WEEKEND EDITION

Santa Monica Daily Press

October 22-23, 2005 | A newspaper with issues | Volume 4, Issue 296

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO
10 12 30 34 39
Meganumber: 19
Jackpot: $11 Million

FANTASY 5
10 11 18 25 37

DAILY 3
Daytime: 5 8 5
Evening: 5 9 8

DAILY DERBY
1st: 08 Gorgeous George
2nd: 05 California Classic
3rd: 04 Big Ben

RACE TIME: 1:42.87

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



NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

Whatever Happened to the Concept of Keeping a Low Profile? Sonja Aguirre, 18, was arrested in Greenwood Village, Colo., in March when, while allegedly carrying 265 pounds of marijuana worth an estimated $500,000, she decided to save a few steps and park in a handicap space. And Edgar Galvan, 28, and Jose Clark, 27, were arrested in Orlando, Fla., in July when, though allegedly carrying 550 pounds of marijuana, they nonetheless hauled it in an SUV with an expired license plate. And, according to police in Dayton, Ohio, in August, a man and a teenager, who were intending to rob a marijuana-growing couple of their large inventory, were arrested shortly beforehand when they tried to save a few bucks by shoplifting pantyhose (to wear as disguises in the robbery) from a Rite Aid drug store.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 295th day of 2005. There are 70 days left in the year.

In 1746, Princeton University in New Jersey received its charter.

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Healing hands for a wounded coast



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Heal the Bay volunteers Tiff Gravel (left) and Jessica Niven collect trash on the Santa Monica Beach during an emergency trash pickup on Thursday. The unprecedented emergency cleanup was called after trains washed thousands of pounds of debris from storm drains onto the beach and into the ocean this week. About 30 volunteers took part.

Taking heed for a sister in need

BY RYAN HYATT
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY YARDS — Trucks and equipment departed here on Friday bound for Santa Monica's sister city devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

The 18 trucks and pieces of machinery headed for Bayou La Batre, Ala., were loaded up on five diesel transporters at the city yards and shipped off, a commitment Santa Monica made in the aftermath of Katrina to help its adopted city.

One week after the hurricane, City Manager Susan McCarthy asked the National Association of

See **SISTER CITY**, page 16



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Truck drivers Donald Landriault (middle) and James Miller direct the loading of a vehicle onto a truck bed bound for hurricane-ravaged Alabama on Friday.

Medicare changes confuse many seniors

BY JASMIN PERSCH
Special to the Daily Press

KEN EDWARDS CENTER — When Louisa Fish, 68, showed up this week for a meeting organized by city officials about changes to her health care, she was confident she'd walk out more educated on the new Medicare prescription plan.

Instead, she left more confused.

As Fish waited for the presentation on the plan to begin, she gossiped and speculated with Betty Mueller, 79, about their new health care options.

"It was passed in the dead of the night, written by the pharmaceutical companies," Mueller whispered.

See **MEDICARE**, page 12

Road to recovery at SMC campus

BY RYAN HYATT
Daily Press Staff Writer

BUNDY CAMPUS — Regional officials continue to meet in the hopes that Santa Monica College's Bundy campus will become more accessible to students in a manner that minimizes traffic burdens for residents.

Following a Monday night meeting in Mar Vista, representatives from City Hall, SMC and West Los Angeles said they are developing a tri-party agreement

See **BUNDY CAMPUS**, page 14

STATE

Berry, berry painful: Thumb woes on rise

BY ALICIA CHANG
AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES — Chris Claypool was addicted to his BlackBerry wireless handheld. Like many users, he never thought twice about pecking away at lightning speed, replying to a wave of e-mails from clients around the globe.

Last year, the 37-year-old agricultural sales director from Post Falls, Idaho, noticed a throbbing sensation in his thumbs whenever he typed. He switched to tapping with his index finger, then his middle digit and finally his pinky. But his thumbs pained him to the

See **BLACKBERRY**, page 9



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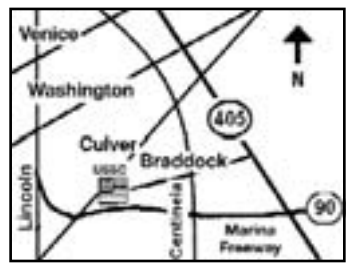
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HOROSCOPE

Dinner and a chat, Scorpio

Santa Monica Daily Press



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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Others offer you an opportunity that you simply cannot say no to. Well, actually, you could. You might be conflicted about a relationship, wanting one thing yet receiving another. Consider an open, loving talk. Tonight: Stay close to home.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Your words hit home and make a difference. Discussions are vibrant, though on some level you might not be satisfied with someone's response. You cannot change this person. Through accepting him or her, you will take the first step toward change. Tonight: Hang out.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ You need to recognize when you cannot make a difference. A matter involving a child or loved one could prove to be very exciting. You also could be lucky with a risk. Don't let anger boil over. Talk. Tonight: Curb a tendency to go overboard.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ You are king- or queenpin today. You are likely to get what you want. A child or romantic tie could warm the cockles of your heart. You are pulled in different directions. Follow your heart's desire. Tonight: Where you are, the party is.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Take some long-overdue time off. You could be way too tired, more so than you realize. Many people want you. You could feel stretched like a rubber band. Recognize when you need to pull back and take care of yourself. Tonight: A little mystery goes a long way.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Others act unpredictably. What's new about that? The best way to handle your plans is to find your friends. Don't become too vested in what happens. Just enjoy the person you are with. Movies, a ballgame or a party all work. Tonight: Follow your friends.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ You might have much more drop on you than you want or need. Unfortunately, responsibility is your middle name right now. What you do and how you do it could impact you far more than you think. Tonight: Out and about, even if you would rather stay home.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ A day trip could be most provocative and exciting. The change of pace feels good and refreshes your outlook and your body. Instinctively, you might know that it's time for an important discussion. Tonight: Dinner and a chat at a new spot.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ A partner wants his way with you, though you might not say yes immediately. You have the potential to have an unusually special day if you let go. Be willing to talk about your vulnerabilities. Tonight: Need we spell it out?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ For once, flow with others. It isn't necessary to put in your two cents. With friends, family and loved ones, you could create a very special day. In fact, you might not forget what happens for a long time. Tonight: Let go of rules.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ You have a lazy day in front of you. Of course you might opt to do a project or two around the house. Just make yourself No. 1 right now. A surprise or good news comes from a foreigner or call. Tonight: Order in.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Your spontaneity works in your favor, especially with children and loved ones. You have the capacity to warm up several key relationships. Be open to others. Happiness will follow. Tonight: Let it happen.

CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL AUDIT PENDING

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LOCAL

COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Photo Courtesy

(From left to right) Cecelia Waeschle, of Sotheby's; Joyce Rey and Betty Graham, of Coldwell Banker; and Frank Symons of Sotheby's celebrate at last year's St. Joseph's fundraiser.

Wining and dining for homeless kids

By Daily Press staff

Homeless children will get assistance from those who will attend a fundraising dinner at a posh Beverly Hills hotel.

On Wednesday, Nov. 2, from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., the Joyce Rey & Cecelia Waeschle Childcare Scholarship Fund will host a glittering sit-down dinner at the Hotel Bel-Air.

Proceeds from the event will support St. Joseph Center's childcare programs, which provide care and education for homeless and impoverished children, who range in age from three months to five years old.

The fundraising event started 19 years ago with a private dinner party to celebrate the birthday of local realtor Joyce Rey.

"Rather than gifts, I encourage my friends and associates at Coldwell Banker and throughout the real estate community to support our Childcare Scholarship Fund," Rey said. Since its inception, the fund has raised more than $388,500.

"This year Sotheby's International Realty will join Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage once again in the underwriting of this annual commitment to our long-term empowerment of low-income families toward self-sufficiency," said Rhonda Meister, St. Joseph Center executive director. Cecilia Waeschle of Sotheby's, a long-time friend of St. Joseph Center, said the event "celebrates our commitment to the Westside community."

For this year's gala, the Hotel Bel-Air will prepare a meal for the more than 100 guests expected to attend.

Tickets are $185 per guest. Call (310) 317-4995 for more information.

CORRECTIONS — Due to an editing error, there was an inaccuracy in a letter to the editor written by James Zeruk Jr. published in the Oct. 17 edition. The number of homeless veterans living at one of the four major homeless vet programs at the West Los Angeles VA campus is 500 on any given day.

In the Oct. 12 edition, proper credit was not given to the stylists who made over more than a half dozen women from a local domestic violence shelter. The staff at Hair Cafe donated time, stylists and products to make over the women.

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SURF REPORT

Almost all breaks are seeing waist-high sets with pluses now and then when the tide is right. Standout spots are seeing chest-high sets. On Saturday, expect light winds from the west below five mph. NW is looking nil on Saturday. That will be changing on Sunday into Monday, when the next NW swell is due. As far as wind, Sunday should see light offshores in the morning with afternoon onshores around eight to 12 mph.

Today the water is:

63°

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

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	5:19	3.2	8:40	0.6	2:59	3.3	12:14	5.2
SUNDAY	N/A	N/A	10:06	0.8	N/A	N/A	1:12	4.7
MONDAY	9:39	3.8	11:18	0.8	6:58	3.8	2:53	4.3
TUESDAY	11:39	3.4	12:09	0.7	7:04	4.1	4:38	4.3
WEDNESDAY	12:09	0.7	12:32	2.9	7:18	4.3	5:49	4.4

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The Q Line

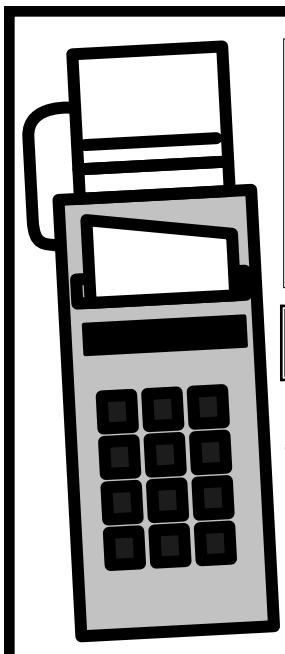
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**WE HAVE THE QUESTIONS.
YOU HAVE THE ANSWERS.
CHECK OUT THIS WEEK'S Q-LINE RESPONSES ON PAGE 4.**

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OPINION

The Q Line

Building Momentum For Affordable Housing

This past week, Q-line asked:
"Was the City Council correct in its assertion that higher developer fees will equal more affordable housing or was the hike an unnecessary passing of the buck?"

Here are your responses:

✆ "As usual the city has come up with yet another quack way of trying to fix a problem which they have over time created. It won't and will no doubt, as usual, create even more problems. Is there no end to their inept and lunatic way of attempting to deal with problems? Get them all out of there. We need fresh blood."

✆ "For a good many years, the city of Santa Monica had a very good program that provided affordable housing for tenants at a fair price to both tenant and apartment owner. The program was known as rent control. Then came the decontrol, recontrol, rent control program that ended rent control as the tenants of Santa Monica knew it. Trust me, reasonable rent control is over in Santa Monica. Under the original rent control program, no original apartment house owner lost money when one considers that a 10-unit apartment house building built in the late 1960s and early 1970s only cost $200,000 to build, including the lot the building sits on. Under the original rent control program, the apartment house owner recaptured their investment in their building every two and a half years. Under the new decontrol, recontrol program of rent control, the apartment building owners recapture their investment every year. A 10-unit building will now rent for $200,000 every year. Now, with the original rent control program badly eroded and no room for affordable housing to be built, I say more power to the city of Santa Monica in charging an in lieu fee to the developers. It is a form of poetic justice."

✆ "If developers have to pay more money that's a good idea, they can afford it anyway. If they don't want to build in Santa Monica so much the better, they have enough high rise buildings there as it is. As far as affordable housing is concerned, if they can build it and just keep out the garbage people, you know, the gang members and these rotten punks that cause all the trouble, then affordable housing would be good. Otherwise, there's no point to it, it just turns into a gang area like the Pico area and we don't want more of that, we have enough those kind of people already."

✆ "This was the best decision the council could have made. The fees were too low and we weren't producing enough housing. We need this money to add to other money. The thing about this money is it's free of restrictions by the federal government or the state so it can be used for rental, it can be used for ownership, it can be used to buy property and rehab it and therefore protect the people who live on it, or it can be used to produce new housing. This has been established as the amount of money that is needed in order to produce low-income housing enough that it serves the needs of the market- rate housing that is going to be built. Your editorial said that the value of the property, that the cost of the property, say the condo units being built at the market rate, you think that that value will go up or down depending on the fee? No, no, no. That's determined by the market, so it has nothing to do with the new owners paying for this low-income housing, that doesn't happen. The new owners of the condos don't pay for that at all. So I hope you get it straight the next time you write some silly editorial."

