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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Decision 2004

Election Results

Races

City Council (65 of 66 precincts reporting)

	Votes	Percentage
☒ Bobby Shriver	20,028	16.51
☒ Richard Bloom	14,384	11.86
☒ Herb Katz	12,547	10.34
☒ Ken Genser	11,601	9.56
☐ Patricia Hoffman	10,850	8.94
☐ Matt Dinolfo	10,128	8.35
☐ Maria Loya	9,913	8.17
☐ Kathryn Morea	8,361	6.89
☐ Michael Feinstein	6,855	5.65
☐ David Cole	3,580	2.95
☐ Bill Bauer	2,875	2.37
☐ Leticia Anderson	2,814	2.32
☐ Jonathon Mann	1,508	1.24
☐ Linda Armstrong	863	0.71

SMC Trustees (80 of 81 precincts reporting)

☒ Susan Aminoff	19,177	23.16
☒ Rob Rader	14,727	17.79
☒ Margaret Quinones	13,339	16.11
☐ Doug Willis	12,534	15.14
☐ Charles Donaldson	9,266	11.19
☐ Tonja McCoy	7,663	9.25
☐ SuSanne Trimbath	6,096	7.36

School Board (80 of 81 precincts reporting)

See **SMC TRUSTEES**, page 7

☒ Jose Escarce	21,483	26.86
☒ Maria Leon-Vazquez	21,086	26.37
☒ Kathy Wisnicki	21,171	25.22
☐ Ana M. Jara	17,235	21.55

See **SCHOOL BOARD**, page 7

Rent Control Board (65 of 66 precincts reporting)

☒ Joel C. Koury	16,499	53.22
☒ Jeffery Sklar	14,500	46.78

See **RENT CONTROL**, page 7

Ballot Measures	Yes	No	Passed
Measure S	23,545	17,020	☒
Measure N	24,903	8,444	☒

See **BALLOT MEASURES**, page 3

SMRR keeps grip on council

Powerful renter group captures two seats to retain council majority, returns show

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

Despite losing one seat to a well-heeled challenger, Santa Monica's ruling party on Tuesday ensured it will control City Hall for at least two more years.

With 97 percent of precincts reporting, it appeared calls for change in City Hall didn't resonate with residents, who were on track to elect three incumbents and one challenger. Two of the incumbents were backed by the powerful Santa Monicans for Renters Rights group, which has controlled City Hall for most of the last quarter century.

"I'm very encouraged," said Mayor Richard Bloom, 51. "There's already a sense of accomplishment, because the returns look good. It really looks good for all of the SMRR candidates."

Also re-elected early Wednesday were incumbents Herb Katz, who was supported by the local chamber of commerce, and Ken Genser, backed by SMRR.

Kennedy family descendant and California parks commissioner Bobby Shriver, 50, was on track to claim the fourth seat. With all but one of Santa Monica's 66 precincts reporting, Shriver had nearly twice as many votes as the fifth-ranked candidate, or the first not to win a seat.

"God is great," said Shriver, who hosted 200 supporters in a bal-

See **SMRR**, page 6



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Santa Monica residents lined up out the door at St. Paul's Lutheran Church on Lincoln Boulevard all day Tuesday to vote. By 5 p.m., after a record number of voters had showed up to the polling precinct, the church had nearly run out of ballots.

Bush, Kerry go the distance

BY RON FOURNIER

AP Political Writer

WASHINGTON — President Bush and challenger John Kerry sweated out a tension-packed conclusion to the race between a hard-charging Democrat and a Republican incumbent battered by war in Iraq and joblessness at home. Ohio loomed as this year's Florida, the decisive state, with Kerry's options dwindling.

Ceding nothing, Kerry dispatched running mate John Edwards to tell supporters in Boston: "We've waited four years for this victory. We can wait one more night."

The 78-word statement was an eerie echo of 2000 when advisers to both Bush and Democrat Al Gore told supporters that the race was too close to call — set-

ting off a 36-day recount.

"We will fight for every vote," Edwards said, borrowing a line from Gore.

Bush won Florida this time without a recount. Kerry took New Hampshire from Bush, who won it in 2000, but the state has just four electoral votes. That leaves Ohio and Nevada as Kerry's only hopes, and he wasn't conceding either.

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INSIDE

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Barbara Boxer flattens challenger 8

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Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

A handful of John Kerry supporters rallied at the corner of Wilshire and Lincoln boulevards on Tuesday afternoon. Motorists honked in support of the group as they drove by.

Jacquie Banks

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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)

