

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

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16-14-33-8-24

Megamember: 8
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FANTASY 5

20, 26, 12, 34, 39

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 3, 8, 0
Evening picks: 2, 2, 9

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 6, Whirl Win
2nd Place: 2, Lucky Star
3rd Place: 11, Money Bags
Race Time: 1:45.53



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Florida wildlife officials, suspecting that Israel A. Cervantes was illegally shooting at deer from his car in the Ocala National Forest in August, asked to inspect his home freezer for stored meat, and, professing innocence, Cervantes agreed. There was no deer meat, but apparently Cervantes forgot about the pound of marijuana in the freezer, and he was arrested.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Advice for the day:
If you have a lot of tension and you get a headache, do what it says on the aspirin bottle: 'Take two aspirin' and 'keep away from children.'"
— Unknown

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Santa Monicans cope with strikes

Cops, bus drivers and grocery store clerks fight back

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

Inconvenienced, irritated and stuck in traffic, Santa Monicans Wednesday dealt with another day of labor strikes.

It was the fourth day of picketing in front of local grocery stores and the second day that Los Angeles buses didn't run. In a separate dispute, many of the L.A. County sheriff's deputies who work at the Santa Monica Courthouse called in sick, temporarily shutting down the building.

All three groups are demanding better contracts and say they won't rest until labor negotiations bear fruit. But resolutions may take weeks to reach, officials warned.

Though some Santa Monicans broke down Wednesday and crossed the picket lines, most appeared to be respecting the wishes of local grocery store workers, who carried signs asking shoppers to turn around.

Meanwhile, non-unionized Santa Monica grocery stores including Co-opportunity and Whole Foods Market were jam-packed with shoppers, who clogged up parking lots and kept full the metered spaces out front.

"For the last three days it's been insane," said Nancy Solano, of Culver City, who receives full health benefits as a clerk at Whole Foods, on the corner of 23rd Street and Wilshire Boulevard.

See STRIKES, page 5

No more remote control cars

By Daily Press staff

Remote control cars are now illegal in Santa Monica. Well, at least at the beach. Parking lots there have long been a destination for racing enthusiasts, but the fun has been brought to a screeching halt.

The City Council on Tuesday night unanimously approved a new law that prohibits the motorized model vehicles in response to concerns raised over the noise and possible dangers they pose. The ordinance complements an earlier law that banned flying remote-controlled airplanes.

"Us skaters and skateboarders also are terrorized by these little model vehicles," Councilman Mike Feinstein said.

City Hall's manager of open space, Elaine Polachek, who recommended the ordinance to City Council, said she doesn't know what the fine will be if someone violates the law.

Polachek said she has been inundated by e-mail messages from nearby residents at the Shores apartments, Sea Colony condominiums and others who have grown tired of the large gatherings of people from places like Pamona and Riverside who regularly come to race their cars in beachside lots.

"It's a safety issue," she said. "They're hard to see. If somebody's driving in this parking lot, they can't see them ... and we've received a lot of (noise) complaints

See LAW, page 6



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

People line up in front of the Santa Monica Courthouse on Wednesday morning, waiting to get in. The courthouse opening was delayed because LA County sheriff's deputies waged a 'sick-out' protest. Officers were brought in from Van Nuys to work in the courthouse.

Apartment rents in the West may have hit bottom

But it doesn't appear to hold in SM and San Francisco

BY MICHAEL LIEDTKE

AP Business Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Apartment rents in most major Western markets continued to lag inflation during the third quarter, but a sharp decline in vacancies has set the stage for landlords to reverse the trend next year, according to a new survey.

The average September rent declined from the previous year or increased by less than 1.5 percent in 13 of the 19 Western markets studied by RealFacts, a Novato real estate research firm.

Rents rose by at least 5 percent — a threshold signaling a landlord's market — in just one area, the rapidly growing region spanning San Bernardino and Riverside counties. Rents in this area — known as the Inland Empire — averaged

See RENT, page 6

Disabled access law in effect

By Daily Press staff

Building owners will now be forced to make their properties more accommodating for disabled people.

The new law, introduced by Sen. Sheila Kuehl (D-Santa Monica), was recently signed by Gov. Gray Davis. It is designed to wipe out non-compliance with California disabled access laws by strengthening enforcement and education.

The law will allow public prosecutors to pursue civil penalties against building owners who fail to comply with California's disabled access laws. If the property owner does not begin to correct the violation within a reasonable period of

time, the court will be allowed to assess daily penalties to force compliance.

The bill also allows the state architect's office to create a "disabled access specialist" certification program to provide better training regarding access standards to help building owners identify advisors on disabled access issues in order to better understand how to comply.

A recent University of California study reports that the current violations range from ramps that are too steep, uneven, or lack safety rails, bathrooms that are too small for wheelchairs to maneuver in, doorways that are too heavy to open and buildings that have no nearby parking facilities.

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HOROSCOPE

Pisces, start your weekend early



JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

★★★★-Dynamic ★★★★★-Positive ★★-Average
★★-So-so ★-Difficult

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, October 16, 2003:

You might want to take a stronger stand at work or in your day-to-day life. What you might see is that example counts much more than action. Laughter and lightness help you see your limits, as well as the limits of others. Your boss or immediate superior gains insight, respect and a deep perspective about you. Know that everything is changing rapidly. Be more loving in how you deal with those in your immediate environment. If you are single, you meet someone quite special this year, though this might not be Mr. or Ms. Right. It will take you a while to determine if this person is really what he or she says. If you are attached, a relationship can become closer if you allow more self-expression. Both of you get into a hobby that will help you release stress; what would be even better is if you choose a mutual interest. CANCER pushes your buttons.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Start with a more basic approach. Unexpected news delights you and others. Your high energy takes you in a new direction, which others have little problem following. You might be delighted by what goes down if you relax. Tonight: Happy at home.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Keep reaching out for others, knowing what you want and where you're going. Your laughter and high energy help drive a meeting and allow others to understand what is absolutely necessary. You have a nice way of saying what you have to say. Tonight: Out and about.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Just because a boss states some hard and unpleasant facts doesn't mean you cannot handle them. In fact, you might see some justification in her or his point of view. Suggestions come in left and right, but coming up with the 'right' idea could take some talent. Tonight: Keep on smiling.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Your ability to investigate allows you to see another perspective and move through a problem. Dig, looking for facts and information. Others appreciate your manner and getting down to the very basics. Tonight: Keep on smiling.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Sometimes, the less said can be the more said. Knowing when to pull back and analyze what might need to happen. A partner or associate might not realize just how much she or he is revealing. Use your keen insight. Tonight: Do your own thing.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Others come toward you, acting in an unexpected manner. Your love of life emerges when dealing with those you really care about. Hearing the other side of an issue allows you greater flexibility and understanding. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Take charge, and handle a personal matter in a more effective way. Others often don't agree with you, but that might not be totally important or necessary. You seem to make the final push to make a situation work. Tonight: In the limelight.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Reach out for loved ones at a distance. You might be a bit put off by what happens around you. Others want certain things their way and are willing to push as hard as need be to achieve those very results. Tonight: Think mini-vacation this weekend.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22- Dec. 21)