✆ "I think it's unfair to increase just developer fees. Why not have everybody pay through an increase in our local taxes?"

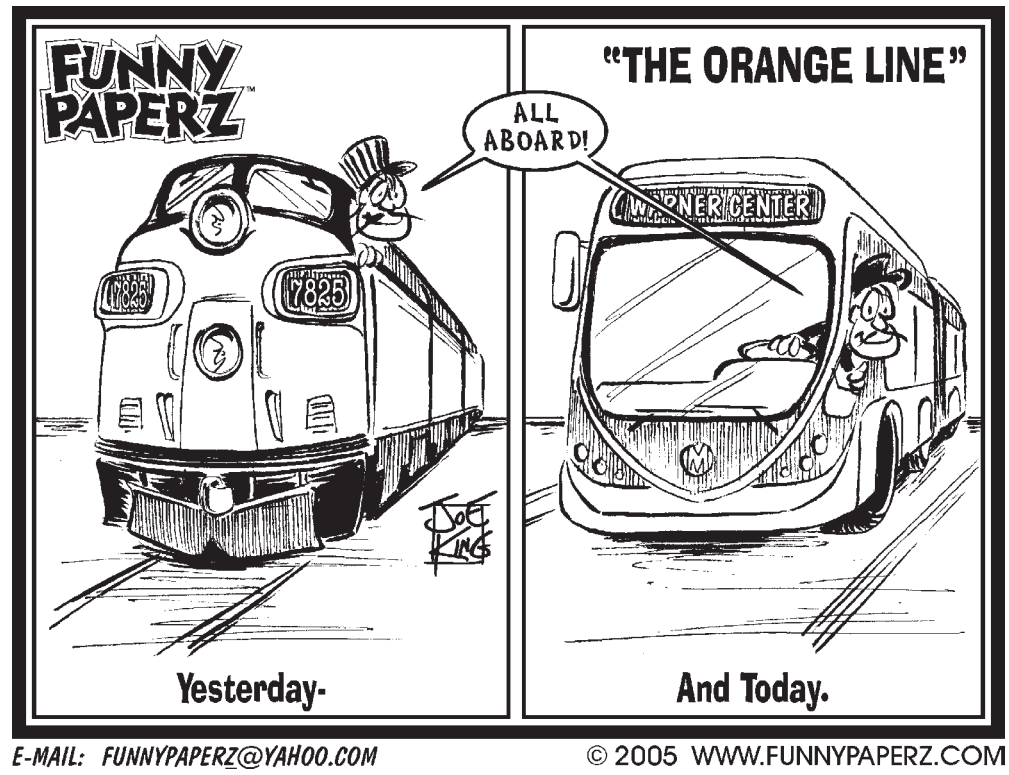
✆ "The City Council of Santa Monica was absolutely right to pass the increase in fees. The fees we had for development here have been the lowest in the whole region and frankly it was disgraceful. We needed to raise the fees. It is not going to ever stop any developer from building, that is not the issue for developers. They like the space, they like the place, they like the sun, and they like the beach and they are not going to stop building here. Secondly, we must help create affordable housing for blue collar workers."

✆ "Hey Ms. Mayor, I need a place to live. Well young man, you've come to the right town. Have you lived in Santa Monica? No. Have you worked here? No. Have you gone to school here? No, my friends said high school was to bourgeoisie, whatever that means. That's OK young man, our school district can get you a worth-nothing diploma. Do you have a gun? I take the second. Do you belong to a gang? I take the fifth. Young man, you show aptitude for the law, we can register you in another fine institution, SMC, taking law classes and six months from now you can graduate and get a job in the legal department at City Hall. You know they just received a 4 percent raise. Do you have children? Yes, Ms. Mayor I have two with my current girlfriend and I think two more. Young man, getting you a four- bedroom, low-income apartment will be no problem. We need people like you. No discipline, no personal responsibility, no common sense, no education, and a free-lunch philosophy. That's great Ms. Mayor, but who will pay for it? Glad, you asked young man. A wonderful organization spelled SMRR provides low- income housing. Well, technically it's the taxpayers but they are such ingrates that you need to make sure you vote for SMRR. They are in every branch of city government. You are going to be a real credit to low-income housing. Thank you Ms. Mayor and City Council for everything you do in this town."

✆ "I think the city was correct in the assertion that the higher developer fees could lead to more affordable housing. Of course, in Santa Monica with the prices so high it is important to have affordable housing for diversity and also to allow people who might have lower-wage jobs to live in the city. It's a great place to live."

✆ "Higher development fees will solve two problems. They might make more affordable housing and it will also discour-

See **Q-LINE**, page 5



Leaders not leading should have to pay



MODERN TIMES

BY LLOYD GARVER

I'm tired of political scandals, aren't you? I don't mean that I'm tired of scandalous behavior coming to light. I mean, I'm tired of people in power acting scandalously. Now we're in the midst of the Tom Delay-Bill Frist-Scooter Libby-Karl Rove accusations. Before you start your e-mails, I know that none of these guys has been found guilty of anything. All of these alleged improprieties might turn out to be groundless. But if they are, I guarantee there will be others either in the administration or in Congress who will be found to have committed crimes and/or ethical lapses. That's just the way it's been with all the administrations in recent memory. Now, you can say that some people in all walks of life commit crimes. But doesn't it seem that the people we have entrusted with power are crooks at a higher rate than the rest of the population?

Every administration is criticized and scrutinized by the party not in power. Innuendoes are whispered, charges are brought, and hearings are held. But in every administration — certainly since the Nixon days — someone in power, or close to it, is found to be guilty of wrongdoing. It's not a partisan thing. There are people on both sides of the aisle who turn out to be bad. Each time a new party wins the national election, those who support that party breathe a sigh of relief and exclaim that at last, we can clean up Washington, restore ethics, and get rid of all the sleazy _____(FILL IN THE OUTGOING PARTY). And then the new scandals begin.

I know government officials aren't the only people who commit crimes. There were the big business scandals that involved Enron and other companies. But compared to the number of big businesses, those scandals only involved a small percentage. Most people don't work for companies where the people at or near the top are being given federal indictments.

No one in the office down the hall at any job I've held has even been accused of lying to the American people, fraud, leaking the name of a secret agent, or war profiteering.

How about you? Have you worked with anybody ever accused of a cover-up to hide a federal crime? Has anybody in your carpool served time for conspiracy? Has that kid who brings the coffee and donuts been guilty of obstruction of justice?

Yet it seems that all these crimes are considered "business as usual" in American politics. And that's the outrage. The people we trust our government to should have a higher standard of ethics, not a lower one. If someone we've given power to lies, cheats, or steals, it's unforgivable.

Is this just the nature of the beast? Is it like complaining about the weather? Maybe not. I've got one suggestion that might help. It's time we pressure the lawmakers to have stronger penalties for those in power who commit crimes. Politicians are always calling for stiffer laws, so how could they not approve of this idea? Let's just double the fines and sentences for crimes that public officials commit. If perjury is a two-year offense for you or me, make it a four year offense for a congressman. If misappropriation of funds can get the average Joe 10 years, it should get the average Senator Joe 20. And make them serve their sentences in jails surrounded by prisoners whom they represented.

The FBI reported this week that the crime rate is down in almost all categories. That's something to celebrate. One of the categories they didn't mention was "crimes committed by public officials." If the day ever comes that they announce that those crimes are down, they should declare it a national holiday.

(Lloyd Garver has written for many television shows, ranging from "Sesame Street" to "Family Ties" to "Frasier." He also has read many books, some of them in hardcover. He writes the "Modern Times" column for CBSnews.com's opinion page and a weekly column for SportsLine.com. He can be reached at smdp@lloydgarvermoderntimes.com.)

OPINION

The Q Line

Q-LINE, from page 4

age developers from over developing Santa Monica, which is the big root cause of a lot of unhappiness and problems."

✆ "In the late '80s the SMRR social engineers dreamt up Prop. R to help obstruct private housing projects, making them more costly and ultimately discouraging private projects. Prop. R barely passed the polls with a slim one tenth of 1 percent margin. Hardly a mandate. Now the current social engineers on the City Council have imposed an even larger burden on private builders making apartments tens of thousands of dollars more costly to build. How does this improve affordable housing in Santa Monica? It only gives city-run Community Corporation a free ride to build more units for non-Santa Monica residents. Prop. R was and is nothing more than a long-term plan to devalue private property in Santa Monica."

✆ "I think your paper missed the point of the whole developer fee scenario here and that is it's basically a political set up. The SMRR people set up Holbrook, Katz, and Shriver to vote 'no' so that they can use it in a campaign and say that these guys are against affordable housing. So that's the whole thing, it has nothing to do with the reality of whether or not these fees have anything to do with the viability of building low-income housing. That's what it really is, let's not call it affordable, because it's low-income housing and that's all they build. They don't build ownership housing, they don't build senior housing, they don't build moderate-income housing, all they build is low-income housing. So anyway, like I said, it's a political set up. I'm surprised you didn't see it."

✆ "I think the council's increase of in lieu fees is a very good idea. Especially in the face of the super high profits that developers can get in Santa Monica. Raising the fees to help produce affordable housing makes a lot of sense, just recovering some value for the community. Also, it just might discourage some high-priced condo developers from building here and tearing down our apartments."

✆ "The tool for affordable housing already exists, it's called eminent domain. We certainly don't have to go through the charade of developer fees. Councilmen Genser, Bloom and McKeown have long been ardent proponents of dispersing the most dangerous, low-income elements of the Pico neighborhood throughout the area of Santa Monica north of Wilshire Boulevard. It should be known that the building in which Ken Genser lives on San Vicente is up for sale and it is the expectation of the Pico neighborhood community that Ken Genser will prod the Community Corporation of Santa Monica into acquiring this very choice property. We need courageous councilmen like Genser, McKeown and Bloom to lead the way to equalize the communities of Santa Monica and eminent domain is the way to go."

✆ "Developers definitely need more protection because they're not making enough money. If only we could get more developers making more money we could so much more development in Santa Monica and that would be great. Wouldn't it be terrific if there were no fees passed onto developers? In fact, we should be paying them to develop more and more units, especially for rich people to move into Santa Monica. Get rid of all these fees, in fact I want to become a developer and get some of that money."

✆ "100 percent correct. The City Council was correct in their assertion that higher developer fees in lieu of more affordable housing would be fair and acceptable. I think that many developers will go ahead and pay the fees instead of bringing more affordable housing into their projects. As I understand it, a certain percentage of a new housing project if for condos or rental units must be given over to affordable housing. I think that many developers feel that the affordable housing tenant is usually from south central Los Angeles or east Los Angeles and would be unacceptable to the rest of the tenants or condo owners in his development."

✆ "The hike in developers' fees is just standard operating procedure for the City Council. Extortion, intimidation, and black mail. Screw affordable housing as it's screwing this town. More crime, more losers, more filth. The City Council will always find a way to fund their social engineering snafus. Let's all remember this come the next election. These criminals have got to go."

✆ "First and foremost, who is the affordable housing going towards? Is the affordable housing in fact for life-long residents or residents of Santa Monica, or is this affordable housing going to whoever ends up in Palisades Park looking for a free handout? I would say the unbelievable fees are passed on without diligently seeing who the housing is going towards. The first step I would like to see is our residents are taken care of with affordable housing."

✆ "I think it will not affect real estate values because there are many other factors. It will definitely benefit the people of Santa Monica because the money raised here is free of federal and state restrictions and therefore it will benefit the people who need this housing that are working in Santa Monica and they have problems paying the higher rent."

✆ "Higher developer fees for affordable housing is all about building more units that will bring people into the city who will vote SMRR. With most apartments becoming vacant and going to market rate, SMRR is losing its hard core. They need more people in the city and screw everybody else. The city is too dense as it is. We need to repeal Proposition R right away."

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STATE

Schwarzenegger takes to TV for voter queries

BY BETH FOUHY
AP Political Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Just two weeks before California voters go to the polls, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger will field questions about his "year of reform" ballot initiatives during a televised San Francisco Bay area forum.