★★★ Frustration and anger build. You could blow like a volcano. Everyone will duck and act as if they are walking on eggshells. The cat might even hide out. Discuss feelings later and clear the air. Perhaps someone has been harder on you than he or she realizes. Tonight: Chill out.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Use care when driving and using machinery at work. You might be accident-prone. Others might be overly serious; focus on a discussion in order to clear the air. Invite someone you need to talk to out for dinner. Over food, everyone's mood eases up. Tonight: Relax at a favorite spot.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★ Words don't work. So don't try to be rational with someone who might be very feisty. Let this person chill out. You might not want to set up boundaries, but you need to, especially concerning spending and expenses. Catch up on news with a co-worker. Tonight: Schedule a dentist's or doctor's appointment.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ You mean well, but someone close to you wants you to know how irritated he or she is. You get the message loud and clear. Be serious about this person's needs. Air your perspective in a conversation later. Tonight: Hop out the door.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Knowing when not to interfere might be significant. Others act out and seem prone to angry feelings. You might feel sad or depressed to be involved with such cattiness or problems. Remember, you choose your responses. Tonight: Nap and then decide.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Emphasize what you want with an eye to positive change. Investigate expenses and costs before giving the thumbs up. You might regret your decision before the day is over otherwise. Talk through ideas with others. Welcome feedback. Tonight: Brainstorming works and encourages camaraderie as well.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Assume your natural position of authority. Others respond to your presentation and attitude accordingly. You don't have to be overly assertive. State your case. You have the needed authority to command your ship. Tonight: Go with the moment.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ You might not like some of the information you hear, but you can turn it around in your favor. Someone might be inadvertently aggressive. Could he or she be responding to some latent anger on your part? Tonight: Discuss and weigh different approaches.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Unfortunately, a partner's or associate's opinions and ideas hold more weight than yours. You could be aggravated. You might have some strong words to say, but take action when it counts. Your impact is felt in a meeting. Tonight: Accept plans as they stand.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Others might be a bit pushy or too strong for your taste, but you aren't going to change them. Your leadership, though generally unquestioned, gets flak or creates contention. Instead of taking comments as personal attacks, open up a brainstorming session. Tonight: Join friends.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Dig into your work with energy and enthusiasm. Steer away from distractions. You might need to screen your calls or isolate yourself in a more effective manner. A boss or associate shares some excellent suggestions. Listen, even if you don't want to. Tonight: Play it by ear.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Your creativity might not be up to snuff right now. Evaluate what you are hearing and investigate what could work. A partner or associate might have a suggestion that triggers you. Run with the conversation, putting aside a personal reaction. Tonight: Explore options.

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LOCAL



'S' by a nose: College bond just squeaking by

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

A proposal to infuse millions of dollars into Santa Monica College facilities was narrowly passing as of early Wednesday. The measure needed 55 percent approval by Santa Monica and Malibu voters.

Measure S, a \$135 million bond proposed by SMC was up 15,226 to 10,638 with 42 out of 81 precincts reporting at 1:40 a.m. The ballot measure had 59 percent approval at presstime.

Hundreds of thousands dollars were spent campaigning in favor of Measure S, which had broad support from community organizations, political groups and local leaders. The measure had minimal opposition.

The money would be used to build and upgrade several buildings at SMC, buy new open space in Santa Monica and Malibu, and develop other properties owned by the city.

Measure S is the second SMC bond proposal in 2 1/2 years. It would cost the average Santa Monica homeowner \$77 in the first year. The average renter would pay \$13 in the first year.

Officials have targeted two possible projects in the city of Santa Monica that part of the bond money would go toward.

The first is to develop an early childhood development school which could serve the city's childcare needs and whose facility will be used by SMC students as a laboratory. No site has been picked for the estimated \$7 million project, though officials are currently looking at the Civic Center area next to City Hall and the courthouse.

The other possible project would be to develop athletic fields that could serve residents primarily in the afternoons, evenings and weekends, and SMC sports programs in the mornings. Like Santa Monica, SMC is severely short of field space and has earmarked \$37 million for the project.

However, none of the projects are final because talks between City Hall and SMC were tabled until after the election.

Also on the "to-do" list are a variety of SMC projects, including the \$24 million Madison Theater for performing arts, a \$20 million career center, a \$20 million fitness building and \$2 million in upgrades to promote energy savings. College officials have set aside another \$25 million to purchase land in Malibu, which could then be used as athletic fields and for other purposes, including an advanced Malibu

See MEASURE S, page 5

Hotel tax hike not put to bed: Measure N gains momentum

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

With only 15 percent of the 66 precincts reported, a 2 percent tax hike on local hotel fees appeared to be passing by local voters early Wednesday.

At 1:40 a.m., Measure N had 17,451 in favor and 5,746 against with 40 precincts out of 66 reporting. If approved, Santa Monica's hotel bed tax would be raised in January from 12 percent to 14 percent. The tax increase would bring in about \$3.5 million extra every year for City Hall.

The measure, unanimously placed on the ballot this summer by the City Council, will increase nightly rates at local hotels by an average of about \$4.

The estimated revenue increase is roughly half of the amount City Hall

needs to cover its stated ambition of giving local schools \$6 million this year. The tax hike also would put Santa Monica on par with Beverly Hills, West Hollywood and Los Angeles, which all charge 14 percent. Marina Del Rey charges 13 percent.

City officials decided to send the tax hike proposal to voters after they were forced earlier this year by a large group of parents to give a minimum of \$6 million annually to the school district. The City Council was reluctant to give additional money to local schools without a new revenue source.

Measure N had no formal opposition and appeared on the ballot with no argument against it. Despite that, the measure had widespread support in the community, some industry officials were vocal in criticizing the initiative because it doesn't

See BED TAX, page 5



SURF REPORT

On Wednesday look for fading old SW swell with a little remnant NW wind swell. Most Northern LA spots will be averaging waves under waist high. Most South Bay spots will be knee high or under. Light winds in the morning turning W 8-12kts in the afternoon.

