N/A

Property taxes are due: Try paying online

By Daily Press staff

Los Angeles County officials have announced a new service that allows taxpayers to pay their property tax bills online by electronic check — avoiding long lines, credit card fees or reliance on mail service.

The announcement comes as County Treasurer and Tax-Collector Mark Saladino begins sending out 2.3 million annual property tax bills, which will be received throughout October.

The new service, called Vcheck, allows property owners to make their payments by logging onto <http://ttax.co.la.ca.us>, or the property tax web portal at www.lacountypropertytax.com

"The Vcheck payment option is just one more way the County of Los Angeles is making sure that paying property taxes is as convenient as it can be," said County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky. "I want to thank the trea-

suror-tax collector's office for thinking 'outside the box' and making this happen."

Besides Vcheck, property taxes may be paid by check or credit card.

"Unlike credit card payments," said Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke, "there is no fee for this service." This is possible, she noted, because there is no ongoing cost to the county from a vendor for processing transactions, unlike other service-based options.

"This is a great service that will allow both homeowners and businesses to pay their property taxes with little effort," said Supervisor Don Knabe, who in 1997 authored a board motion asking departments to provide Internet payment options to the public.

Saladino said his department implemented Vcheck on a pilot basis on July 18 for those taxpayers who needed to pay supplemental tax bills, and the system has worked well. As of Oct. 4, nearly 200 payments have been processed online for 249

parcels, for a total of approximately \$245,000.

A future goal is to provide the Vcheck as an option for other types of payments, Saladino said.

To pay online, taxpayers fill out an electronic check with the information that appears on their written checks, including their bank routing number and checking account number, and provide their e-mail address. Once a Vcheck payment is made online, the taxpayer prints a confirmation page and receives an e-mail confirming payment has been received.

The treasurer-tax collector prints the check and processes it as if it were received by mail. Taxpayers can verify their payment has been processed by entering their property parcel number on a payment-status page on the treasurer-tax collector's web site. Updates are made immediately.

Payments on up to four parcels may be made per check. Taxpayers may select the

items and amounts they wish to pay, but may not exceed the amount due.

Saladino said security measures have been implemented to protect the public from fraudulent activity or mistakes. The system resides in a secure server environment within the county's data center and is protected by firewalls. Taxpayers are required to enter a personal identification number (PIN) that appears on their tax bill. If three unsuccessful attempts are made, the taxpayer is locked out of paying online for a week. Additionally, taxpayers are required to enter their checking account number twice to avoid mistyping.

Saladino said he hopes the new Vcheck will reduce some of the 250,000 late payments received annually. Current year property tax installments are due no later than Dec. 12, 2005, and April 10, 2006. Vcheck payments, which are time-stamped, may be made without penalty up to midnight on those dates.

Reduce your energy costs by sealing your home

By Daily Press staff

As crude oil and natural gas prices reach record levels, it might be surprising to know that less than half of American homeowners take steps to winterize their homes, according to a recent survey by GE Sealants.

With winter fast approaching, it is more important than ever to conserve energy and reduce costs at home, as the Energy Department predicts that natural

gas prices will more than triple this year. The survey showed that although 83 percent of Americans know that home sealing is a great way to reduce their energy costs, less than one in 10 actually do it.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, air leakage accounts for 25 to 40 percent of the energy used for heating and cooling a typical home. By sealing doors and windows, the average family that spends \$2,500 a year on ener-

gy costs could reduce their bill by \$500. Close to one in 10 Americans believe home sealing can cost as much as \$1,000, but for less than \$20, the cost of enough silicone to seal the average home, consumers can save substantially on their heating costs.

GE makes a variety of innovative caulks and sealants that can reduce air leaks and prepare your home for the upcoming winter months. Silicone, such as GE's Silicone II, is the best seal against water and the elements and is easy enough for the average do-it-yourselfer. Silicone does not shrink or crack, and it moves as a home expands and contracts with the temperature.