The 90-minute forum, hosted by the Contra Costa Times newspaper and Oakland-based KTVU Channel 2 News, will be broadcast on KTVU at 6 p.m. Monday from the Dean Lesher Regional Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek. It will air live and commercial free.

The governor has appeared at several invitation-only "town hall" meetings in recent weeks, but most have been carefully stage-managed by his campaign staff. Monday's audience will feature a diverse range of voters identified by a survey research company and vetted by the two news organizations.

Public opinion polls show Schwarzenegger's popularity has plunged and his ballot initiatives largely running behind. His appearance on the televised forum is part of a last-minute push to persuade voters.

Because the forum will be broadcast only in the heavily Democratic Bay area, its ability to sway voters Schwarzenegger's way is unclear.

"The only reason he's doing this is that he's behind," said Dick Rosengarten of Los Angeles, author of the California Political Week newsletter. "Nobody's going to know about it outside the Bay area, and he's in enemy territory there. He's not going to turn any heads."

Todd Harris, a spokesman for Schwarzenegger's California Recovery Team, said campaign officials are negotiating with stations in other parts of the state to air similar programs, but none had come together yet.

"Whether it will happen before the election, I can't say," Harris said.

Schwarzenegger is pushing four initiatives on the Nov. 8 ballot: Proposition 74, which would extend the probationary period for teachers from two years to five; Proposition 75, which would require public employee unions to secure written permission from members before dues could be used for political purposes; Proposition 76, a state spending cap; and Proposition 77, which would strip lawmakers of the power to draw political boundaries.

The governor will appear only in the second half of Monday night's forum, where he will take questions on each of his four initiatives, one at a time.

Two opponents of the initiatives — Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata, D-Oakland, and Rose Ann DeMoro of the California Nurses Association — will open the program, also taking questions on each initiative.

State Democratic Party Chairman Art Torres and Republican Party Chairman Duf Sundheim will appear together onstage to close the show.

KTVU officials said Schwarzenegger had declined to share the stage with his opponents and had elected to go on after they appeared, not before.

"It was one of the terms of our negotiations with the governor and his staff," said Roland De Wolk, a KTVU political producer coordinating the forum.

DeMoro will speak primarily about the union dues initiative, while Perata will address the spending cap and the redistricting measures. Both will talk about the teacher tenure measure.

Perata spokeswoman Alicia Dlugosh said the Senate leader was more concerned with answering voters' questions about the initiatives than appearing on stage with the governor.

"He has this stuff down, and we're confident in everything he has to say," Dlugosh said. "He's good at speaking both as a politician and as a normal person, and we're sure that will come through."

To screen for the best audience, De Wolk said he was calling and interviewing potential attendees to assemble a "demographically representative" group. Paid political operatives, union or political party leaders and other "ringers" would be excluded, he said.

De Wolk said he also is asking each potential audience member to submit a question via e-mail so producers can determine which questions will be asked and in what order.

"I'm telling each of them, 'I want you to be the owner and operator of your own question,"' De Wolk said. "We want to make sure we have people and questions that are truly honest."

KTVU and the Contra Costa Times co-hosted a similar voter forum during the recall in 2003. That time, Schwarzenegger declined to participate.



Experts chip away at lost airman's identity

BY JULIANA BARBASSA
Associated Press Writer

FRESNO, Calif. — As the frozen body believed to be a World War II airman slowly thaws after decades encased in a glacier, forensic experts say a picture is emerging of a fair-haired man in an Army uniform who suffered broken bones when his aircraft crashed in the wilderness.

The body was chipped from the 13,710-foot Mount Mendel and flown to the Fresno County coroner's office, still encased in hundreds of pounds of ice. A team of forensic pathologists began melting the ice with cold water Thursday to bring out the body without damage.

Little is known for now about the man, who was still wearing his Army-issued parachute and sweater when climbers found him this weekend in the Sierra Nevada wilderness, with head and arm jutting out of solid ice.

But forensic experts said soft tissues such as skin and muscle have been well-preserved, as well as the man's sun-bleached hair and his uniform, which identifies him as a World-War II-era serviceman.

"There's a very good possibility for identification," said Paul Emanovsky, a forensic anthropologist with the Joint Prisoner of War Accounting Command, which recovers and identifies military personnel.

The agency still does not have any lists of personnel who went missing it that area. Officials also do not know how long it will take to find dental charts and other records that might help the identification.

No dog tags or other form of identification have been found yet, but most of the body is still frozen, and experts have not been able to search for things like laundry tags or parachute issue numbers.

The entire identification process could take weeks or months, Emanovsky said. Once the initial work is done — X-rays must be taken, and a death certificate issued by the coroner — the body will be transported to JPAC's laboratory for in-depth analysis.

Climbers reported the find to park rangers on Sunday, but blustery conditions kept even trained high-altitude rescuers from reaching the frozen remains for two days.

Experts say the body probably went unseen for decades because the isolated mountainside in Kings Canyon National Park does not attract many casual visitors, though it is popular with ice climbers. The area can be reached by hiking two or three days, or by helicopter when the weather allows.

Michael Nozel, one of the climbers who spotted the body Sunday, said a fluttering parachute was the first thing that caught his eye.

"As I got closer, I started to think, gosh, that doesn't look like a rock sticking out of the glacier," Nozel told KFSN-TV. "And then of course, as I got closer, I thought, my goodness I think that is a body."

Six park rangers and a military forensics expert started chipping away at the ice Wednesday, freeing the body after about six hours, said ranger Alexandra Picavet.

"The ice initially wasn't bad to dig through, but then as they got deeper it became more difficult," said Picavet, who was not among the rangers who excavated the remains.

The crew had to be careful not to damage the remains and worked slowly because they did not know how the body was positioned, Picavet said. The remains were then flown to Fresno County.

Park officials summoned JPAC because the man was wearing a parachute stenciled with "Army." They believe he may be a crewman of an AT-7 navigational training plane that crashed Nov. 18, 1942. Several military planes crashed among the craggy peaks in the 1930s and 1940s.

The plane wreckage and four bodies were found by a climber in 1947. It's impossible to tell if this body is connected to that expedition pending the identification process, which will include DNA testing.

Relatives of missing soldiers have already started calling from all around the country, wanting to see if this could be a long-lost father or brother, said Loralee Cervantes, Fresno County's coroner.

Military officials said there are 88,000 Americans still missing from past wars, most of them, 78,000, from World War II. Only about 35,000 are deemed recoverable.

Hawaii-based JPAC has located and identified other remains from glaciers, where the ice keeps human tissue well-preserved.

Experts give first impressions of serviceman encased in glacier

Long road home

By The Associated Press

LOST IN TIME: Ice climbers stumbled upon an ice-encased body believed to be a World War II airman who crashed in 1942.

WHO WAS HE?: Forensics experts say the man was fair-haired and suffered broken bones when his plane went down in the wilderness.

WHAT'S NEXT?: The Joint Prisoner of War Accounting Command, which recovers and identifies missing military personnel, will attempt to identify the man.

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STATE







Mortgage experiment shaking up SF buyers

BY LISA LEFF
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — People desperate enough to own a home in this hyperactive real estate market have long resorted to a risky exercise in group dynamics: Sharing a multimillion-dollar mortgage on a small apartment building with a bunch of friends or even strangers.

The advantages of the increasingly popular route to homeownership known as "tenancies-in-common" are obvious in a city where three-bedroom homes average about $800,000. The hazards are also well-known and include deadbeat partners and the difficulty of extracting equity.

That's why a bank's offer of individual mortgages to TIC buyers sent shivers of excitement and fear through the city this summer. By making TICs less codependent and more like individually owned condominiums, the Bank of Marin's so-called fractionalized mortgages were designed to make the option attractive to even more first-time buyers.

But the move, expected to be duplicated soon by other lenders, also has exacerbated suspicions among the city's powerful tenant's lobby that the TIC tool is being used by developers to dump rent-controlled properties and get around San Francisco's strict condominium conversion limits.

Unlike condos, TIC partners do not own their apartments, but only a portion of the building, which leaves the city unable to regulate them as it does condo conversions. In some ways they resemble New York City's co-ops, but smaller and with a decidedly "do-it-yourself" bent.

The San Francisco Tenant's Union, warning that mass evictions would result if the main disadvantage of TIC ownership were removed, is picketing TIC open houses and lobbying the city supervisors to make it even harder for TIC buildings to be turned into condominiums.

"As we turn rent-controlled apartments to TICs which are getting close to $700,000 for a two-bedroom, we are displacing low- and moderate-income people," said Ted Gullicksen, of the tenant union.

While TICs are common in commercial real estate, residential TICs have been a California phenomenon mostly limited to San Francisco, where there are two-and-a-half times as many renters as homeowners and the median price of all homes — single family, condos and TICs included — was $721,000 in September.

In keeping with strong political support for rent control, the city allows 200 apartments a year to be converted to condominiums through a lottery and those can only be in buildings with six or fewer units. The regulations were a turnoff for people who went in on TIC buildings — in many cases relying on mixers and online matchmaking services to find partners — hoping they would one day be able to convert their units.

Ann Bassi, a mortgage broker with GT Financial in San Francisco, said residential TICs could spread outside California if state regulators permit them. Cities with expensive housing and condo conversion limits are particularly ripe.

"It's only a matter of time," Bassi said. "The more expensive things get, the more creative people get."

Bank of Marin's new product sparked a mild frenzy despite carrying a higher, variable interest rate and requiring a down payment of 25 percent; its initial $20 million investment was spoken for the minute it was unveiled, pledged to developers looking to transform rental properties.

"The phones were ringing off the hook," said Keith Zimmerman, Bank of Marin's senior vice president.

Randy Brasche, president of a TIC-owners advocacy group, predicted lenders won't find a shortage of customers.

"If this becomes commercially viable, it puts the problem of everyone sharing the same mortgage out of the equation," Brasche said.

Many people, Brasche included, have been willing to share a mortgage with people they met through a real estate agent because it typically shaves 15-25 percent off the price of a condominium.

But with the savings come potential headaches, such as having to cover for delinquent partners or trying to wrestle equity from the property if someone moves or wants to refinance for the cash.

"Not everyone has the stomach for it," Brasche acknowledged.

The notion of buying into a TIC made Chris Freeman nervous. The 31-year-old product manager at biotech company Genentech paid $1,145 a month for a rent-controlled, two-bedroom apartment on Nob Hill for three years. He went to a TIC open house in his neighborhood last month to check out prices and ended up owning a three-bedroom apartment with his fiancee.

The five-unit, Edwardian-style complex built in 1909 turned out to be the first residential building Bank of Marin financed with individual loans. Freeman paid $715,000 and his monthly mortgage payments will be $3,500. The amount was calculated the way it would have been with a group loan, based on the square footage of his unit and a share of the building's property taxes, utilities and other expenses.

Tenancies-in-common have started cropping up in cities where housing prices are high and growth is limited, such as Santa Monica and Laguna Beach.



STATE

Injuries from using BlackBerry out of hand

BLACKBERRY, from page 1

point where he can't even press the buttons on his TV remote control.

After months of aching, Claypool took a break. Now he only uses his BlackBerry to send short messages — typing with the tip of a pencil eraser whenever his thumbs get sore.

"It affects business because I can't whack away on my BlackBerry like I used to," he said. "It's just too painful."

Repetitive motion injuries, which have long afflicted desktop and laptop computer users, are invading the mobile handheld world.

There's even an informal name for the malady — "BlackBerry Thumb" — a catch-all phrase that describes a repetitive stress injury of the thumb as a result of overusing small gadget keypads.

Business executives and tech-savvy consumers are increasingly using BlackBerries, Treos, Sidekicks and other devices with miniature keyboards designed for thumb-tapping to stay connected while on the go.

And that has some ergonomic and hand experts worried about injuries from overexertion.

"If you're trying to type 'War and Peace' with your thumbs, then you're going to have a problem," warned Alan Hedge, director of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Laboratory at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y.

No national statistics exist on how many people suffer from this type of thumb ailment, but some doctors say they are seeing an upswing in related cases, said Dr. Stuart Hirsch, an orthopedist at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center in Paterson, N.J.

"It's mostly the road warrior who prefers to answer e-mails on a thumb keyboard," said Hirsch. "If all you did was just answer with a simple yes and no, it would not be a dilemma."

For as long as video gamers have been blasting aliens, so-called "Gamer's Thumb" has been a sore spot for them, as well. With tens of millions of portable video game machines on the market, lots of young hands risk digit abuse.

Games for such devices generally include some type of printed warning about injury risks from prolonged playing.