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	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	4:06	2.2	5:40	0.0	10:23	5.9	N/A	N/A
SUNDAY	3:25	2.6	5:25	0.3	12:11	3.6	9:49	5.7
MONDAY	3:38	2.9	6:20	0.5	12:19	3.3	10:19	5.3
TUESDAY	N/A	N/A	7:32	0.8	10:54	5.0	N/A	N/A
WEDNESDAY	N/A	N/A	8:51	0.8	11:47	4.6	N/A	N/A
THURSDAY	8:13	3.7	9:57	0.8	6:05	3.8	1:26	4.2
FRIDAY	10:26	3.4	10:44	0.7	5:47	4.0	3:15	4.1

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The Q Line

The results of the City Council election on Nov. 2 will shape the future of Santa Monica in the coming years. Whether residents decide to vote for incumbents or local government newcomers, one thing has become clear during this election: Santa Monicans are calling for change.

So this week, Q-Line wants to

know: What do you expect from your City Council in the coming years?

Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your response in the weekend edition. Please limit your comments to a minute or less. It might help to think first about the wording of your response.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fed up with Bush-bashing

Editor:
(Editor’s note: This letter was originally addressed to Daily Press columnist Ed Silverstein in response to his column printed Oct. 27, page 6.)

Talk about an ignorant, pompous ass. You don’t even know what you’re talking about. I don’t know where you live, but in Santa Monica (Kerry-land) all the eight-bedroom mansions and Porsches, etc., all have Kerry-Edwards signs. People like you forget that this is America and we do have the freedom to make our own decisions about who we vote for.
The fact that you and the other people like you bash anyone who disagrees with your way of thinking just reinforces my vote for Bush. It’s not as much Kerry I despise, but the people that are voting for him. As far as your reference to the inconsistencies in the Bible, I would like you to point out just one. Have you ever read the Bible cover to cover?
I’m sure that this getting through that hard, ignorant head of yours has as much a chance as peace talks with terrorists.

Suzanne Brand
Santa Monica

History repeating itself?

Editor:
In three cases, the son or grandson of a president of the United States has also been elected president. John Quincy Adams was the son of John Adams. Benjamin Harrison was the grandson of William Henry Harrison, and of course George W. Bush is the son of George H. W. Bush. There are interesting similarities.
In all three cases, the father or grandfather did not serve a second term. John Adams and George H.W. Bush were defeated when they ran for re-election and William Henry Harrison died of pneumonia one month after being elected president.
In all three cases, the son or grandson did not win the popular vote when elected president: Benjamin Harrison and George W. Bush received fewer popular votes, but more electoral votes than their rivals. John Quincy Adams, in fact, also had fewer electoral votes than his rival, Andrew Jackson. Because neither candidate had a majority, however, the election was decided by the House of Representatives, and Adams won.
So far, no son or grandson of a president has been re-elected for a second term. John Quincy Adams and Benjamin Harrison were defeated when they ran for re-election. Will George W. Bush fit the pattern?

Stephen Krashen
Malibu

Malibu should choose whether to split from school system

Editor:
Much rhetoric and propaganda has been bandied about in recent weeks regarding the desire of MUST (Malibu Unified School Team) to have the Malibu schools “secede” from the Santa Monica Malibu School District. In particular, Rufus Baker’s letter (SMDP, Sept. 23, page 4) essentially finds the notion “frivolous” and feels those unincorporated “90265” communities outside Malibu’s official boundaries “do not identify” with the city and their children will somehow be left out of the equation.
Mr. Baker’s argument simply makes no sense. Our children attend Webster Elementary in Malibu and many of their friends and classmates live in areas like Sunset Mesa, Pepperdine and the many canyons which lay outside Malibu city limits. In recent weeks, we also canvassed many additional parents in the Sunset Mesa neighborhood — which Mr. Baker references and is geographically closest to Pacific Palisades and Santa Monica — to make sure we were not out of touch with their beliefs. While several families send their children to Pacific Palisades schools (not even part of SMMUSD, but LAUSD), those Malibu public school parents overwhelmingly feel that a broken-off Malibu school district would more effectively cater to their needs.
While these areas have their own political, jurisdictional and boundary issues which pre-date any school redistricting discussion, it is clear these people have not chosen to “reject” (his word, not ours) Malibu or the Malibu schools their children attend.
Our own neighborhood (Serra Retreat, central Malibu) has such a dividing line, where one side of a street is the city of Malibu and the other is unincorporated Los Angeles. The people who live in unincorporated Los Angeles send their children to Malibu schools, participate in every aspect of our Malibu community and, in fact, are some of our community’s biggest supporters of Malibu’s childrens’ programs.
Given Mr. Baker’s logic, these unincorporated neighborhoods should have been equally ignored or ostracized by the original SMMUSD as well, because they fall in neither the city of Malibu nor the city of Santa Monica. It is also interesting to note that if the SMMUSD was being formed today, Malibu, based upon existing state law, could not be part of the Santa Monica school system because it does not share a common geographic border.
The idea of succession is anything but “frivolous” to the many parents, PTA presidents and educators who are considering this topic very seriously. MUST is committed to bringing the issue of succession to the voters because it believes separate school districts will allow each city to focus its efforts on the students in the community and in its own manner expand the resources devoted to those students. As it stands now, decisions must be made to benefit the greatest number of students, yet sometimes what is best for Santa Monica children is in direct conflict with what is best for Malibu children. We feel that both new districts would be able to better serve the needs of their students and target the limited resources to where they are most needed.
If Malibu succeeds in convincing the state that a redistricting is advisable and the voters of Malibu agree, those who attend Malibu schools can continue to do so. But ultimately, this issue deserves to be put in front of the voters and let them decide.

