

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues



DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

2 25 33 39 44

Megamember: 11

Jackpot: \$11 Million

FANTASY 5

1 8 10 30 38

DAILY 3

Daytime: 7 3 2

Evening: 1 2 2

DAILY DERBY

1st: 11 Money Bags

2nd: 04 Big Ben

3rd: 07 Eureka!

RACE TIME: 1:48.17

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

In September, nine-year veteran weathercaster Scott Stevens of KPVI-TV in Pocatello, Idaho, resigned to pursue his obsession of proving that the massiveness of Hurricane Katrina must have been caused by a Russian-made electromagnetic generator employed by the Japanese Yakuza in retaliation for the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. The "patterns and odd geometric shapes" in the sky are "unmistakable" evidence, according to his Web site, that "our weather has been stolen from us." Station manager Bill Fouch said that Stevens was great at forecasting local conditions and that he was sorry to lose him.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 286th day of 2005.
There are 79 days left in the year.

On Oct. 13, 1792, the cornerstone of the executive mansion, later known as the White House, was laid during a ceremony in the District of Columbia. In 1944, American troops entered Aachen, Germany. In 1960, Richard M. Nixon and John F. Kennedy participated in the third televised debate of their presidential campaign.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Nobody holds a good opinion of a man who has a low opinion of himself."

ANTHONY TROLLOPE
ENGLISH AUTHOR (1815-1882)

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Council making builders take hike

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — Some developer fees have been quadrupled in order to provide buyers and renters alike with more affordable housing, but not without a fight from some elected officials concerned about the economic impact on the city.

The Santa Monica City Council approved an amendment (4-3) on Tuesday which significantly raises developer "in lieu" fees.

Tuesday's debate, which lasted an hour, follows a July meeting in which the six councilmembers present couldn't come to a consensus on what the economic impact might be for the fee increase. As a result of that stalemate, there was neither a financial analysis of the impact to developers, as requested by some councilmembers, nor an immediate decision to raise the fees, as desired by others.

The new fees will likely affect those projects which have just begun the application process with the city's planning department, staff said.

Those in support of further financial analysis of the amendment back in July were Councilmen Bob Holbrook, Herb Katz and Bobby Shriver, while Councilmen Richard Bloom and Ken Genser, and Mayor Pam O'Connor favored putting the new fee structure in place immediately. City Councilman Kevin McKeown, not present at the July meeting, spilled the vote for the majority on Tuesday, supporting the increases.

Both sides made their points. Holbrook said he wanted the financial study done because he feared the added fees would ultimately be passed down to the renter or buyer.

See DEVELOPER FEES, page 10

Dunn and done



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Samohi sophomore running back John Dunn gallops for a touchdown against Inglewood High School on Wednesday. The Vikings stymied their visitors all afternoon in claiming an 18-0 win.

LOCAL

Fluoridation causes smiles ... and scowls

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — An additive to the city's water supply proponents say will help poor kids keep their teeth healthy will also soon serve Santa Monica's wealthiest population, many of whom may not need or want the government's dental treatment.

The installation of a facility that will pump fluoride into the city's water supply was set for a nod of approval Tuesday night from the Santa Monica City Council, with no expected public discussion. Instead, several impassioned residents on both sides of the fluoride fence showed up at the City Council meeting to support and suppress the new program.

The facility was approved 5-2 after nearly an hour of public testimony.

The issue came up because

See FLUORIDE, page 12

Merchants go coast-to-coast, raise \$10K for Gulf region

BY JASMIN PERSCH

Special to the Daily Press

MONTANA AVENUE — Area merchants have gotten swept up in the charitable spirit following Hurricane Katrina, with businesses here raising \$10,000 through fundraising efforts aimed at helping the victims of the ravaged Gulf region.

Money raised through a mass drawing and series of silent auctions will go to the American Red Cross and Habitat for Humanity, according to Jane Walker, chairwoman of the Montana Merchants Association.

More than 70 businesses, the majority of which are Montana Avenue stores, took part, donating gifts and certificates valued at \$100 or more apiece. Tickets sold along Montana Avenue and in stores netted approximately \$7,000.

Santa Monica Police Sgt. Rudy Camarena on Wednesday hand-

See COAST-TO-COAST, page 10



Jasmin Persch/Daily Press

Santa Monica Police Sgt. Rudy Camarena on Wednesday pulls names for a drawing that raised \$7,000 for hurricane relief efforts. Montana Avenue merchants donated items valued at \$100 or more for the drawing.



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Bon voyage, Matty

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)
★★★★ Your morning provides the best opportunity to deal with others and to get calls returned. By the afternoon, the instinct to hide away takes over. You cannot fight the inevitable. Go with your inner needs. If you close your door, you'll get a lot done. Tonight: Get some extra sleep.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Bosses ask for this and that. Those you look up to or have to answer to make requests. Use the morning to fulfill these calls for help. A meeting or a get-together proves to be successful this afternoon. Tonight: Could a business meeting turn into an after-work get-together?



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You cannot expect others to see eye to eye with you. Remember, everyone has different life experiences. If you want to proceed, you must take the lead. Others might follow then. Your ingenuity marks conversations. Tonight: It could be a late night.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ A partner or associate tosses in a lot of insight. Be polite. Listen and don't negate this person's thoughts. Just the same, find other views and possibilities. You could be delighted with what comes up. Tonight: Seek out yet more opinions.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Others want you to hear them loud and clear. On some level, you might feel bombarded. Try to keep talks and communication to one person at a time. You will be much happier, and ultimately so will they. Tonight: Go along with another person's plans.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Buy a lottery ticket when you are out and about this morning. If you haven't completed this errand by noon, forget it. You have a strong sixth sense about a small money risk. This afternoon, others want you and only you. Make yourself available. Tonight: The only answer to an invitation is yes.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Realize that eventually even you might need to buckle down at work or on a project. An escapist tendency might have marked the past few days. Responsibilities call. You must respond if you are going to keep your life running in fifth gear. Tonight: Bring extra work home.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Deal with a personal matter as best you can. You will want to allow your creativity to help you sleuth through a problem. If need be, get feedback from someone you consider creative. Tonight: Starting the weekend early?



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Listen to news, but still check out the facts and details. Someone might not necessarily lie to you, but this person has a different perspective on a situation. Mull over your decisions and ideas. Tonight: Keep it quiet.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You still might be questioning an investment or your finances. To get the right answers, you might need to find an expert, not just a friend or associate. Return calls in between hunting down more info. Tonight: Share with your best friend.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Knowing when to stop pushing so hard for what you want could be instrumental today. You might want to pull back midday and handle a personal matter or do some shopping. Enjoy. Tonight: You buy.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You might have a difficult time getting going, but once you do, you are close to unstoppable. You have the energy this afternoon to make up for lost time. Catch up on a friend's news later. Tonight: What is your pleasure?



AUDIT PENDING

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Bundy campus plans on public display

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica College will hold a meeting next week to present its Bundy Campus project and solicit public comments on potential environmental impacts that might occur as a result.

The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 17 in the SMC Bundy Campus community room, 3171 S. Bundy Dr., Los Angeles. Parking is free.

An environmental impact report is required for the Bundy Campus Master Plan, which the college is currently in the process of developing.

The satellite campus at Santa Monica Airport is a 10.4-acre site that the college purchased from BAE Systems in December 2001 for \$30 million. A number of site improvements — including the removal of a 100,000-square-foot building, a new sound wall and landscaping — were completed in 2004 following a series of meetings with nearby neighbors in an effort to develop consensus. A 64,000-square-foot building was renovated and was opened in July. The new, stand-alone campus houses SMC's nursing and teacher training programs, and community and continuing education. Several general education courses also are being offered at the site.

SMC spent more than \$1 million to improve the airport campus aesthetically and to shield adjacent residents from noise. It has put utilities underground, built a sound wall with landscaping on the south and west sides of the property, demolished a 100,000-square-foot manufacturing building, and added a new driveway from Bundy Drive. The college also has closed to traffic the rear entrance to the campus, on Stewart Avenue, which goes through a residential area.

The college has held meetings with college departments, community members and neighbors over the past year, seeking input and listening to concerns. The proposed master plan is a result of that input.

For information, call (310) 434-4209.

Forget the icon, trash your computer for real

By Daily Press staff

Got E-Waste?

Each year in California hundreds of thousands of computers, monitors, copiers, fax machines, printers, televisions and other electronic items become obsolete in the eyes of consumers. Rapid advances in technology and expanding demand for new features accelerate the generation of old electronic equipment, otherwise known as "E-Waste."

Most electronic devices contain a variety of materials, including metals that can be recovered and used again. In addition, some electronic products contain enough levels of certain materials that render them hazardous disposal waste. California law designates discarded televisions and monitors as hazardous. Hazardous wastes can't be disposed with municipal trash.

Some researchers estimate that up to 75 percent of "old" electronics are in storage because people don't know what to do with them. But the city of Santa Monica's solid waste management division does. It will be conducting a free dump day.

On Saturday, Oct. 15, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., city workers will take residents' E-Waste at the city yards, 2500 Michigan Ave.

This is an opportunity to clear storage space of that "old," outdated, technologically deficient E-Waste that you have been holding onto for so long. For questions or further information, call the solid waste management division at (310) 458-8546. For those residents with disabilities, call (310) 458-8596 for a form to request a special pick-up.