Earlier this year, the American Society of Hand Therapists issued a consumer alert, warning users of small electronic gadgets that heavy thumb use could lead to painful swelling of the sheath around the tendons in the thumb.

The group recommended taking frequent breaks during e-mailing and resting one's arms on a pillow for support.

A booklet that ships with the Nintendo DS handheld system advises a 10 to 15 minute break for each hour of play, and a break of at least several hours if gamers experience wrist or hand soreness.

"People tend to use just one finger over and over again and it's that repetitive use with one digit that could lead to problems," said Stacey Doyon, vice president of the American Society of Hand Therapists and a registered occupational therapist in Portland, Maine.

The BlackBerry, which debuted in 1999, employs a full QWERTY keypad for thumb typing to automatically send and receive e-mail. About 2.5 million people currently use Blackberries, more than double from a year ago.

An executive for Research In Motion Ltd., which makes the BlackBerry, said the company considers ergonomic factors when designing its keyboards.

"Of course, any product can be overused ... so people should listen to their own bodies and adjust their routine if necessary. But I would caution against confusing rare examples of overuse with the typical experience," Mark Guibert, vice president of marketing, wrote in an e-mail.

Musculoskeletal disorders, which include repetitive strain injuries, accounted for a third of all workplace injuries and illnesses reported in 2003 — the latest data available, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Specialists say the thumb — considered by many as an island because it is set apart from the other fingers — is among the least dexterous digit and is not meant to be rigorously worked out.

For people who insist on typing more than a sentence with their thumbs, external keyboards that connect to the gadgets may be a less painful alternative, said Dr. Jennifer Weiss, assistant professor of orthopedics at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles.

Treatment for BlackBerry thumb may include wearing a splint and applying ice to the affected area. If the pain persists, doctors may opt to inject the thumb area with a cortisone shot. Surgery may be required as a last resort.

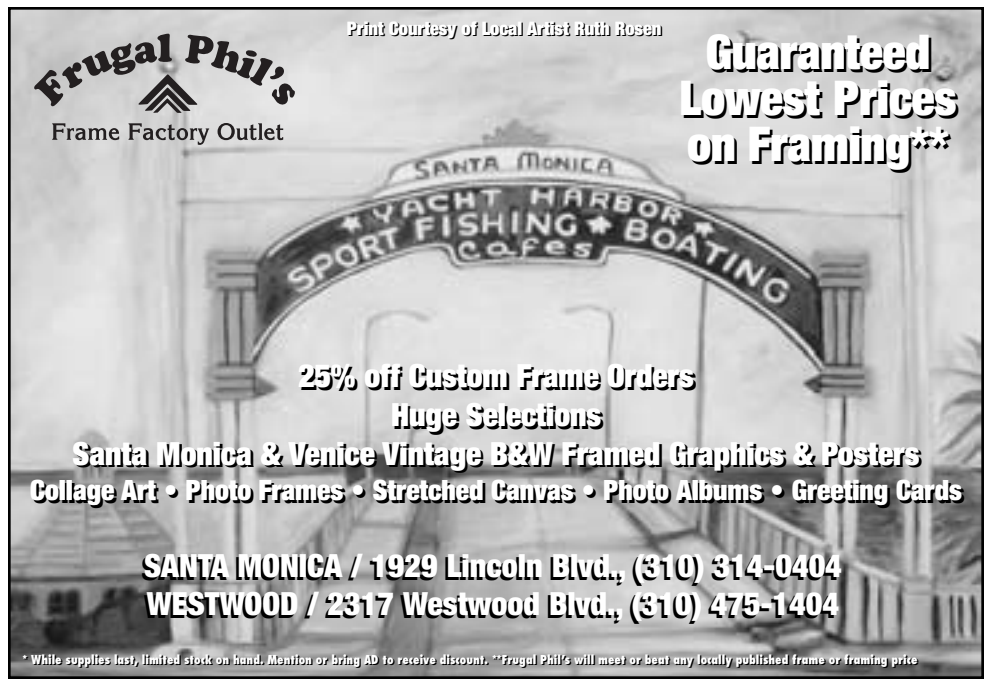
John Orminski, a 44-year-old information technology manager from Pontiac, Mich., went to a doctor in the spring after feeling a strain in his right thumb.

On any given day, Orminski uses his thumb repeatedly to punch clients' telephone numbers, scroll through his address book and update his calendar on his BlackBerry.

Orminski already suffers from golfer's elbow — a form of tendinitis — from playing the sport. But unlike his elbow pain, which occurs in spurts, Orminski's thumb woes tend to flare up more often.

He recently started physical therapy for this thumb — receiving electrical stimulation and massage to relax the muscles.

"It can get sore and tender, but I'm learning to live with it."





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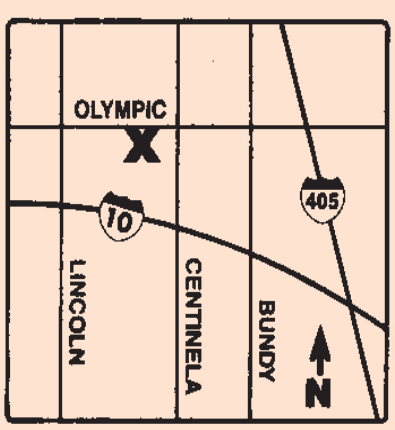
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Delta problems could ignite water wars anew

BY DON THOMPSON
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Avoiding an ecological meltdown like the one scientists now fear in the California delta was among the key missions of the state and federal Bay-Delta Program, a landmark initiative intended to end fights over water use and ensure the health of the largest estuary on the West Coast.

But after a decade of existence and $3 billion spent, the program known as CalFed appears in disarray, leading to questions about its future and worries that one of California's longest-running water wars could flare anew.

The chaos comes at a time when scientists are warning about grave dangers to the delta's ecological health.

"The delta is in worse shape than when CalFed was created," said Bill Jennings, who until recently headed the Deltakeeper environmental group. "The problem with CalFed is it provides an illusion of a solution, while the death of the delta proceeds apace."

Former Gov. Pete Wilson and former Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt created the California and Federal Bay-Delta Program in 1994. Their ultimate goal was to solve long-running and deeply divisive issues surrounding an ecological system that drains 42 percent of California's land area, is the engine of the state's agriculture industry and provides water to two-thirds of the state's 36 million residents.

To do that, they created an authority whose mission was to forge relationships between state and federal agencies, urban and rural water districts, farmers, fishermen and environmental groups that had warred over the use of delta water.

CalFed faced difficulties from the start because its very mission was contradictory — safeguarding the delta's environment while ensuring that San Joaquin Valley farmers and Southern California water agencies had the water they required.

Despite CalFed's mission, the agencies it is charged with bringing together have been acting much as they always have — in their own interests. The results have been predictable, prompting a new round of lawsuits.

Earlier this month, a state appeals court ruled in one of those cases that a CalFed agreement reached in 2000 to send more water to Southern California had failed to adequately address environmental needs.

The judges ruled that CalFed's environmental impact study did not take into account the option of reducing water deliveries to Southern California cities and farmers, potentially slowing the projected population growth in those areas. The court ordered CalFed to rewrite the environmental report.

Some elected officials and agencies are now seeking a different approach: appointing federal and state-level water czars who could make top-level decisions when negotiations between the various parties fail.

CalFed's problems come just as the delta needs help most, with biologists finding that the populations of four benchmark fish species appear to be collapsing.

Researchers have spent a year studying the potential causes, including nonnative species that upset the delta's ecology, toxic contamination and changes to the delta's water flow as near record amounts are pumped to farmers and Southern California water agencies.

Scientists also warn that large sections of the delta's 1,000-mile levee system are weak, making them susceptible to breaching. If enough levees failed, San Francisco Bay sea water could contaminate the water supply for the majority of the state's residents.

CalFed scored a significant victory a year ago when President Bush signed a landmark California water bill that committed $395 million to study new storage projects, rebuild levees and restore ecosystems. The legislation had stalled during six years of negotiations over devoting even more federal money to the program.

But CalFed officials quickly angered state lawmakers by planning for an unrealistic $8 billion in spending over a decade without lining up the funding. The program depends on a combination of state and federal money, as well as fees from water users. State lawmakers retaliated by reducing the authority's funding.

That led to the resignation of Patrick Wright, the director who led CalFed since the beginning, and Johnnie Moore, the agency's top scientist.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger responded by asking the state's Little Hoover Commission to study possible reforms. One possible outcome: The commission could recommend that Schwarzenegger and Bush each appoint a person with authority to speak for the state and federal governments. That would leave CalFed to try to smooth differences between government agencies and other interest groups.

Schwarzenegger should appoint a committee in the top tier of his administration to oversee solutions to the delta's myriad problems, said Steve Hall, executive director of the Association of California Water Agencies.

"We think it needs that sort of high-level attention. Otherwise, anything they decide will be brushed aside as too controversial," Hall said.

Joseph Grindstaff, a former water agency manager who took over as CalFed's director June 1, said CalFed isn't likely to get the authority to tell water agencies what to do.

Instead, CalFed's role is to publicly debate policy decisions. But even then, Grindstaff said the authority has too frequently become mired in mind-numbing minutia.

He said the authority needs to narrow its focus, concentrating on building consensus for controversial issues such as strengthening levees, building more reservoirs, improving water quality and diverting some water around the delta to Southern California, an idea rejected by California voters in 1982.

In December, the authority will lay out a new 10-year plan for projects CalFed should undertake and their costs.

Part of the blame for CalFed's inaction should rest with the federal government for failing to come up with its one-third share of delta restoration money, said Christina Swanson, a scientist with the Bay Institute, an advocacy group.

That has left state taxpayers to fund improvements through a series of water bonds that are set to run out in a few years.

STATE

Orange County builders try to squeeze out core

BY GILLIAN FLACCUS
Associated Press Writer

SANTA ANA, Calif. — With land running out and housing still in huge demand, developers in Orange County are making a radical about-face from the sprawling tract homes and gated communities that have defined the nation's prototypical suburb for decades.

They're building high-density lofts, townhouses and high-rises within walking distance of grocery stores, art galleries and movie theaters, often in nondescript downtowns and industrial zones strangled years ago by crisscrossing freeways.

The projects reflect a new urbanism that has been reshaping the nation's major metropolitan areas for several years. Orange County, however, poses a unique challenge because its cities never fully developed in the race to suburban utopia. Now, developers are trying to create an urban core from scratch.

"Most places got the city first and then the suburbs. The real question is, is Orange County finally getting a city?" said Ethan Seltzer, director of the Toulan School of Urban Studies and Planning at Portland State University in Portland, Ore.

"For a lot of people, the bloom is off the suburban rose," he said.

Experts say the lifestyle changes that accompany the urban developments will be a shock for many residents used to living in a suburban bubble defined by their subdivision, their car and their office.

Artist Robert Brown and his wife were the first to move into live/work lofts in downtown Santa Ana two years ago. They paid $375,000 for the loft and the downstairs store, called Night Gallery, where he sells his ceramics and metalwork.

Brown says the feel of the urban life is refreshing after living in a condo development in suburban Orange. He and his wife walk to the farmers market and don't drive much. They know their neighbors for the first time in their adult life.

"Living here is completely different," said Brown, who also teaches at a junior high school. "It's really nice, the camaraderie we have with our neighbors. It's OK to say hi."

Nearly 20,000 high-density housing units are planned or proposed in Orange County over the next 30 years, with "urban villages" centered around parks, retail space, restaurants, bikeways and fountains. The number is likely to grow dramatically if the first developers see success, said Mark Boud, a real estate economist in Irvine.

Orange County began to boom in the 1950s, as thousands of middle-class families flocked there to take advantage of cheap land and a suburban lifestyle that was increasingly hard to find in Los Angeles.

Almost overnight, the rural county known for its fragrant orange groves was transformed into the ultimate suburb, a vast patchwork of sprawling subdivisions and tract homes connected by a maze of modern freeways.

The model was followed throughout the country as people looked to flee the poverty and blight overwhelming many inner cities.

The focus of several Orange County cities became tourism: Anaheim developed rapidly because of Disneyland, while Newport Beach drew visitors with its pristine beaches and surf culture.

Today, the suburban utopia is tainted by exorbitant housing prices that have forced many young families to move farther east. The median home price was $610,000 last month — an increase of more than 14 percent over the same time last year.

Meanwhile, developers have chewed through nearly every acre of open land in the county of more than 3 million people.