★★★★ Just because you visualize something one way doesn't mean others see the situation in the same light. You need to sort through information carefully, trying to understand where another's hot head or strong point of view comes from. Tonight: Listen to a dear adviser.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Not everyone understands where you are coming from, though you are bound and determined to let them know. Realize what might be going on in your immediate circle. No one is really trying to challenge you; someone is presenting a different point of view. Tonight: Say 'yes.'

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You might want to defer to a loved one or friend whom you really care about. However, going overboard in spending might not be the real way to get past a snafu. Plunge into work. You might be a lot happier once you clear your desk. Tonight: Be your lively self.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Your playfulness comes out despite yourself, even at work. You are in the mood to play and flirt away to your heart's content. Some of you might decide for an early weekend of fun and games. Just go with the flow. Tonight: Start your weekend early.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Pumpkin sale to benefit school

By Daily Press staff

It will be a scary bake sale this week at the Canyon Charter School. The school's ninth annual pumpkin patch and bake sale will be held on Thursday and Friday. Ghosts, goblins and The Great Pumpkin will be there to haunt the event.

More than 500 pumpkins of all shapes and sizes donated by two Santa Monica families will be for sale. Prices will be categorized by small, medium and large. There will be a contest for students and shoppers to guess the size of an enormous pumpkin and the winner will get to take it home. Purchases, including the spooky delicious array of home-baked goods, are tax deductible because proceeds benefit the school's beautification committee.

The sale on Thursday will run from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. The school is located at 421 Entrada Dr.

For more information contact Canyon Charter School at (310) 454-7510, Debbie Alexander at (310) 454-2566 or Marla Gardner at (310) 393-8334.

Bowling for dollars

By Daily Press staff

An evening of bowling, live music, raffle prizes and celebrities will benefit children with cancer.

More than 300 CoachArt patrons, celebrities and friends will attend the CoachArt Bowl-a-thon, presented by JetBlue Airways and Jury Insight, scheduled for today. The event raises funds to facilitate free lessons in the arts and athletics for chronically ill, underprivileged children in Los Angeles.

Teams of six players raise \$1,000 to bowl and compete for grand prize vacations, spa packages and more. All the evening's proceeds go to providing 4,000 lessons to pediatric patients and expanding to 100 volunteer coaches in 2004.

CoachArt is a nonprofit organization that works closely with pediatric hospitals to promote normalcy and personal development for kids living with life-threatening illnesses. They provide pediatric patients with the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities including art, music, yoga, sports, photography and dancing.

The Bowl-a-thon will take place at the AMF Bay Shore Lanes at 234 Pico Blvd. and tickets will be available to the public for \$20. Bowling will begin at 7 p.m. and will be followed by a ROAM VIP after party for sponsors and guests from 10 p.m. until 2 a.m. The bowling alley also will be open for general admission from 10:30 p.m. until midnight. For more information, e-mail events@coachart.org or call (310) 823-6500.

Homecoming celebrated musically

By Daily Press staff

Homecoming will be celebrated at Santa Monica High School in style.

Santa Monica High School's Performing Arts Department will present the 2003 Homecoming Spectacular Concert on Thursday, Oct. 23. The most advanced performing ensembles will be showcased Thursday evening as a part of the homecoming celebrations.

Samohi is known nationally and internationally for producing high achieving musicians and music ensembles, and sends a steady stream of graduates to the most prestigious music schools and conservatories in the world, school officials said.

The concert will feature the Samohi Marching Band, the Symphony Orchestra, the Madrigal Ensemble, the Wind Ensemble, the Dance Ensemble, the cheer leaders, the Chamber Singers, and the Samohi Serenaders and Bluenotes — Samohi's Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Choir.

The concert will begin at 7 p.m. and will be held in the newly restored Barnum Hall on the Samohi campus at 601 Pico Blvd. Ticket sales for the event will help support the students in the performing ensembles by providing money to purchase instruments, music, performance clothing and other equipment. Tickets cost \$10 at the door, or \$7 for adults and \$5 for children if made by reservation. To reserve tickets, send an order to Santa Monica High School, attn. Dr. Carl Hammer, 601 Pico Boulevard, Santa Monica, Calif., 90405.

The pubic is invited to attend the season premiere concert. For further information, call (310) 395-3204, ext. 401 or e-mail to hammer@smmusd.org.



surf report

The water's getting warmer as the S fades and the SW keeps local beaches stocked with small surf.

OUTLOOK: Friday morning starts out slow but by the evening a new WNW fills in.

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

Today the
water is:

68°

Sunrise: 7:07 a.m.
Sunset: 6:23 p.m.

	LOW TIDE				HIGH TIDE			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	3:59	1.2	4:42	0.5	10:10	5.6	10:49	4.4
SUNDAY	4:19	1.6	5:17	0.5	10:31	5.6	11:28	4.0
MONDAY	4:37	2.0	5:56	0.6	10:53	5.5	N/A	N/A
TUESDAY	4:52	2.4	6:43	0.8	12:14	3.6	(11:17)	5.3
WEDNESDAY	4:59	2.8	7:47	1.1	1:20	3.2	(11:45)	5.1
THURSDAY	N/A	N/A	9:17	1.1	N/A	N/A	12:22	4.8
FRIDAY	N/A	N/A	10:47	1.0	N/A	N/A	1:32	4.5

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The Q-Line

Last month the City Council passed a law that limits storefronts to 50 feet wide on the Third Street Promenade in an effort to thwart more retail chain stores from entering the market.