SURF REPORT

With most south-facing breaks seeing chest-high sets, west-facing breaks are running waist to chest. 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:

65°

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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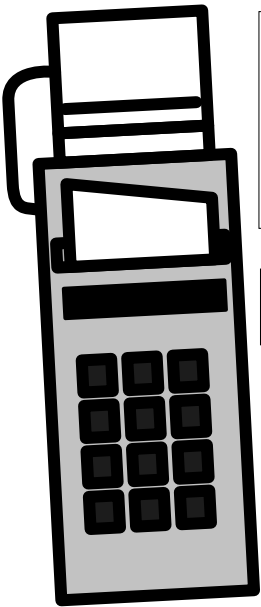
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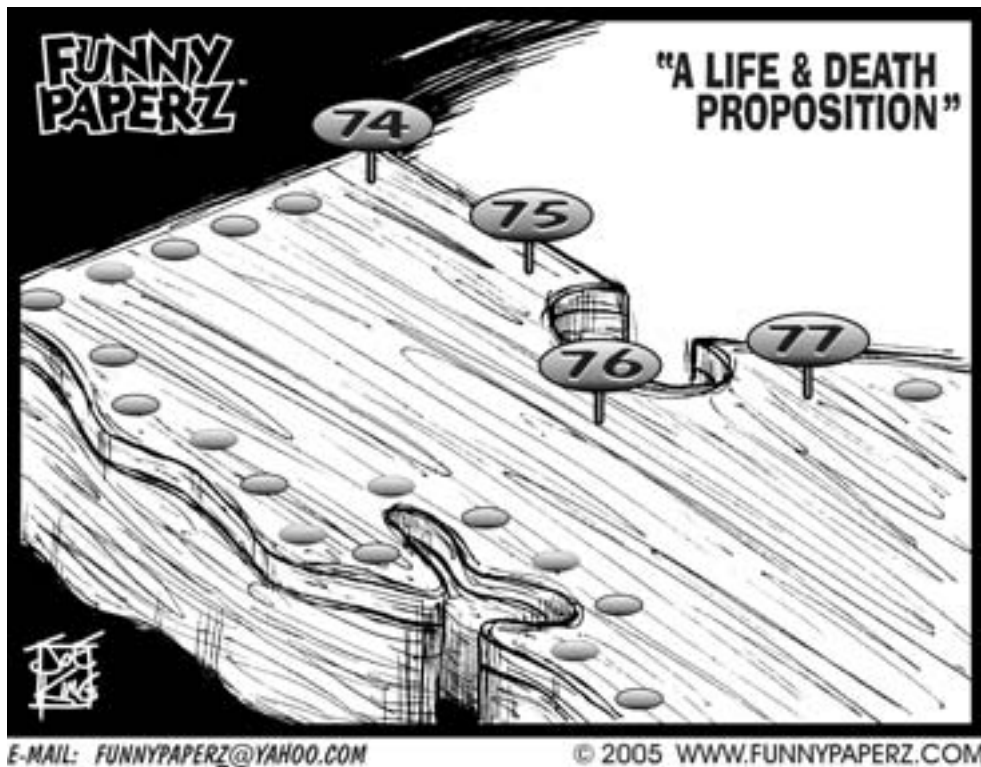
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OPINION



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Objectivism or Nazism?

Editor:

Ayn Rand Institute's column on Columbus (SMDP, Oct. 7, page 5) sounds like the insanity of Adolph Hitler proclaiming the Third Reich the highest level of civilization.

Jeremy Wells
Santa Monica

Low-income housing is criminal

Editor:

Another shooting at a Community Corp. of Santa Monica low-income housing project on 16th Street near Broadway on Oct. 6 validates the Housing and Urban Development Study "In the Crossfire." That study conducted during the Clinton Administration concluded that 1) there is a strong correlation between low-income residents and crime, and 2) residents and neighbors of low-income housing projects are twice as likely to be victims of gun violence verses residents who do not live near low-income housing projects. The city gave millions of dollars to Community Corp., which saturated the Pico Neighborhood with low-income housing. History reflects nearly every shooting in the Pico Neighborhood is adjacent to a low-income housing project.

The police reported one of the victims in the 16th Street shooting is a Los Angeles gang member. In light of all the shootings Community Corp.'s tenant screening and leasing practices should be subject to greater scrutiny by the residents of Santa Monica. Community Corp. denies residency to applicants who have filed for bankruptcy recently, but rents to drug dealers, alien smugglers, registered sex offenders and gang members.

Community Corp. is developing high-density, low-income housing projects at 26th Street and Santa Monica Boulevard, 15th Street and Broadway, and Centinela Avenue and Pearl Street. They will be demolishing Shakey's restaurant on Santa Monica Boulevard for a high-density, low-income housing project.

According to Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District board member Oscar de la Torre, the city's saturation program was done to intentionally segregate minority residents in the Pico Neighborhood. HUD will be forcing the city to end their segregationist practices by requiring the city to develop the low-income housing north of Wilshire and south of Pico boulevards.

If you live near one of these projects you might want to ask your council member why millions of dollars of your tax money is being given to Community Corp. so they can rent to people who don't live in Santa Monica, and who have criminal records.

Mathew Millen
Santa Monica

GUEST COMMENTARY BY THOMAS M. SIPOS

Don't blame Satan this Halloween

On Dec. 7, 1982, Richard Delmer Boyer of El Monte murdered an elderly Fullerton couple, stabbing Francis Harbitz 24 times and his wife, Aileen, 19 times. During the trial, Boyer blamed his actions on drugs and horror films. Apart from consuming whiskey, speed, marijuana and cocaine on the day of the murders, he said that while visiting the Boyers (his employers), he'd experienced an LSD flashback of "Halloween 2," rendering him unable to distinguish between reality and the slasher film. Boyer was convicted in 1984 and again in 1992 (the first conviction having been overturned on appeal).

Boyer's excuse follows a long tradition of blaming the media in court. In 1928, Robert Williams killed his maid, saying he'd been possessed by a vision of horror by actor Lon Chaney from "London After Midnight." More recently, after the 1999 Columbine massacre, victims' families sued Time Warner, Palm Pictures and 11 videogame makers, accusing "The Basketball Diaries" and the videogames "Doom," "Duke Nukem" and "Redneck Rampage" of contributing to Harris and Klebold's school shootings. "The Basketball Diaries," the videogames "Quake," "Doom" and "Castle Wolfenstein," and porn Web sites also were blamed for a less famous 1997 school shooting by gunman Michael Carneal.

Blaming the media rarely works in court, largely due to our First Amendment. Yet blaming Hollywood is no less rational than other "devil made me do it" defenses, whether the devil takes the form of drugs, guns, or psychological "syndromes." It's not that the devil in question hasn't influenced or facilitated the violent crime. It's that ... so what?

Media — like drugs and guns and cars and much else — can kill. Advertisers spend tens of billions yearly thinking that their 30-second ads will influence our behavior. Activists present media awards for positive plugs. Minority groups monitor the media to discourage negative portrayals of their constituents. Clearly, everyone believes that media influences behavior, so it's disingenuous whenever some media executive or star whines, "Hey, if you don't like it, just change the channel." They only believe that until it's their pet group that's being gored.

The issue is not whether media affects behavior (of course it does), the issue is liberty. And that includes the freedom to consume whatever media — and ingest whatever drugs, and possess whatever firearms — one wishes. The flip side is responsibly. Rapists and murderers shall not be permitted to blame porn sites or slasher films or guns or

psychological "syndromes" for their violent crimes — even if drugs were involved. You don't ban horror films just because Boyer thought he was reenacting "Halloween 2." Nor do you ban cars just because Texas housewife Clara Harris intentionally ran down and killed her husband. Nor do you ban drugs or guns just because some individuals misuse them.

Sure, Rosie O'Donnell may disagree. She's said that if banning guns "saves even one life" it'd be worth it. Yet banning all cars (emergency vehicles excepted) would result in vastly more lives saved — but at what cost to liberty?

Unfortunately, Americans increasingly shun responsibility. They demand freedom, but when they misuse their freedoms they're quick to blame drugs (legal and illegal), guns, postpartum depression (Andrea Yates' excuse for murdering her children), videogames, porn sites, slasher films, Adopted Child Syndrome, Chronic Lateness Syndrome, UFO Survivor Syndrome (I'm not making those up; visit <http://faculty.ncwc.edu/toconnor/405/405lect02.htm> for dozens of "syndromes" used in American courtrooms so far). Anything to evade blame.

Victims and their families often oblige criminals' ridiculous excuses, seeking the deeper pockets in the ensuing lawsuits. Lawyers and therapists likewise support this nonsense, the latter earning money as "expert witnesses" and scribblers of the next trend in psychobabble books. Worst of all, government is quick to intervene, eroding our freedoms in order to ban or regulate something else for the "safety of the children."

Do you wish to be free? Or do you just like the way it sounds when politicians say "freedom?" Because if we are to preserve our liberty, if we are to prevent government from transforming our society into a padded playpen for adults, where bad things are confiscated by the teacher but no child is punished for being bad, then we must demand that everyone take responsibility for their actions.

If the devil is omnipresent, if people are weak and prone to syndromes and easily forced by Satan to do bad things, then it follows that the state must be likewise omnipresent to protect us weak mortals. Conversely, free people can be trusted with grown-up things, like drugs and guns and explicit lyrics, because they control their own demons.

(Thomas M. Sipos is a Santa Monica-based author and vice chair of the LA Westside region of the California Libertarian Party. www.Sipos.org.)

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...write a letter to the editor

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Santa Monica Daily Press

OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to editor@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite 202, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

STATE



Charter members thrive in inner-cities

BY JULIET WILLIAMS

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — Michelle Evans was tired of being told to accept that her neighborhood middle school in downtown San Diego was a perpetual low-performer.

If she wanted higher standards for her children, she was told, she could send them elsewhere. A dissatisfied Evans marshaled other frustrated parents in a petition drive to change that. Gompers Middle School reopened this fall with a new name — Gompers Charter Middle School — and a new goal: getting its predominantly black student population into college.

"I don't believe that our children should have to get on the bus at 5 o'clock in the morning to get a decent education at another school. They should be able to walk down the street to their neighborhood school," Evans said. "They should know that we have quality teachers, top-notch teachers, right here."

Gompers, where Evans' 14-year-old daughter Aisha is a ninth-grader this year, is part of a growing trend of specialty schools that shun many of the traditional public school models. Such schools are moving increasingly into inner cities, beyond the suburbs where they first gained prominence.

The California Charter Schools Association said Tuesday that one in 20 public schools in the state is now a charter school. The growth is fastest in typically underperforming urban areas. Nearly half of the 84 new charters that opened this year were in the Los Angeles Unified, San Diego Unified and Oakland Unified school districts.