There are three times more jobs created each year than homes built, resulting in a shortage of about 15,000 to 25,000 houses each year, said Emile Haddad, president of the Western region for Lennar Corp., which has urban developments planned in Irvine and Anaheim.

Developers, desperate for new homes sites, see urban redevelopment and infill construction as their best hope. Buyers are responding, attracted by proposed prices as low as $300,000 for lofts. Waiting lists are growing, even though most projects have yet to break ground.

The Anaheim City Council last summer adjusted zoning for a swath of underused industrial land of more than 800 acres. At least a half-dozen developers now envision a total of 9,175 housing units — townhouses, lofts, apartments, studios and condos — in an area dubbed "The Platinum Triangle."

The pedestrian-friendly area will incorporate Angels Stadium, the Anaheim Pond concert venue and a mass transportation hub, as well as 11 high-rise towers, public parks, bike paths and retail space. The council is expected to approve the first piece of the project on Tuesday.

"We didn't have a single property owner complain — and that's because they knew their property values would go up overnight," said Sheri Vander Dussen, city planning director.

Other cities moving to allow such development are Santa Ana, Fullerton, Costa Mesa, Irvine and Garden Grove.

Still, experts say the demand for housing is so great that even the largest-scale urban infill projects won't affect prices in the long-term.

"The truth is, our demand for housing outstrips the supply so far that doing this here and doing that there isn't going to do anything," said Victoria Basolo, associate professor of planning policy and urban design at the University of California, Irvine.

"Unless you drown the market with these, I don't think prices are going to give," she said.



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Senior services offer some WISE advice

MEDICARE, from page 1

President George W. Bush signed in December 2003 a law that will require Medicare to offer a prescription drug plan. It will offer prescription drug coverage for the first time in the history of Medicare, starting Jan. 1.

Fish wondered how much the premium would increase if she doesn't sign up early enough.

"There is more misinformation than anything around," Fish said.

As Fish soon figured out, the nuances of the plan didn't prove comprehensible in one sitting.

She's not alone. Thousands of seniors have called the Center for Health Care Rights, a Los Angeles-based nonprofit organization, seeking to understand Medicare, said Aileen Harper, the center's director, who presented the new plan to about 30 senior citizens on Wednesday at the Ken Edwards Center in downtown Santa Monica.

Most senior citizens are struggling to understand the changes because they are overwhelmed by the many choices they have now, Harper said. And it's also because most seniors on Medicare don't have access to the Internet, which is the best way to learn about the new plan.

"People have to try to place it in the context of their own coverage," Harper said.

She said the center is focusing on helping people who need to make decisions fast. Those are people on Medi-Cal/Medicare who will be stripped of their prescription drug coverage at the end of the year. That's because the new prescription plan, called Medicare Part D, will replace Medi-Cal's drug coverage.

Seniors have a six-month window to enroll in Medicare Part D starting Nov. 15, Harper said. After May 15, premiums will rise 1 percent each month, Harper said.

People like Norton Levine, 77, who aren't on any prescription drugs have to decide whether they want to enroll in the plan before premiums go up.

"As you get older, you stand a greater chance of needing medication," Levine said.

As Harper spoke, Fish tried to make sense of it all. She blurted out questions and would then go back to sipping her coffee.

Mueller also appeared frustrated.

"God, I can't follow this," she said as she turned to Fish. "Do you understand what she's talking about?"

"Somewhat," Fish replied.

"I don't understand," Mueller said.

By the end of the presentation, Fish wasn't sure what steps she needed to take to ensure her heart medication was covered.

She is on a $78-a-month Medicare plan that covers outpatient medical costs and doctor visits, as well as a $300-per-month Medigap program that covers her prescription drugs. But now, she has to weigh whether Medicare Part D has better coverage. The costs for Medicare D vary based on the level of coverage.

Fish has relied heavily on Medicare. When she was 64, she learned that she needed a heart-valve transplant but couldn't afford the $100,000 procedure, she said. So she waited. She finally had surgery when she turned 65, months past the time doctors had given her to live.

Fish was determined to understand what the new plan would mean for her.

"I am smart, I will figure this out," she said before the meeting. Now, she's determined to study and understand the finer details of the plan before she makes any decisions.

Harper said seniors can make appointments with Phyllis Weintraub, a counselor at WISE Senior Services, for help with their concerns about the new plan by calling (310) 394-9871.

A matter of principal



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Lori Orum, principal of Edison Elementary School, asks kindergarten students how to say 'thank you' in Spanish. The children were on hand to present a special artwork to commemorate the donors for a school garden renovation project.

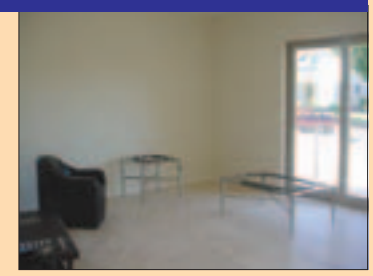
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Cold war at SMC satellite shows signs of thawing

BUNDY CAMPUS, from page 1

which would likely enable the college to have full access to its new 10.4-acre campus at 3171 S. Bundy Dr. In return, SMC would be required to make its Bundy campus as insular as possible to prevent traffic to and from its main campus at 1900 Pico Blvd.

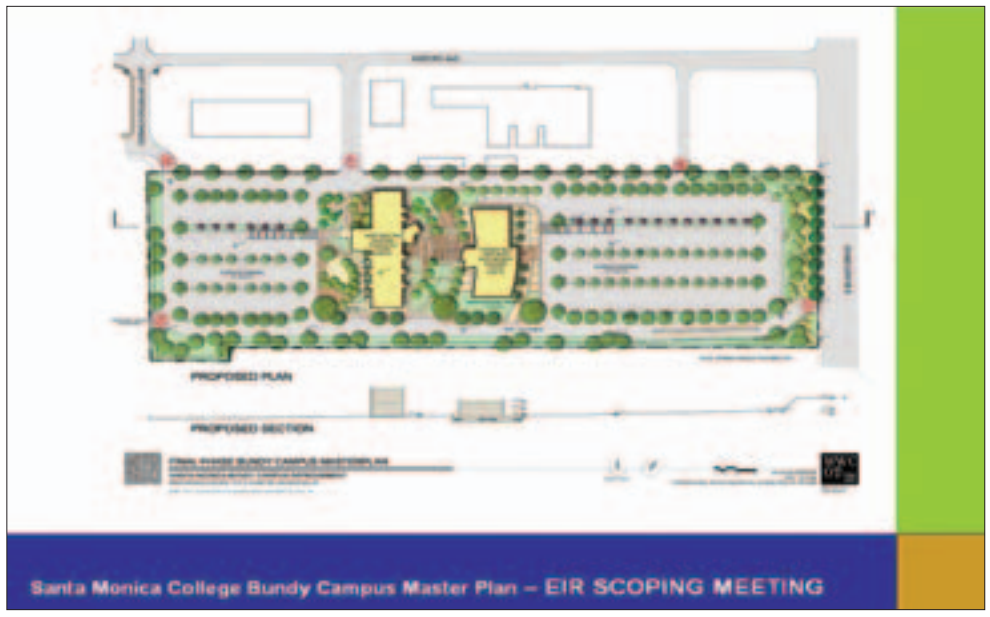
However, officials also cautioned key terms of the agreement have yet to be finalized. While they are optimistic a solution is in sight, issues still need ironing out.

"What Santa Monica and (West L.A.) residents have requested is that the college not use the Bundy campus as a shuttle site," said Tom Donner, SMC's interim president. "The college has agreed to not use it as a shuttle site.

"The Bundy campus will be a self-contained program and provide enough parking for instruction at the site."

Meanwhile, the Airport lot, which Bundy campus students have used for parking this semester, will no longer be available on Nov. 1, when construction begins on the new Airport Park. As a result, SMC still needs a permanent shuttle lot for students to its main campus, even as obstacles remain before the college has full access to its new satellite campus.

The site has a 100,000-square-foot, four-story building housing classrooms intended for nursing, teaching and community education courses. In addition, Bundy has a 30,000-square foot, two-story building the college is not using, and a surface parking lot capable of holding 609 cars, which SMC officials said will meet the needs of expected campus operations.



However, vehicular access to Bundy is currently limited to college staff and the disabled. The satellite campus is buttressed against the city of Los Angeles to the east, with a small road that permits turning in and out of the site from Bundy Drive. The Bundy campus is also fronted by Los Angeles to the south and east — on the corner of which is Stewart Avenue, a north-south neighborhood street the college has agreed not to use for campus access, except in the case of emergencies.

Bundy is buttressed against the city of Santa Monica to the north, lined with commercial buildings City Hall leases, which separate the Bundy campus from Airport Avenue, a two-lane east-west road that leads to 23rd Street.

City Hall this summer prevented vehicular access onto the Bundy site from Santa Monica entry and exit points, in response to neighborhood complaints related to the college's expansion plans. City officials have said that restriction will be indefinite unless other agreements are made.

Meanwhile, college officials contend their plans for Bundy have been scaled back to accommodate neighborhood concerns. College officials want vehicular access to the Bundy campus, at entry and exit points located within Santa Monica and West LA. to accommodate its students.

The agreement calls for City Hall to allow vehicular traffic to flow from Airport Avenue to and from the campus.

As part of the deal, Gordon Anderson, Santa Monica's assistant city manager, said it's important West L.A. be willing to create a third, limited traffic signal on Bundy Drive that would connect it to a small access road on the south side of Bundy to further mitigate vehicle flows.

"Without that signal we feel uncomfortable moving forward with the other mitigation elements of the tri-party agreement," Anderson said.

Anderson said City Hall would also like traffic exiting from the north side of Bundy onto Airport Avenue to be required to make a right turn only — towards Bundy Drive — in order to reduce traffic flows located within residential neighborhoods between Bundy and SMC's main campus.

Meanwhile, Los Angeles 11th District Councilman Bill Rosendahl, whose constituents live in Mar Vista and other parts of West L.A., said they are opposed to an additional traffic signal on Bundy Drive, fearful it will make the congestion worse. At the same time, Rosendahl wants City Hall to allow traffic to travel west on Airport Avenue to mitigate more congestion anticipated on Bundy Drive from the campus.

However, Rosendahl said he's glad the three entities are in discussions and is optimistic a solution all parties can agree on is possible.

"I'm convinced that reasonable people can work it out and that we can reach a compromise," Rosendahl said.

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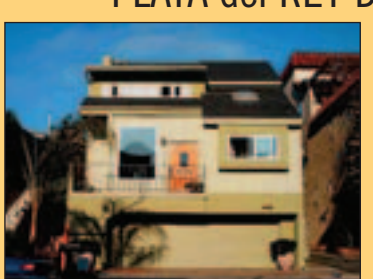
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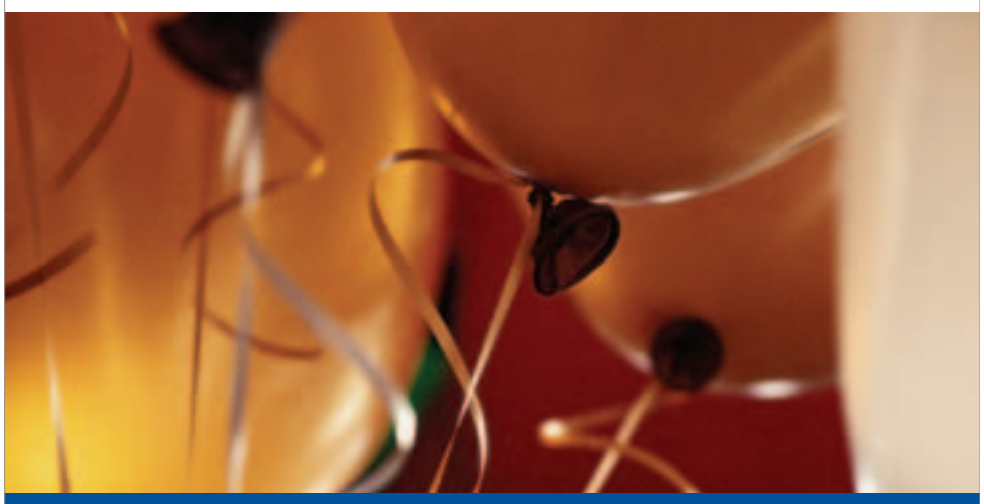
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LOCAL

City Hall helps sister in need

SISTER CITY, from page 1

Mayors to start a program in which cities could establish a partnership with those that were affected by the disaster. Within days, the mayor's association informed City Hall it had started a program based on Santa Monica's suggestion.