Many believe there aren't enough locally owned businesses here. So by limiting new stores to 50 feet, some corporations will shy away from the busy outdoor mall, some say.

So this week Q-Line wants to know, "Do you think the Promenade is too homogenized? Will limiting storefronts fix the perceived problem?"

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

FACE-to-FACE with the Women & Children of Iraq

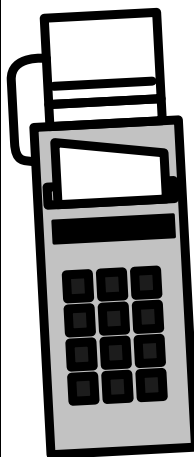
Local resident Kelly Hayes-Raitt just returned from her second trip to Iraq, where she found some of the children and women who touched her so deeply during her first visit in February. She also saw firsthand the impact of the bombings and invasion on innocent people's lives, homes and hearts. The trip revealed much devastation — and much inspiration.

She will be speaking about the people she met — and met — in Baghdad, Hillah, Babylon, Fallouja, Basra and Umm Qasr.

Friday, October 17
10:30 at Orville Wright Middle School Library
6550 West 80th Street in Westchester

Since February, Kelly has addressed over 60 audiences, including religious congregations, state women's conferences, school classes, community clubs, large peace rallies and small neighborhood meetings. If you would like her to address your group, please call (310) 581-4421 or e-mail C2Campaigns@aol.com.

Photos may be viewed at www.CommunityCampaigns.com/Iraq.



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LETTERS

Critical of reporting, not the attorney

Editor:

When your reporter called me as a part of his research for the article on Marsha Moutrie, (SMDP, Oct. 13, page 1), he said that no one he had talked to had been critical of her performance and wondered whether there was another side. I told him that I was not at all critical. I said she makes a strong point of not attempting to impose her policy views on the Council and, sometimes, because of the Council's aggressive policy stands, finds herself having to defend difficult legal positions. The example I used was the ATM ordinance.

Unfortunately, the article clearly indicated that I was "critical of her work." Nothing can be further from the truth. I neither said nor implied such a feeling and I resent being used this way.

Tom Larmore
Santa Monica

See beyond the ruse

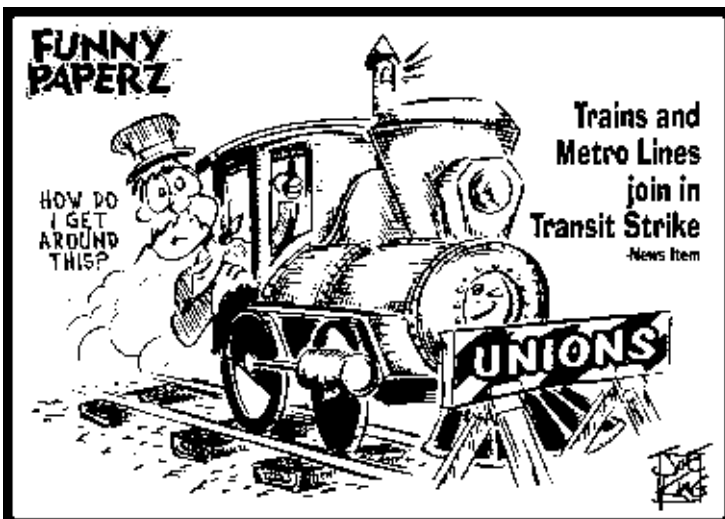
Editor:

They're at it again. Special interests and their allies in Washington are pulling out all the stops to get their hands on Alaska's wilderness. They are trying to win over key members of the U.S. Senate, who have previously voted to protect the Arctic Refuge from drilling, by loading up the energy bill with measures that would benefit their states. This includes proposals to increase the use of corn-based ethanol in the nation's gasoline supply, and boost energy assistance to low-income families for heating and cooling. These are important issues that deserve to be addressed and passed on their own merits, not used as lures or bait in exchange for opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas drilling.

Let's hope our senators see through this ruse. It isn't an "either-or situation." Our

lawmakers do not have to trade away the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in order to bring jobs back home, or supply Americans with clean, affordable and reliable energy.

Leslie Brandon
Tehachapi, Calif.



Member: ALEC, NCS, SCS, SCS, SCS

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Tax, tax, tax: The nasty stuff that runs a civilization

NEWS
on the
EDGE

By Ron Scott Smith



■ Schwarzenegger elected governor of California! Limbaugh a junkie! Springsteen un-American! Cubs win the pennant!

What a mother lode of a week it's been for headline writers. The strange brew just keeps pouring in, folks, drink it up. And we're not talking that 'News of the Weird' thing tucked into the corner over there on page one. This is nationwide, above the fold, mainstream bizarreness.

■ "Tax, tax, tax," he railed, pushing our button day after day on the recall trail. "When you wake up in the morning and go to the bathroom, you are taxed." Well, I don't know about you, Mr. Gov.-elect, but the public-financed waste disposal system surely beats the hell out of kneeling over a hole in the backyard, doesn't it?

■ "When you get into your car you are taxed." Uh, paved streets, sir — if we want them, we've got to pay for them. Or maybe pot-holed dirt roads is the way to go, more fun for the Hummers to navigate. And do you want the young brains in our families to be able to check out a book at the library to help complete the science projects which just might give us a much-

needed clue as to the bewildering nature of this universe thing we're all stuck in that you were once the "Mr." of? Guess what? Tax, tax, tax equals books, books, books available to any curious young mind, not just those who can buy the things.

The new governor got elected on this anti-tax mantra and it was just too easy for all the knees in California to jerk on that one. Who among us doesn't want to keep more of our money? But tax, tax, tax, for better or for worse, is the way civilization happens to run. Get over it. Take a walk in the public park today.

■ And like it or not, the communal money pool pays for law enforcement too, like the kind that nailed the king of the "right-radio" echo chambers last week, one Mr. Rush Limbaugh. Damn that law enforcement thing that you can't tout loudly enough — damn it when it intrudes into your \$28 million mansion and bites you. Mr. Intolerance himself turned his \$300-a-week housekeeper into his personal pusher and has been gobbling up illegal pain killers for years now, so the story goes. While half his brain's been tied behind his back just to make it fair, the other half has been doing that burnt-eggs-in-the-frying-pan thing. Remember that commercial? "And this is your brains on drugs."