"We're seeing a real shift to the inner city. It's tending to be where the non-charter public schools are having real difficulty, places where the traditional public schools just haven't been able to meet the needs of the kids," said Caprice Young, the association's chief executive.

In south Los Angeles, Michael Piscal is trying to change the culture of education. He doesn't want educators to make excuses for failing schools, but rather strive for success. Piscal was teaching some of Hollywood's wealthiest families at a private school when he founded View Park Preparatory Charter School in one of Los Angeles' poorest neighborhoods.

He applied the private school's rigorous curriculum and comprehensive writing program to his new school, which proved so popular with parents that it led to a middle school and a high school. Enrollment has ballooned to 900 students, 98 percent of whom are black, with a waiting list of more than 3,000 this year.

"You set a standard and ask the kids and the parents to meet it," he said. "It might take us two years to catch up, but

we are not going to lower the bar."

View Park students now exceed their Los Angeles peers of all races on standardized tests, Piscal said. Teachers teach to the top quarter of the class, and some students need daily tutoring.

Charter schools typically offer smaller class sizes with more personalized instruction and specialty programs. Many have strict disciplinary standards — and a waiting list.

California's charter school law, approved in 1992, allows public funding for charter schools, which pay a small percentage of their state revenue to the district as an oversight fee. Charter schools were established without as many state regulations, in the hope that greater flexibility would lead to improved academics.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger also said he supports charter schools, and the state has cut back on the red tape for charters to open up. But monitoring has become more intensive since a high-profile scandal in which the operator of four charter schools was accused of mispending public money.

"We hold our charter schools to the same high standards we hold our non-charters to. They are part of our same accountability system," Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell said. "The charter schools are part of our public school family. Many have provided a very innovative and creative system of education for students."

Young, of the charter schools group, said the charter effort in urban neighborhoods may be the next social-justice movement, a way for poor black and Hispanic students to get an education that more closely matches that of their peers from wealthier neighborhoods.

Eighty-four new public charter schools opened in California this fall. Attendance is about 212,000 students statewide, 3 percent of the state's total kindergarten through 12th-grade enrollment.

"Their mission statements tell us that education is a right for every child," Young said. "Communities have a responsibility to provide adequate and high quality education, regardless of whether or not the government is going to provide that."

Evans said the trend toward improving public schools in urban neighborhoods is long overdue, particularly because blacks and Hispanics are under-represented in high-level professional posts in corporate America. Gompers' 800 students now wear uniforms, and all teaching positions were filled at the start of the year — unlike last year, when 18 of the jobs were vacant.

"Last year, there was a culture of survival. This year, all the teachers that are at Gompers are there because they want to be there, not because they were placed there," she said.

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STATE

STATE BRIEFS

Sexual violence 101: Athletes get new course of study

By The Associated Press

RIVERSIDE, Calif. — Male high school athletes are getting lessons aimed at preventing sexual violence.

Football players at John W. North High School, taught to use physical prowess to overpower opponents, are taking part in an experiment designed to help them control use of their strength off the playing field. North is one of six California high schools participating.

The My Strength is Not for Hurting campaign represents a unique approach to rape prevention because it is aimed at boys 14 to 18.

Schools form Men of Strength Clubs that meet once a week to talk about character, respect and masculinity.

Educators invite football team members because they are considered campus leaders.

“Rape has always been treated as a woman’s issue,” said Robert Coombs, spokesman for the California Coalition Against Sexual Assault, which received money from the California Department of Health Services to launch the campaign.

Coombs noted women are taught to take responsibility for protecting themselves by learning self-defense moves and limiting their alcohol consumption.

“Not one of those things imply that men should not be committing rape,” he said.

“In some ways, it’s a new shift in our approach.”

North is working with the Riverside Area Rape Crisis Center, which received \$20,000 from the coalition.

Jury recommends death penalty

By The Associated Press

RIVERSIDE, Calif. — Jurors recommended death for man convicted of murdering an elderly woman and the torture, rape and attempted murder of another.

Bailey Lamar Jackson, 34, was convicted in December 2004 on all charges and the special circumstances that made him eligible for the death penalty. But those jurors deadlocked during the penalty phase and there was a mistrial in that portion of the case.

Another jury was selected for the second penalty phase and that panel returned the death penalty verdict on Tuesday. Superior Court Judge Patrick F. Magers will sentence him on Nov. 8.

Riverside resident Geraldine Myers, 81, disappeared on May 13, 2001, and her body was never found. Forty days later, in the same neighborhood, a second elderly woman was attacked. The 84-year-old woman was tortured, raped, robbed and left for dead.

The woman telephoned police and a bloodhound led a handler to a trash container a few houses away. Police discovered the victim’s purse inside the container near the house where Jackson lived.

Wildfire’s effects should be fleeting

By The Associated Press

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. — Biologists said a 23,970-acre wildfire two weeks ago at the border of Ventura and Los Angeles counties did little long-term damage to the ecosystem sandwiched between hillside housing developments.

“This is a part of a cycle and a process,” said Woody Smeck, superintendent of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. “In time what was burned will rejuvenate and re-sprout.”

About two-thirds of the burn area was in public parklands that boast an abundant wildlife population, including bobcats, coyotes, rattlesnakes and red-legged frogs. But officials said the long-term effects of the fire were small.

“It’s going to be a beautiful park, but a different park,” National Parks Service spokesman Charles Taylor said.

Though a number of reptiles and small mammals were sure to have died in the blaze, initial surveys have found that no large mammals died.

“It is very much the natural cycle of the shrub land,” Smeck said.

Some plants require the heat of fire in order for seeds to open while others exploit areas denuded by fire to spread their seeds.

Heroin dealer picked a bad spot

By The Associated Press

LONG BEACH, Calif. — A man arrested for allegedly dealing heroin steps away from Franklin Middle School was charged with felony counts that could lead to life in prison if he’s convicted under California’s three-strikes law.

Larry Martinez, 52, was charged Tuesday with possession of drugs for sale and selling narcotics within 1,000 feet of a school.

A conviction could result in his third strike, which means a sentence of 25 years to life behind bars, authorities said.

Martinez was arrested Oct. 6 at the corner of Seventh Street and Cerritos Avenue as children rushed to school.

“It was 7:45 a.m. The streets were jammed with kids,” Sgt. Paul LeBaron said. “That corner is the main crosswalk for the kids crossing Seventh to get to school. When we came out to detain him, we had to step around the kids right in the path of what he was doing.”

Several bundles of tar heroin and hypodermic needles were allegedly found in Martinez’s jacket.

STATE



Flight of the condor could soon be seen in San Diego County

By The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — California condors haven't been seen in the San Diego County skies for nearly a century, but scientists say that may soon change as condors released in Mexico approach the U.S. border.

Since June, several condors led by No. 261, a mature male, have made exploratory flights north from Baja California. A Global Positioning System monitor on No. 261's wings show he came within 15 miles of the U.S.-Mexico border.

Researchers expect the birds to cross the border in the next few months, much sooner than expected.

"I thought it would be several years from now," said Mike Wallace, a team leader with the California Condor Recovery Program.

The condor is North America's biggest bird, with wingspans up to 9 feet. It could once be found from coast to coast, but hunting, pesticides and development drove the birds to the brink of extinction. The last documented sighting of a free-flying condor in San Diego was in 1910. The birds disappeared from Baja California in 1937.

The Zoological Society of San Diego began introducing the birds back into Baja California's Sierra San Pedro de Martir National Park three years ago. Eleven condors are exploring the mountain ridge that leads them toward the U.S.-Mexico border.

The goal of the program is to have condors released in Central California meet up with the population living in Mexico. To date, the 40-50 birds released in Central California have flown as far south as the San Bernardino Mountains.

Court won't fight for 'Tookie'

BY DAVID KRAVETS

AP Legal Affairs Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — The Supreme Court refused Tuesday to take the case of California death row inmate Stanley "Tookie" Williams, a founder of the Crips street gang whose later work for peace won him Nobel Peace Prize nominations.

Williams, who has been praised for his children's books and efforts to curtail youth gang violence, likely will be executed in December if Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger does not grant clemency. The 51-year-old former gang member claims Los Angeles County prosecutors violated his rights when they dismissed all potential black jurors.

Williams, who claims he is innocent, is in line to be one of three California condemned inmates to be executed within months. He was condemned for killing four people in 1981 and claims jailhouse informants fabricated testimony that he confessed to the murders.

"We feel very strongly that this is an appropriate case for clemency because of what Stan has accomplished," said Andrea Asaro, one of Williams' attorneys.

While in San Quentin State Prison, Williams has been nominated five times for a Nobel Peace Prize and four times for the Nobel Prize for literature for his series of children's books and international peace efforts intended to curtail youth gang violence.

His case reached the justices following a February decision by the San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. That court, as did the Supreme Court, refused to grant Williams another hearing based on his argument that prosecutors violated his rights when they dismissed all potential black jurors from hearing the case.

The San Francisco appellate court had suggested he was a good candidate for clemency. The judges cited the children's books he has written from prison, in addition to messages of peace he posts on the Internet.

The California Criminal Justice Legal Foundation is urging against clemency, and no California governor has granted clemency to a condemned murderer since Ronald Reagan spared the life of a severely brain-damaged killer in 1967.

"Perhaps now he will finally get the punishment that a jury unanimously agreed he deserved," said the group's president, Michael Rushford.

Schwarzenegger has rejected clemency for the first two condemned men asking to commute their sentences to life without parole. In Schwarzenegger's latest rejection in January, he said an inmate's model behavior in prison was not enough to sway him to grant mercy. That inmate, Donald Beardslee, was executed days later.

