

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

SUPER LOTTO PLUS

2, 5, 18, 25, 41

Megamember: 2

Jackpot: \$76 million

FANTASY 5

27, 3, 29, 11, 13

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 5, 1 6

Evening picks: 7, 6, 9

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 10, Solid Gold

2nd Place: 04, Big Ben

3rd Place: 02, Lucky Star

Race Time: 1:41.67



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

■ A 20-year-old man was killed in Denver during afternoon rush hour on Sept. 1 when he jumped from a car going about 40 mph. According to friends, he had been planning a nonfatal jump for a while because he wanted to endure some trauma in order to muster the courage to get a tattoo.

■ A 15-year-old boy in Maryland Heights, Mo., who had been demonstrating his pain tolerance by clobbering himself on the head with his skateboard, invited a pal to take a shot, too. The first blow knocked him out, and he died four days later.



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Truth is shorter than fiction."

— Irving Cohen



INDEX



Horoscopes

Mum's the word, Virgo 2



Local

Lessons in Taste 3



Opinion

Homeless, not mindless 4



State

GOP looks to flex muscles 7



International

Bin Laden tape a rallying cry 11



People in the News

King closes book on teaching 16

Prince of tides



John Wood/Daily Press

Leonardo Padilla, who turns 2 on Halloween, plays in the wooden sculpture "Gestation III" in Palisades Park. The acoustical sculpture, designed by Baile Oakes in 1991, captures sound much like a seashell.

Judge rules homeowners not liable for teen's murder

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

The owners of a Westwood home where 15-year-old Deanna Maran was stabbed at an underage party Nov. 17, 2001 aren't liable for her death, a judge has ruled.

Judge Linda Lefkowitz tossed a lawsuit against Shelley and Barbara Hendler out of Santa Monica Superior Court, saying the owners didn't know anything would go wrong at the party. The Maran parents — Harriet and Ilija — had brought the suit.

The Hendlers didn't know that 17-year-old Katrina Sarkissian would come to their home while they were vacationing in Las Vegas and stab Maran in the chest, Lefkowitz found. They also didn't have knowledge that their 19-year-old son, Scott Hendler, would have an unsupervised party where underage teenagers were drinking alcohol, the ruling noted.

"It was something that I always felt that they had no reason to believe that this would happen," said Robert Armstrong, the Hendlers' attorney. "There is no duty to protect unless there is a history of prior instances."

Katrina Sarkissian collapsed and died of an apparent drug overdose while being questioned by Los Angeles police the day after the murder.

Under California law, liability is only imposed on a property owner if he has a "heightened foreseeability" that criminal behavior will occur there.

The Marans' suit also targeted Scott Hendler, who host-



KATRINA SARKISSIAN



DEANNA MARAN

See MURDER, page 5

Selling of Santa Monica an international affair

UK tradeshow a forum for marketing the city

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

Local officials will fly to London next month to sell Santa Monica's hotels and restaurants in the lucrative international market.

It's the first time representatives from Santa Monica have gone abroad to a tradeshow, and they're expecting the investment to pay off.

"People from the UK are traveling here consistently, even with the slow in the economy and the hassles traveling," said Debbie Lee, communications director for the Santa Monica Convention and Visitors Bureau, which runs on an annual \$1.2 million budget funded by the local hotel bed tax.

Lee said the bureau is more aggressively targeting travelers from overseas because they tend

to stay longer and see more of Santa Monica than people on vacation or business trips from other U.S. cities.

Though it's unclear exactly how much money they pump into Santa Monica, visitors from the UK are the most prevalent in Santa Monica, according to data from LAX and polls conducted by the visitors bureau. The next largest markets are in Australia, New Zealand, Germany, Japan and France.

Called the World Travel Market, the London-based tradeshow runs from Nov. 10 to Nov. 13. Officials expect 18,000 exhibitors, more than 20,000 buyers and a strong press contingent to attend.

Denise Waggoner, a sales manager at the local bureau, will accompany representatives from the Hotel Carmel, the Lobster Restaurant and the Radisson Huntley Hotel. The idea is to generate leads from UK-based tour operators and travel agents, and

then distribute them to local businesses.

There are 37 hotels and more than 350 restaurants in Santa Monica, Lee said.

"Because Santa Monica is only 8.3 square miles, we pitch Santa Monica as your base when you're

See MARKETING, page 6

Park clear for takeoff

Airport-area land purchased by city 77 years ago

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

Only a few details remain to be hammered out before designs are complete for a long-awaited 8.3-acre park in southeast Santa Monica.

Called the Airport Park, the space will have two lighted youth soccer fields, a one-acre dog area, separate picnic area, children's playground, paved path, restrooms and 116 parking spaces.

The City Council last week unanimously approved the project. Council members said they are thrilled to see plans for the park, which will increase the city's amount of open space by 7 percent, finally move forward.

Because of budget constraints, construction on the project, which is expected to cost nearly \$7 million, isn't scheduled to begin until the

See PARK, page 6

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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 remet – in Baghdad, Hillah, Babylon, Fallouja, Basra and Umm Qasr.

Tuesday, October 21
 7:30 at Concerned Citizens, Leisure World-Club House 1
 24232 Calle Aragon in Laguna Woods

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 C2CCampaign@aol.com.

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

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 ★★-So-so ★-Difficult

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Monday, October 20, 2003:
 Much happens quickly if you focus on what you want this year. You're unusually successful this year, capable of networking and touching base with many in your life. You have the unusual gift of reading between the lines with others, knowing exactly what they do and don't want. You see people this year as they really are. You will also want more time alone than in previous years. Expect a lot of spiritual and emotional growth. If you are single, the relationship you choose needs to be checked out, as the person might not be giving 100 percent or might not be emotionally available. If you are attached, the two of you as a combo prove to be a strong mix. You can make what you want happen. LEO can prove to be your best friend.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
 ★★★★★ Use your playfulness to get ahead and manage a problem more directly. Your ability to see through mazes takes you into a new realm. Others might be unusually pleased with what they hear. Brainstorm away. Tonight: So what if it is Monday?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 ★★★★★ Aim for more of what you want. Others seem to naturally follow through on your requests. Use special caution with finances, as you do understand more than you are revealing. Sometimes, keeping a good hunch to yourself is wise. Tonight: Where your friends are,

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 ★★★★★ Stay on top of problems, with an eye to better communication. A boss or an associate might come down a bit hard on you, trying to make her or his point. Lighten up and take comments as helpful rather than distracting, even if they might not be! Tonight: Where the action is.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 ★★★★★ Make a statement. Take charge and handle a situation at a distance. You also might need to do some extra research in a particular field in order to make the impression you need and want to make. A boss pushes you hard. Tonight: Out on the town or working late. Remember, it is Monday.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 ★★★★★ You speed right in, ready to handle a situation with power and efficiency. Others might be taken aback by your incisiveness and clear thinking. Success flourishes for those who put themselves on the line. Brainstorm away. Tonight: Your treat.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22- Dec. 21)
 ★★★★★ Share more of your real self with others. How you see a situation developing could change if you don't buck an associate who could be unusually touchy and difficult. A meeting breeds solutions. Tonight: Think about planning a trip in the near future.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 ★★★★★ Dig into a situation carefully, ready to face the bad and the good. There will be more good than bad, once you get over a resistance in your thinking. Share your ideas with a loved one or another creative force. Tonight: Your treat.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 ★★★★★ Deal with others on a one-on-one level if you want to accomplish what you feel is necessary. Not everyone agrees with you, though they will work toward the same goals. Different ideas provide different paths. Tonight: How 'bout some togetherness.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 ★★★★★ The Moon in your sign highlights you. Say something today you have been holding off on for a while. Finally your words will be heard. Good will come through talks. Finally everyone agrees. Enjoy this very rare moment. Tonight: The world is your oyster.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 ★★★★★ Deal with others, but don't be surprised if you get attitude from an associate you care a lot about. Listen to this person's suggestion. There could be wisdom in his or her ideas. Research and find an expert. Tonight: The only answer is "yes."