Eric and Patricia Gruendemann
Malibu

GUEST COMMENTARY BY EDWIN A. LOCKE

War disasters can be blamed on politicians

Veterans Day arouses three emotions in most Americans: Solemnity, because it celebrates the veterans who have defended our great country; sadness, because so many have lost their lives in the process; and pride, because they have fought so well.
The supreme value that our veterans have fought and died for — with some tragic exceptions — from the American Revolution to the Civil War to two World Wars is freedom. America is the country of freedom. We were the first to declare that government exists to serve men. Men do not exist to serve government. We were the first to proclaim that all men are equal before the law. We were the first to say that each individual has inalienable rights — the right to his life, his liberty, his property, and the pursuit of his happiness.
There is no more precious possession than one’s own life. But without political freedom, human life is empty. Man cannot exist in any meaningful sense as a serf. The New Hampshire motto says it perfectly: “Live Free or Die.”
Because human life is so precious, war should never be undertaken unless our rights are threatened. It is often said that our soldiers must sacrifice themselves for

our country. This is precisely what we must not ask them to do. A sacrifice entails the surrender of a greater value for a lesser one. But if a man loses his life on the premise, “I would rather die than live in slavery,” it is a tragic loss — but it is not a sacrifice. Such a man is acting in his own interests, to protect his most precious values.
On the other hand, it is a sacrifice to send our soldiers to a country that has no connection to their interests and values. An example is Somalia. Many brave American soldiers died there — for what? To capture warlords who posed no threat to America.
Vietnam is another example of a senseless, self-sacrificial tragedy. While it was in our interest to oppose the communist threat to America, it did not benefit Americans to throw away their lives in defense of a primitive nation whose people did not value freedom. The mere fact that they needed help should not have created a claim on the efforts and the lives of U.S. soldiers.
Any element of self-sacrifice in war is a betrayal of our soldiers and the American freedom they fight for. Witness the ongoing debacle in Iraq, where the Bush Administration has

forced American soldiers to fight with self-crippling restrictions, leading to hundreds of unnecessary American deaths and enabling a militarily puny insurgency to take over Iraqi cities — all in the name of saving Iraqi civilians and mosques.
Our heroic fighting men and women are not to blame for these disasters. It is the politicians who are responsible. It is they who believe that our soldiers are sacrificial fodder to fulfill the politicians’ desire for “prestige-enhancing” adventures. They believe that our armed forces can be sent to aid Somalia — or Haiti or Bosnia — in order to be able to show the world how “humanitarian” the politicians are.
But politicians desperate for prestige to assuage their self-doubts should be told that they may not utilize our armed forces as the tool for obtaining it. And they should be told we have no duty to sacrifice ourselves for the sake of any country in need of our assistance. Our soldiers are sovereign beings who have a right to their own lives.
Furthermore, our armed forces should consist only of volunteers. It is an ugly contradiction to claim that we must protect freedom — by coercing people to

fight. If the cause is just and the American interests clear, there will be no shortage of enlistments. In fact, a volunteer force helps make sure that our soldiers do battle only when serious threats to our interests are at stake. A volunteer force will prevent politicians from involving us in senseless wars.
We must be proud of our soldiers, but it is equally true that they should be proud of the cause they fight for. It is terrible to die in war, but there is one thing worse: To die in a war that has no meaning, a war that offers no reason for risking one’s life.
The best way we can honor our veterans and give real meaning to Veterans Day — aside from ceremonies honoring their past and present dedication and bravery — is to promise that we will go to war only when America’s interests as a free nation are threatened, and wage it in the uncompromising pursuit of victory.
(Edwin A. Locke, a professor emeritus of management at the University of Maryland at College Park, is a senior writer for the Ayn Rand Institute in Irvine. The Institute promotes the philosophy of Ayn Rand, author of “Atlas Shrugged” and “The Fountainhead.”)

LOCAL



\$135M bond proposal ahead in a narrow race

MEASURE S, from page 3

sewer system that SMC students would monitor as part of their studies.

Although it received widespread support and voters approved the bond, it wasn't without controversy.

In the past several months, SMC faced criticism over an emergency meeting of its board, called days after the board rejected the original bond proposal for \$175 million in August. The bond proposal was reduced by \$40 million and SMC trustees shaved off many of the longer-term projects. However, many criticized the decision because the board met with minimal notice to the public.

After college officials slashed tens of millions of dollars from the original proposal, the SMC board of trustees voted unanimously in favor of the revised measure at a special meeting called by Margaret Quinones, the chairwoman of the board. The day of the meeting was the last possible day the board could have accepted a bond measure and gotten it on the ballot.

Whereas the previous plan proposed \$75 million in projects at SMC, \$75 million in joint efforts with Santa Monica City Hall and \$25 million in joint projects

with Malibu City Hall, the new bond proposed just \$45 million for joint projects with Santa Monica City Hall and a slightly reduced amount for SMC.

SMC officials also were criticized by the public and city officials for introducing the bond in June, which is considered late in the political process. College officials said they were forced to wait on announcing the bond proposal because they were wary of flooding the ballot with too many school funding measures. Up until May, it was unclear if a group of school parents were going to force a controversial charter amendment to the vote. That effort died after City Hall agreed to give the local school district \$6 million annually for the next five years.