Limbaugh's archives are rife with hypocritical gems like this one, which he delivered not long ago while blasting drug use in the inner cities — one of his favorite targets. "Too many whites are getting away with drug use. The answer is to find

the ones who are getting away with it, convict them, and send them up the river, too." On your own petard, then, be impaled.

■ Rush Limbaugh and his clones are fighting what they openly declare to be the "new American Civil War" by sneaking up from behind and thrashing mortal public enemies like the Dixie Chicks and Madonna. And now they're picking on the boss. Bruce Springsteen has suddenly become the new bullseye in their sights because he recently said this, in defense of that maligned Texas female trio. "To me, the Dixie Chicks are terrific American artists expressing American values by using their American right to free speech. For them to be banished from radio networks for speaking out is un-American. Right now we are supposedly fighting to create freedom in Iraq at the same time that some are trying to intimidate and punish people for using that same freedom here at home." And just like that, here comes the movement to banish Springsteen from the airwaves. Fat chance.

■ Yes, it looks to be a war-happy crowd over there on the right side of Bushamerica. You've got the president embroiling us all in his signature "War on Terror," which Fox News spin-meister Bill O'Reilly keeps telling us is really "World War III." The new California governor has fired the first salvo in his "War on Taxes," while Limbaugh, the king of talk-radio, travels up the river to do battle in his newly personalized "War on

Drugs." Meanwhile one of his loyal lieutenants — nationally syndicated Dennis Prager — shouts loud and far his gratitude for the fact that the new "American Civil War" has yet to turn bloody. And they're all marching off to battle, armed to the teeth with weapons of mass deception — the same things lonely Tom McClintock referred to as "terminological inexactitudes" in describing the spineless campaign waged against him by his own party in the successful effort to get him out of Arnold's way.

■ There may be a light at the end of the tunnel for those guys though, as the state of New Hampshire has been targeted by Libertarians for the "biggest experiment in democracy since the Revolutionary War." They're inviting kindred spirits from across the nation to move there en masse to create the first truly "free state." Presumably it would be free of taxes, free of hand-outs, free of damn near all the rotten things this new American Civil War is being fought over. Gentlemen, warriors, start your engines.

■ By the way, did the Cubs really do that?

(Editor's note: No, they didn't. The Cubs lost to the Marlins 9-6 just before this issue went to press.)

(Ron Scott Smith lives on the edge of the West. E-mail him at EdgeoftheWest@aol.com.)

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

YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

Send your letters to Santa Monica Daily Press Attn. Editor:
1427 Third Street Promenade Suite 202 Santa Monica • 90401 • sack@smdp.com

LOCAL

Strikes slow down city

STRIKES, from page 1

Aung Min, a manager at Co-opportunity, at 16th Street and Broadway, said sales have jumped by 15 percent since workers at other grocery stores began their strike on Sunday at 12 a.m.

PROTEST: 24/7

A handful of picketers at Vons at Broadway and Lincoln Boulevard asked customers to "please shop elsewhere" while passing motorists honked and waved in support of the striking workers.

Tom Hancock, of West L.A., a checker at the store for the past eight years, said workers are picketing around the clock, despite that the store has shortened its usual hours — 6 a.m. to 1 a.m. — and is now open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Though some shoppers have complained that picketers are rude and confrontational, Hancock said those aren't tactics his group has employed. "We're being pretty mellow, because, you know, you catch more flies with honey," he said.

Inside, manager Brian Loudermilk wouldn't comment except to say, "It's slow man, that's all I can say."

Shopper Jeanette Clark, a semi-retired administrator who since 1976 has lived just four blocks from the store, said she had no choice but to break the picket lines.

"This is my first time (shopping since the strike began)," she said. "I don't have a car and the bus is on strike. I've gotta have stuff, you know."

Clark said she saw one of the clerks that has served her for years picketing out front. "I felt really bad," Clark said. "She's always so jovial and she was really down. So that was hard."

But while some Santa Monicans decided to cross the picket lines, even those that observed them said the strikes have had an impact on their daily routines.

While waiting for the Big Blue Bus, whose workers are not on strike, Whole Foods shopper Albertyne Ashforth, a retired legal secretary waiting for the No. 2 bus, said, "It's made the traffic worse and the buses more crowded."

NO END IN SIGHT

All told, labor unrest caused anguish across Southern California as contract bus drivers walked off the job in solidarity with striking Metropolitan Transit Authority workers and two courthouses were temporarily closed as the result of a separate dispute with sheriff's deputies.

About 70,000 grocery clerks from three chains spent their fourth day on picket lines in the southern and central parts of California with no sign of a new contract. Grocery workers in four other states — West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, California and Missouri — are also on strike.

There was little optimism that the grocery and transit strikes would be resolved any time soon.

"Those in both disputes are digging in their heels. And the common thread here is health benefits," said Jack Kyser, chief economist for the Los Angeles Economic Development Corp. "The MTA and grocery strikes will be long ones."

Rich Cowan, secretary and treasurer for United Food and Commercial Workers Local Union 1442, which represents thousands of grocery store workers in area beach cities, said business at Vons, Albertsons and Pavilions is down by as much as 50 percent at some outlets.

Cowan initially said strikers would

only target Vons and urged the companies not to lock out workers from the other stores. But picket lines sprung up at Ralphs and Albertsons after the chains said a strike against one company would be considered a strike against all three and began locking out employees. About 3,800 workers are affected in the local union, which has its headquarters in Santa Monica on Second Street.

"The picket lines are going well and people are shopping elsewhere," he said. "When this all started we wanted to target Vons only ... we wanted to give people an option but they created this holy alliance."

Officials from Vons didn't immediately return calls seeking comment.

SHERIFFS CALL IN SICK

Nearly half of the 427 L.A. County sheriff's deputies who work at jails and transport prisoners to court called in sick Wednesday, temporarily closing the Santa Monica and Beverly Hills courthouses, said Deputy Johnnie Jones. Deputies have been protesting stalled labor talks with sporadic sick-outs over the past three weeks, and many jails were on lockdown.

The Santa Monica Courthouse stayed closed for two hours on Wednesday morning while deputies were brought in from Van Nuys. Hundreds of people lined up

See STRIKES, page 7

Strikers demand better benefits

By Daily Press staff

Workers at area grocery stores say they will continue to strike until a new contract is signed that keeps health and retirement benefits at their current levels, and ensures that new workers earn a decent wage.