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 ★★★★★ You might not feel like saying much, and perhaps you won't need to. Others seem to verbalize your thoughts in a way that makes a big difference to them. You agree, but perhaps you would not have had the same verbal skill. Tonight: Rest up.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
 ★★★★★ You pace yourself and get a lot done quickly. Your perspective varies because of information that heads your direction. You get a lot more done if you relax and work with the status quo. Let others be the brainchildren. Tonight: Off to the gym.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Restaurant fights childhood obesity

By Daily Press staff

Fifteen students from Los Angeles schools learned the secret of cooking and eating healthy.

Le Merigot Beach Hotel and Spa earlier this month hosted the American Institute of Wine & Food's annual "Days of Taste" event, launching its healthy kid's menu at their restaurant, Cezanne.

Days of Taste was created seven years ago by the New York chapter of AIWF for inner-city school-age children and promotes healthy cooking and eating, along with an introduction into the culinary world and career choices in the hospitality industry. The national, three-day program includes classroom instruction on food and cooking by local chefs, a trip to the Farmer's Market to learn about fresh produce, and a visit to a restaurant to enjoy a custom meal prepared by the chef. Along with an introduction into the hospitality industry and the culinary world, the children begin with a tour of the kitchen and then experience the new menu to see how the vegetables and fruits they have learned about can be incorporated into a gourmet lunch.

In response to growing concern over childhood obesity, Le Merigot's Chef Desi has created a more sophisticated and health conscious children's menu that serves as an alternative to the usual fare of chicken strips and cheeseburgers. With items such as Maryland crab cakes, a half rack of lamb with crispy veggies and New York strip steak, Chef Desi has created a healthier offering for children.

Today, 27 chapters throughout the country participate in the program. The goal of the program is to familiarize underprivileged children with fresh and healthy foods. Other local restaurants that are participating in the program this year include Melisse, Parkway Grill, Newsroom Cafe and Michael's.

UCLA to lead new semiconductor research center

By Daily Press staff

UCLA has been selected to lead a new multi-million dollar research center as part of an initiative to expand semiconductor research at universities.

The Functional Engineered Nano Architectonics Focus Center will be funded by the Semiconductor Industry Association — the world's largest trade association — and the Department of Defense.

The new center, which has been established in the UCLA Henry Samueli School of Engineering and Applied Science, will receive \$13.5 million over three years, and as much as \$70 million over the next 10 years.

Electrical engineering professor Kang Wang has been named director of the focus center, which involves researchers from UCLA's departments of materials science, chemistry and mathematics, as well as 11 other universities, including UC Berkeley, USC and MIT.

The FENA researchers will explore the challenges facing the semiconductor industry as the electronic devices and circuits that power today's computers grow ever smaller. With more transistors and other components squeezed onto a single chip, manufacturers are rapidly approaching the physical limits posed by current chip-making processes.

"Advances in nanotechnology, molecular electronics, and quantum computing are creating the potential for new technology solutions, and we want to explore them," Wang said. "University-based research collaborations like this focus center are vital to sustaining long-term growth in the semiconductor industry."

In the last two years, UCLA's Henry Samueli School of Engineering and Applied Science has won five competitive research centers from the federal government and private industry that will bring more than \$100 million to Southern California to spur research and development on emerging technologies.

surf report

Look for the NW swell to peak and our winter breaks come alive. That means shoulder- to head-high waves for the better exposed NW spots, with occasional 7-footers at best breaks.

OUTLOOK: Look for the winter breaks to keep the good times rolling, with shoulder-high waves into mid-week. Go get 'em.

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Sunset 6:14 p.m.

	LOW TIDE				HIGH TIDE			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	10:10	3.7	11:47	0.7	7:37	3.8	3:34	4.4
SUNDAY	11:49	3.3	N/A	N/A	7:18	4.0	5:07	4.6
MONDAY	12:29	0.4	12:36	2.7	7:26	4.4	6:10	4.9
TUESDAY	1:03	0.2	1:15	2.0	7:41	4.8	7:02	5.2
WEDNESDAY	1:35	0.1	1:54	1.2	8:01	5.2	7:49	5.4
THURSDAY	2:06	0.2	2:34	0.5	8:24	5.7	8:36	5.4
FRIDAY	2:37	0.4	3:16	-0.2	8:52	6.2	9:24	5.3

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The Q Line

In response to recent violence in an eastside Santa Monica neighborhood, the City Council last week agreed to help find ways to address the problems there.

One is to give jobs created by City Hall, local schools and unions to at-risk and minority youth, as well as encourage employment opportunities within the private sector.

But some council members are concerned that creating new jobs without

re-evaluating the entire situation may not really help what some view as a societal problem.

"How should we address youth violence, and is creating jobs for them going to help?"

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.



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LETTERS

City Hall is no fun; bring on recall!

Editor:

The Santa Monica City Council has found yet another way to waste time and money. Now, even at the expense of kids who I would much rather see playing with radio-controlled cars than having too much time on their hands and hanging out with gangs (SMDP, Oct. 16, page 4). Has the city turned into some kind of "leisure world" where no fun is tolerated?

We are totally ready for a recall.

Mike Smith
Santa Monica

Save the bluffs

Editor:

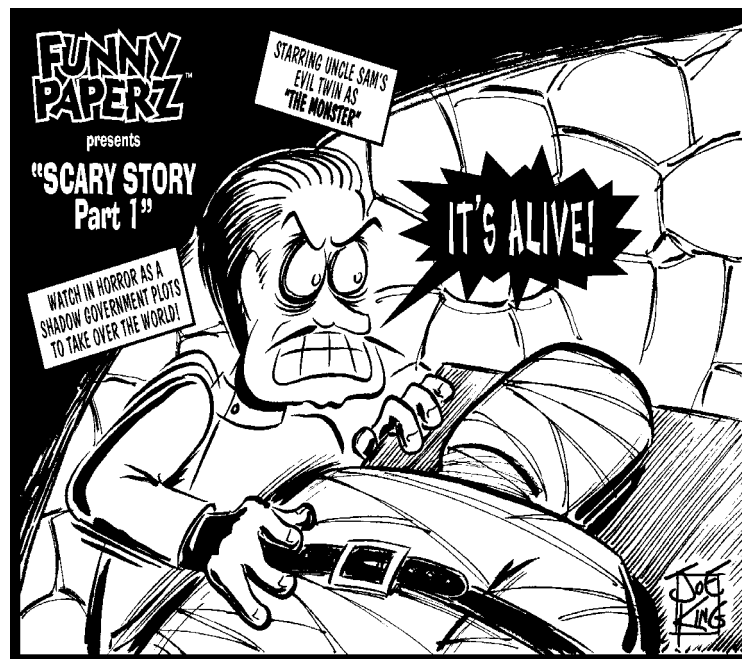
The Ballona West Bluffs are a critical component of the Ballona wetlands on Santa Monica Bay, as they provide a dry haven in times of flooding below. Birds and other animals use the bluffs for nesting, forage and in their search for food. The bluffs are also sacred land to the Gabrielino/Tongva people, as this area contains burials of their ancestors. But the West Bluffs are in imminent danger of destruction by Catellus Development Corp., which plans to build 114 new homes on top of the bluffs. Catellus continues to grade the bluffs, despite the disruption and desecration of native graves found by that corporation's earthmovers.

The Ballona Wetlands have recently been acquired by the state. Now it only makes sense to also save the Ballona West Bluffs as the only upland habitat supporting the Ballona Wetlands, and out of respect to the indigenous people of this land.

Our vision for the West Bluffs is to acquire it for the public trust and to restore this rare coastal prairie ecosystem and sacred site. Please add your voice to those calling for a stop to the development.