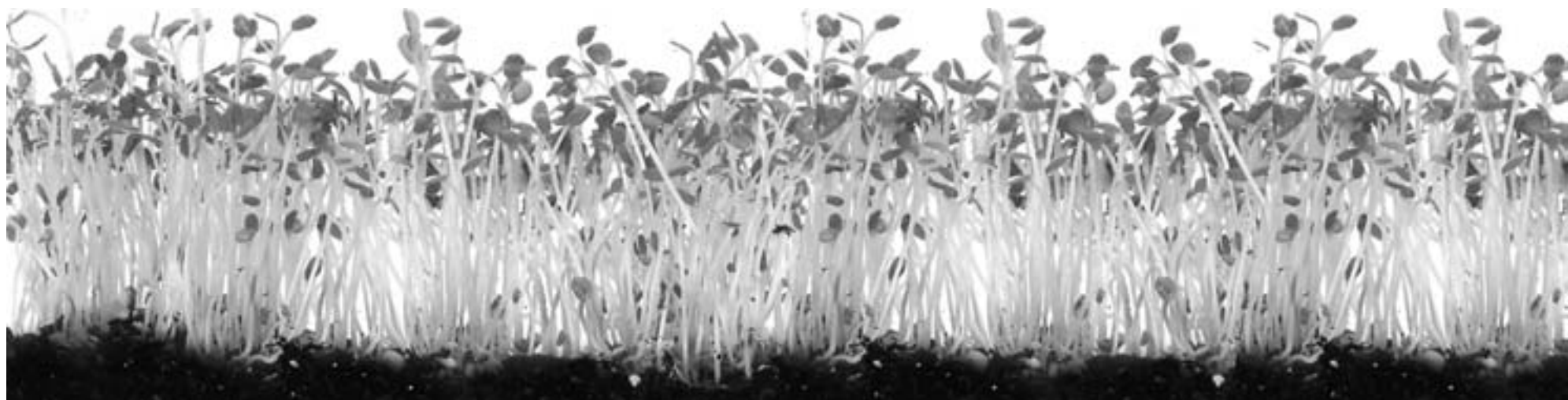
Williams and a high school buddy, Raymond Washington, started the Crips street gang in Los Angeles in 1971.

Williams was sentenced to death in 1981 for fatally shooting Albert Owens, a Whittier convenience store worker. He also was convicted of using a shotgun a few days later to kill two Los Angeles motel owners and their daughter during a robbery.

Last year, "Redemption: The Stan Tookie Williams Story" aired on television, prompting thousands of e-mail messages to Williams from young gang members who said his life story helped them turn their lives around.

"Today is a shameful day in the history of American jurisprudence," said Barbara Becnel, a Williams confidant who edited Williams' nine children's books. "Today the U.S. Supreme Court has said in its ruling essentially that it is OK for a white prosecutor to kick all of the African Americans off of a jury."

The justices, meanwhile, on Tuesday also set aside legal challenges from California condemned inmate Michael Morales, now 45, who raped and killed a 17-year-old Lodi girl whose body was found beaten and stabbed in a nearby vineyard 24 years ago. Authorities are seeking a February execution for Morales.



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Business

SANTA MONICA BUSINESS BRIEFS

Local woman plugged in at Edison

By Daily Press staff

Edison International has announced that Santa Monica resident Barbara Mathews, vice president and associate general counsel for Edison International and Southern California Edison, has been named both companies' first chief governance officer, as well as corporate secretary.

The new governance position will centralize key aspects of corporate oversight including responsibility for corporate and securities legal compliance.

"During Barbara's tenure at Edison she has repeatedly demonstrated outstanding leadership in the areas of corporate accountability and compliance," said Edison International Chairman John Bryson. "She will make an excellent addition to our senior management team."

Mathews joined Edison's law department in 1996 as an assistant general counsel. Previously, she was a partner in the law firm of Arnold & Porter, serving in the Los Angeles, Denver and Washington, D.C. offices. She began her legal career as a law clerk for the Helen J. Frye, U.S. District Court judge for the district of Oregon.

A member of the board of directors of the National Organization of Parents of Blind Children and the Special Education District Advisory Committee for the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, Mathews received a B.A. in political science from Colorado College and a J.D. from Catholic University Law School.

Mathews lives in Santa Monica with her husband and two children.

Based in Rosemead, Calif., Edison International is the parent company of Southern California Edison, Edison Mission Energy, and Edison Capital.

Children's art suitable for framing

By Daily Press staff

In honor of rising Picassos everywhere, Jewel Box Frames is offering a 20 percent discount on all custom framing of children's art throughout October.

"We hope to inspire parents to honor, acknowledge and encourage their children's artistic talent and vivid imagination now, before they rush to grow up and leave their childhood in boxes and pursue more 'traditional' skills," expresses Deborah Lotz, storeowner, master framer and mother.

Jewel Box has provided a few tips and ideas to keep in mind when framing and preserving children's art:

- Treat your rising Picasso's art as a gallery would and use museum-style framing and matting. This will give the piece a minimalist/contemporary look, which works especially well with abstract art.

- For a dramatic look use a large, bold frame; or for a playful piece, use whimsical molding and/or colorful matting. However, if you want the art to remain the focal point use neutral, simple molding and matting.

- It's always a good idea, especially if the piece is going into a kid's room, to use Plexiglas instead of regular glass as it will help protect your little ones, and their artwork, should it ever fall.

- For the special keepsakes think about using UV glass as it will help preserve the color and integrity of the piece over the years.

- If you wish to display more than one piece (and don't want a bunch of holes in the wall) use a photo rail or frame a corkboard. This allows you to display many pieces in one place and also gives you a simple way to change the art as new pieces come in.

Jewel Box Frames, located at 3100 Wilshire Blvd., is a sister company to Jewel Box Platinum Inc., a multifaceted company that provides residential and corporate framing for the entertainment and music industries, restaurants, hotels, galleries, artists and interior designers.

In for a fall? American empire pushing limits



THE WEEKLY RECKONING

BY BILL BONNER

The Canadian ambassador says the Bush administration is "dysfunctional."

And in a recent International Herald Tribune, columnist Bob Herbert says the war in Iraq is both un-winnable and deplorable. "Brave troops died for the mindless fantasies spun by a gang of dissembling, inept politicians," he writes.

Here at The Weekly Reckoning, even from the get-go, we thought the war in Iraq would turn into a mess. What we didn't realize was that it was supposed to be a mess.

"Fish gotta swim," we told our audience in London on Friday.

We gave a speech to the World Money Show group and described our view of the big picture.

Birds gotta fly. Dogs gotta bark. What do empires gotta do?

The answer came from a surprising source last night. We were reading a recent biography of one of the world's greatest empire builders, Genghis Khan.

There is one thing all empires must do, the book tells us: Expand. We tried to think of a counter example; except for the very odd case of the Austro-Hungarian Empire ... we could think of none. A nation-state has more or less fixed borders. Italy is Italy. Bulgaria is Bulgaria. The nation-state maintains an army to protect its borders. It does not, normally, seek to conquer neighboring states. It does not, normally, maintain foreign colonies, lackey governments in foreign countries, or vassal states and territories.

Empires expand ... or contract ... because that is what makes them empires. If they minded their own business and stayed within their own borders, they would not be empires. And once they take it upon themselves to have a 'homeland' as well as overseas possessions, territories and tributaries there is no natural limit. It is as though they had become an aggressive virus that spreads throughout the population — as far as it can go — and then goes away.

The other thing an empire must do is go broke. We read in the paper that spending under George W. Bush has increased more than under any president since Lyndon Johnson. Bush is a "Big Government conservative," which is to say, he manages to combine the worst elements of two appalling creeds — military adventures overseas with bread and circuses at home.

But we're not complaining. A true empire cannot help itself. It must engage in such extravagant "imperial overstretch" that it can no longer pay the costs. Even the primitive Mongol empire had to reward its troops and pay its administrators. It did so by stealing the wealth of conquered peoples and demanding tribute

from them. This forced the Mongols to undertake ever more distant and more ambitious campaigns — because they had already robbed the cities under their control.

The Anglo-Saxon empire is a commercial enterprise, rather than a larcenous one. The Romans had their armies and engineers as the source of their hegemonic power. The Mongols had their horses and bowmen. The Anglo-Saxons had factories — originally, those in England and New England. But every imperial advantage is eventually dulled, worn out, emulated or rendered obsolete. Eventually, the empire expands until reaches beyond its limits. Then, it either goes broke, is defeated, or both.

The Anglo-Saxon industrial advantage exhausted itself first in England and then in America. England's economy reached its competitive peak before the end of the 19th century. Then, America took the lead, and was able to compete effectively for most of the next century, achieving a positive trade balance until the 1970s. It has been downhill since then, financed no longer by commerce, but by debt. American men earn hardly a penny more, in real terms, per hour, than they did in 1971. They feel richer, but only because they owe more, work longer hours, and put their wives to work.

America still has the world's reserve currency. It can sell U.S. Treasury bonds to finance its imperial expenses, with the Fed holding rates conveniently low. The result of such easy credit has been a sharp increase in asset prices all over the world. Stocks all over Europe are rising strongly. Natural gas is hitting new records. Oil has risen seven times since 1997 — 17 percent in the last quarter alone. Unleaded gasoline rose 40 percent last quarter. And house prices in America — though no longer in Britain — continue to soar, with the average house in California selling for \$569,000.

A quarter of a century ago, you could have bought the typical house in California for 200 ounces of gold. Today, you will need 1,200 ounces.

The real question is not what is ahead — every empire must decline, along with the price of its assets — but when and how it happens. Already, we notice ominous portents. In 2003, the amount of U.S. Treasury bonds in foreign hands rose by \$175 billion. In 2004, the increase came to \$295 billion. But during the first seven months of 2005, only \$2 billion more has been added.

We do not know what will happen next, but we hope to enjoy the spectacle.

(For more insightful commentary and financial analysis, visit www.dailyreckoning.com.)



Promotions? Record sales? New hires? If your business has news to share, send press releases to editor@smdp.com

Get all loosey-goosey this week at wine fest

By Daily Press staff

The Loose Goose Wine Festival arrives in the Santa Clarita Valley today through the weekend, featuring renowned vineyards offering the finest in wine tasting encounters.