As a result, the mayor's association asked Santa Monica City Hall to contact Bayou La Batre, a Gulf town with a population of 2,500, known as the seafood capital of Alabama. Its primary industry of oyster and shrimp fishing and processing was wiped out by the hurricane, according to city officials. Bayou La Batre was made famous by the Bubba Gump scenes in the movie "Forrest Gump."

While City Hall soon created an inventory of materials it would be able to furnish affected areas — including computers, books and old office equipment — city officials soon learned what Bayou La Batre needed was more basic, but essential.

City Councilman Bob Holbrook, who has helped initiate the relief effort, said he sat in on the teleconference calls with Bayou La Batre's city inspector, who told Santa Monica officials his entire community was decimated with more than 1,000 buildings destroyed.

The inspector said the citizens of his community were in desperate need of anything that would help them clear the rubble.

"I told them what we could do, and you could feel the emotion," Holbrook said.

The City Council approved Santa Monica's relief package on Oct. 11. Using an Alabama-based transport company, City Hall is paying $16,500 to transport to its adopted city a total of six Ford F-150 pick-up trucks, two trucks with large cranes attached, one utility truck with a small crane, one dump truck, a street cleaner, a riding lawnmower and six chainsaws.

In addition, Santa Monica officials will be discussing with Bayou La Batre officials ways they may be able to better reinstate essential infrastructure as the rebuilding process continues.

Holbrook said city services will not be affected by the loan. A third of the equipment was set to go on public auction in coming months anyway. The other two-thirds of the equipment was set to be rotated out of use within the next two years. Since much of the equipment is being rotated out early, City Hall anticipates replacing equipment sooner to make up for the loss.

Also, Bayou La Batre promises it also will come to Santa Monica's aid should a natural disaster occur here, Holbrook said.

Holbrook said city staff and other people he's talked to are glad City Hall has been able to contribute to the relief effort.

"Everyone is so happy to help get this town on its feet," Holbrook said. "Every business and resident in Santa Monica ought to feel proud for helping this one little town recover."

Santa Monica Fire Chief Jim Hone said 90,000 square miles were devastated by Katrina, in which 40,000 people were initially rescued. A total of 240,000 people are estimated to have been evacuated from the impacted areas, predicted to cost $125 billion to re-build, with 12 million cubic yards of debris needing to be removed.

The trucks are expected to arrive in Bayou La Batre by Tuesday, Oct. 25.

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NATIONAL

Dry weather netting great grape harvest for East Coast

BY DANIEL LOVERING
Associated Press Writer

CHALK HILL, Pa. — High temperatures, good sunlight and dry weather during the summer and early fall produced an unexpected bounty for the region's winemakers.

About three-quarters of the grape crop has been harvested and winemakers are finding an unusually rich fruit that many believe will yield some of the area's best wines in years.

"I think it's going to be a very good year," said Sharon Klay, owner of a 15-acre winery about 60 miles southeast of Pittsburgh.

The long stretches of sunlight with little rainfall ravaged some other crops, but the conditions were unusually good for the grapes, reducing the amount of water and boosting sugar levels.

Klay, also vice president of the Pennsylvania Wine Association, said she has harvested most of the grapes at her vineyard, which produces about 45,000 pounds of the fruit annually.

She said she delayed picking two red varieties to let them ripen further "to get maximum flavor development and as high sugars as we could."

Hans Walter-Peterson, a viticulture specialist for the Lake Erie Regional Grape Program at Cornell University's Cooperative Extension, said the summer temperatures, among the hottest on record in several East Coast cities, played a key role.

Heat combined with dry weather generally makes smaller and more desirable red grapes with a larger proportion of skin that's rich in flavors and nutrients, he said.

"Around Memorial Day, the oven got kicked on and it started to take off," Walter-Peterson said.

Although the crop is generally looking good in the region, prospects for wineries in some areas, including in the Finger Lakes region of upstate New York, are a bit dimmer because of recent torrential rains.

The rains pelted vineyards and some late-season fungus has set in, Walter-Peterson said. The rain can also cause some grapes to swell and split open.

More than 12 inches of rain fell in some areas of New York, leaving some winery owners to fret over whether they can salvage their merlots and other red varieties of grapes still on the vine.

Army helps with surveillance along border

By The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, N.M. — The U.S. Border Patrol is getting help from the U.S. Army to slow illegal immigration along New Mexico's southern border.

Armored vehicles from a reconnaissance squadron based in Fort Lewis, Wash., were stationed along a 20-mile stretch of a highway between Columbus and Playas on Thursday, watching for illegal immigrants.

Some of the vehicles with the 1st Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment were equipped with mounted machine guns and long-range surveillance equipment.

Border Patrol spokesman Doug Mosier said the surveillance mission isn't unusual and was planned last year.

"These military resources provide more eyes and ears as force multipliers to help us with our mission," Mosier said.

The operation is the latest in a series of steps to tighten security between Deming and Lordsburg, the busiest route in New Mexico for illegal immigrants and smugglers. Other steps include the addition of more Border Patrol agents and the temporary assignment of state police officers to the Columbus area.

Members of the Minuteman Civil Defense Corps have also been watching the Hatchita area this month.

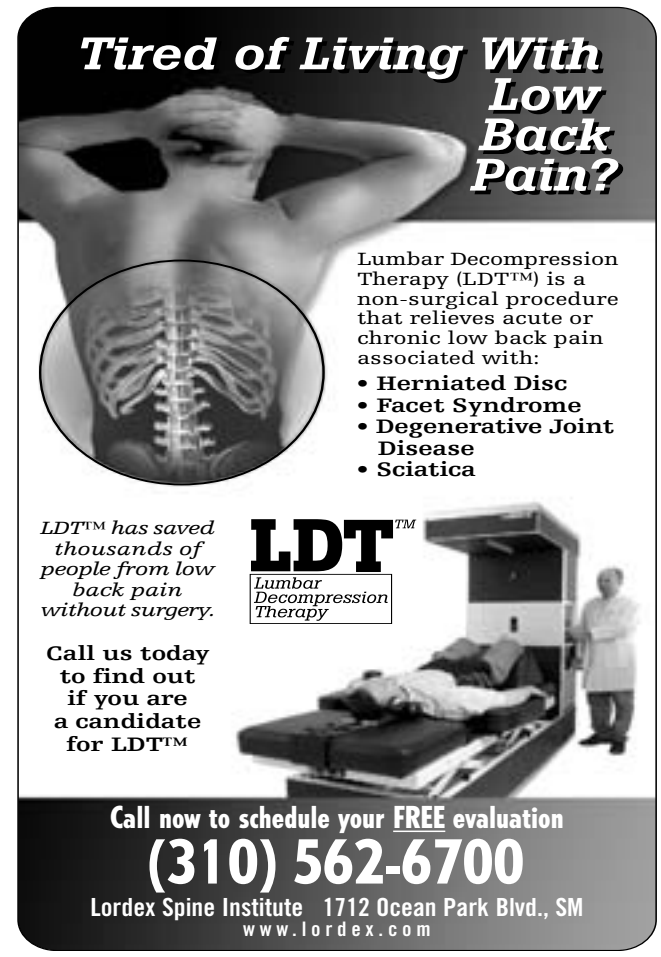
"We're happy to see them," Minuteman spokesman Gary Cole said of the Army troops. "We hope they're here for a long time."

As members of the National Guard and active duty military units have done in the past, the troops provide surveillance of illegal immigrants for Border Patrol agents.

Lt. Andrew Kennedy considers the mission training for the troops. He added that it frees up Border Patrol assets.

Citing security and safety concerns, Mosier declined to disclose the number of troops involved and how long the mission would last.

The operation was arranged by Joint Task Force North, a Fort Bliss, Texas-based group that coordinates military homeland security support for law enforcement agencies.









NATIONAL

Energy Northwest proposes first new plant since 'Whoops'

BY SHANNON DININNY
Associated Press Writer

RICHLAND, Wash. — When an ambitious plan to build five nuclear power plants in Washington state fell to pieces in the 1980s, it caused the largest municipal bond default in U.S. history.

Lawmakers and electricity ratepayers showered criticism on Northwest utilities that were party to the debacle. Voters passed an initiative to rein in public spending on big power plants. No entity took more heat than the Washington Public Power Supply System, or WPPSS, which led the effort. To this day, the project suffers under the moniker, "Whoops."

But in the years since the scandal, the utility changed its name to Energy Northwest, weeded out those responsible and began the laborious process of rebuilding its public image. Now it has plans for a new power plant — one that many agree employs promising technology, but which has been carefully designed to avoid a public vote.

The proposed coal gasification plant would be the most ambitious project since the colossal failure decades ago, and some critics are already raising concerns about the viability of the technology, the potential environmental hazards and the public financing of the project.

For decades, the Pacific Northwest has relied on relatively cheap power from hydroelectric dams. In the late 1970s, WPPSS proposed building five nuclear plants to meet rising demand for electricity — demand that never materialized. The project collapsed in the 1980s amid massive cost overruns, leaving the concrete shells of four unfinished plants and $2.25 billion in worthless bonds. Bondholders eventually reached a settlement after years of court battles.

Today, demand is gradually increasing as the region's population grows and environmental pressure on dam operations mounts. Some argue that conservation and investment in renewable energy resources, such as the wind farms sprouting in Eastern Washington, will meet rising demand.

Energy Northwest supports and has participated in those efforts but does not believe they alone will meet demand, said Tom Krueger, the agency's project manager. In addition, he said, the region won't support hydropower expansion, a new nuclear plant in Washington simply isn't an option, and natural gas has become inordinately expensive.

Instead, Energy Northwest is proposing what is called an integrated gasification combined cycle plant. The plant would generally use coal or petcoke, the waste product from oil refineries, that would be turned into a gas to be burned to generate power. The plant could also burn natural gas if the price declines.

Krueger compared the emissions from an IGCC plant to those of a natural gas plant, generally carbon dioxide.

"The question is not whether you can get energy in coal, but whether you can use it in an environmentally friendly way," Krueger said.

The proposed plant also would capture the carbon dioxide emissions for storage. In other parts of the country, emissions are injected into spent oil wells. Energy Northwest is taking part in a study into injecting the emissions into basalt deposits, which are common in the region.

"Of course it raises questions. Unless you examine that stuff, you never know," said Ronald Hatfield, chairman of the Energy Northwest board of directors, who represents Pacific County Public Utility District No. 2.

Hatfield voted for the project. He does not yet know if his utility will sign a contract for power from the plant, but he does not believe the bad memories from WPPSS should impede its progress.

"I don't know if they've forgotten, but it's always been my attitude that, because mistakes were made in the past doesn't mean you don't continue to try," he said.

Energy Northwest is a joint agency, comprising 19 public utilities and municipalities. It operates Columbia Generating Station near Richland, the only WPPSS nuclear plant now operating, and a hydropower project, as well as wind, solar and biomass power projects.

The agency's board of directors voted to push forward with the new project in July, allowing Energy Northwest to pursue a plant site west of the Cascades and to continue to research the technology.

"To tie this to the WPPSS era is ludicrous," said Bob Boyd, an Energy Northwest board member representing the Chelan County PUD. Boyd voted against the proposal on behalf of his district, partly because he believes the power the plant produces will be too expensive.

John Prescott, board member from Seattle City Light, also voted against the plan, citing his utility's policy against additional carbon-based power generation.

"It just might be time for us to try to meet our needs through renewables and conservation, then look at what else," Prescott said.

The Northwest Power and Conservation Council, which has planned the region's power needs since 1980, takes a similar stance in favor of renewable energy and conservation to meet the region's rising power needs for the next 10 years.

John Harrison, a council spokesman, said Energy Northwest may be a little ahead of schedule with plans to have the plant operating by 2012. But he said the council recognizes the technology as its preferred new thermal power source beginning in 2015.

At least one analyst is raising concerns. Energy Northwest may not have pursued a major project since WPPSS, but some of its public utility members have, and they are now paying higher rates for power, said Jim Lazar, an economist and private energy consultant.

Lazar was the research director for the Don't Bankrupt Washington Committee, the group that successfully pushed a 1981 voter-approved initiative requiring voter approval for public financing of power plants that generate more than 350 megawatts.

"It's promising technology, but it's an organization with a poor track record, made up of organizations with poor track records," Lazar said.

The cost of the 600-megawatt plant has been estimated at close to $1 billion. Public utilities would pay half the cost and get half the power, an arrangement that dodges the requirement for a public vote.