State legislators need to hear from you. Call or write your state senator and assembly member and ask that the Ballona West Bluffs be saved for posterity.

Linda Piera-Avila
Santa Monica



Member: AAEC, NCS, SCCS

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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.

Treating the symptom will get people off streets



What is prejudice?

According to Webster's Dictionary: 1) Injury or damage resulting from some judgment or action of another in disregard of one's rights; 2) Preconceived judgment or opinion; b: An opinion or leaning adverse to anything without just grounds or before sufficient knowledge; c: An instance of such judgment or opinion; an irrational attitude of hostility directed against a person, a group, a race or their supposed characteristics.

I have experienced this attitude many times in my life. I was married to a black of Hispanic descent living in Long Beach. I am from Chicago and have experienced prejudice growing up because the city is very segregated. And in both of these instances I have been able to overcome

these pre-judged, pre-conceived notions by earning the respect of those who would pre-judge me. But since I have been homeless, I have never encountered so much prejudice, even when I, a white male, was married to my ex-wife in a predominantly black neighborhood in Long Beach in the mid '80s.

The preconceived notions of homelessness are so strongly ingrained in some people that even when they meet a homeless person like myself, or others who are not living the stereotypical homeless lifestyle, they can't believe it. They seem to think we all live like animals and never shower, or are so drug- and alcohol-addicted that we are crazy, or are just plain mentally ill. And while those extremes exist out here, they are not the norm.

The homeless population is actually a concentrated mirror of society as a whole. We are as diverse as any other community in Southern California. And we also have our share of good and bad people, just like any other community. The fact that some people look at only one part of the whole picture of homelessness is a very sad testament to the neo-conservative bashing of any group they do not understand, or wishes to cover up their

ignorance of not knowing the whole situation.

I have been told by more than a few people that I don't understand the issue of homelessness, even while living on the streets for the past seven years. I often wonder what knowledge they have that would be greater than experiencing it firsthand. Do they have some kind of inner knowledge or something which I am not aware of?

I do not think so. Us homeless people have more knowledge of homelessness and its causes than the college-educated counselors and administrators who help us in the agencies. That is why I push so hard to get more of us who are homeless and formerly homeless to help with all aspects of dealing with the entire situation. We should be called upon to help solve the larger problems that cause homelessness in this country, instead of treating the symptom of homelessness as the problem.

Case in point: The ending of the feeding programs in the parks. It did not stem the tide of homeless in this city, it just escalated shoplifting from the stores. And the sleeping in the doorways ordinance just pushed us into the neighborhoods, and these people do not appreciate the

intrusion into their space. Then there is the push to close certain homeless agencies, which would just put more people on the streets with no means of support or food.

This "anti-socialist" attitude stems from the neo-conservatives who act like they have knowledge, but speak with empty rhetoric. They really have no knowledge of the situation and would be hard pressed to survive out here if it ever happened to them. Look at good ol' boy Rush Limbaugh for example. He may not be homeless, but his bashing of the drug-addicted, and then becoming one himself, is perfect karma.

Solving the homeless dilemma in this city, county, state and nation depends largely on education and "socialist" ideologies. Because if we as a city, county, state and nation cannot help our own people, we are no better than the third world countries we bash for human rights violations. And we are certainly no better than those who have ousted from power in the past three years.

(Charles Springer is a homeless resident of Santa Monica and is a freelance writer and artist, he can be reached at Chaz_59@yahoo.com)

YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

Please send letters to:

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LOCAL



Santa Monica parents won't appeal judge's decision

MURDER, from page 1

ed the party. But Lefkowitz ruled that the teenager, who didn't know those involved, didn't know that Maran and Sarkissian's 15-year-old half-sister would fight at the party, or that a second fight would result in her death. Lefkowitz also noted Scott Hendler didn't witness either fight. The judge ruled he had no way of knowing that Sarkissian had a propensity for violence.

During the party, Maran had told the 15-year-old girl to stop breaking planters and other property at the home. The two girls fought briefly before partygoers broke it up. The 15-year-old then allegedly called her older half-sister, who came to the party and stabbed Maran outside the home.

Judge Lefkowitz also noted that because Maran wasn't invited to the party, which grew to about 85 teenagers, neither the Hendlers nor their son are liable.

The Maran parents have also sued the Sarkissian parents — Sarkis Sarkissian and Angelique Sarkissian Bernstein — claiming they should have known that Katrina Sarkissian was emotionally unstable and violent.

The suit also targets her 15-year-old half-sister, whose name is being withheld because she's a minor. She allegedly kicked Deanna Maran while Katrina Sarkissian stabbed her in front of dozens of people, most of whom didn't realize what had happened.

Bernstein and Sarkis Sarkissian asked that the case be thrown out of court. That hearing is scheduled for Oct. 30. If Judge Lefkowitz allows the case to go forward, a trial is set to start Dec. 15. Attorneys for Bernstein and Sarkis Sarkissian declined to comment.

Armstrong said the Marans' attorney also will have to prove that Bernstein and Sarkis Sarkissian knew their daughter was prone to violent behavior and had the ability to control her. Under California law, there had to be "negligent supervision" on the part of Bernstein and Sarkis Sarkissian.

"It's very difficult to prove," Armstrong said. "I think it begins and ends with Katrina Sarkissian. I don't know what drove her to have a knife and stab Deanna."

"I don't think anyone would have known that she would do that in a million years," he added. "I have very much trouble with finding blame in this."

Tony Glassman, the Marans' attorney, has asked the court to admit Katrina Sarkissian's psychotherapy records, and testimony from her psychologist and psychiatrist as evidence to establish her alleged violent tendencies.

Katrina Sarkissian had been treated for a sleep disorder in the past and had a troubled childhood. She had been in and out of private schools before finally dropping out altogether when she was 16.

She died while in police custody on Nov. 18, 2001 — the day after the murder. A coroner ruled that she had overdosed on anti-depressants that she had been taking for the sleep disorder.

Bernstein and Sarkis Sarkissian filed a wrongful death claim against Los Angeles police, alleging that detectives could have prevented their child's death while she was in custody on suspicion of murder. They claim that detectives questioning Sarkissian should have immediately summoned paramedics when she lost consciousness while under interrogation.

The Marans' lawsuit against the 15-

year-old is still pending. Armstrong said there may be a chance that Glassman can prove she knew that Katrina Sarkissian would harm Deanna Maran.

"She called her and if she did call her to fight with Deanna then she could foresee there was going to be harm done," Armstrong said, adding it doesn't matter whether or not the 15-year-old knew Katrina Sarkissian was planning to maim or even murder Deanna Maran. "The fact that she didn't foresee all of the harm isn't enough to save her, in my opinion."

After months of investigation by the LAPD, the district attorney's office charged the 15-year-old with one count of battery, a misdemeanor, for her alleged role in the murder. The 15-year-old received 100 hours of community service and was ordered to pay \$100 in restitution for the battery charge, sources said.

Harriet Maran said she is seeking justice for her youngest daughter's death, and that she wants the Sarkissian parents held responsible.

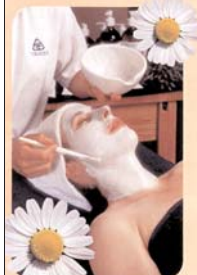
"For me it's a moral issue," she said. "I don't need the courts to tell me what's wrong and what's right, but I'm not living in the real world."

"If that girl didn't show up, it would be what people would call a normal, unsupervised party, but a catalyst for violence came and went."

Armstrong said he and Glassman agreed last week that the Marans won't appeal Judge Lefkowitz's decision. In return, Armstrong won't seek attorney fees from the Marans.

Armstrong, a civil defense attorney specializing in homeowner and commercial liability, has handled a dozen similar cases. But he has never seen so many tragic elements in one case.