Located 35 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles, the suburban community provides the backdrop for a gathering of 100 vineyards and up to 50 luxury-related vendors.

Considered to be the gateway to the northern wine country, Santa Clarita connects the Los Angeles region, well regarded as the largest wine consuming market in the United States, with the quality vineyards to the north. Destined to become the premiere wine festival in the Los Angeles region, the four-day event offers guests an opportunity to sample what the world of wine has to offer today. An estimated 3,000-5,000 festival goers per day are expected to attend the main festival in Bridgeport Park, Valencia, Oct. 15-16.

"It's all about the wine," explains Peter Goossens, founder of The Loose Goose, LLC, a personal wine purveying and consulting company based in Santa Clarita. "The festival promises to provide a unique, first-of-its-kind experience for festival goers traveling to the region."

Captivating the senses, the four-day encounter opens Thursday evening, Oct. 13, with simultaneous four-course wine pairing dinners at featured restaurants throughout the Santa Clarita Valley: Le Chene French Cuisine, Mojito, Origami Bistro and Bar, Roast House Restaurant & Bar, Robinson Ranch Golf Club, Salt Creek Grille, The Social, and Wolf Creek Restaurant & Brewing Co.

Each venue features restaurant selections of culinary cuisine paired with wines from select vineyards or growing regions. Seating is limited; call the Loose Goose headquarters at (661) 799-WINE (9463) to inquire on availability. Tickets for the wine pairing dinners also may be purchased online at www.LooseGooseWineFestival.com.

On Friday, Oct. 14, the V.I.P. Golden Goose Gala reserve-tasting, black tie event presents wine, dinner and entertainment. Beginning at 7 p.m., the soiree spotlights a collection of vineyards bringing out the "best of the best" in wine offerings. The evening includes a presentation of gourmet cuisine prepared by RSVP Catering, designed to enhance featured wines and achieve food and wine pairing perfection. Less than 100 tickets remain available to the public; inquire at (661) 799-WINE for more information.

The main festival event on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 15-16, offers an exclusive mix of large, medium, and smaller up-and-coming vineyards exclusively hand-selected to participate by invitation only.

"The reason people come to the festival may be for the wine, but what they'll receive is so much more than what they may be expecting," Goossens said. "The first thing that will strike visitors upon entering the festival grounds is the visual horizon of color and grandeur."

The main festival event features an elaborate arrangement of canopied tents, thousands of yards of fabrics, and artfully landscaped facades transforming Bridgeport Park in Valencia into vineyard streets and vendor villages. Complete with walking paseos and lush grounds surrounded by rolling hillsides, the festival

grounds are designed to evoke the enchantment of old world European post harvest festivals.

In addition to choice wine selections for discerning enthusiasts, light fare prepared by RSVP Catering designed to complement the wine tasting experience will be available. Mini baguettes filled with savory meats and cheeses along with Artisan breads topped with delicious spreads and tapenades will tempt the taste buds. Exclusive to the Loose Goose Wine Festival, a climate-controlled champagne sampling tent will be available with the purchase of a ticket upgrade at the time of arrival.

On the main stage, live entertainment will be featured during the weekend event, along with artistic and interpretive performances appearing throughout the festival grounds. Rounding out the experience, a barrel maker featuring live demonstrations on the unique skill of barrel making will be in attendance. Distinguished artists along with spas, resorts, and a gathering of other luxury-related vendors will be on hand to complete the festival experience.

General festival admission includes wine tasting, complimentary food taste sampling, a commemorative wine glass, luxury program, and a chance to win a one-week stay in the ultra private seaside villa resort of Sanctuary Resort & Spa in Playa Azul, Costa Rica.

The winner of the villa stay give-away will enjoy living in luxurious style in a 5,000-square-foot, four-bedroom, four-bath villa complete with a full-time private housekeeper and concierge. Accommodations include ocean views, flagstone terrace for entertaining, complete kitchen and great room entertainment center.

The main festival on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 15-16, opens at 11 a.m. with wine tasting and festivities available until 4:30 p.m. Tickets are available online by visiting LooseGooseWineFestival.com or by calling (661) 799-WINE (9463.) General festival admission for a one-day festival pass is \$85; a two-day pass can be purchased for \$99 prior to the event. A \$25 champagne tent upgrade can be added at the time of arrival. Designated driver tickets are available at a discounted price and may be purchased at the door. All attendees must be age 21 or over for festival admittance.

For every festival ticket sold, \$10 benefits the Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Health Foundation. Products and services donated by participating vineyards and vendors will be featured in a silent auction, with 100 percent of net proceeds designated to the hospital foundation. The Brenda Mehling Cancer Fund also will receive a donation from the festival.

Complimentary shuttle buses run from participating hotels and the Loose Goose headquarters on Town Center Drive to the festival grounds every 20 or 30 minutes beginning at 10 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Parking adjacent to Bridgeport Park is available for \$5.

Bridgeport Park is located at 23520 Bridgeport Lane, Valencia, Calif. For more information, visit www.LooseGooseWineFestival.com.

The Loose Goose, LLC, personal wine purveyors and consultants, is headquartered in Santa Clarita. Founded in 2005, The Loose Goose provides personal wine tasting services and selection consulting to clients, both individual and corporate.

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SM families share in lieu trepidations

DEVELOPER FEES, from page 1

“This might not make housing for my children cheaper, but more expensive,” Holbrook said.

Keeping the discussion good-humored, Bloom said the fees weren’t driving the cost of housing, but an unfettered market place.

“The Bloom family shares the Holbrook family’s pain,” Bloom said. “But the fees aren’t going to change the marketplace. Competition is what’s driving rental prices today.

“It’s our responsibility to do what we can to build affordable housing.”

In May, a presentation indicated City Hall hasn’t kept promises made to voters that it would be consistent in the number of affordable housing units it produces over a 10-year stretch.

While Santa Monica, overall, has produced 2,208 units of affordable housing in the last seven and a half years — exceeding the surrounding region by 126 percent — City Hall has failed to be consistent in production, as promised to voters in Proposition R, according to information provided by Hamilton, Rabinovitz and Alschuler, the firm hired to help Santa Monica manage its affordable housing portfolio.

Proposition R — a measure approved in 1998 by Santa Monica voters requiring 30 percent of housing units constructed in the city each year to be affordable — has been met or exceeded five out of the last 10 years, according to HR&A. However, that rate of production has been declining steadily in the past few years, prompting elected officials to take action.

The City Council agreed in May that city staff should draft a resolution which would increase the in-lieu fee for apartment developments from \$6.14 per square foot, a rate established in 1998, to \$26.08 per square foot citywide, an increase of 300 percent. Condominium development fees, which were \$11.01 per square foot in 2000, would be doubled to \$22.33 per square foot citywide.

Jim Kemper, acting housing administrator at City Hall, said developer “in lieu” fees comprised approximately \$500,000

Chain male



Joe Peracta takes a swing on the rings along Santa Monica beach one recent afternoon.

of the \$12 million that went toward the affordable housing fund in Santa Monica last year. The vast majority of the affordable housing fund — \$9.2 million — came from re-development taxes accrued and distributed throughout Los Angeles County, which City Hall has no direct control of, Kemper said.

Kemper said it was difficult to speculate

what effect increases to in-lieu fees might have on development in Santa Monica and the affordable housing fund since the two factors are inter-related. He said the fees could contribute significantly to the affordable housing fund if development continues at the same pace or increases, but he said an adverse effect of slowing development was also a possible result.

Silent partners: Auctions garner \$3,000

COAST-TO-COAST, from page 1

picked the winning tickets. The 70 winners of the drawing were eligible to claim various prizes ranging from a \$1,500 tuxedo worn by Vairon Perez to a seat at the

Emmy Awards to a one-night stay in a room with a view at Hotel Oceana.

Silent auctions staged at about 35 different Montana Avenue stores on Sept. 8 garnered an additional \$3,000.

Shortly before Hurricane Katrina hit, the

association had decided to make a fundraiser one of its annual events, but postponed the plan one year due to a lack of time to organize, Walker said. Then the hurricane struck, prompting the association to put together the fundraiser at the last minute.

COUNCIL COUNTDOWN



The following is a summation of what went on in Santa Monica City Council chambers during the City Council’s Oct. 11 meeting, including a timeline, notable public comments and excerpts taken.

The Santa Monica City Council meeting began at 5:45 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance and role call.

5:50 p.m.: The council begins the meeting by pulling items on the consent calendar concerning the replacement of a water main, the Yale Street Improvement project, and the fluoridation of city water in the Northwest portion of the city, spurning debate among elected officials and the public.

7:34 p.m.: The council finishes the consent calendar and breaks for closed session to discuss legal and personnel matters.

8:37 p.m.: The council returns from closed session and the public portion of meeting resumes. For the sake of time management, the council re-evaluates the agenda and some topics of discussion, such as the composition of Convention and Bureau Board of Directors and code enforcement program priorities are bumped to a future meeting.

8:40 p.m.: There’s an update on the search for a new city manager along with an invitation for the public to advise the council on what qualities they would like to see in the city’s top administrator.

9:10 p.m.: An amendment to increase developer “in-lieu” fees in order to increase the amount of affordable housing is discussed and approved (4-3).

10:05 p.m.: Introduction and first reading of an ordinance to make modifications to development standards in Sunset Park and North of Wilshire neighborhoods.

10:20 p.m.: Introduction and first reading of an ordinance amending the city code related to sexually oriented businesses, followed up with an approved proposal to tighten the laws to make illicit massage parlors an opportunity to stay in business.

10:55 p.m.: Schematic designs to make pedestrian and street improvements on Second and Fourth streets are discussed and approved (6-1).

11:39 p.m.: Current vending cart operators ask the council questions about the new management company overseeing the Promenade’s cart program. The council sympathizes with the cart operators’ concerns and decides to extend the program for six weeks, as well as open up an investigation into the appropriateness of the new operation. The motion was approved (5-0).