The rest of the power would be sold under private contracts, and the second half of the project would require separate financing.

Krueger said regulations for utility project financing have changed significantly since the 1980s. Bond holders were responsible for the default then. Today, utilities that contract for the power before the plant is even completed would be held accountable, he said.

The WPPSS hangover likely won't impede the project's advancement, said Alan Spen, managing director at Fitch Ratings, who has tracked Energy Northwest for more than 20 years.

"Overall, I'm sure there's going to be a few old-timers who say, 'I don't think I want to buy this,"' Spen said. "But for the most part, I think most people are able to evaluate this on its own and get past the name."

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NATIONAL

Worker shortage has farmers growing wary

BY BOB CHRISTIE
Associated Press Writer

SAN LUIS, Ariz. — It's only 4 a.m. but the border crossing in this southwestern Arizona town is already jammed.

Cars are lined up for blocks and people by the hundreds, using every conceivable form of transportation, are working their way north into the United States. On the American side, buses and throngs of people jam every open parking area — at banks, shoe stores, convenience stores, vacant lots.

The crowds are coming to work in the vast farm fields that stretch for miles around San Luis and nearby Yuma. But despite the numbers, farmers in the area have a problem: There just aren't enough workers pouring across the border each morning.

Right now, early in the winter vegetable growing season, it's not a huge issue. The crews are mainly thinning the lettuce crop, setting up irrigation, running tractors.

But come mid-November, when vastly greater numbers will be needed to harvest lettuce, cauliflower, broccoli and celery, the farmers worry the workers just won't be there. At least not enough of them — 35,000 to 40,000 all told — to bring in the whole harvest and prevent some of it from rotting in the fields.

With a booming economy, many trucks and cars crossing the border have wheelbarrows and construction tools in the back rather than the simple lunchboxes of field workers.

Add to that inland roadblocks set up by the U.S. Border Patrol to snare illegal immigrants, and growers and picking contractors are increasingly worried.

"My family has seen the Bracero Program, the Filipino Program, the Navajo Program, the Immigration Reform Act of 1986, and now we're seeing labor shortages," said Sonny Rodriguez, a second-generation farm labor contractor who runs 70 buses in the Yuma area.

Growers and contractors like Rodriguez say the root of the problem is a federal immigration policy that is broken. What is needed, they say, is a guest worker program that will allow the immigrant laborers they need into the county.

Farm worker advocates agree they are seeing a worker shortage, but contend much of it is a dilemma of the farmers' own making.

"The pay is so low, and the benefits so lacking, the conditions so harsh, that people don't stay in the industry," said Marc Grossman, spokesman for the United Farm Workers union. "If you're an undocumented worker and you start in the fields, as soon as you can, you find a job in another industry."

Farmers say only about 10 percent of the estimated 10 million to 12 million undocumented workers in the country are in agriculture. The rest fill jobs in construction, hotels, restaurants, factories and landscaping.

The farm worker shortage issue has cropped up in other farming areas this year, most recently in the raisin harvest in California's Central Valley and the apple harvest in Washington state.

The Yuma valley in Arizona and the Imperial Valley to the west in California produce about 90 percent of the winter vegetables consumed in the United States, according to Western Growers, a trade group representing farmers in both states. As much as $1 billion in crops are harvested, cooled and packed over the winter growing season.

The workers who cross the border from San Luis Rio Colorado, Mexico, to San Luis, Ariz., each morning are legal. They're mainly permanent U.S. residents or visa holders who could live in the United States but choose to live in Mexico because it's home and the cost of living is cheaper.

But the buses in San Luis also pick up their share of illegal immigrants, those who've bypassed the border crossing — jumping the fences, crossing the desert or swimming the Colorado River to make it here.

Growers and labor contractors concede they need the illegal workers to fill the ranks, but say they follow the law by checking documentation.

They hope to avoid what they're predicting is a 20 percent shortfall in pickers this winter. Last year, when the Border Patrol started a crackdown that snared illegal workers on the buses, farmers protested. They say the crackdowns scared away workers.

Several proposals dealing with immigration reform are now before Congress, but action is unlikely until next year. Meanwhile, farmers are pushing a new proposal for an emergency pilot program just in the Yuma region.

"We're trying to find a short-term solution until the Congress develops the political will to come up with compromise legislation that gives us a legal and stable workforce," said Tom Nassif, president of Western Growers.

Under the proposal, workers would have to get Mexican passports, then apply for a temporary U.S. work visa, Rodriguez said. The local county employment office would then match them with growers or contractors who need labor, with the first jobs going to interested U.S. citizens.

Competing proposals and calls for crackdowns frustrate farmers.

"The system is broken, yet no one can agree how to fix it," said Will Rousseau, a Phoenix-area farmer.

Sen. Jon Kyl, R-Ariz., says the farmers he talked with believe President Bush has the administrative authority to approve such a pilot program and he hasn't heard anything to the contrary.

Kyl is the co-sponsor of one immigration reform bill that would require illegal immigrants to return home and then apply for a guest worker program. But he said he doesn't oppose a program allowing temporary Mexican workers, such as the ones the farmers are proposing, because it is short term.

"For them the pay is not bad, so if we can take advantage of that labor supply when we need it and not make people permanent legal residents — because they're not permanently needed — we should come with a way to do it," Kyl said.

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NATIONAL

Ski resort home sales boom as supply trails

BY JOANNE KELLEY
Associated Press Writer

DENVER — Colorado mountain real estate has turned white-hot in the state's swankiest ski resorts, with many towns expecting to best recent records by year-end.

Vail fixture Slifer Smith & Frampton posted $1 billion in annual sales for the first time in its fiscal year ended in September. In Aspen, real estate tax revenues tell the tale of a banner year: By Sept. 2, collections already had surpassed all of last year's.

And the buyers seem to keep coming.

"We have the most pending business on the books in the history of our firm," said Jim Flaum, president and managing broker at Slifer Smith, whose record-setting sales in its fiscal year ended Sept. 30 compared with $900 million in sales last year.

Brokers in the state's top resort towns said baby boomers seeking vacation homes, as well as an influx of new full-time residents, have contributed to the boom. At the same time, the number of properties on the market has been shrinking.

Markets around the region also have enjoyed a boom.

"This summer's been the craziest that I think any of us have ever seen," said Dennis Hanlon, head of the Rocky Mountain Resort Alliance, based in Park City, Utah. "It looks like everybody is going to be way above last year."

Hanlon, who tracks sales throughout the region, said he is still collecting 2005 data from Colorado ski resort towns. In Park City, he said, sales have more than doubled in the first nine months of the year _ to $1.5 billion from $700 million in the same period of 2004.

Few see a bubble on the horizon, given the dearth of vacant land backing up to ski runs and other big mountain draws.

"We've had record-level activity at record-level prices," said Brent Waldron, managing broker at the resort town's Coates, Reid & Waldron. "We're about 20 percent ahead of last year. I think that's probably what (all of Aspen's numbers) will reflect as well."

Even with the phenomenal growth in sales of fractionally owned units, interest in individually owned homes has been strong.

"People with a lot of money don't have to share and don't," said Slifer's Fraum. "Most of them don't rent their homes. They have their clothes here. They have their artwork the way they want it."

While just about all market segments have done well in both Summit and Eagle counties, Fraum noted that Vail Village remains a big-ticket draw.

A small house on one-third of an acre recently sold for $12.5 million even though the buyer planned to tear down the dated house and build another one.

"Some folks bought it obviously just for the land," Flaum said.

Waldron said booming fractional ownership offerings in Aspen actually have fueled an interest in wholly owned condominium and single-family-home sales.

Waldron said those who bought a share of a condo for a few weeks a year have decided they want to come more often that.

The frenzied activity has boosted Aspen's take from a 1 percent housing real estate transfer tax, which buyers pay at closing to help fund affordable housing.

"We're assuming we're going to be close to $9 million this year (in housing transfer tax revenues), which is about $900 million in real estate sales in town," said Paul Menter, Aspen's finance director.

The robust market extends to other Colorado resort towns, too.

Where buyers still could find a two-bedroom ski condo in Steamboat for about $150,000 last year, prices have moved closer to $200,000 or more.

"We can't produce mass quantities of ski-in, ski-out properties," said Doug Labor, a Steamboat Springs real estate broker. "It's going to be another record year for us."

In the first three quarters of 2005, the Steamboat market had 1,054 transactions, up 14.9 percent from 917 in the same period a year ago. Those properties sold for a combined $376 million, up from $316 million the year before, said Labor, who compiles data for the Steamboat Springs Board of Realtors.

The same goes for Telluride.

"Every month this past year has been to a certain extent setting records," said Kim Havell, president of Telluride's Board of Realtors. Through August, sales were up 15 percent in dollar volume and the number of deals had climbed 7 percent vs. last year.

Havell said the number of people seeking a small-town life year-round has contributed to the increased interest in Telluride real estate.

"Families are looking for quality of life changes," Havell said. "This has been a very comfortable and protected place to live."



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U.S., South Korea hail North's promise

BY ROBERT BURNS
AP Military Writer

SEOUL, South Korea — Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and his South Korean counterpart on Friday hailed a promise by North Korea to abandon its nuclear program, but they also cited "causes of significant concern" in the North's continued development of long-range missiles.

Rumsfeld also affirmed the U.S. commitment to maintain a troop presence in South Korea, and he bristled at a suggestion that South Koreans increasingly believe they would be better off without the Americans.

Later he received a raucous greeting from about 1,000 troops who gathered in a gymnasium at the Yongsan post that is headquarters for U.S. Forces Korea. He thanked the troops for their service and compared the difficulties the United States faces in its current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to the darker days of the 1950-53 Korean War, in which more than 30,000 U.S. troops were killed.

He noted that many had asked why the United States should sacrifice in battle on the Korean peninsula.

"Today the answer to the question is clear," he said, noting that South Korea has grown into an economic powerhouse and a stable democracy. His unspoken implication was that, given time, U.S. sacrifices in Iraq and Afghanistan will produce stability and prosperity in those countries, too.

"The Republic of Korea, an impoverished and devastated nation over a half-century ago, now has one of the world's most powerful economies and is an important democracy with a large and increasingly capable armed force," Rumsfeld told a Seoul news conference following 2 1/2 hours of annual defense talks.

These changing circumstances make it important for South Korea to take on a greater share of the burden for its own defense, Rumsfeld said, but Koreans should not dismiss the value of U.S. support.

"The United States of America has invested the lives of a great many Americans in helping the Republic of Korea to be free," he said in a joint appearance with South Korean Defense Minister Yoon Kwang-ung.

"We are a part of this alliance at the request of the Republic of Korea's government," he added.

In a joint statement issued after their talks, the U.S. and South Korean defense officials welcomed Pyongyang's promise in six-party talks to abandon its development of nuclear weapons, but added that concerns remain.

"Both sides noted that North Korea's continued development of weapons of mass destruction and long-range missiles, along with the danger of proliferation of those weapons and technologies, are causes of significant concern," the communique said.

It said they were hopeful it would "facilitate the verifiable nuclear dismantlement in order to realize the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula at the earliest opportunity."

During the talks, Rumsfeld and Yoon agreed to "appropriately accelerate discussions on command relations and wartime operational control." Seoul has been seeking control of the joint command of U.S. as well as South Korean troops here during wartime, which traditionally has been in U.S. control.

Rumsfeld said the U.S. welcomes efforts by Korea to "take on more responsibility," but he reaffirmed on behalf of the United States its "continued provision of a nuclear umbrella" for Korea. That is a promise, also made to Japan, to use the U.S. strategic nuclear arsenal as a deterrent force — or as an offensive weapon, if necessary — to preserve the South's independence.

The Pentagon has begun pulling thousands of U.S. troops out of South Korea, where it has maintained a contingent of about 37,000 troops for decades amid concerns that communist North Korea might attempt to reunite the two Koreas by launching an attack.

Gen. Leon J. LaPorte, commander of U.S. forces in Korea, told reporters Thursday evening that by the end of this year 8,000 of the 12,500 troops designated for withdrawal will have left South Korea.

Rumsfeld was asked during Friday's news conference whether Washington wanted to make further cuts.

"I know of no plans to do that," he replied.

Before the meeting Friday, Rumsfeld visited the cemetery where the Korean War dead are buried. He laid a wreath and paid respects in silence for a few minutes.

The U.S.-South Korean defense alliance dates to the 1950-53 Korean War in which the United States and other U.N. member nations intervened on the South's side.