"I always viewed it as an all-American tragedy," he said. "Deanna had a bright future ... and Katrina, by all accounts, was a beautiful girl and she had her share of problems, but no one would expect it to happen ... It's the stuff of novels, it's sort of mind boggling."



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LOCAL

Officials look to promote local business abroad

MARKETING, from page 1

traveling to Los Angeles," she said. "Stay here ... we're in the ideal location ... and you can maneuver easily through the city."

Also among the selling points, Lee said, is the pedestrian-oriented nature of downtown, the public transportation system, and the variety of restaurants, shops and hotels for the spendthrift and the wealthy alike.

Santa Monica will be competing alongside many bigger cities in the "California tent" at the London tradeshow. Lee said Santa Monica can compete with cities like San Francisco, San Diego, Anaheim and LA because the city is sold as both a sophisticated urban destination and a beachside getaway.

"It's really the lifestyle that we pitch," she said. "We're an urban city, yet we also have a natural feeling that makes us really unique ... and, of course, the beach. Beach, beach, beach, beach."

Ruth Elwell, owner of Ye Olde King's Head Pub on Santa Monica Boulevard, said British tourists are far and away the biggest international visitors she sees. Because her restaurant and bar has earned a reputation abroad, she said the British tourists often stop there first, asking for information and advice.

The reasons they come to Santa

"Even if it's a foggy day, they're in their shorts and they're sitting on the patio because, to them, it's an English summer day."

- RUTH ELWELL

Owner, Ye Olde King's Head Pub

Monica are simple, Elwell said.

"For Brits, it's weather, weather, weather," she said, adding that British people are comfortable vacationing in seaside cities with piers, like Brighton in the UK. "Even if it's a foggy day, they're in their shorts and they're sitting on the patio because, to them, it's an English summer day."

But Elwell said the same vacationers who are drawn to Santa Monica for its weather, shopping and access to LA, are often turned off by the large homeless population downtown, especially by the excessive panhandling and when large homeless feedings take place in Palisades Park.

Lee said her group is prepared to deal with those concerns. Representatives have a list of talking points to assuage the concerns of any would-be visitors or travel agents considering buying from Santa Monica's businesses in bulk.

"It's come up before," she said, adding that representatives will stress that Santa Monica is a small city with a big heart, and that officials are working towards improving the situation. The bottom line, Lee said, is safety concerns are an issue in any urban setting.

Mayor Richard Bloom agreed. He described Santa Monica as a unique city that will continue to attract visitors from

all over the world.

"In my travels around the country and around the world I have frequently visited cities that have homeless populations," he said. "I'm saddened to see that, but it doesn't affect my desire to visit those places."

"I've often said in the past that, when I travel, I enjoy most places that are places I feel like I would be comfortable living in," Bloom added. "And I think a lot of people find Santa Monica that way."

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- 4) Japan
- 5) France

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- 4) Arizona
- 5) Massachusetts

Source: Santa Monica Convention and Visitors Bureau

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Park scheduled to open in 2006

PARK, from page 1

spring of 2005. But that delay hasn't softened the enthusiasm of local officials.

"It's very exciting. I feel like I'm really lucky because during this term we've really begun to expand," said Mayor Richard Bloom, who pointed to recent efforts by City Hall to increase and improve open space in Santa Monica, including the Virginia Avenue Park expansion, another small park at the old MGM building site on 26th Street and upgrades to existing parks.

Plans for the park, which will sit on land directly adjacent to the Santa Monica Airport, have been in the works for more than six years.

But community members have had plans for the land to be used as open space for a lot longer than that. Back in 1926, residents agreed the space should be used as a park and City Hall purchased the land, City Councilman Mike Feinstein said.

Federal guidelines governing open space later changed, allowing the airport to be built on the land, Feinstein added.

While officials wait for the economy to recover so the money needed to fund the ongoing operation of the park and make improvements to the surrounding streets becomes available, city staff is examining a few options.

One of the more contentious question marks is whether to use artificial turf on the playing fields, a change that would cost City Hall another \$1 million. Mayor Bloom said he supports using artificial turf because it would allow more people to trample over the fields, while reducing repair costs and saving water.

But Feinstein and Councilman Kevin McKeown both expressed reservations about using an artificial surface, saying it would increase injuries, separate those that can afford special shoes from those who cannot and send the wrong message to the community about manipulating the

Community members have had plans for the land to be used as open space for a lot longer than that. Back in 1926, residents agreed the space should be used as a park and City Hall purchased the land.

natural environment.

Another issue that will be discussed further is whether to include an art element at the park. Barbara Stinchfield, director of the community and cultural services department at City Hall, said the project wasn't given an arts component because of the limited amount of resources and greater need in other areas.

Finally, city staff will examine alternatives to the wood chips placed over the ground in the off-leash dog area. Councilman Herb Katz, one of 5,000 registered dog owners in Santa Monica, said the chips are a choking hazard and they camouflage dog waste.

Katz also said he had hoped the park would include an underground parking structure because of the growing demand for parking in Santa Monica. But because the cost would be approximately \$6 million, City Manager Susan McCarthy said staff was opposed to including it at this time.

Without the parking garage and assuming budget projections don't worsen, construction of the park should be complete in the summer of 2006.

STATE



Schwarzenegger triumph may pump up state GOP

BY BETH FOUHY
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Without a doubt, Arnold Schwarzenegger's election as governor has given a shot of adrenaline to California's ailing Republican Party. But whether the former bodybuilder can restore the GOP to robust health remains to be seen.

For one thing, the California GOP has been debilitated for years by infighting between moderates and conservatives, and it is not at all clear whether they will put aside their ideological differences to help elect more Republicans.

Nor is it clear whether Schwarzenegger's election represents a triumph of Republican ideas. On issues such as abortion, guns and gay rights, the Hollywood action hero is closer to the Democrats than he is to the Republicans. And many have attributed his election to his stardom and public anger toward Gov. Gray Davis, rather than Schwarzenegger's politics.

Nevertheless, the Republicans are savoring his victory and the excitement it has created less than a year after the 2002 elections, in which the party lost every statewide constitutional office.

"The party has proven again that it can win," said former Secretary of State Bill Jones, who may challenge Democratic Sen. Barbara Boxer next year. "It's a great psychological benefit for us, something we can show the rest of the country, contributors, base voters and the people of California."

Party officials say having Schwarzenegger in the governor's office could help put California in play during the 2004 White House race and boost President Bush's chances of winning the state. They say Schwarzenegger's election could also threaten Boxer's prospects for another term.

Although registered Democrats outnumber Republicans in California 44 percent to 35 percent, almost 62 percent of voters in the recall election favored Schwarzenegger or state Sen. Tom McClintock, the top GOP candidates.

Exit polls conducted for The Associated Press and other news organizations also showed that Schwarzenegger made impressive inroads in several traditionally Democratic constituencies. He won 39 percent of voters from union households and 31 percent of Hispanic voters, despite the presence of a major Hispanic candidate — Democratic Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante — on the ballot. Schwarzenegger also won 43 percent of women voters, despite a barrage of allegations of sexual misconduct.

But analysts say moving California reliably into the GOP column will prove a much tougher task.

"Schwarzenegger at least appears to offer an opportunity to draw new people to the Republican Party," said GOP consultant Arnold Steinberg. "He did better than Republicans are accustomed to doing, but it remains to be seen whether it will be permanent."

Indeed, many analysts say the unusual confluence of factors that propelled Schwarzenegger into office says little about the inherent strengths or weakness-

"If Schwarzenegger had lost, Republican donors and activists would have been in fetal position," Spillane said. "We would have been locked out of power for the next decade."

— KEVIN SPILLANE
Republican strategist

es of either party.