1:05 a.m.: The public hears status on city’s new mentoring program with Bayou la Batre, a city in Louisiana devastated by Hurricane Katrina. The council wraps up the meeting by appointing new members to the Senior Community and Status of Women commissions. The council also looks into preparing an ordinance to require city grantees and contractors to offer employee benefits to registered domestic partners.

1:19 a.m.: The council heard public comment.

1:25 a.m.: The council adjourned the meeting.

BY THE NUMBERS

Time spent on the top three issues facing Santa Monicans based on city surveys:

Homelessness: 5 minutes
Traffic: 1 hour, 9 minutes
Parking: 15 minutes

Public comment: 2 hours and 46 minutes
City Council/staff discussion: 4 hours, 54 minutes

Time spent discussing:
Policy: 5 hours, 27 minutes
Land use: 2 hours, 45 minutes
Resident initiated concerns: 2 hours, 15 minutes



LET’S TALK CHIT

“Chits” (Public addressing City Council)

■ “The whole solution to every problem in the Universe is to charge more.”
— Joy Fuller
on increasing developer “in-lieu” fees to add affordable housing.

QUOTE OF NOTE

“The concept of ‘free money’ damaged the Democratic Party.”
— Councilman Bobby Shriver
On the need for a financial analysis to determine the economic impact of increasing developer “in-lieu” fees to add affordable housing.



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Searching for Relief

Remote control: Hitting the road to help

BY JENNIFER NORRIS

Special to the Daily Press

I got an early start to my day, knowing that it would be a long and hot one. I have been in Louisiana for just over a week now and still the humidity is overwhelming.

After swinging past the Healing Place Annex in Baton Rouge, headquarters for a local church coalition assisting with the relief effort, I learned my destination for the day — St. Bernard Parish, one of the areas worst hit by Hurricane Katrina and flooded again after Hurricane Rita.

I found myself morbidly excited to see post-hurricane New Orleans.

I work for Relief International, a Los Angeles-based, humanitarian aid agency. While we deployed teams to Baton Rouge within days of Hurricane Katrina, I only arrived just in time for Hurricane Rita. Our niche in the hurricane relief effort has been our Mobile Distribution Units, trucks and trailers loaded with relief supplies specifically requested by shelters and people in remote areas who do not have access or transportation to Red Cross shelters or other relief supply distribution sites.

The request from St. Bernard Parish was urgent — bring water and relief supplies as quickly as possible.

Before leaving Baton Rouge where RI has set up its base of operations, I rendezvoused with my volunteer-sidekick for the day — Shirley, a Ph.D. student from Indiana in town visiting friends. Having loaded my truck and trailer to capacity with supplies, we jumped onto the I-10 and headed east towards New Orleans.

For more than an hour, Shirley and I drove through the bayous of southeastern Louisiana. While we were anxious to see New Orleans for ourselves, we didn't know what we would find once we got to St. Bernard Parish — or if we would even be able to get in at all as there is still a strict curfew throughout the city and



Jennifer Norris/Special to the Daily Press
DOWN, NOT OUT: Despite being belted by hurricanes, people in the Gulf are staying strong.

armed National Guard checkpoints at every exit.

After passing Kenner, 10 miles outside of the city, the scenery took a drastic change for the worse and from that point on, we drove through miles of devastation and ghost towns.

As the I-10 freeway merged into the 510 freeway, we crossed a bridge that over-looked both the ports and parishes of New Orleans. As the traffic eerily dissipated, we got our first glimpses at the devastation in New Orleans that even the national media coverage couldn't fully capture.

Refrigerators and lawn furniture were strewn along the side of the freeway, vehicles were buried up to their doors in toxic muck, train cars were blown off their tracks, trees and power lines lie in tangled webs across streets, and apartment complexes and neighborhoods looked more like black and white photographs due to the ashy-colored residue that spared nothing.

The once bustling city looked more like something from the set of a movie than the surreal reality of the situation. The water was gone, but the stains it left and the havoc it wreaked remained. Shirley and I drove on in silence.

As the 610 Freeway became Paris Road, the putrid smell that permeated our truck even with the windows rolled up forewarned of the disaster zone we were entering — St. Bernard Parish.

We arrived in Arabi, a small, semi-primitive fishing town turned inside out by back to back hurricanes. Nothing was in its proper place — shrimp boats were belly-up in the middle of marshes and cars were upside down in harbors; trees protruded from holes torn in the side of homes and portable sheds littered the sidewalks.

Flashbacks of people stranded on their rooftops came to mind as we noticed the holes people had cut through their roofs in order to escape the rising flood waters in their homes.

Our destination was a relief staging area on the corner of Paris Road and Judge Perez Drive. We pulled into what was left of a gas station to ask directions from the driver of an emergency vehicle; the gas station itself providing nothing more than shade from the sun as the convenient mart had been looted and the pumps destroyed. Ironically, the street we were looking for was directly in front of us — but with the traffic signals dangling precariously and the street signs completely blown away, we would have had no idea.

Shirley and I crossed the street and pulled into the parking lot of what used to be a Walgreen's. Huge tents had been erected to provide protection from the sun, but rendered minimal relief from the heat and stench.

Clustered in the shade around a their hot lunches and chilled bottles of water, an eclectic mix of policemen, Humane Society staff, relief workers, and smiling volunteers mingled with citizens of Arabi

who had come back to salvage whatever was left of their homes.

Most would go home empty handed.

One by one, with dazed looks on their faces, they trudged under the tent, their dirty faces streaked from both sweat and tears.

In a perfunctory manner, Shirley and I, as well as the volunteer teams, unloaded our truck and trailer. As quickly as we set the supplies down, crews of relief teams loaded them into their vehicles. From here, the supplies were taken into the surrounding neighborhoods and distributed to people as they worked beyond exhaustion to clean or collect what little was left of their homes after the storms.

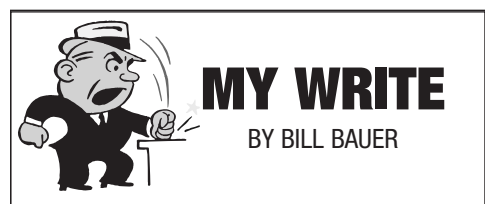
As we made our way out of town, the only people we saw were heavy equipment operators, National Guard troops bunched in the shade like African plain animals, volunteers wearing their uniformly colored shirts and nomadic people ambling around what used to be their neighborhoods and homes.

On our route home, we stayed on the 10 West. As we wound our way through downtown New Orleans, we caught glimpses of the Superdome, the French Quarter and above-ground cemeteries, all bearing the stains of the polluted water that deluged the city. The deserted boats still tethered to the power poles along the interstate a testament to how high the water rose.

The citizens of Arabi represent only one community and there are many others like it. The clean-up effort has only just begun — but it is beginning. The locals I met are strong and determined people, merely knocked down by the hurricane, but by no means knocked out. Life is returning to this area. And I was thrilled to have been part of the relief effort.

(Jennifer Norris is communications and public relations officer for Relief International-Schools Online, located in Los Angeles.)

Journeying through the South for Hurricane Katrina disaster relief



THE GULF — I'd never been to Mississippi before. My trips to the deep South were as a college kid traveling through the Carolinas and Georgia coming to and from spring break at Daytona Beach, Fla. This trip into the South was a very different experience.

I flew into Montgomery, Ala., nearly three weeks ago and "processed" into the headquarters for the American Red Cross Hurricane Katrina disaster relief operation. I was assigned to the public affairs desk.

I was paired with Jim Robesky, a first-timer from Quincy, Ill. Our jobs were to write and distribute press releases updating the media about the Red Cross relief operations in Alabama and Mississippi.

Press relations is important in a disaster operation because it's vital to let people know what is going on and, in the case of Hurricane Katrina, counter the many rumors and misinformation on the streets about

what the Red Cross was or wasn't doing.

Jim and I were shuttled off to Hattiesburg, Miss., 60 miles inland from Gulfport. The wind gauge at the local weather station malfunctioned at 115 mph. There was extensive damage to structures and trees. Roofs and porches were heavily damaged by the high winds.

They call this part of Mississippi the "Pine Belt" and many of the region's pine trees were snapped like twigs. There were still hundreds of displaced persons from the Gulf Coast and Louisiana.

We took over the public relations function, here and like in Montgomery, most of our effort was countering rumors that the Red Cross was pulling out.

The Red Cross was entering a transition phase in Alabama, Mississippi and Florida north of the Gulf Coast. After six weeks, the shift from "emergency" to "recovery" was in full swing.

Service centers were being shut down and replaced by the toll free Red Cross 866-GET-INFO phone number. Area shelter populations were declining so local Red Cross shelters were closing. Those few remaining displaced persons were placed in hotels and motels for stays as long as 30 days.

Jim was reassigned to Pensacola, Fla., and I wrote public service announcements for radio and issued three press releases in a week and a half providing updates, defining what kind of assistance the Red Cross was providing at that point. I reminded the public that the "866" phone line was a much better way to apply for financial aid than long drives to service centers and standing in lines for even longer hours.

Nobody cares more about her community than Babs Faulk, the chapter manager in Hattiesburg at the South Central Mississippi Red Cross.

I'll always remember Raylawni Branch, a nurse who had worked in the local shelter in nearby Lumberton, Miss., and later joined us at the Disaster Operations Center (DOC). Last Saturday, I joined Raylawni and her husband as we took time off and drove 35 miles down Route 49 to Wiggins, Miss. The occasion was a graveside service for her close friend, a 42-year-old Hattiesburg businessman and political activist who had died a week earlier from complications of AIDS.

The small country cemetery at Wiggins dates back to the early 1800s and the service was a celebration of his life and one of those rare moments that one feels priv-

ileged to observe. There were so many more Red Cross staff and volunteers that profoundly affected my life and impressed me with their professionalism and courage — like Teresa Carver, who was the Hattiesburg site manager and Judy Frank, a Canadian Red Cross volunteer who worked in family services.