The Kitchen & Bath formula contains Bioseal, a proprietary additive that inhibits mold growth on sealants, prevents possible health complications and damage to your home. It can be used around sinks, tubs and other places where water is commonly found. Bioseal inhibits mold growth so odor, discoloration and potential health risks are not a concern. In addition, there is now a paintable silicone, Silicone II XST, which combines the superior performance of silicone and the paintability of an acrylic.

"Air leaking through gaps and cracks in a home can add up to as much air flow as an open window," said Amy Wynn, home

improvement expert and host of The Learning Channel's Trading Spaces. "Proper sealing can save the average homeowner 15 to 20 percent of total energy costs per year. Sealing your home against the elements is an important step for year-round comfort and safety, and it is incredibly easy to do. Silicone caulk works very well because it is flexible, so it moves as homes expand and contract with temperature and will not crack."

There are many benefits and cost savings to sealing your home. The most important places to seal include:

- Windows. The most beneficial sealing project is windows. For effective sealing, place weather stripping around windows and apply caulk around the windows, both inside and out, where needed.

- Doors. Ill-fitting doors are another source of leaks and should also be sealed. Anywhere you can see light, air can come in.

With rising energy costs, a simple preventative measure such as sealing will save money down the road. Be sure to seal both holes and small cracks and pay particular attention to areas around joints, vents and chimneys. Tighter house construction can improve the energy efficiency, comfort and air quality of a home by eliminating unwanted drafts and providing a more comfortable environment.

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It's not easy to follow the Katrina money

BY HOPE YEN

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Trying to track who's getting what portion of the billions of dollars in federal Hurricane Katrina aid is enough to give any auditor a headache — and is a problem that critics say creates alarming gaps in public oversight.

The database of contracts is incomplete. Information released by federal agencies is spotty and sporadic. And disclosure of many no-bid contracts isn't required by law.

"On any given day, the government is spending millions of taxpayer dollars, but we simply have no visibility on these purchases," said Christopher Yukins, a contracting law professor at George Washington University. "They just buy from the same person year after year."

Under federal election law, a click of a mouse traces every campaign donation. Yet no comprehensive public database exists for federal contracts.

Both Republican and Democratic critics long have bemoaned the dearth of contract information available. Some say it violates the Freedom of Information Act, the federal law giving the public the right to access most information held by agencies. Others say it creates barriers to rooting out cronyism and waste.

That call is intensifying as the Federal Emergency Management Agency pledged last week to rebid millions of dollars of federal contracts that were handed out with little or no competition.

President Bush "should announce now that he wants the FOIA applied in advance to all documents for Katrina recovery programs," said Mark Tapscott, a director at the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank.

Federal law requires that agencies disclose contract awards, typically via one of two government-sponsored databases. But through loopholes, waivers of contract rules and technical glitches, information is omitted or can go unreported for months.

The omissions since Katrina struck include a \$236

million contract with Carnival Cruise Lines to provide housing for evacuees that lawmakers have criticized as wasteful, and open-ended contracts with Intelsat and Bechtel Corp. awarded partly because of their prior relationships with the government.

They also include emergency supplies and equipment procured by federal employees using government-issued credit cards with purchase limits of \$250,000. The White House since has reduced the limit to \$15,000, while details of the contract deals were eventually disclosed by the companies.

The concerns have prompted several bills, including versions by Sen. Frank Lautenberg, D-N.J., and Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., that would require full disclosure of contract awards in one centralized database. The aim is to improve accountability by providing information such as contract terms, a contractor's past history of spending abuse or political ties.

"An easily accessible and transparent database of contract information will bring sunshine into the confusing and sometimes shadowy practice of government contracting," said Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., who plans hearings to determine how the government can better track its spending.

Some of the problems:

- The government Web site devoted to disclosing all agency contracts in compliance with federal law currently lacks Katrina information from the Army Corps of Engineers and FEMA — the two agencies awarding the most contracts — because of time delays and other glitches.

- The Web site for contract offers has little Katrina information because disclosure requirements were initially waived for the disaster.