Voters were angry at Davis, blaming him for the 2001 energy crisis and the gaping budget deficit. Meanwhile, Schwarzenegger leveraged his celebrity and his moderate positions on social issues and exploited the recall's compressed time frame to bypass the normal GOP nominating process, which typically favors more conservative candidates.

"It was unique to Arnold and unique to a recall," said Democratic consultant Roy Behr, who works for Boxer. "You had the strongest possible Republican candidate running against the least impressive Democrat we've had in quite some time."

But many Republicans reject that view, saying voters chose Schwarzenegger for his leadership qualities and pledge to fix the state's ailing economy. They say those qualities could propel other candidates to victory in California, including Bush, who lost the state by 1.3 million votes in 2000.

"People want leaders who will address problems," said GOP strategist Mindy Tucker Fletcher, who is heading Bush's re-election effort in California. "With Bush you've got a president who has said we have an economic problem, and he's addressing it. Voters didn't see that with Gov. Davis."

Exit polls showed about 49 percent of voters in the recall election approve of the job Bush is doing as president, and 48 percent disapprove.

But Behr and other Democratic strategists see a starkly different lesson in the recall.

"If you're going to try and extract one message from recall, it's that people want change," Behr said. "If they still want change in 2004, the candidate most likely to be victimized is George W. Bush."

Kevin Spillane, a Republican strategist working to defeat Boxer, said Schwarzenegger's victory affirmed the party's need to form a moderate-to-conservative coalition that could unite around a moderate candidate.

He also said the recall saved the party from near extinction.

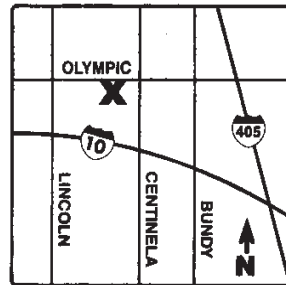
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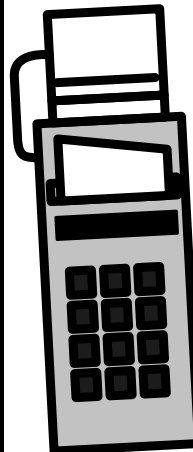
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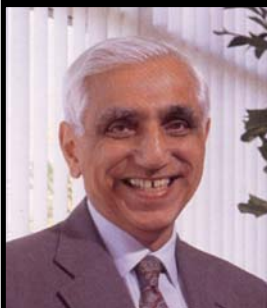
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STATE

Environmentalists irate as Bush tightens noose

BY ELLIOT SPAGAT

Associated Press Writer

IMPERIAL BEACH — In the southwestern corner of the continental United States, a grassy plateau houses a few picnic benches that overlook the Pacific Ocean and lie just a stone's throw from a bullring and lighthouse in Tijuana, Mexico. People standing on U.S. soil chat with those in Mexico through a mesh fence, under the watchful eye of Border Patrol agents.

The plateau at Border Field State Park gives way to steep, rugged canyons including "Smuggler's Gulch," a maze of trails long overrun by illegal border crossers until the federal government launched a crackdown in 1994, erecting a steel wall made of surplus Navy landing mats, adding patrols and installing lights and motion sensors.

The Bush administration hopes to build a second fence and a patrol road, tightening the noose along this westernmost 3.5-mile leg of the 2,000-mile U.S.-Mexico border. But environmentalists object, arguing the new barriers would erode soil just south of a 2,531-acre federally protected estuary that is a refuge for threatened and endangered birds, plants and fish amid the San Diego-Tijuana metropolis.

The environmentalists recently won support from staff researchers for the California Coastal Commission, who issued a report last month saying the project was overkill, with any security benefits outweighed by damage to the environment.

The second fence and 24-foot-wide patrol road would require crews to move 2.1 million cubic yards of dirt in Smuggler's Gulch alone, or enough to fill about 300,000 dump trucks, the report said.

The staff report scolded the federal government for a "lack of vision and unwillingness to seriously consider the recreational values in the region." State commissioners are scheduled to vote on the project in February, but the Bush administration could overrule a rejection.

The Army Corps of Engineers, in its own environmental assessment released in July, found that the project would threaten the two endangered birds: the least Bell vireo and the coastal California gnatcatcher.

The Coastal Commission says it would worsen soil erosion in the neighboring estuary, which already suffers severely from runoff sewage and rainfall from Mexico. The estuary is a key stopover point for more than 370 species of migratory and native birds, including six endangered species, according to the state Parks and Recreation Department.

Adding to the mix, San Diego County has acquired more than 1,800 acres of seaside hills, marsh and riverbed since the late 1980s for parks that would serve fast-growing bedroom communities along the border. The county recently built five baseball fields and plans to add soccer fields next year. This month, it proposed an expanded trail system through Smuggler's Gulch.

"Granted, there's a need to beef up the fence down there but I think it can be

done without desecrating a mesa and destroying a park," said county Supervisor Greg Cox, whose district includes Imperial Beach.

The Border Patrol is ceding little ground. It recently dropped its demand to run the second fence through the grassy patch of picnic benches in the state park known as Friendship Circle, but Mike Hance, a supervisory Border Patrol agent, says filling Smuggler's Gulch is needed to prevent a resurgence of illegal crossings in the area.

The Border Patrol's Imperial Beach station, which patrols five miles east from the Pacific Ocean, apprehended an average of 30 people daily in the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, down from about 500 in 1994. The crackdown launched in 1994, known as Operation Gatekeeper, forced smugglers and migrants inland to sparsely populated highlands and deserts. Nationwide, the Border Patrol averaged 2,386 apprehensions a day in the last fiscal year.

But Hance points to migrant camps on Mexican soil, just south of the single steel wall that at some points is only 6 feet tall. At night, agile migrants can jump the fence or crawl through drainage culverts, then disperse into dense shrubbery on the U.S. side and into the streets of Imperial Beach.

"They make a mad dash and drop down into the bushes," Hance says as he negotiates his sports utility vehicle through hairpin turns into Smuggler's Gulch. A Border Patrol agent died nearby last year when her Jeep Wrangler tumbled 30 feet off the dirt road.

To illustrate what the Border Patrol wants to do, Hance crosses Interstate 5 to a less environmentally sensitive area. There, where the government is building nine miles of secondary fencing, he cruises at 30 mph through an "enforcement zone" — two fences about 150 feet apart that are sandwiched by a wide patrol road. The new mesh fence, with holes too small for even an ice pick or screwdriver to fit through, rises 14 feet and tilts at the top.

"If we get our few hundred feet (along the border) for our enforcement zone, they can have all the land they want for their horse trails," Hance said.

A compromise appears likely, but the outcome is unclear. The federal government has rejected a proposal advocated by some environmentalists to replace the existing, crumbling fence and fortify dirt roads. Another alternative calls for a bridge over Smuggler's Gulch, an idea that the Border Patrol has rejected because people would still be able to scurry beneath the crossing and hide in shrubbery.

Opposing the Border Patrol is an awkward position for many elected officials and residents in Imperial Beach, who are grateful for the crackdown in recent years. Before Gatekeeper, crowds of migrants stormed the border at night and turned Imperial Beach into a thoroughfare.

"It was an abyss," said Cox, the county supervisor. "The problems have been reduced to a trickle and everyone applauds the Border Patrol for what they've done."

NATIONAL



Four retired policemen take crack at cold cases

BY JOSEPH B. FRAZIER
Associated Press Writer

ROSEBURG, Ore. — At age 16, Benny King was no cherub. Not even close. So when he vanished from a river-side beer party in 1975, some weren't too surprised. He had a string of juvenile offenses and was awaiting trial on a home-invasion rape charge.

"It was at gunpoint," retired policeman Al Olson said. "He made the husband watch."

King stayed missing until mushroom hunters found his boots and bones in the woods west of Roseburg in 1998. Olson and three other retired law enforcement veterans, who make up Douglas County's volunteer Cold Case Squad, took the case in January.