I took Nanette Bester on a radio interview. She also was in family service at the Hattiesburg DOC and like Raylawni, she was a local. The "Nannette and Bill Show" was a big hit on the local soul and gospel radio outlet. Absorbing the local color is a big benefit in this kind of work. I learned that "all you all" is plural for "you all" and when in a restaurant you can order tea or "sweet" tea. Then there's the food, including catfish and hush puppies.

Volunteering and working a disaster is not for everyone, but if one can take the time, go through the basic Red Cross volunteer training and take off for two or three weeks, I can guarantee that working with the Red Cross — or any legitimate relief or aid organization — can be a profound, rewarding and life changing experience.

(Bill Bauer's columns normally appear on Mondays.)



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City wells should be good to go by 2010

FLUORIDE, from page 1

of a \$466,225 contract that was awarded for the design of a fluoridation system to affect residents living mostly north and west of San Vicente Boulevard. City officials plan on delivering them fluoridated water by 2006.

That area was singled out because it's the only part of the city fed by a water well that has not been contaminated with MtBE and is run by the city of Santa Monica. The rest of the city's drinking water supply is provided by an outside source.

Some of the speakers at Tuesday's meeting criticized the City Council for putting fluoride — which they believe can cause negative health effects — into the drinking water.

"It's negligent to proceed without a risk assessment," said Bruce Campbell, a Santa Monica resident who felt the proposal needed further review.

A handful of others urged the City Council to approve the contract, saying fluoride has been proven to help growing children develop stronger teeth.

"I'm a little disappointed the city of Los Angeles and the county have moved forward on this more expeditiously than we have," said Louise Jaffe, a Santa Monica resident.

City Councilman Bob Holbrook, who voted for the contract, has previously said fluoridated water is considered one of the top 10 medical achievements of the 20th Century.

Even if one agrees with the purported benefits of fluoride, there were those on Tuesday, however, who still felt it should be a personal choice.

"Personally, I think fluoride is safe, but there are residents out there who may or may not want to take it, so I'm voting against it," said Councilman Ken Genser, who along with Councilman Kevin McKeown were the dissenting voices among elected officials.

In October of 2001, the City Council approved the fluoridation of the city's water supply and directed staff to include the project in capital and operating budgets. Following a design process, staff presented a summary of construction bids in December of 2004, which significantly exceeded the budget, according to a staff report.

Currently, Santa Monica's drinking water contains between .2 and .4 parts per million of fluoride. But according to government health officials, the dental hygiene benefits are optimal at .8 parts per million.

Regionally, the city's principal water supplier, the Metropolitan Water District (MWD), is upgrading its facilities to provide fluoridated water to member agencies by 2006, including Santa Monica.

Currently, the MWD supplies 90 percent of Santa Monica's water. By 2010, Santa Monica's Charnock wells are expected to have been restored from an MtBE contamination and will begin supplying 80 percent of the city's water. The rest of Santa Monica's water will continue to come from the MWD, the staff report said.

Staff solicited construction bids for Santa Monica's Well No. 1, which is a standalone facility that delivers water to Santa Monica residents living mostly north and west of San Vicente Boulevard.

The \$466,255 contract was awarded to Pascal and Ludwig Constructors. Of that amount, \$440,000 will be paid from the "Fluoridation 2010 Work Group," a grant awarded through state agencies.

Staff expects the city will have to pay for the fluoridation of its water supply once the Charnock wells are restored.

Most drinking water available in Santa Monica is expected to be fluoridated by the MWD in 2006. Still, at least one man was outraged City Hall was gearing up for the overhaul by installing a facility for the residents of San Vicente Boulevard.

"Poison the rich!" he shouted.

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NATIONAL



Alaskans face annual dividend dilemma: Blow it or stow it?

BY TIM MOWRY
Associated Press Writer

FAIRBANKS, Alaska — Gov. Frank Murkowski would like Alaskans to spend their permanent fund dividend checks wisely, perhaps putting it toward their children's education.

Fairbanks snowmobile dealer Craig Compeau would rather see people buy a new set of sleds for the family.

Therein lies the dilemma many Alaskans faced Wednesday as a check for \$845.76 was deposited into their bank and credit union accounts: Do you blow it or do you stow it?

"Some people pay their heating oil bill with it and some people buy toys," said Compeau, owner of Fairbanks' largest boat and snowmachine dealer. "We like the latter."

The state transferred more than \$372 million into banks and credit unions Wednesday as residents who chose to have their checks direct-deposited — nearly three-quarters of the more than 603,000 recipients — got their annual bonus for living in Alaska.

Residents who did not select direct deposit will receive their checks later this month. Checks will be mailed beginning Oct. 26.

The Alaska Permanent Fund, created in 1976, is a giant bank account made up of royalties paid to the state from the trans-Alaska oil pipeline. Now worth an estimated \$30 billion, the money is invested in stocks, bonds and real estate and the state pays out dividends, which are calculated using a formula based on the average earnings of the previous five years.

The only requirement for receiving the dividend is to be a resident of the state for at least a year from the day of application. The application period is Jan. 2 to March 31.

Alaskans have been receiving a bonus every year since 1982, when the first checks were issued for \$1,000. This year's payout is the smallest since 1988 when Alaskans received a check for \$826.93. The dividend has shrunk every year since hitting a record high of \$1,963.86 in 2000.

The annual infusion of cash is viewed as a bonus by many residents, who use the extra cash to book vacations, put down payments on cars, four-wheelers and snowmo-

biles, pay off credit cards, buy new computers or pay heating bills.

In a news release this week, though, Murkowski urged Alaskans "to think about the wise decisions made in the past that have resulted in these checks today."

"Parents have a unique opportunity and an important responsibility when determining how to use their dividends and the dividends of their children," Murkowski said. "Ultimately, it is a parental decision. Some families need the dividend to meet basic needs, others can save the dividend for their children's education."

"No matter what the family circumstance, I would encourage parents to use the dividend in ways that provide the most benefits for their children."

That's not Compeau's view. He offers deals on both snowmachines and boats.

"The PFD (dividend) is the lever we use to get them to think about it," Compeau said.

For others, Hawaiian Vacations is offering two tickets for one PFD check and a six-night stay in Maui for as low as \$669.

One thing some people might burn their checks on this year is heating oil, due to the rise in fuel costs. Customer service representative Emma Lee Grennan at Sourdough Fuel said she took orders from two callers last week who requested an Oct. 12 delivery to coincide with the dividend direct deposit. Business spikes every year when PFD checks come out, but Grennan suspects more people may put their checks in gas and oil tanks with the higher prices this winter.

"With the high price of oil, that's where peoples' checks are going to go," she said. "Fewer people are probably going to be buying luxury items."

Craig Wisen, an assistant professor of finance at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, agreed that the high price of oil and gas could hurt retailers this year.

"I think the unexpected increase in energy prices has more than taken away that \$800 in terms of the cost when it comes to heating your home and filling up the gas tank," he said. "If you're a retailer selling snowmachines I don't think you're going to be as successful."

While he doesn't like to hear that, Compeau is also realistic.

"I think a lot of people are going to hunker down and pay bills," he acknowledged.

Government cleans up additional marine debris from around Hawaii

By The Associated Press

HONOLULU — Teams led by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Fisheries Service collected more than 125 tons of debris in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands last year, up from the 5 tons they gathered in 1996.

"Certainly, in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, we're catching up in a significant way," said Rusty Brainard, chief of the Coral Reef Ecosystem Division at the NOAA office in Honolulu.

"We're collecting more than continues to (build up). But we estimate it is accumulating at 40 tons a year. The moment we stop, we start falling behind."

Much of the debris comes from commercial fishing boats, but some also washes into the ocean from land.

Some of it can be destructive. Nets catch and kill marine life while heavy trawling gear washes through lagoons and rips up coral reefs.

Authorities say they want to intercept debris while it's still at sea.

The buildup moves with the currents. Most of the debris usually flows to the northernmost islands of the archipelago. In El Nino years, the currents take the debris south to beaches in the main Hawaiian Islands.

An estimated 40 tons of marine debris — from ropes and plastic bottles to medical waste — washes up on Hawaiian reefs and beaches each year.

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Santa Monica Daily Press



NATIONAL

Babbitt says mistakes were made in monument

By The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Former Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt says the 1996 creation of a 1.7 million-acre national monument in southern Utah was a terrific idea that was poorly executed.

Babbitt said the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument was one of the great environmental triumphs of the Clinton administration, but that he and President Clinton made a mistake when they announced the creation of the monument from Arizona with little warning to Utah officials.

Babbitt discusses the monument in his new book "Cities in the Wilderness", which he will be in Salt Lake City this weekend to promote.

Utah leaders were given no advance word of the 1996 announcement. The ceremony was held at the south rim of the Grand Canyon in Arizona, which didn't help matters, Babbitt said.

Babbitt's book recalls that the creation of the monument spawned lawsuits from the state of Utah and created a lot of hostility among southern Utah residents. The lawsuits were later abandoned, but at one point both he and Clinton were hanged in effigy, "dangled from the lampposts of the streets of Escalante," he said.

"The creation of the Grand Staircase was a major chapter in the history of our public lands," Babbitt said Monday from his law office in Washington, D.C. "As time goes on, more and more residents of Utah will come to see it as a great benefit for the entire state."

Looking back, Babbitt called the conflicts that arose from the monument's creation a great learning experience that has since helped shape how the Interior Department interacts with local governments.

"We certainly could have done a better job of advance consultation," he said. "One of the great lessons of Grand Staircase was that need for advance consultation, which we (later) used across the West with great success. But traditionally, monuments were created in this way, at the 11th hour. In that context, Grand Staircase wasn't all that different, but it taught me about how we can do it better."

Today, the Interior Department has made partnerships and cooperation with local governments a priority, said Dan Dubray, a department spokesman.

"Secretary (Gale) Norton is familiar as a former Colorado state attorney general with land use conservation issues ... that in the latter part of the past century that have resulted in conflict rather than cooperation," Dubray said.

Babbitt believes that there is plenty of room for improvement in how the nation's public lands are managed today. Specifically, he wants more accountability with how federal money is spent on land-use issues and projects.