- Because only new contracts must be disclosed, agencies need not reveal information when awarding no-bid work to politically connected companies such as Halliburton subsidiary Kellogg, Brown & Root that have pre-existing government contracts. Vice President Dick

Cheney headed Halliburton from 1995 to 2000.

Responding to initial criticism, Army Corps and FEMA officials say they will strive to post weekly updates of awards on their Web sites. Other agencies, such as the Defense Department, are issuing daily contract announcements or submit their data to the government databases.

"We're committed to making that information available," said Larry Orluskie, a spokesman for the Department of Homeland Security, which oversees FEMA.

But a Government Accountability Office audit last month found the primary database, known as the Federal Procurement Data System, was inaccurate and incomplete, citing in part repeated delays by the Pentagon in switching to a new system that would allow the department to report its awards in real time.

"In the absence of timely and accurate data, that makes effective oversight more difficult," said Bill Woods, a director at GAO, the investigative arm of Congress.

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More money available for beautifying homes

By The Associated Press

RIALTO, Calif. — More homeowners living along busy streets can get up to \$7,000 to spruce up their houses.

The Exterior Home Beautification Program, designed to enhance the city's image, has been expanded to a neighborhood bounded by Riverside, Merrill and Pepper avenues and Base Line Road. Homeowners must live along a major thoroughfare.

The 2-year-old program provides grants of up to \$7,000. "When people drive by they can see homes in Rialto being improved and it enhances (the city's) image," city housing specialist John Dutrey said.

About 15 property owners in the original target area,

which ended at Foothill Boulevard on the north, used the grants to make improvements. Homes were painted and re-roofed, driveways were installed and landscaping and sprinklers were improved.

"It's fee money. You can't miss," said homeowner Gary Weinmann, who used his money for sprinklers and landscaping.

The city has budgeted \$100,000 in Redevelopment Agency funds, and grants are available to income-eligible property owners, Dutrey said. Household incomes must not exceed 120 percent of the median household income to qualify.

San Bernardino, Ontario and Colton have similar beautification programs.

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Wildcat strike triggers oil rush in central Utah

BY PAUL FOY

AP Business Writer

SALT LAKE CITY — More oil companies are drilling in central Utah, a mountainous region that long frustrated exploration until a wildcat strike by Grand Rapids, Mich.-based Wolverine Gas & Oil Corp.

Ansbro Petroleum Co. of Denver and Cleary Petroleum Corp. of Oklahoma City are joining the rush in a new oil frontier with huge potential, said Bill Armstrong, president of Armstrong Oil & Gas Inc., another Denver company making plans to sink its own wells.

"Now that Wolverine found oil, it opens a whole new set of real estate to chase," Armstrong said.

Wolverine is pumping oil as fast as it can just outside of Sigurd. It was expecting to exceed 100,000 barrels of oil a month by now, a play many are betting won't be the last — or biggest — strike over a region about 65 miles long and 20 miles wide.

Wolverine's president and chief executive, Sidney J. Jansma Jr., said in an interview last month that his company struck oil in late 2003 and managed to keep it under wraps until last spring while snapping up leasing rights to about 600,000 acres of private and government land.

That gave Wolverine many of the choice parcels in central Utah, forcing others to the margins. Ansbro and Cleary are drilling in the same geologic formation but 40 or more miles north of Wolverine's first field. Government records show they obtained permits last May as news of Wolverine's find started intensifying the bidding at government auctions.

Armstrong Oil & Gas says it plans to start drilling within six months.

Other newcomers were more guarded about their operations.

"We hope we will be successful, but that is unknown at the moment," said Margot Timbel, exploration manager for Ansbro Petroleum.

Cleary Petroleum said it was drilling on national forest land secured earlier. "When we heard about Wolverine's discovery, we dusted off this prospect," Rick Frederick, the company's vice president of operations, said Monday.

Cleary refuses to disclose whether the drilling, which started in June, has struck oil yet. The company owns leasing rights to about 20,000 acres of federal, state and private land in Utah. It cleared a platform large enough for multiple wells just east of Nephi.