A phone survey of 400 residents conducted by SMC in July found 69 percent approved of the bond. Recent door-to-door polling of more than 10,000 residents shows approval of the bond even higher, at 72 percent, SMC officials said.

In the meantime, SMC is still spending proceeds from Measure U, which passed in 2002 and authorized \$160 million in college facility bonds.

With the passage of Measure S, SMC would have a total of \$247 million in bonds.

Hotel owners fret likely passage of bed tax hike

BED TAX, from page 3

specify where the additional revenue will be spent. Currently, the hotel bed tax, which will generate about \$18.5 million this year for City Hall, is spent on police, fire, paramedics, parks and recreation, environmental protection and after-schools programs.

While city officials have earmarked \$3 million of the tax revenue for the local school district, they haven't specifically said exactly how the remaining amount would be spent. They've indicated that the estimated annual \$500,000 might go to the Santa Monica Visitors and Convention Bureau to promote tourism, but that's unclear. Some of the larger luxury hotels would like to see some of the money spent on public safety, particularly to police the vagrant population along the beaches which hotel managers say drive tourists away.

Small hotel officials say the tax hike would turn away some potential business, especially travel agents who buy package deals in bulk. Those agents often chose Santa Monica because the bed tax was

traditionally lower here than in surrounding areas, including Beverly Hills, Marina Del Rey and West Hollywood.

Others have speculated the tax hike would deal a significant blow to medium-sized Santa Monica hotels that have booked foreign visitors in travel packages at set rates. For large hotels that do not offer such packages, individual tourists will pay the increase in tax as they rent out new rooms. At the medium-sized hotels that do, hotel owners will have to pay the tax out of their own pockets for all the packages they have already sold, because they can't renegotiate those packages to accommodate for the new tax level.

For Hotel Carmel on Second Street, which does 60 percent of its business in pre-sold packages to international tourists, the tax increase would mean losses of tens of thousands of dollars. Hotel Carmel has packages pre-sold until March 2006.

Other cities — like Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach and Redondo Beach — have kept their bed tax at a 10-percent rate, the same as Santa Monica's until it was upped to 12 percent in 1989.

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LOCAL



John Wood/Daily Press

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, right, visits City Councilman-elect Bobby Shriver's Tuesday night election celebration, shaking hands with guests and posing for cameras. Schwarzenegger continued on to the Beverly Hilton, where he delivered an election night speech.

Feinstein places 9th in bid for council seat

SMRR, from page 1

loon-filled ballroom at the Fairmont Miramar Hotel. "I'm excited to win and I feel like it's an act of trust for people to vote for you, so it's a good thing. Now I have to deliver to people, so I'm going to concentrate on delivering."

While Shriver mingled with guests in front of the ballroom's big screen TV, City Councilman Herb Katz held a small election night party at Casa Del Mar. Meanwhile, SMRR members drank from a keg and noshed on tamales outside a union building on Colorado Avenue, and challengers Bill Bauer and David Cole hosted a handful of friends for free snacks and sodas at The Shack on Wilshire Boulevard.

At each of the events, moods were somewhat sour as guests closely tracked national election returns. Only two of the 14 people running for City Council seats were Republicans.

The new council members will be sworn in for four-year terms on Dec. 7. They will join incumbents Bob Holbrook, Kevin McKeown and Pam O'Connor, whose terms end in 2006. McKeown and O'Connor were both backed by SMRR, though O'Connor is viewed as an independent thinker and her votes don't always reflect those of other SMRR council members.

All seven City Council members on Dec. 7 will choose a new Santa Monica mayor, who will serve a two-year term.

SMRR'S LEGACY

SMRR-backed politicians have helped develop the Third Street Promenade into an economic powerhouse, promoted a progressive environmental agenda and brought higher wages to low-income workers. They also have been called overly bureaucratic and soft on homelessness, earning the city monikers like "The People's Republic of Santa Monica" and "Santa Monica: Home of the Homeless."

Business interests coalesced to fight SMRR this November like never before. The local chamber of commerce formed a political action committee, endorsed a slate of candidates and helped them raise money, while special interests groups poured hundreds of thousands of dollars into the race. The owners of two luxury beachfront hotels, Casa Del Mar and Shutters on the Beach, spent nearly \$280,000 alone, sending out election mailers and canvassers on behalf of the chamber candidates.

SMRR fought hard to retain power over the council. Though it had raised only \$125,000 as of Oct. 16, SMRR depended on a team of volunteers to knock on doors and man phone banks. Several SMRR candidates also picked up endorsements from other groups, like the local police and city employee unions. Those groups spent tens of thousands of dollars on behalf of their chosen candidates. In the end, only one of 10 challengers won a seat — Shriver.

THE KENNEDY FACTOR

Shriver entered the local political fray last summer, after he and more than 100 other residents were threatened by city

officials with fines of up to \$25,000 a day for having high front, side and back yard hedges. Frustrated by his experience with City Hall, Shriver began his campaign calling for change within City Hall. He quickly took up homelessness as his top priority on the campaign trail.