"Shouldn't we have a national policy or national objectives for dealing with issues like sprawl, the depletion of our river systems and the destruction of our coastal lands?" he asked. "For every acre we save as open space, we lose 10,000 or even 100,000 to development. And a lot of this unplanned development is being subsidized by federal programs and agencies."

Study: Viagra may be unintended wildlife conservation tool

BY MATT VOLZ

Associated Press Writer

JUNEAU, Alaska — The emergence of impotence drugs like Viagra may end up reducing demand for body parts from threatened or endangered species that are used for traditional Asian cures, a new study says.

The study concludes that people who use traditional Chinese medicine are switching to Viagra, Cialis and other Western drugs to treat their impotence.

The two main authors, Alaskan brothers Bill and Frank von Hippel, published their

conclusions in the journal Environmental Conservation this month based on their studies of Hong Kong men over 50.

The authors surveyed 256 men seeking treatment at a traditional Chinese medicine clinic.

They found that while the men continued to use traditional Eastern cures for ailments such as gout, arthritis and indigestion, they were more likely to be using Western medicine for impotence. Several had switched from traditional methods to the Western drugs, but none had gone from the little blue pill to the traditional treatment.

"As a result, they are using fewer ani-

mal parts from threatened species," said Frank von Hippel, a University of Alaska Anchorage biology professor.

Von Hippel said the findings support their research that Western impotence drugs may be an unintended wildlife conservation aid. Seals, sea lions and walrus are the animals most likely to benefit because they are often poached for their genitalia, he said.

"We think that market has pretty much collapsed from the advent of Viagra and other Western treatments," von Hippel said.

Other animals used for impotence cures include sea horses, geckos and deer,

whose velvety antlers are used in traditional medicine. Tigers, rhinos and bears also are believed to cure impotence, but because they are used in many aspects of traditional Asian medicine, the authors do not believe the Viagra boom will have much effect on them.

Frank and Bill von Hippel, who is a psychologist at Australia's University of New South Wales, have been researching the topic since 1998. Their past work has generated skepticism, and this study of trends among users of traditional medicine was conducted to answer some of those skeptics, Frank von Hippel said.



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INTERNATIONAL



Compromise attempt to rein in the Sunnis

BY THOMAS WAGNER
Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The speaker of Iraq's parliament said Wednesday that lawmakers had approved a last-minute compromise on the draft constitution aimed at gaining Sunni support just days before a nationwide referendum on the charter.

In ongoing violence aimed at thwarting approval of the document, a suicide bomber killed 30 Iraqis at an army recruiting center in a northwestern town.

The lawmakers gathered for about an hour at a special session of the National Assembly to hear a set of amendments to the constitution that are at the heart of the compromise, which was reached Tuesday night.

The session, attended by 157 of the body's 275 members, ended without a vote on the measure. Parliament speaker Hajim al-Hassani said a vote was not necessary and that the amendments were approved.

"Today with the presence of the National Assembly members, it is considered to be adopted," al-Hassani told The Associated Press. The deal had already been accepted by the main parties in parliament.

Earlier in the day, Iraq's president, prime minister and other leaders praised the compromise, reached after marathon talks among Shiite, Sunni and Kurdish negotiators that were shepherded by U.S. officials.

The deal was meant to address the concerns of Sunnis, who until now have been campaigning to defeat the charter in Saturday's referendum. The breakthrough compromise greatly increase the likelihood that voters will approve it.

"The new amendments on the draft open wide horizons and give everyone another chance to have a proportional role to participate in the political process to build the new Iraqi government," al-Hassani said earlier. "The political process in Iraq, in spite of all its many complications, is going forward."

The draft constitution already has been printed by the United Nations and millions of copies are being distributed to voters. Any new additions probably would have to be announced in the media.

The two sides agreed on a mechanism to consider amending the constitution after it is approved in the nationwide vote. The next parliament, to be formed after Dec. 15 elections, will set up a commission within four months to consider amendments.

The amendments later would have to be approved by the entire parliament and submitted to another referendum two months later.

Sunnis hope to have a larger representation in the next parliament and want to try to water down the autonomous powers that Shiite and Kurdish regions will hold under the constitution's federal system.

The current additions give no guarantee that the Sunnis will be able to push through the changes in the future.

Washington welcomed the compromise as a positive step but cautioned that it would likely do little to quell insurgent violence.

"We have always emphasized the importance of encouraging as broad a participation in the political process as possi-

ble. We believe the political process should be inclusive," said White House spokesman Scott McClellan.

McClellan added that the Bush administration expected to see "continued violence because the terrorists understand how high the stakes are in Iraq."

Sunnis had feared that the constitution would fragment Iraq because it allows Shiites and Kurds to create mini-states in the oil-rich north and south, leaving Sunnis in a poor central zone.

Sunni-led insurgents have been wreaking violence in a bid to wreck the referendum and scare voters away from the polls. At least 433 people have been killed in militant violence in the last 17 days.

On Wednesday, for the second day in a row, a suicide attacker hit the northwestern town of Tal Afar.

The bomber set off explosives hidden beneath his clothing at the first of two checkpoints outside the recruiting center in Tal Afar, where men were gathering to apply for jobs, said army Capt. Raad Ahmed and town police chief Brig. Najim Abdullah. They said at least 30 people were killed and 35 wounded.

The small town was struck Tuesday by another suicide bomber who killed 30 civilians and wounded 45 when he plowed his explosives-packed vehicle into a crowded outdoor market. Al-Qaida in Iraq claimed responsibility for that attack.

In August, U.S. and Iraqi forces conducted a major offensive in Tal Afar, 93 miles east of the Syrian border, claiming to have killed 200 insurgents and driven many others out.

In other violence Wednesday, three suicide car bombs, two roadside blasts and two drive-by shootings killed three Iraqis and wounded 28 in Baghdad and the northwestern city of Baqouba, police said.

Two U.S. soldiers were killed and one was injured when their vehicle rolled over while on patrol during combat near Balad, 50 miles north of Baghdad, the military said. The deaths brought to 1,962 the number of U.S. service members killed since the beginning of the war in 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

The bodies of eight Iraqis who apparently had been kidnapped were found Wednesday in Baghdad and Iskandariyah, 30 miles south of the capital, police said.

The insurgents have been demanding Sunni Arabs boycott the referendum. Moderate Sunni politicians have been urging their followers to vote against the constitution — raising the possibility that a document strongly backed by the majority Shiites and Iraq's Kurds could be defeated.

The United States has been eager to see the constitution pass to avoid drawing out Iraq's political instability for months longer, setting back the U.S. military's hopes to start pulling out troops next year.

After Tuesday night's deal, one Sunni party — the Iraqi Islamic Party — said it would now call on its supporters to vote "yes" in the referendum.

However, 19 small Sunni-led parties, including the National Dialogue Council, criticized the compromise and said their "no" vote stood.

"There is no excuse for Arab Sunnis to boycott the vote now that we have responded to all their demands and suggestions," President Jalal Talabani, a Kurd, said Wednesday at a nationally televised news conference.

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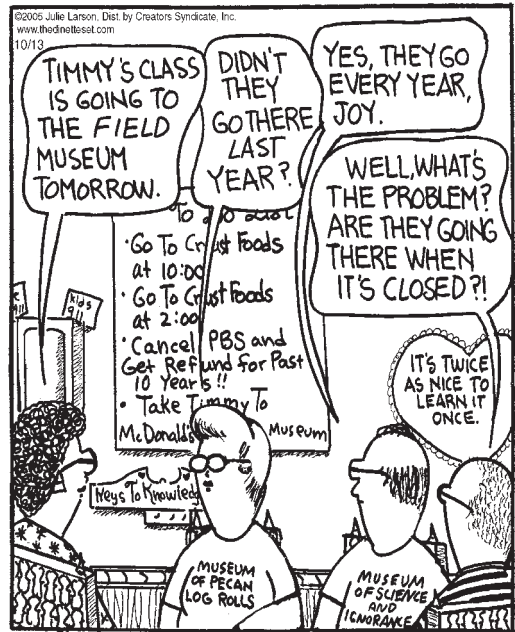
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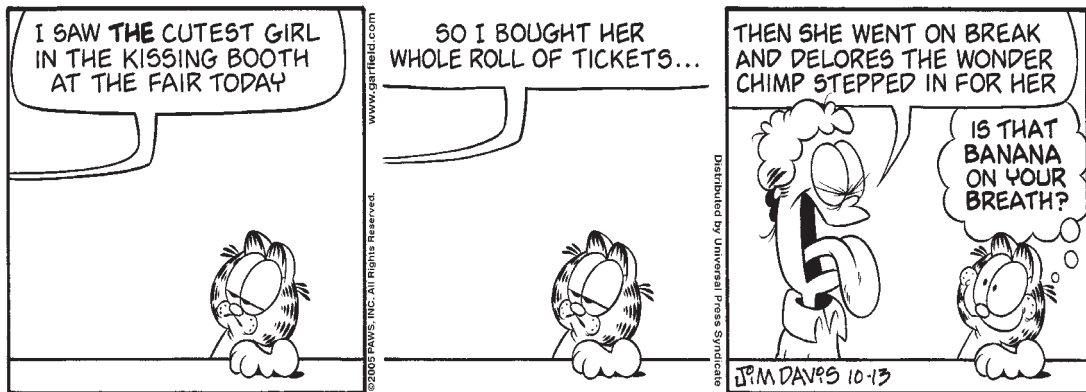
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- 23 — a plea
- 24 Croakers
- 25 Shrek's love
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- 39 Horn sound
- 40 Brings out
- 41 Singer Guthrie
- 42 Toils
- 43 Bound

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- 11 Refrigerator chemical
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- 17 Bus. sch. course
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- 21 Fuss
- 22 Pedestal part
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- 30 Dense
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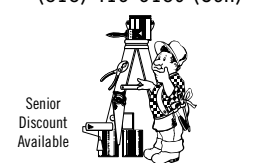


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