In an industry notorious for guarding secrets, Wolverine is something of an

exception, a family company that got its start drilling for gas decades ago in Michigan.

Jansma has opened his oil field for tours, including a visit from Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman last week. State geologists say the field could contain more than 100 million barrels of oil, one of the few subjects Jansma refuses to discuss.

The estimate comes from disclosures Wolverine made at a June convention of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, said Tom Chidsey, petroleum section chief for the Utah Geological Survey.

An oil field that large would rank as one of the biggest onshore discoveries in the past 30 years, and Wolverine and government geologists said the company is looking at what could be 25 other deposits of similar size in central Utah.

For comparison purposes, the trans-Alaska pipeline carried about 1 million barrels a day from the North Slope in 2002.

"The whole industry wants to get in on Wolverine's play," said Jansma, a large, exuberant man who at 62 is making his biggest and most exciting oil strike. He said Wolverine, backed by 14 investors on this venture, is gambling millions of dollars.

Jansma is so convinced he's tapped into a major system of oil deposits he moved 15 miles from Sigurd to drill more wells, adding \$5 million to the bet. Jansma and his company geologist, Doug Strickland, say they are working part of a geologic belt from Mexico to Montana they believe contains a billion barrels of mostly untapped oil in tricky deposits.

It could take years for widespread oil development to unfold, but the rush is on. Major producers were turned back decades ago by complicated geology featuring the Hingeline, a boundary between the Colorado Plateau and Utah's basin and range country.

Geologists say the surface terrain gives no clue to what lies underneath. They liken Jurassic sandstone layers deep underground to stacks of overlapping cafeteria trays jammed by a conveyor belt. In many places the upheaval forced layers of older sediments tens of miles over younger rock.

These folds and thrust faults make finding oil tricky. It's a job for seismic technology, other techniques plus educated guesswork — and the industry expects to encounter dry wells along the way.

Wolverine already has hit one dry well, but Jansma said it helped define an edge of a roughly 1,600-acre field.

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NATIONAL



Mexico town experiences a boom as a smugglers' haven

BY MICHAEL MARIZCO

Associated Press Writer

TUCSON, Ariz. — Four smugglers stand on a Mexican hilltop overlooking the United States, watching the slow-moving white SUVs of the federal agents below.

"It's a game. You win or lose, but you got to try. Somebody gets to do it," said Diego Cansino.

For the smugglers in Sasabe, Mexico, business has never been better. This little town 65 miles southwest of Tucson doesn't have a gas station or a bank, but its population has doubled to 4,000 since last year. It now boasts new construction in hotels, homes and restaurants that cater to the illegal border-crossers funneled through here, then on up into the Altar Valley.

Smuggling success is driving the growth, said town Administrator Jose Alejandro Leyva. It has changed Sasabe from a rest stop into a haven for people making a living smuggling migrants and drugs into Arizona, he said.

The result: Two U.S. Border Patrol stations responsible for that area accounted for more than 160,000 of the Tucson Sector's 426,000 apprehensions this fiscal year, said Border Patrol spokesman Gustavo Soto. And according to agency records, there is a growing number of migrant deaths along a corridor stretching from Sasabe to Tucson.

For the last 50 years, cattle and brick exported to the United States were the main reasons for Sasabe's existence. Now brand-new trucks without license plates prowl the unpaved streets, and prostitutes make their way down the broken sidewalks propositioning lone men. Hotels and casas de huéspedes — flophouses for those waiting to sneak across the border — have sprung up nearly overnight.

Sasabe is essentially a dirt island. A 60-mile dirt road leads from the border village to the Sonoran city of Altar. Another road connects to the mountain town of Saric.

Occasionally, Mexican federal officials will raid Sasabe; the last time was in 2003 when the military swept through Sonora arresting drug and migrant smugglers. But the sandy roads are an easy giveaway: The large plumes of dust from the officials' convoys announce their coming an hour before they arrive.

Sitting in his dim, tiny office, Leyva laughs as he waves his hand toward the United States.

"This is turning into a 'little Nogales'; that's what I tell everyone," Leyva said, referring to the burgeoning smuggling activity.