Using old-fashioned gumshoe techniques, the four followed clues that led them to Johnny Carlos Tinker, 46, who was already in prison on pornography charges. In September, Tinker confessed to squad members Tom Hall and Thomas Schultz and was sentenced to life in prison.

The four members of the Roseburg cold case squad — mostly 60-ish and with more than 100 years of experience among them — could have put their feet up years ago. There are golf courses in Douglas County, and the rivers are teeming with fish. But for two days a week, on their own time, they're back at it.

Cold case squads are forming across the country as new technology and DNA availability make it possible to delve into long-abandoned crimes. It's a topic that's got people's interest. There's even a new TV show called "Cold Case," about a young female Philadelphia detective who reopens unsolved murder cases.

Twice a week, under the supervision of a Douglas County detective, Lt. Curt Strickland, the four Roseburg volunteers comb over old files, looking for something others may have missed, said Syd Boyle, another member of the cold case team.

Strickland organized the squad, assigns them cases and makes sure they can get in touch with people they need to work with.

The county advertised for volunteers. "All we knew is that they wanted to try the concept," Olson said. "We had no idea which way it would go."

By taking just one case at a time the squad can avoid distractions, he said.

Boyle retired in 1987 after 26 years that included crime scene and homicide investigation in Modesto and Turlock, Calif.

Hall, a former postal inspector who handled bomb squad cases in Los Angeles and Phoenix, farms a few cattle, as does Boyle.

Olson retired after service in several California departments, most recently as police chief in Pacifica, then worked child abuse cases in Vancouver, Wash. He retired again to a home on a golf course, but it didn't take.

"Once it gets in your blood, so to speak, it's there forever," he said.

Schultz, a former detective who served on police forces in Wisconsin, Las Vegas and Concord, Calif., now sells insurance.

"Law enforcement has been good to me," he said. "I don't mind donating some time back to the community."

Schultz said that for years police

believed the story by Tinker and an accomplice that King was last seen getting into an elderly Volkswagen at the 1975 party.

"Everybody who worked the case, including us, chased that fictitious Volkswagen," he said. "It didn't exist."

But the four said as time passed, fears subsided, attitudes and loyalties changed, and more people talked.

"We kept narrowing down the names then fixed on a couple of them," he said. Tinker, it seems, shot King out of anger over the rape.

The first shot from the sawed-off shotgun didn't do the job and King fled into the woods. Tinker returned to his car for more shells and urged King to come out, saying it was all a mistake.

That's what King did, and Tinker, then 17, let him have it twice in the head.

Olson said the epiphany, the "aha!" moment, didn't come until the two prison interviews with Tinker.

"We had it down to two people at the time," he said.

Olson says the county probably saved \$500,000 in trial and appeals costs by getting a confession.

About 6,000 murders go unsolved each year in the United States. About 200,000 have gone cold since 1960.

"Typically, if no new leads are formed within 72 hours, a case has a 60-65 percent chance of going cold pretty quickly," said forensic anthropologist Max Houck, a founder of the new Institute for Cold Case Evaluation at West Virginia University. He formerly was with the FBI crime lab in Washington, D.C.

The institute specializes in getting forensic help to the nation's 18,000 police departments, often at reduced costs.

After successfully solving their first case, the Roseburg squad is now focusing on that of Barbara Joy Gallagher, age 31 when last seen in 1988.

The swimming coach, Red Cross employee, life guard and corporate physical fitness student has been missing and presumed murdered for 15 years.

The birthday and Christmas calls she always made to a son in the Midwest had stopped. Friends in the Red Bluff, Calif., area, where she had roots, reported no trace of her.

She had been living in rural Azalea with Robert Barr, described by the cold case deputies as a violent, consummate con man and liar.

Barr's wife's body was found in the Lake Tahoe region, near where Barr killed himself several weeks later in April 2001, shot with the same gun that killed his wife.

Barr lived in a heavily wooded area in Azalea.

"We'll probably never find (Barbara's) body. Our best guess is that it's out there somewhere," Olson said.

They haven't stopped looking.

Boyle spent a recent Tuesday crawling under the house to see if anything had been missed.

Olson said he thinks he nearly has enough evidence to close the case. But it would be a lot easier to solve if Barr were alive.

"This case is a little tougher," Schultz said. "The (expletive) is dead and we can't put him in a box and get it out of him."

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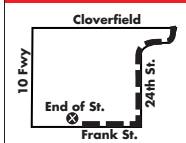
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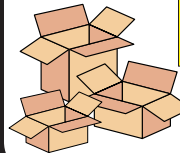
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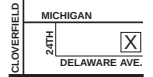
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NATIONAL

Vail Resorts antes up for violating Clean Water Act

BY ROBERT WELLER

Associated Press Writer

DENVER — Vail Resorts has agreed to pay an \$80,100 fine for violating the Clean Water Act during its development of Blue Sky Basin, its highly popular back bowl skiing runs.

"Vail cannot express how deeply we regret that these wetland areas were impacted," said Bill Jensen, chief operating officer of the Vail ski resort, on Friday. "We are entrusted with the stewardship of our public lands and we take that responsibility seriously and to heart."

The fine was levied against Vail Associates, the name of the company before it merged with Keystone and Breckenridge.

The penalty was fair given the environmental significance Vail Associates' violations and its compliance history, Environmental Protection Agency Assistant

Regional Administrator Cal Rushin said.

The settlement is part of a consent degree that will be subject to public comment for 30 days before being finalized in federal court.

The company also was required to restore an area of rare, high alpine wetlands, covering less than an acre, damaged by construction of a road used to haul logs out of the new ski terrain.

Some environmentalists had been critical of Vail for developing the north-facing back bowls because they considered it potential habitat for the endangered Canada lynx. In 1998, an ecoterror group set a fire that caused \$12.5 million to protest the development, but it continued and the area opened to skiing in 1999.

Vail hired Western Ecological Resource, Inc., of Boulder, a wetland consulting and restoration expert, to help restore affected wetlands. Work began in the summer of 2000.

mer of 2000.

"The restoration is proceeding extremely well and I have every expectation this success will continue," said David Johnson, president and senior biologist at Western. The restoration involves re-establishing the original land contours, replanting and reseeded, organic soil enhancement and other activities.

Vail, meanwhile, announced that it had asked the U.S. Forest Service for permission to build a new high-speed lift in the original, south-facing bowls of the resort.

The high-speed quad lift would whisk skiers and snowboarders back to Patrol Headquarters on top of Vail Mountain in about five and a half minutes — less than half time it takes now on existing Chair 5.

Vail also asked to replace an aging, low-speed double chair in the area to help remove a bottleneck that left some skiers and snowboarders waiting in line for 45 minutes.

Civil Rights Commission discusses Indian health care

BY PATRICIA L. GARCIA

Associated Press Writer

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Poverty, inadequate education, cultural and language barriers and geographic distances all factor into health care disparities faced by American Indians, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights was told.

The commission heard suggestions from tribal leaders and health care advocates at a daylong hearing in Albuquerque about how health care services for Indians can be improved. The hearing comes as lawmakers are looking to review and expand the Indian Health Care Improvement Act. The act, which expires this year, guides federal health and education

spending for Indians.

"These discussions should enlighten and provide more information to the Congress as it considers whether or not, one, it wants to pass this legislation, and two, what adjustments in it (Congress) should make," said Commission Chairwoman Mary Frances Berry.

While medical care and public health efforts — such as mass vaccinations and sanitation facilities — have increased in the last several years, Indians still face higher rates of cardiovascular disease, alcoholism, oral diseases and one type of diabetes than does the general U.S. population.

What's distressing is that those diseases are preventable, said Jon Perez, director

of the Indian Health Service's Division of Behavioral Health.