The companies that own Vons, Ralphs and Albertsons want the workers to take on a larger share of the cost for health benefits, citing a sluggish economy, rising health care costs and increased competition from nonunion rivals such as Wal-Mart Stores Inc.

The proposal does not call for wage reductions for current workers and asks employees to pay \$5 a week for individual health care coverage and \$10 to \$15 a week for an entire family, Vons president Tom Keller said.

Grocery clerks work a minimum of 24 hours a week, with 70 percent working part-time. They earn, on average, about \$15 an hour, union officials said. The union wants the companies to maintain health care plans and provide raises of 50 cents an hour the first year and 45 cents an hour the following two years.

Under the current contract, warehouse employees and truck drivers can also choose not to cross picket lines. The last time the grocery workers went on strike was 1978, with the walkout lasting less than a week.

With 1.4 million members, the United Food and Commercial Workers union is among the largest in the country. Expecting a possible strike this year, local unions have been building their own funds and warned members to save money. Workers will receive strike benefits ranging from \$200 to \$300 a week for walking picket lines, union officials said.

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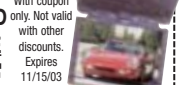
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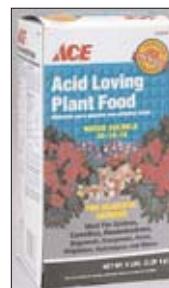
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LOCAL STATE

San Francisco is still most expensive market in West

RENT, from page 1

\$936 as of Sept. 30, a 6.8 percent increase from the prior year.

The West's most expensive market continued to be San Francisco, with an average September rent of \$1,553, down 4.8 percent from last year. The West's cheapest apartment market was Tucson, Ariz., with an average September rent of \$613, an annual increase of 1 percent.

Rent prices in Santa Monica don't appear to be dropping, but rather slightly increasing. A one-bedroom apartment north of Wilshire Boulevard goes for \$1,395 a month and in Ocean Park, that same type of apartment is listed for slightly more.

However, with rents becoming more affordable in many markets, more apartments are being leased — a phenomenon that promises to give landlords more pricing leverage in future months.

September vacancies declined from June levels everywhere in the West but Arizona. Tucson's vacancy rate increased to 9.4 percent in September from 8.8 percent in June, while Phoenix's vacancy rate increased to 9.6 percent from 9.5 percent.

Vacancy rates dropped by at least a full percentage point in 13 of the 19 studied markets.

The trend represents a positive economic indicator because people are reluctant to sign leases if they feel uncertain about their employment prospects, said Caroline Latham, RealFacts' chief executive.

Latham offered another reason for the shift: more people may be looking to rent apartments instead of buying a home since mortgage rates climbed from a mid-June low.

Rents in many Western markets have been eroding since the end of 2000 as unemployment rates climbed.

The deterioration has rolled back rents to 1998 levels in the hardest-hit markets, such as Silicon Valley. The frosty conditions followed a period of white-hot demand that resulted in Silicon Valley rent increases of more than 30 percent annually during the dot-com boom.

Historically, apartment landlords are able to raise rents by about 5 percent annually when vacancy rates are hovering around 5 percent, Latham said.

Through September, vacancies were hovering below 6 percent in these 10 Western metropolitan markets: the Inland Empire, 3.4 percent vacancy; San Diego, 3.5 percent; Orange County, 3.9 percent; Los Angeles, 4.3 percent; Oakland, 5.1 percent; San Francisco, 5.1 percent; Reno, Nev., 5.2 percent; Sacramento, 5.3 percent; Albuquerque, 5.7 percent; and Salt Lake City, 5.7 percent.

Boise, Idaho has the West's highest vacancy rate, at 11.2 percent through

September, RealFacts said. The conditions left Boise's average apartment rent at \$703, an annual decrease of just under 1 percent.

Continuing the dichotomy of the past two years, the strongest and weakest apartment markets were both in California, with rents on the upswing in the south and rents sagging in the north.

The pattern left average rents in Los Angeles at \$1,342, a 3.8 percent gain that further cemented the market's position as the West's second-most expensive behind San Francisco.

In other Southern California markets, Orange County's average apartment rent increased 3.3 percent to \$1,265 and San Diego's average rent rose 3.3 percent to \$1,171. In the northern end of the state, the San Jose market fared even worse than San Francisco, with the average rent declining nearly 9 percent to \$1,300.

The Sacramento metro market represented the only Northern California area gaining ground, with a September average rent of \$898, up 3.1 percent.

Average apartment rents in major Western markets

By The Associated Press

Metropolitan area Average Sept. 30 rent percent change from previous year:

San Francisco	\$1,553 -4.8%
Los Angeles	\$1,342 +3.8%
San Jose	\$1,300 -8.9%
Orange County	\$1,265 +3.3%
Oakland	\$1,194 -3.2%
San Diego	\$1,171 +3.3%
Riverside / San Bernardino counties	\$936 +6.8%
Sacramento	\$898 +3.1%
Seattle	\$864 +0.1%
Denver	\$856 -0.7%
Reno, Nev.	\$749 +1.1%
Las Vegas	\$748 +1.5%
Portland, Ore.	\$735 -1.3%
Colorado Springs, Colo.	\$719 +2.3%
Phoenix	\$713 -0.1%
Boise, Idaho	\$703 -0.8%
Salt Lake City	\$658 -1.8%
Albuquerque, N.M.	\$635 +1.4%
Tucson, Ariz.	\$613 +1.0%

Source: RealFacts

Groups will post new law signs

LAW, from page 1

from people who live in the area."

To educate the public about the new law, City Hall will contact the groups who regularly gather in beach lots and post signs that cite the new law.

The law outlaws both gas and battery powered model cars. Councilman Bob Holbrook initially voiced some opposition to the law, saying, "Frankly, what's wrong with a motorized vehicle?"

Holbrook later agreed to support the law, after being told that the groups who gather in beach lots can apply for and receive special permits to hold their model car races.

— John Wood



WORLD BRIEFLY

China launches into space

By The Associated Press

GOBI DESERT, China — Against a clear blue sky, China fired its first astronaut into orbit without any visible hitches Wednesday, becoming only the third nation capable of manned spaceflight. The government said the mission was going smoothly and its 'taikonaut' radioed back: 'I feel good.'

The launch capped a decade-long effort by China's secretive, military-linked space program that communist leaders hope will boost the nation's image abroad — and their own standing at home among their own people.