Most observers expected Shriver to win long before votes were cast. With name recognition and family ties, Shriver generated unprecedented interest in his campaign. He became the subject of news articles across the country. He raised more than twice as much money as any of the other candidates. He invited help, too. Campaign events featured Shriver's uncle, U.S. Sen. Ted Kennedy; cousin, Robert Fitzgerald Kennedy Jr.; mother, Eunice Kennedy Shriver; sister, first lady of California Maria Shriver; television celebrity Oprah Winfrey; and U2's Bono, who has helped Shriver raise money for African AIDS victims.

The entrance of Shriver changed the dynamic of the local election. Many groups attempted to latch onto his success, pairing themselves with Shriver on mailers and in advertisements.

Attending Shriver's Tuesday's event, among others, were City Councilmen Bob Holbrook and Herb Katz; Santa Monica College President Dr. Piedad F. Robertson; schools Superintendent John Deasy; chamber leaders Tom Larmore and Kathy Dodson; Harry Keiley, head of the local teacher union; and reporters, photographers and news cameras from most of the county's major media outlets.

FIELD OF CONTENDERS

Incumbents Bloom, Genser and Katz have a combined experience of several decades on the dais. Bloom has been involved in a countywide effort to cure homelessness in the next 10 years, while Genser has committed himself to mapping out Santa Monica's development future. Herb Katz, an architect and small business owner, has long lamented ineffectiveness sitting on a council minority.

City Councilman Mike Feinstein, who was dropped by SMRR this year after eight years of support and was criticized by education leaders and members of his own Green Party, lost his bid for re-election as an independent. With nearly 80 percent of precincts reporting, Feinstein was in ninth place, capturing less than 6 percent of the votes cast.

The 10 challengers that joined the council race had diverse backgrounds and qualifications. Among the contenders were Shriver, nurse Leticia Anderson, data entry operator Linda Armstrong, former newspaper columnist Bill Bauer, healthcare worker David Cole, flight attendant Jon Mann, chamber-backed physician Matt Dinolfo and database analyst Kathryn Morea, and former school member Patricia Hoffman and Pico neighborhood activist Maria Loya, both backed by SMRR.

Two other candidates that backed out of the race but still appeared on the ballot pulled in more than 4 percent of the vote. They were Red Cross worker Tom Viscount and hedge activist Leah Mendelsohn.

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LOCAL



Big changes could be in store for SMC trustees

BY KATHLEEN BISHOP

Special to the Daily Press

The face of the Santa Monica College board of trustees could change more drastically than it has in a decade, but election day didn't produce any results in this tight race.

With 42 precincts out of 81 reporting, as of 1:40 a.m., [Susan Aminoff, a 56-year-old community college professor, was leading with 23 percent of the votes, but the race was too close to call. Robert Rader, a 37-year-old entertainment lawyer, was in second place, trailing Aminoff by more than 2,000 votes.

"I'm very hopeful," Aminoff said. "I've been leading all night and I'm look-

ing forward to serving on this board."

Three seats on the seven-seat board were open and could all be filled by challengers, which would be the first time since 1994 more than one seat changed hands. Dr. Margaret Quinones, 49, is the only incumbent running and sat at third place early Wednesday.

Despite her optimism, election night did take its toll on the early leader of the race.

"It just seems like the precincts sort of dribble in," Aminoff said. "I'm hoping to get some sleep."

Quinones was ahead of fourth-place candidate Douglas Willis by 195 votes.

Willis, 49, is an accountant and local Rent Control Board member.

SMC slashed a handful of academic programs last year to help plug a gaping budget deficit and has had strained relations with its neighbors. The challengers have said a change is what the board needs, but Quinones and SMC president Dr. Piedad Robertson believe stability and experience are key. The board's primary role is to oversee the budget and allocate funds for the school.

Current board members Annette Shamey and Graham Pope are vacating their seats. The new members will join Carole Currey, Dr. Dorothy Ehrhart-

Morrison, Dr. Nancy Greenstein and Herbert Rooney on the board.

The other candidates are Charles Donaldson, a former newspaper reporter and retired professor who taught at SMC for more than 30 years, Tonja McCoy, a Malibu businesswoman, and SuSanne Trimbath, a 49-year-old economist.

Aminoff, Rader and Willis were all endorsed by Santa Monicans For Renters' Rights, the SMC faculty and the classified employees union.

Rader, Quinones and Willis were supported by the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce and were elected in a mock vote by SMC's Associated Students organization.

Malibu retains a seat on local school board

Kathy Wisniski to join seven-member board

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

With more than half of precincts reporting, community volunteer Dr. Kathy Wisniski was on track to win a seat on the local school board early Wednesday, quelling concerns that Malibu would be edged off the district's governing body.

"I hope it goes my way and it's been a very positive experience," said Wisniski, 42, adding she would stay up through the night to watch the final returns trickle in.

Wisniski was joined by incumbents Jose Escarce and Maria Leon-Vazquez in winning three open seats on the board. The fourth candidate, Ana M. Jara, trailed

behind by nearly 1,000 votes with more than half of precincts reporting.

The seven-member school board is responsible for overseeing the prestigious Santa Monica-Malibu school district, which has about 13,000 students. With the pending retirement of board member Mike Jordan, Wisniski was Malibu's only chance to keep representation on the board.