According to commission estimates, the per capita health expenditure for all Americans will be \$5,775 this year. The Indian Health Service spends about \$1,600 per person, and on the Navajo Nation, that amount is less than \$800 per person.

Charles Grim, Indian Health Service director, said Indian health care facilities lack funding and adequate staff.

He said health care can be improved through recruitment and retention programs for medical professionals, as well as cultural training for health care providers. Scholarships, loan repayments and other incentives would help retain

specialists, he said.

"We're looking more and more at recruitment initiatives," Grim said. "We need to train our local people so they can stay there."

Tribal leaders told the commission the IHS does not provide enough specialized treatment and that its services were insufficient. They also said Indian health care facilities are overcrowded and underfunded.

Only 19 of the 49 Indian Health Service and tribal hospitals across the country have surgery programs, and many reservations lack medical services for veterans. As a result, Indians must sometimes travel great distances to receive specialized treatment.

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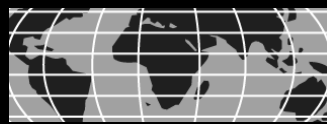
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WORLD BRIEFLY

Purported bin Laden tape recruits for jihad

By The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — In a new audiotape aired over the weekend, a voice purported to be Osama bin Laden vowed suicide attacks "inside and outside" the United States and threatened nations that are helping the American occupation of Iraq.

The speaker in the tape, broadcast throughout the Arab world by the Al-Jazeera television station, also warned Iraqis against cooperating with U.S. forces and urged youth in neighboring nations to join a jihad, or holy war, against the Americans.

"We reserve the right to respond at the appropriate time and place against all the countries participating in this unjust war, particularly Britain, Spain, Australia, Poland, Japan and Italy," the voice said.

"The Islamic countries who participate will not be exempt, especially the Gulf countries, most prominent among them is Kuwait, the launching base for infantry troops of the crusaders."

Bush wants to bolster Filipino military

By The Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — Amid extraordinary security and street demonstrations that forced schedule delays, President Bush this weekend promised to help the Philippines defeat terrorism by aiding in the modernization of its under-equipped military.

"The terrorists will continue their missions of murder and suicide until they are stopped. And we will stop them," Bush told a joint session of the Philippine Congress.

He and Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo agreed to beef up their military cooperation, including intensifying an already existing partnership to boost mixed efforts to defeat al-Qaida-linked militant extremist groups that operate in the islands.

Arroyo was grateful to Bush for American security assistance. "We must close ranks and stand firm against terrorist threats, however grave," she said as the two appeared together before reporters.

Marines in trouble for P.O.W. treatment

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Eight Marine reservists face charges ranging from negligent homicide to making false statements in connection with the mistreatment of prisoners of war in Iraq, military officials said.

Two of the men were charged with negligent homicide in connection with the June death of an Iraqi who was held at a detention facility, said Marine Staff Sgt. Bill Lisbon, a spokesman at Camp Pendleton.

Lisbon said Saturday he was unsure how many of the other six reservists had been charged in connection with that incident and would not say whether the man was the 52-year-old Iraqi prisoner of war whose death at a camp run by the 1st Marine Division near Nasiriyah was reported last June.

Maj. Clark Paulus and Lance Cpl. Christian Hernandez face negligent homicide charges. The other six face lesser charges involving mistreatment of prisoners.

State Attorney's office blaze kills six

By The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Jerry Lawrence could smell the smoke as he headed for the stairs on the 32nd floor but he figured it was just a trash fire. It wasn't until he and others had crowded into the stairwell and the smoke began thickening around them that he began to worry.

"You could feel people picking up their pace in the stairwell as it became clearer and clearer that the fire was pretty bad," he said.

Once outside, Lawrence and his co-workers from the Cook County State's Attorney's office huddled in a group as flames and smoke poured from the government building's 11th floor. As the minutes passed, they prayed for one colleague still missing — Randy Roberts, 47.

The fire began around 5 p.m. Friday as many workers in the 35-story Cook County administration building were preparing to go home for the weekend. Smoke filled the downtown tower's two stairwells as people followed an announcement to evacuate.

Only after the blaze had been put out did firefighters

find about a dozen more people in the stairwell and on the 22nd floor, fire officials said. Six of them were dead.

Woman arrested after children found dead

By The Associated Press

LAMAR, Colo. — A woman who apparently attempted suicide after her two children were found dead in a bathtub was arrested this weekend on murder charges.

Rebekah Amaya, 32, was being returned from a hospital in Colorado Springs to face the charges, said Police Capt. Rick Copess. She had been hospitalized after slashing her wrists in an apparent suicide attempt. She will be held without bond on two counts of first-degree murder, he said.

The children, identified as Grace Headlee, 4, and Gabriel Amaya, 5 months, were found dead Thursday by Gabriel's father, Leo Amaya. He told police his wife had been suffering stress problems.

"Words cannot express the shock and grief we feel at this time," Leo Amaya said.

Mark Headlee, a Lamar police officer who is Grace's father and Rebekah Amaya's former husband, returned from Utah where he had been on military duty. His family declined to comment Friday.

Passenger with box cutters warned FBI

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A college student who the FBI believes hid box cutters and other banned items aboard two Southwest Airlines planes had warned government officials he would try to bring forbidden articles onto commercial flights to expose holes in security.

A federal law enforcement official said Saturday that investigators are interviewing the man to learn how, despite stepped-up security since the Sept. 11 attacks, the man got through airport screeners while also carrying bleach, matches, modeling clay and notes detailing his intention to test security.

A Bush administration official said the suspected perpetrator last month sent the government an e-mail warning of his intention to conceal similar suspicious items on six planes and provided dates and locations for the plan.

Air fleet is a vital cog in North Slope oil production

BY WESLEY LOY

Associated Press Writer

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Capt. Jim Adams used to fly radio guys around Southern California in a single-engine Cessna. They'd check out the traffic jams on the freeways first, then swing over the beaches to check out the waves. For the surfer dudes.

That was before Adams landed a flying job for an oil company, and his career took off up north. Now he pilots jets between Anchorage and the North Slope oil fields.

He's been flying on the Slope, in fact, almost since the first barrel of crude oil flowed down the 800-mile trans-Alaska pipeline in the summer of 1977.

On a recent Friday afternoon flight, he carried another load of passengers — oil field workers, none of whom paid a nickel in airfare — from the state airport at Deadhorse down to Anchorage.

It's a stunning route for pilots, over the lake-pocked tundra, across the shark's teeth of the Brooks Range, over the ponderous Yukon River, past Mount McKinley and its sidekick Foraker punching through the clouds, then down to murky Cook Inlet and the Anchorage international airport, which from the cockpit looks besieged with oversized mosquitoes all looking to land on the same spot.

"We don't get bored," said Adams, at

the controls with first officer Dennis Parrish. "We like working for the people we work for."

Those people are ConocoPhillips Alaska Inc., BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc., Alyeska Pipeline Service Co., and the contractors that work for the oil companies at Prudhoe Bay, Kuparuk and the other North Slope oil fields.

Adams manages the small fleet of planes that make up Shared Services Aviation, a joint unit of operator ConocoPhillips and BP, the state's two biggest oil producers.

The aviation wing is a vital cog in the enormous endeavor of North Slope oil production. Each week it hauls thousands of engineers, drillers, tool-pushers, electricians, mechanics, security officers and many other specialists to and from the remote job site.

By all appearances, flying with Adams is like riding on any commercial airline. Passengers must reserve their seats, and they board and disembark through a regular airport gate. Flight attendants walk past rows of seats occupied mostly by burly men and announce on the public address: "Ladies and gentlemen, welcome aboard Shared Services Flight 324."

But this is not an airline, as defined under federal regulations.

"This is the company bus. We just take people to work," Parrish said.

Work on the North Slope is different. Most people stay on the cold, typically dark Slope for two or three weeks at a time, and when it's time to board that jet for home and family, it's always a fine flight.