The rocket carrying Lt. Col. Yang Liwei, a 38-year-old fighter pilot turned astronaut, streaked into the sky at precisely 9 a.m. local time (9 p.m. EDT Tuesday) from a Gobi Desert launch pad in China's remote northwest. The government said the Shenzhou 5 space capsule entered orbit 10 minutes later.

China Central Television broke into its programming to announce the liftoff, and 28 minutes later broadcast the first gripping scenes of the rocket blasting off. CCTV said the flight would last 14 orbits and 21 hours, with a landing early Thursday in China's northern grasslands.

A dream or political plan?

By The Associated Press

NAJAF, Iraq — It sounds almost Utopian — a government of 'freedom and dignity' elected by the people and representing every religious and ethnic group in Iraq.

But the administration proposed by Muqtada al-Sadr, a radical Shiite Muslim cleric and a harsh critic of the U.S. occupation, is more dream than coherent political plan.

As he outlined his vision for Iraq to a packed rooftop news conference on Tuesday in Najaf, militiamen loyal to him were resting after a nightlong battle with mem-

bers of a rival Shiite faction just up the road in the nearby holy city of Karbala.

The son of a top religious leader assassinated in 1999, al-Sadr is seen by the U.S. military as a potential source of unrest because of his militancy, his group's ability to mobilize supporters quickly and growing evidence that his followers are heavily armed.

Blacks and whites battle it out

By The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Ten months into a four-year term, Gov. Sonny Perdue is being criticized by blacks who say his policies are racially divisive and whites angry that they won't have a chance to vote on bringing back the old state flag with its rebel cross.

Hoping to reduce the rancor, the state's first Republican governor in 130 years was hosting a special 'racial reconciliation' forum Wednesday where he was to be joined by former President Jimmy Carter.

Some 400 people are expected to attend the two-hour session, open only to invitees and those whose names were chosen by lottery. Two more forums will take place before the end of the year, Perdue's aides said Tuesday.

Democrats claim the events are all for show.

'My basic theme is, show me some action. Instead of talking the talk, walk the walk,' said Rep. Calvin Smyre, the chairman of the state Democratic Party and one of the highest ranking blacks in the Legislature.

Kobe case heats up

By The Associated Press

EAGLE, Colo. — When Kobe Bryant's defense team brought questions of his accuser's sexual history into open court, the judge called timeout and prosecutors were furious, later calling it a 'deliberate and calcu-

lated' attempt to smear the victim.

If the topic comes up again when the NBA superstar's hearing on sexual assault charges resumes Wednesday, prosecutors want assurances it will happen behind closed doors.

In a sharply worded court filing Tuesday, prosecutors said defense attorney Pamela Mackey overstepped last week when she asked a witness whether the 19-year-old woman's injuries were 'consistent with a person who had sex with three different men in three days.'

That prompted Eagle County Judge Frederick Gannett to suspend the hearing, which will determine whether the basketball star will stand trial. The 25-year-old is free on \$25,000 bond and was expected at the hearing. If convicted, he faces up to life in prison.

Prosecutors have also asked the judge to close parts of the NBA superstar's hearing, hoping to stop what they said was a deliberate attempt to smear the woman's reputation.

Girl Scouts look for troops

By The Associated Press

PHOENIX — Since she was 5, Patti Duncan has faithfully attended weekly Girl Scout meetings, earned badges for taking care of pets and writing to soldiers and sold lots of those famous cookies.

But each year, fewer and fewer of the 14-year-old's fellow troop members returned. This year, Patti and her mom couldn't even find four other girls in their large suburban neighborhood to form a troop.

'They didn't want to do the badge work and just wanted to hang out with their friends,' Patti said.

The Girl Scouts have an image problem with older girls. It seems the 91-year-old organization — known for service, leadership development and, of course, Thin Mints — becomes uncool with the 11-and-older crowd. Of the Scouts' 2.8 million members ages 5 to 17, 88 percent are younger than 11.

That number made it clear to Girl Scout officials that they needed to offer something different to attract — and retain — teens like Patti and 'tweens' or preteens. After much research, a new program called Studio 2B was launched earlier this year.

Commuters stranded across LA

STRIKES, from page 5

outside waiting to get in. The doors finally swung open at about 10 a.m.

The Santa Monica Police Department had taken steps to compensate in the event that the courthouse would be closed for longer.

"We worked closely with the courts when we got notification of the sick-out," said SMPD Lt. Frank Fabrega, adding a court judge would've come to the jail to hold the hearings. "We had contingency plans to hold arraignments at the jail facility."

Assistant Sheriff R. Doyle Campbell said the sheriff's department would begin suspending deputies who did not show up for work.

FEELING THE PAIN

The three labor disputes have created a spate of problems across the region: Hundreds of thousands of commuters are stranded. Freeways are clogged. Grocery stores are scaling back hours. And the already ailing economy has taken a hit.

"Yesterday I couldn't get to work," Ginara Santay, 44, said as she waited for a ride Wednesday morning. Santay usually takes buses to four different house-cleaning jobs each week.

"Tomorrow I have no idea how I will get to work. I have an 8-year-old son. I'm worried about the rent. I can't afford to miss one day, and I don't know what I'm going to do."

The strike against the MTA began Tuesday when mechanics walked off the job in a dispute over health benefits and other issues, shutting down the nation's third-largest mass-transit system.

Some 2,000 MTA mechanics walked out, with another 6,000 bus drivers and clerks honoring the mechanics' picket lines. On Wednesday, 250 employees of the company First Transit joined the strike. MTA had contracted the company to cover some routes. Santa Monica's Big Blue Bus line picked up some of the slack, carrying heavier loads and expanding its service.

Cowan said it's going to get worse before it gets better. Grocery store executives aren't budging and neither are union workers.

"It's a few people at the top and you can't communicate with them," he said. "We would like to go back to negotiations and talks right away."

"This is tough in many ways," he added. "They are losing money now and they have created this animosity and they are going to have a hard time getting customers back that they've lost."

But some shoppers Wednesday said whatever price they have to pay is worth it to support workers in their quest for better benefits.

"It's hard, but sometimes you gotta do what you gotta do," said Gino Black, a Whole Foods shopper visiting Santa Monica from Maryland.

(The Associated Press contributed to this report.)