Campaigning didn't come cheaply. After losing out in her bid for the coveted endorsement from Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights, Wisniski focused heavily on fundraising and netted nearly \$33,000 as of Oct. 16, the last pre-election reporting deadline. She also won endorsements from the Coalition to Protect the Living Wage, the local chamber of commerce, the Committee for Excellent Public Schools, the local teacher union and the faculty union at Santa Monica College, among others.

By contrast, the other three school board candidates combined had raised less than \$15,000.

If Wisniski loses, the school board will be without Malibu representation for the first time in 25 years. While incumbent school board members from Santa Monica said they considered all students in the district, they agreed representation was important to many Malibu parents.

As incumbents, Escarce, 51, and Leon-Vazquez, 48, have overseen an increase in district test scores despite unprecedented state funding cuts. Part of their success has been due to an outpouring of community and civic financial support. Santa Monica and Malibu voters approved Measure S last June, which funnels more than \$6.5 million into local schools annually. And Santa Monica City Hall agreed last summer to give schools at least \$6 million annually.



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press
A woman casts her ballot on Tuesday in Santa Monica.

Little drama in races for rent control board seats

BY PAM WIGHT

Special to the Daily Press

In these remarkably close elections, a landslide victory deserves some recognition — even if it comes in a competition against no one.

With 60 percent of the precincts reporting as of 1 a.m. Wednesday, Joel C.

Koury expressed amused pleasure at his 53 percent of the vote for the Santa Monica Rent Control Board.

"Yeah, I'm happy I'm winning," he said with a smile. No challenger ran against Koury for the position.

Koury waited out the outcome of his race at a party held at the Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights headquarters on

Colorado Avenue. The party became the gathering place for many of the City Council candidates and Santa Monica College Board of Trustee candidates while they waited for the belated election results. Office seekers present were SMC Board of Trustee candidate Susan Aminoff, City Council candidates Richard Bloom, Maria Loya, Ken Genser and Linda Armstrong.

People gathered around a TV in the parking lot and various computers inside, sipping keg beer and eating rice, beans and tamales served on Styrofoam plates. Folding tables and chairs completed the decor.

The candidate for the other uncontested Rent Control seat, Jeffrey A. Sklar, was not present at the party. He had acquired 47 percent of the vote.

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STATE

Boxer wins by a knockout

BY GILLIAN FLACCUS
 Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Democrat Barbara Boxer easily held onto her U.S. Senate seat Tuesday in a sweeping victory over Republican challenger Bill Jones, dashing GOP hopes that Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's recall romp signaled a turning point in the Democratic state.

Boxer, the state's junior and more liberal Democratic senator, won by her largest victory margin yet, according to an exit poll conducted for the Associated Press and television networks by Edison Media Research and Mitofsky International. She's only the third California senator since 1850 to be elected to three full Senate terms.

"Winning statewide in a state as large and as independent as ours, as George Bush says, takes hard work," Boxer said at her victory party in San Francisco.

The results show Californians "seem to feel that I stand up and fight for them," she said earlier in an interview. "I've always had to deal with a lot of negativity and nastiness and this time I was able to take the issues right to the people."

Boxer had 56 percent of the vote to Jones' 40 percent with 32 percent of the precincts reporting.

Boxer's support spanned all age groups, races, and income brackets, according to an Associated Press exit poll. She took two-thirds of independent voters, and one in seven Republicans. Among self-described conservatives, Boxer took one in five voters.

Jones' strengths included his support among Protestants, more than half of whom voted for the Republican.

Jones didn't benefit from Schwarzenegger's broad popularity — voters who approved of the governor's job performance were split between the two Senate candidates, according to polls

of 2,199 voters conducted for AP and television networks by Edison Media Research and Mitofsky International.

The survey included 474 absentee voters interviewed by telephone during the past week and their responses were weighted to represent 30 percent of the total sample — their estimated proportion of the state's electorate. Results were subject to sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points, higher for subgroups.

"Clearly there's a decision made by the people of California and I respect that. Clearly, this was not going to be a successful election," said Jones, who called Boxer to congratulate her.

Jones blamed last year's recall election for diverting attention and money from the Senate campaign, but acknowledged that not contributing his own money also hurt his campaign.

"I did not get in a situation personally where I could do that," he said. "But it was not due to lack of effort."

Boxer's resounding victory was foretold months before election day as Jones, a former two-term secretary of state, trailed by wide margins in the polls. He also trailed in fund-raising and decided not to spend his own millions on the campaign. In the end, he failed to air even one television commercial — something almost unheard of for Senate races.

After tight races in 1992 and 1998, the 63-year-old Boxer was pleased with her victory margin — but said she won't be complacent in her third term.

"I never consider a good vote a mandate — that is so egotistical — but it says that on the vast majority of the issues the people want me to fight for them. And I am going to," she said, listing abortion rights, expanding after-school programs and resolving the war in Iraq among her top priorities.

Jones, 54, struggled after handily beating former U.S. Treasurer Rosario Marin for the GOP nomination.

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STATE



Voters entrust Schwarzenegger, nix casino propositions

BY DON THOMPSON

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Voters rejected expanding California's gambling industry on Tuesday, as they devoted \$3 billion to stem cell research, boosted DNA collections from suspected felons, protected local government budgets from state money-grabs, and made it tougher for governments to act in secret.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger devoted unprecedented money and political capital to his successful campaign against propositions 68 and 70, two different approaches that would have expanded gambling while undercutting profit-sharing pacts he negotiated with some Indian tribes. Supporters spent tens of millions of dollars promoting the competing measures, while Schwarzenegger dipped into a special campaign fund to rally opposition.