Substantial numbers of American troops have remained in South Korea since the war ended in a cease-fire. In recent years they have handed to the South Korean military more of the key missions designed to deter the North from invading and for preparing defenses in the event that deterrence failed.

LaPorte said that although the North is hampered by a weak economy and limited fuel resources, it remains capable of launching an attack that potentially could kill large numbers in the South.

"The North Korean threat has not changed," LaPorte said.

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INTERNATIONAL

Saddam trial defense lawyer found dead

BY THOMAS WAGNER
Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A defense lawyer in Saddam Hussein's mass murder trial has been found dead, his body dumped near a Baghdad mosque with two gunshots to the head, police and a top lawyers union official said Friday.

Four U.S. service members were killed in two attacks Thursday, the U.S. military said. Three Marines died when a bomb hit their patrol in the village of Nasser wa Salam, 25 miles west of Baghdad, and other American troops clashed with gunmen, killing two insurgents and capturing four, the military said.

An American soldier was killed in the northwestern town of Hit by "indirect fire," a term that usually means a mortar or rocket attack, the military said.

Nineteen Americans have been killed in the past week. The latest deaths brought to 1,992 the number of members of the U.S. military who have died since the beginning of the war in 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

The lawyer, Saadoun Sughaiyer al-Janabi, was abducted from his office by 10 masked gunmen Thursday evening, a day after he attended the first session of the trial, acting as the lawyer of one Saddam's seven co-defendants.

Al-Janabi's body, with two bullet shots to the head, was found hours later on a sidewalk near Fardous Mosque in the eastern neighborhood of Ur, near the site of his office, said police Maj. Falah al-Mohammedawi.

Diaa al-Saadi, senior official in the lawyers syndicate, said al-Janabi's family confirmed to him that he was dead. "This will have grave repercussions. This will hinder lawyers from defending those held for political reasons," al-Saadi warned.

Al-Janabi's family, reached by phone by The Associated Press, declined to comment.

The killing was the first setback for a tribunal that has been held under tight security.

Heavy protection was provided for prosecutors and judges in the Saddam trial, on the theory that they were likely targets of pro-Saddam insurgents seeking revenge. Their names have not been revealed and their faces were not shown in the broadcast of Wednesday's opening session _ with the exception of the presiding judge and the top prosecutor, whose identities were revealed for the first time just before the trial.

Security measures do not appear to have been extended to the defense lawyers for Saddam and his seven co-defendants. Their identities have been known, although most of them have not been prominent in the press.

Al-Janabi was defending Awad Hamed al-Bandar, the former head of Saddam's Revolutionary Court. Saddam and the seven top officials from his Baath regime face a possible death sentence if convicted in their trial on charges of murder and torture in a 1982 massacre of 148 Shiites in the town of Dujail.

Saddam's chief lawyer, Khalil al-Dulaimi, said after the kidnapping that defense lawyers have received many threats in past weeks by e-mail, cell phone text message and by telephone. He did not specify if they were from Saddam opponents angry at their defending Saddam's regime or from Sunni supporters angry that they were participating in the trial at all.

"We condemn this killing, which does not serve the interests of the trial or of the political process," said government spokesman Laith Kubba.

"We do not know who was behind this operation. Is it designed to hinder the trial process of is it a case of vendetta? We don't know," he said.

During Wednesday's session, al-Janabi, with silver hair and a dark black mustache, sat with the 12 other defense lawyers in two rows of desks to the right of their clients. Al-Janabi was in the front row and spoke at least once during the session, but did not stand out in the proceedings as did al-Dulaimi or others who spoke more often or more combatively with the judge.

He was abducted from his office in the Shaab district, which for months has been the scene of attacks by insurgents and violence between its mixed population of Sunnis and Shiites.

In April and July, two deadly suicide car bomb attacks hit army posts there. In May, gunmen killed a Shiite Muslim cleric, and the bullet-ridden bodies of two missing Sunni clerics who had been kidnapped there were found. On Aug. 12, members of a Shiite Muslim militia freed four hostages from a home there.

The district is close to Sadr City, a large mostly Shiite and poor area of Baghdad that is a stronghold of the Shiite Mahdi Army militia. On Thursday, Rory Carroll, 33, the Baghdad correspondent for the British newspaper The Guardian was released unharmed in Sadr City, a day after being kidnapped there by gunmen. A group of Sadr City residents reportedly raided the area where he was being held by criminals and freed him.

Saddam and his co-defendants pleaded innocent in the trial, which was adjourned until Nov. 28.

The court will hear its first prosecution witness: a Wadah Ismail al-Sheik, a bedridden cancer patient who was director of the investigation department at Saddam's feared Mukhabarat intelligence agency at the time of the Dujail massacre. Court officials will go Sunday to his hospital to take his testimony, court officials said on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the subject.

Iraqis are still waiting to know the outcome of the Oct. 15 constitutional referendum. Initial returns indicated it had passed, but electoral officials are conducting an audit of unusually high "yes" votes in some areas to ensure there are no irregularities. The review has delayed the final results, expected early next week.

In other violence Friday in Baghdad, drive-by shootings killed four police commandos, an army captain and a mosque preacher.

The bodies of three policemen who had been blindfolded and shot in the head by insurgents near the Jordanian border were brought Baghdad, police said. Another body of a civilian who had been killed by unknown captors was found in central Baghdad, police said.

Fighting also continued in Operation River Gate, an offensive by 3,000 U.S. and Iraqi forces that began Oct. 4 in and around Haditha, 140 miles northwest of Baghdad.

Associated Press Television News video showed U.S. tanks on the outskirts of Haditha, helicopters circling overhead and American soldiers moving through the city Thursday. Crackles of gunfire could be heard. In Baghdad, the U.S. military said Friday that it had no new information about the offensive or casualties in the fighting.





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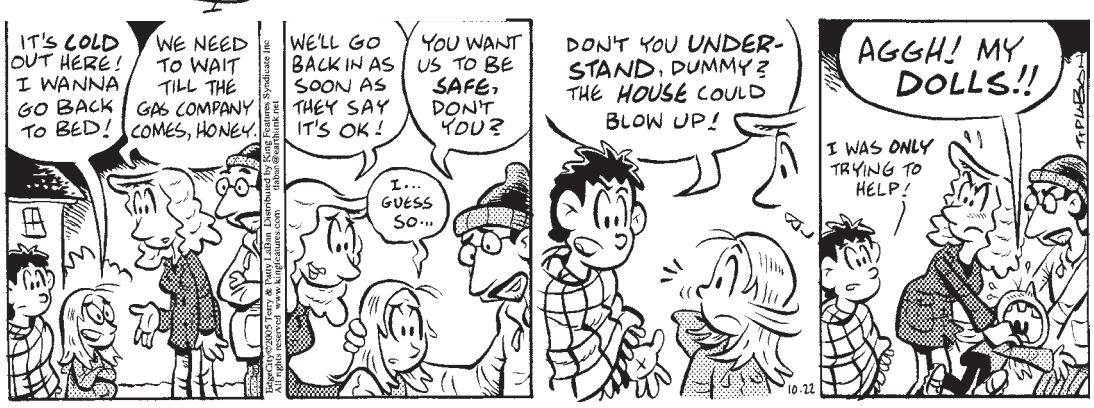
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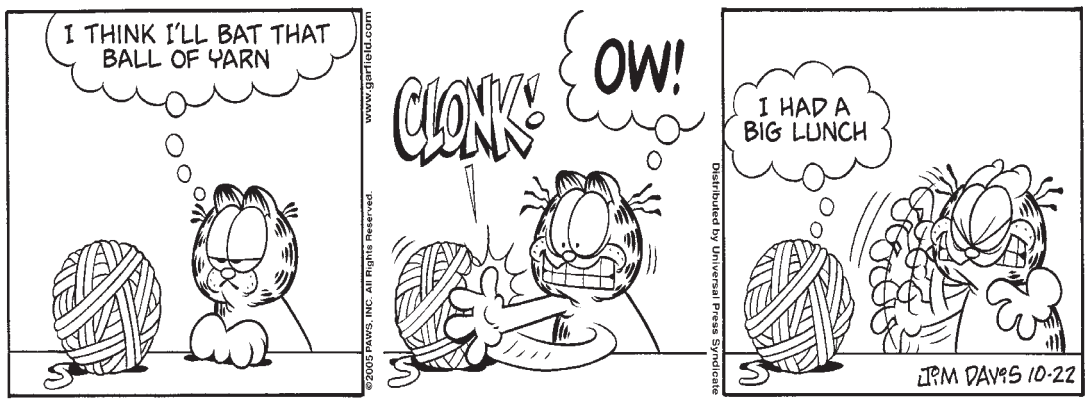


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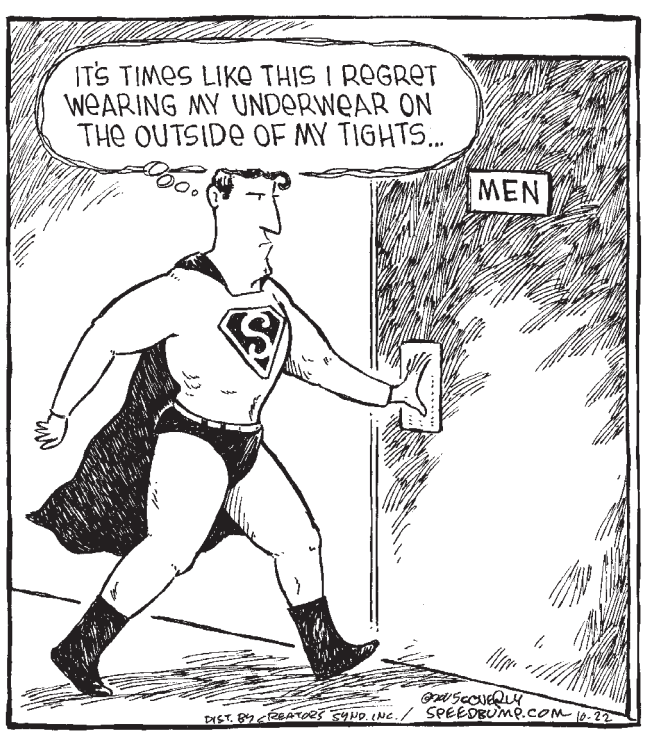
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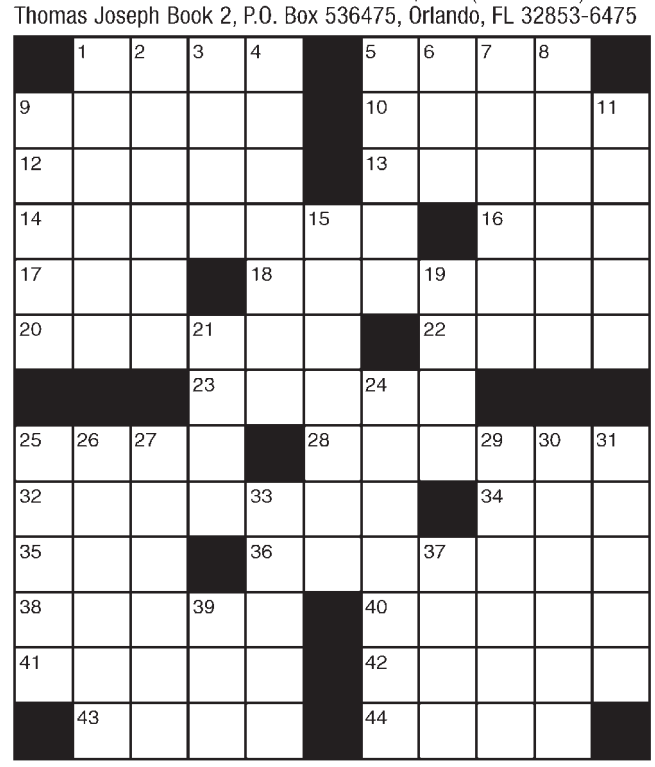
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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 2164202 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as The Greek Telephone Directory / TheGTD.com, 11704 Wilshire Blvd., #D295, Los Angeles, CA 90025. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Larry Tollin Enterprises, LLC, CALIFORNIA, 11704 Wilshire Blvd., #D295, Los Angeles, CA 90025 This Business is being conducted by, a limited liability. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)4/28/2005. /s/: Larry Tollin Enterprises, LLC, Member, Larry Tollin
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 9/8/2005. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 10/8/2005, 10/15/2005, 10/22/2005, 10/29/2005

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