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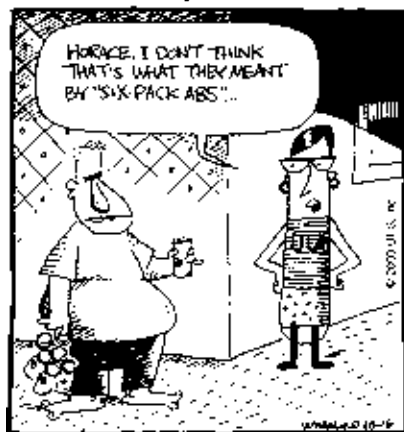


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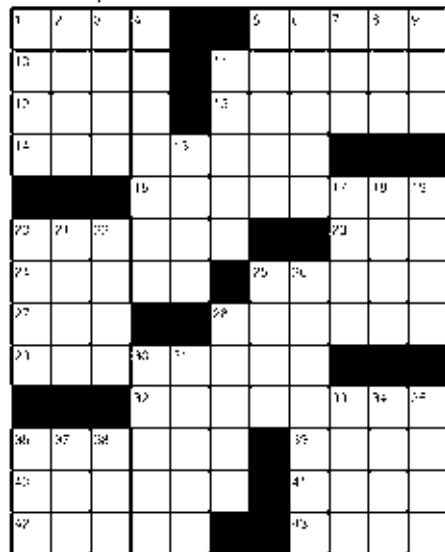
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Announcements

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

Yard Sales

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MOVING SALE: Saturday, October 18th. 7am-noon. 1820 12th Street, cross street Pico.

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Birth Announcement

WELCOME TO THE WORLD ODIN!



Odin John Saric, 8 lbs., 6 oz. was brought into this world on Aug. 30 at Kaiser Hospital in Woodland Hills to proud parents and longtime locals Acacia and Bart Saric. Bart Saric, who has lived in Santa Monica and Venice the majority of his life — 27 years, is the son of Santa Monicans Mira and Ivan Saric, who also are first-time grandparents. Acacia Saric's mother, Bonnie Wallace, a Topanga teacher and artist, recently passed away. Odin's other grandparent is Andy Wallace. Odin also has an uncle, Gabe Wallace, who lives in Hollywood. Great grandparents are Hal and Evelyn Shulem, Lagoona Hills; Helen Wallace, San Luis Obispo and Bart Saric Sr., Australia.

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SANTA MONICA SCENE °CALENDAR EDITION

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2003

EVENTS

Understanding mental illness

A free lecture, 'Understanding Mental Illness: Depression, Bipolar Disorder and Schizophrenia,' by Michael DiPaolo, PhD, will be presented by the City of Santa Monica and Step Up on Second from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. For more information and reservations, contact Iris at (310) 394-6889 ext. 22 or by e-mail at iris@stepuponsecond.org. Santa Monica City Hall, Council Chambers, 1685 Main St.

Treating smell and taste disorders

Join Dr. Dan Castro for a discussion about modern treatments for smell and taste disorders. Dr. Dan Castro is a UCLA ear, nose and throat specialist. Presented by UCLA Healthcare, the free event will begin at 7 p.m. and end at 8:30 p.m. in the MOB classroom at the Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center. For more information and reservations, call (800) 516-5323. 1245 16th St.

Family Holiday Bazaar

On Saturday, get ready for the holidays by perusing through a vast selection of gifts, jewelry, boutique items, plants, baked goods, attic treasures, stationary, clothing, children items and household goods. This bazaar will support Habitat for Humanity and is sponsored by Mission and Youth Groups. It will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 25 and is open to the public. Also, there will

be a Scottish Meat Pie Luncheon from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. which will cost \$6 for adults and \$3 for children. Free parking will be available in the underground parking structure located on the north side of Arizona, between Ocean and Second with a validation stamp obtained at the church's Desk. First Presbyterian Church, 1220 Second St.

Bio energy healing

World renowned bio energy healer, Ze'ev Kolman, who is acknowledged by leaders of the International Institute of Human Sciences as 'one of the greatest living healers on the planet today.' An evening of inspiration and healing from 7 - 9 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 20. Tickets cost \$25. RSVP Le Meridian Hotel (323) 571-1725. 465 South La Cienega Blvd., Beverly Hills

Pumpkin patch and bake sale

Ghosts, Goblins and the Great Pumpkin will be haunting Canyon Charter School's ninth annual Pumpkin Patch and Bake Sale on Thursday, Oct. 16. More than 500 pumpkins of all shapes and sizes will be offered for sale, and there will be a contest for students and shoppers to guess the size of an enormous pumpkin - the winner will get to take it home. Purchases, including the 'spooky delicious' array of home baked goods are tax deductible and proceeds benefit Canyon's Beautification Committee. The event will be held from 2 - 5 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 16, and from 3 - 5 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 17. For more information, contact the

school at (310) 454-7510, Debbie Alexander at (310) 454-2566 or Marla Gardner at (310) 393-8334. Canyon Elementary Charter School, 421 Entradra Dr.

CULTURE

A Hansel and Gretel Halloween

The Santa Monica Playhouse presents a light, sing-along musical that takes the audiences through the mysterious Black Forest. Suitable for all ages, this play is written and directed by Chris DeCarlo and Evelyn Rudie. Birthday parties are available. Tickets for kids 12 & under cost \$9; adults \$10; they are available at (310) 394-9779 ext. 2. Showings Saturday and Sunday at 12:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. Santa Monica Playhouse Main Stage, 1211 Fourth Street

ENTERTAINMENT

Temple Bar

Here visitors can enjoy concoctions like White Chocolate Martinis, a Gingitini or a Razzmatazz. Those who are really hungry can enjoy a Chicken Tamale Plate with Fried Plantains. Temple Bar even offers vegetarian options like veggie eggrolls and burgers. But no good bar would be complete without live music. Tonight, the Temple Bar features DJ Anthony Valadez and the following: Jahlohi Jones, 9 p.m.; Lili Hayden, 10 p.m.; and Trance Zen Dance, 11 p.m. Tickets cost \$8 in advance or \$10 at the door. 1026 Wilshire Blvd. Santa Monica (310) 393-6611

MOVIE °GUIDE

LAEMMLE'S MONICA 4-PLEX

1332 2nd Street
American Splendor R - 1:45, 4:25, 7:05, 9:45
The Event R - 1:35, 4:25, 7:15, 9:55
Wonderland R - 12:45 p.m., 1:45, 3:25, 4:25, 6:05, 7:05, 8:45, 9:45