Other than confiscating trucks stolen from Arizona,

federal police do little to deter smugglers, he said. Mexico rarely chases smugglers down unless they're moving foreign nationals. The result is a haven.

Sasabe's four local cops finally received radios last March. Before that, they shared a pair.

Since 2004, when the last census was taken, the population has doubled. The municipality isn't prepared for the growth; it's running out of water, Leyva said.

Five hotels have sprung up along with a dozen guesthouses costing \$3 per person to sleep in, town records show. Half a dozen hot dog carts dot the rutted streets.

"None of this was here even two years ago," Leyva said.

In 2003, there was only one hotel and no guesthouses. Today they are numerous, though only 12 are registered. They are an easy path to earning quick cash and don't require more than a toilet and some cots, he said.

The service industry is also profiting.

Two years ago, Arturo Morales opened an oil-change shop and carwash outside his home. He expanded his business and now offers laundry service as well.

The 11 rooms of the Hotel Perla are filled every week-day with workers from out of town, said owner Francisco Maldonado. The first cell-phone tower in the village is being placed on a nearby hill, and he's able to rent out three rooms to the workers.

Cansino, the smuggler, was deported from Oklahoma after he was imprisoned for possession of 55 pounds of cocaine. The Guanajuato man smiles a little as he talks, draining his beer can and tossing it into the grass surrounding the hill.

The crackle of radios and calm Mexican voices are the only sounds on the hill overlooking the United States.

"Maria, Maria. Te viene uno," says the man with the binoculars watching the white SUVs a mile away. "Maria" means he spotted agents. One is coming close to a group of illegal entrants being guided across.

A second man relays the coded message by radio to the smuggler in the group. Working together, they marshal the group past the first line of U.S. defenses in a never-ending chess match.

Cansino stands beside them, watching. He moved 14 groups of people into the United States in a single day earlier this month and prides himself on safely guiding kids and women across the border. His cut is \$100 a person.

An hour passes, then the sound of truck tires crunching on dirt and rock. Someone comes back with a black plastic bag stuffed with ice and beer.

Everyone relaxes. The group made it by the Border Patrol.

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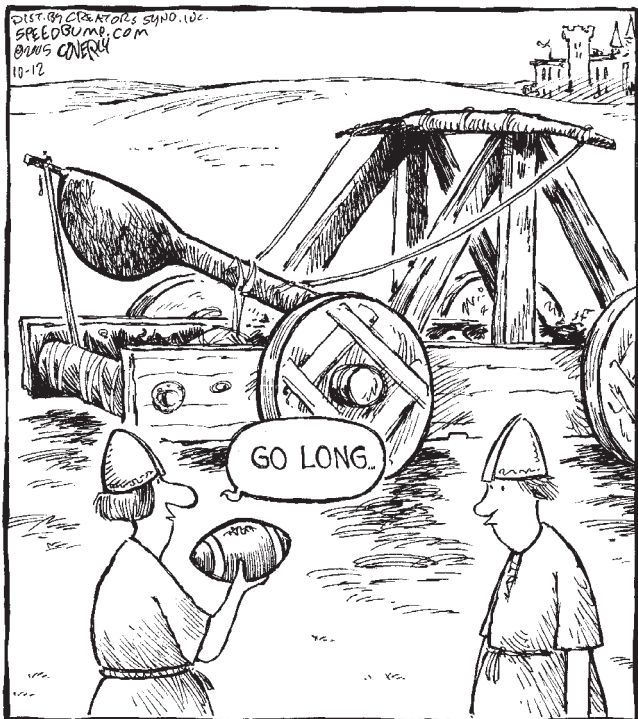
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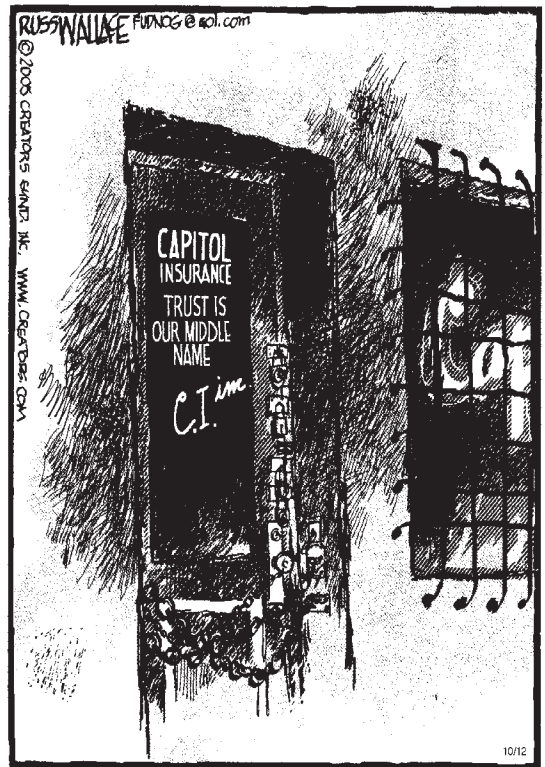