"There's very seldom an empty seat on this flight," said Bill Streever, a BP environmental scientist, as he boarded the Friday jet to Anchorage.

It's easy to tell which direction a Shared Services plane is headed. Flights headed north to the oil fields, where alcohol is forbidden, are dry, while south-bound flights offer two drinks per passenger, only a buck each.

ConocoPhillips and BP believe that operating their own planes, even though they don't generate revenue, is most cost-effective. Still, there's much business for many commercial carriers on the Slope, including Alaska Airlines, Northern Air Cargo and Frontier Flying Service.

A now defunct company, Wien Air Alaska, pioneered jet service to the Slope beginning in 1971, and it once carried much of the load for the oil companies, Adams said.

BP put its own Boeing 727 into service in 1974, and Arco, which sold out to what is now ConocoPhillips, was operating two more 727s by 1984.

Shared Services Aviation was formed in 1991 as the oil companies, facing a decline in North Slope oil production, looked to partner where they could to trim

costs. Today, the oil companies are operating a smaller, but more modern, aviation unit, Adams said.

The three 727s have yielded to two Boeing 737s, each with a passenger capacity of 111. Both are leased from Wells Fargo Bank, one by ConocoPhillips and the other by BP. He declined to reveal the overall budget for Shared Services.

The aviation unit also has two propeller-driven planes, a deHavilland Twin Otter and a CASA 212 that stay busy hopping around the Slope's mostly gravel airstrips.

Passenger and employee counts also have dropped, Adams said. ConocoPhillips and BP once had a combined 120 people devoted to aviation, but only 62 now, including 22 pilots.

Jet passengers have slipped to about 4,000 a week from 5,000 two years ago, Adams said.

Automation on the Slope is a big reason, he said. With new technology, it doesn't take as many people to run an oil field.

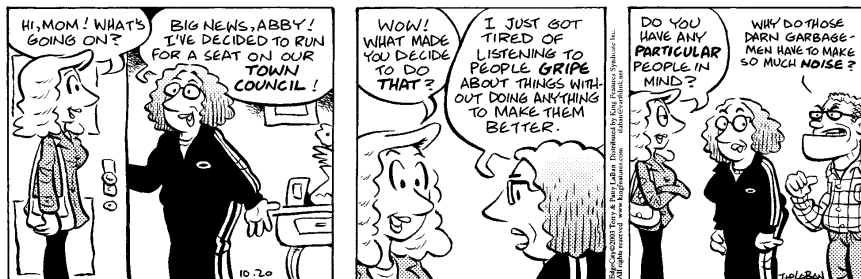
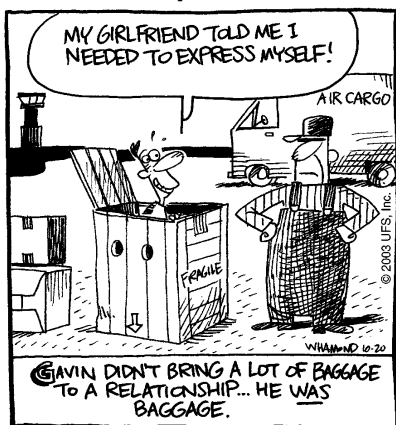
It's rare, but the planes also have been used over the years to medevac injured workers, or to rush up spare parts for use in the oil fields.

The jets, built in 1986 and maintained by Alaska Airlines, make about 20 flights weekly between Anchorage, Fairbanks, Deadhorse and the Kuparuk airstrip. The smaller planes make about 100 flights a week.

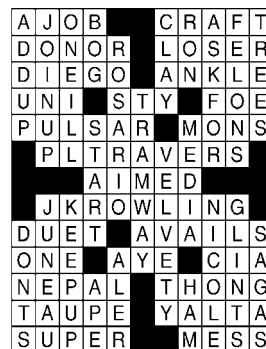
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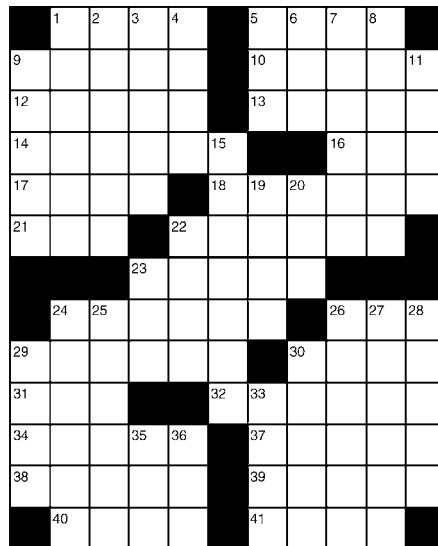
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

No class: King backs out of Internet teaching gig

By The Associated Press

LEWISTON, Maine — Best-selling writer Stephen King has backed out of a plan to teach writing to middle school students over the Internet, at least for now.

King said last November that he would like to teach an interactive class for Maine seventh- and eighth-graders as part of a program that puts a laptop into the hands of all 36,000 public middle school students.

But the master of the horror story is too busy to teach for another year or more, said his personal assistant, Marsha DeFilippo.

King is currently in the middle of final production for "Stephen King's Kingdom Hospital," a 15-hour TV drama series that will premiere on ABC in February. He is also writing a monthly column for Entertainment Weekly and is editing his final book in the Dark Tower series.

"And trying to have a personal family life," DeFilippo added.

Tony Sprague, director of the laptop

program, said King's writing class is "still in the planning process."

MIAMI — Enrique Iglesias and his producer are being accused of stealing a songwriter's composition for the title track for the 2001 album "Escape."

Henry Lorenzo Haynes claimed in a federal lawsuit filed last week that Iglesias' producer Steve Morales recruited him for compositions in early 2001 and accepted a song titled "Remind Me" in the middle of the year. Haynes claims that song turned up, without any credit to him, on the album.

"Even an ordinary observer can hear the exact copy" in the English and Spanish versions of the song, the lawsuit said. "The misappropriation is severe."

Haynes' lawyer did not immediately respond to a telephone message left by The Associated Press on Sunday. There was no answer at Iglesias' record company, Interscope Records, on Sunday.

Haynes said he registered his composition for a copyright on July 16, 2001,

and Iglesias registered his Dec. 5, 2001.

Haynes said he met Morales at his home and recording studios and was introduced to Iglesias on a studio visit. Morales later listened to "Remind Me," said he thought it was a hit and took the copy that Haynes brought with him. After that, the lawsuit said Morales told Haynes that he was barred from the studio.

LOS ANGELES — Jerry Hall has played the seductive but troubled Mrs. Robinson on the London stage and in the touring national production of "The Graduate," but it was the Los Angeles premiere that gave her the butterflies.

"I was so nervous," Hall told the Los Angeles Times in Sunday's editions. "Something about being here makes me nervous. So many actors maybe."

The Texas model-turned-actress arrived at an after-party with her former stepdaughter Karis Jagger and received enthusiastic reviews from fellow actors Sally Kirkland and Rebecca De Mornay, who also attended the premiere. The show

runs through Oct. 26 in Los Angeles.

Former Mrs. Robinsons have included Anne Bancroft in the 1967 film and Kathleen Turner on Broadway.

Hall, who was married to Rolling Stones rocker Mick Jagger for more than 20 years, succeeded Turner in the role.

NEW YORK — Documentary filmmaker Ken Burns has married his girlfriend Julie Deborah Brown, the founder of a nonprofit organization, in a civil ceremony in New Hampshire.

The couple was married by a justice of the peace Saturday at their Walpole, N.H., home.

Burns, 50, has produced and directed hit documentaries covering a wide variety of topics, including "The Civil War" in 1990, "Baseball" in 1994 and "Jazz" in 2001.

Brown, 37, is the executive director of the New York-based Room to Grow, which supports babies born into poverty, according to The New York Times.

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