LANDMARK NU-WILSHIRE

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

LOEWS CINEPLEX BROADWAY CINEMAS

1441 Third Street Promenade
Kill Bill Vol. 1 R - 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:00, 2:15, 3:30, 5:00, 6:05, 7:40, 9:00, 10:30
Lost in Translation R - 10:45 a.m., 11:20 a.m., 1:10, 1:50, 3:45, 4:30, 6:10, 7:15, 8:40, 9:45

AMC SANTA MONICA 7

1310 Third Street Promenade
House of the Dead R - 1:05, 3:30, 5:35, 7:50, 10:05
Out of Time PG-13 - 2:00, 4:45, 7:20, 9:50
School of Rock PG-13 - 1:15, 2:15, 4:00, 5:00, 6:45, 7:30, 9:30, 10:10
Intolerable Cruelty PG-13 - 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:55, 10:15
Under the Tuscan Sun PG-13 - 1:40, 4:30, 7:10, 9:45
Once Upon a Time in Mexico R - 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:40

MANN CRITERION & THEATERS

1313 Third Street Promenade
Good Boy! PG - 11:45 a.m., 2:15, 4:45, 7:10, 9:45
Secondhand Lions PG - 11:20 a.m., 1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00
Duplex PG-13 - 12:15 p.m., 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 9:55
Matchstick Men PG-13 - 11:30a.m., 2:10, 5:00, 7:50, 10:30
The Runaway PG-13 - 11:15a.m., 2:00, 4:55, 7:30, 10:20
Underworld R - 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00

If you know of an upcoming event which may be included in the calendar please send the information to calendar@smdp.com or fax it to (310) 576 9913



PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Theodor Geisel, a.k.a Dr. Seuss, gets his own stamp

By The Associated Press

■ **SPRINGFIELD, Mass.** — Oh, the places he'll go — through the U.S. mail.

Theodor Geisel, Springfield's most famous literary native son who's best known as Dr. Seuss, is getting his face printed on a 37-cent postage stamp.

Geisel's widow will introduce the stamp Oct. 27 during a ceremony at the Dr. Seuss National Memorial Sculpture Garden in Springfield.

The stamp will feature a color photograph of the author of "The Cat in the Hat" and "Oh, The Places You'll Go," surrounded by illustrations of six characters from his books.

Geisel died after a long illness in 1991 at 87.

■ **STATE COLLEGE, Pa.** — This part-time Penn State student became the first "Jeopardy!" contestant to return for a record-setting sixth appearance.

The correct question is: Who is Sean Ryan?

Ryan, a 31-year-old taxi driver and father of two, competed in his sixth round of "Jeopardy!" in an episode airing Wednesday night. Through five episodes, he'd won \$105,798, which he said he'd use to pay off bills.

"Jeopardy!" previously had limited contestants to five appearances, with the opportunity to return for the annual Tournament of Champions, but lifted that restriction this summer. Ryan is the first player to return for a sixth episode.

■ **PARIS** — Forty years after Edith Piaf's death, the legendary music hall singer is still drawing crowds in the French capital.

A new exhibit traces Piaf's career with rooms decorated as her favorite venues, from Paris' ABC music hall where her celebrity was born, to the Versailles cabaret in

New York, where she won over American audiences after World War II with hits including "La Vie en Rose."

Photographs, television archives, concert posters and record covers bring Piaf's rags-to-riches story to life. One highlight: a simple black stage dress, so tiny that it made some visitors wonder how such a diminutive woman could have had such a powerful voice. Piaf was only 4-foot-8.

The mayor's office, which organized the exhibit at city hall, said nearly 12,000 people had visited since the show started Oct. 8.

Many visitors are retirees who say Piaf's voice was the soundtrack of their youths. Some fans reminisced about seeing Piaf in person at the Olympia Theater in Paris.

"Piaf's is the most beautiful French voice," said Helene Crosnier, 64, who waited outside the singer's dressing room in 1958 to see her up close. "Forty years have gone by and not one person has even come close to her talent."

The singer, whose trademarks were her gutsy delivery and emotional vibrato, was born Edith Giovanna Gassion in Paris' working-class Belleville neighborhood, where she was discovered singing on the streets. Her rocky love life attracted almost as much attention as her music, especially her marriage to her second husband, nearly 20 years her junior, who was by her side when she died Oct. 10, 1963, at 47.

For the anniversary, Capitol Records released a compilation of Piaf songs interpreted by stars including Charles Aznavour and model-actress Laetitia Casta.

■ **LOS ANGELES** — The former lead singer of the Temptations is suing the group and Motown Records, claiming they've failed to pay him royalties for two albums.

Barrington Henderson also alleges in the Superior Court lawsuit filed Tuesday that the Temptations con-

tinue to use his image and voice on merchandise, advertising and the group's Internet site.

A spokeswoman for Universal Music Group, which acquired Motown, said the company wouldn't comment on the lawsuit.

Henderson, 47, claims he was fired wrongfully in June after more than five years, despite promises that he'd continue to be the lead singer.

The lawsuit, which seeks undisclosed damages, also alleges the Temptations failed to make Social Security payments on his behalf while he was with the group.

A defamation charge in the lawsuit also alleges that band members made defamatory and untrue statements about Henderson's ability to hit certain notes, said his attorney, Brian Glicker.

■ **LOS ANGELES** — Stone Temple Pilots lead singer Scott Weiland has filed for divorce from his wife.

The 35-year-old singer said in court documents filed Tuesday that he's divorcing Mary Weiland, with whom he has two children, because of irreconcilable differences. The couple has a prenuptial agreement.

The two married in May 2000 and separated in September 2002. Mary Weiland filed for divorce after their separation, but dropped the matter in August.

Scott Weiland was sentenced to three years' probation in August after pleading no contest to one count of possessing heroin; on Monday, he's scheduled to return to court for a progress report. He had a prior drug arrest and was jailed in 1999 after he violated probation and didn't complete drug rehabilitation programs.

In 2001, Weiland pleaded guilty to domestic battery after a fight with his wife at the Hard Rock hotel and casino in Las Vegas. The judge agreed to dismiss the charges as long as Weiland underwent counseling.

DID YOU KNOW?: Helium is named after the Greek word for "sun".

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