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- 5 Still life fruit
- 9 Cheering loudly
- 11 Heat home
- 12 Poet Neruda
- 13 Set — for (try to catch)
- 14 "I — Rock"
- 15 Chinese pooch
- 17 Large number
- 19 Bound
- 20 Ranch head
- 21 Skillet
- 22 Happen
- 24 Cork sound
- 26 Nada
- 29 Ed McBain's "Death"
- 30 Former NFL commissioner Pete
- 32 Area inside the 20-yard line
- 34 TV spots
- 35 Ready for battle
- 36 Friend of Natty Bumppo
- 38 Boorish
- 39 Baseball's Satchel

DOWN

- 40 "Smallville" name
- 41 Perfect place
- 1 Bolivian city
- 2 One of the Musketeers
- 3 Blue hue
- 4 — El (Superman's Krypton name)
- 5 Core
- 6 Entertainer Kitt
- 7 Second-longest river
- 8 Tatter

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Yesterday's answer

- 10 More promising
- 11 Primary
- 16 Distant sight
- 18 Bound
- 21 Muppet prawn
- 23 Scrutinize
- 24 South Dakota capital
- 25 Gary of "Sid and Nancy"
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DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE
NO. 05 2177980 FIRST FILING. The following
person(s) is (are) doing business as LC
Management INC, 1658 E. Ave J-4, Lancaster, CA.
The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Ebony
Solutions INC, Nevada, 245 E. Liberty St., Suite
200, Reno, NV, 89501 This Business is being
conducted by, a corporation. Signed: The registrant
commenced to transact business under the
fictitious business name or names listed on
(Date)9/8/2005. /s/: Ebony Solutions INC, Officer, J.
Chase

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of
LOS ANGELES County on 9/8/2005. NOTICE: THIS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES
FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS
BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED
PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement
does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a
fictitious business name statement in violation of
the rights of another under federal, state, or
common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business
and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY
PRESS to publish 10/5/2005, 10/12/2005,
10/19/2005, 10/26/2005

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* As of August 16, 2005
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in Santa Monica. (310) 588-6813

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DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE
NO. 05 2140227 FIRST FILING. The following
person(s) is (are) doing business as Green Days,
1711 Stoner Ave., #3, Los Angeles, CA 90025.
The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Hamid Nossrat,
1711 Stoner Ave., #3, Los Angeles, CA 90025,
Majid Sadr, 4543 W. 173rd St., #5, Lawndale, CA
90260 This Business is being conducted by, a
general partnership. Signed: Registrant has not yet
begun to transact business under the fictitious
name or names listed herein. /s/: Hamid Nossrat,
Majid Sadr
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of
LOS ANGELES County on 9/06/05. NOTICE: THIS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES
FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS
BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED
PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement
does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a
fictitious business name statement in violation of
the rights of another under federal, state, or
common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business
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PRESS to publish 10/5/2005, 10/12/2005,
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* As of August 16, 2005

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