The California Coalition Against Gambling Expansion called the vote "a seismic change in public opinion about gambling" after voters twice previously approved tribal casinos. But the California Tribal Business Alliance, six tribes that support Schwarzenegger's negotiations, said voters "made it clear that they expected the

state to work in partnership with tribes to determine under what circumstances legal gaming should be able to expand."

Meanwhile, voters approved Proposition 69, supported by Schwarzenegger, that will greatly expand the state's DNA database by collecting genetic samples from anyone arrested for a felony, regardless of whether they are convicted.

Californians rejected experimenting with nonpartisan elections. They chose Proposition 60 to retain the current two-party system over Proposition 62, which would have let voters select primary election candidates regardless of party and send the top two to a runoff.

They approved Proposition 60A, requiring that proceeds from the sale of surplus state property pay off deficit bonds approved by voters in March.

Voters also backed Proposition 59, making it harder for government to conduct business in secret by requiring that meetings of government bodies and writings of public officials and agencies be open to public scrutiny.

They protected cities' and counties' budgets by approving Proposition 1A, prohibiting the Legislature from shifting local property tax revenues to other pur-

poses except in an emergency. Voters were rejecting a competing measure, Proposition 65, which was put on the ballot before local governments agreed to provide the governor and lawmakers with more flexibility.

They rejected Proposition 67, which would have added a 3 percent surcharge to telephone calls, with an estimated \$500 million in annual revenue going to hospitals and doctors for emergency and trauma care for the uninsured.

Ballot measures have played a major role in California elections for nearly a century, but this year's crop led to a new spending record of more than \$200 million. The long list of propositions frustrated voters including Annemarie Perez, who voted midday at a middle school in Santa Monica.

"You kind of get to the point where you just want to vote 'no' on everything," said Perez, a 36-year-old graduate student studying English at University of Southern California.

Among other ballot measures:

Schwarzenegger teamed with four former governors to try to defeat a measure that would weaken California's three-strikes law. Proposition 66 would allow 25 years-to-life sentences only if third-time

felons were convicted of a serious or violent crime instead of the sometimes minor offenses permitted under current law.

Business-backed Proposition 64 would limit a 71-year-old law that allows lawsuits over practices that defraud consumers or give businesses unfair advantage over competitors. Proponents, including Schwarzenegger, said attorneys abused the law to shake down small companies over minor issues. Opponents said the law has prevented misleading advertising, stopped mislabeling of meat and punished polluters.

Schwarzenegger and businesses also aligned to fight Proposition 72, which would require businesses to provide health care coverage for about 1 million employees.

Two measures would boost taxes to provide more health benefits.

Proposition 63 would expand mental health programs through funding from a 1 percent income tax surcharge on the 30,000 Californians who earn more than \$1 million a year.

In addition, Proposition 61 would authorize \$750 million in bonds to construct, renovate and furnish children's hospitals. The measure would cost the state about \$1.5 billion if repaid with interest over 30 years.

Bush-whacked: State defiant in passing stem cell bond

BY PAUL ELIAS

AP Biotechnology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Californians on Tuesday passed a \$3 billion bond measure that represents a rejection of Bush administration policy and will put the state on the forefront of stem cell research.

With 3 percent of the precincts reporting, Proposition 71 had a 63 percent to 37 percent lead.

"It makes me feel great for our daughter and all the people in the state who are looking for a potential cure," said movie producer Janet Zucker, a campaign organizer whose teen daughter suffers from diabetes. "Help is on the way."

The victory was fueled by more than \$25 million in campaign contributions flowing from Silicon Valley venture capitalists, billionaire executives like Microsoft Corp. co-founders Bill Gates and Paul Allen and wealthy parents of sick children.

Proponents said the California measure was needed because the Bush administra-

tion has severely restricted funding of human embryonic stem cell research to about \$25 million a year, slowing progress in the field.

The opposition raised about \$400,000, with nearly half that coming from millionaire evangelical Christian Howard Ahmanson Jr.

Proposition 71 was popular across all ages, races, incomes and education, according to an exit poll conducted for The Associated Press and television networks by Edison Media Research and Mitofsky International.

The proposition was among the most rancorous issues on the state ballot this year, and served as fodder in the campaign for president while raising a host of religious, economic and medical concerns.

An odd coalition of culture conservatives and women's rights activists, who are usually bitter rivals in the abortion debate, joined together in opposition over the necessary destruction of human embryos involved in the research.

"This is a financial boondoggle that

relies upon creating and killing of human beings," said Wendy Wright, policy analyst for the Concerned Women for America, an anti-abortion Christian nonprofit. "It has both moral and financial implications."

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and former Secretary of State George Schultz, meanwhile, bucked the state Republican Party and endorsed a measure supported by many major Democratic donors.

The bond will cost the deeply indebted California a total of \$6 billion in principal and interest. But supporters said the proposition would jump start a promising but moribund field while stimulating the state's economy.

"You are going to see many states who are going to try to follow California's lead," said Dan Perry, president of the patient advocacy group Coalition for the Advancement of Medical Research. "California may end up dragging the rest of the country into the game."

The measure creates the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine,

which will dole out nearly \$300 million annually in stem cell funds for 10 years starting in 2005.

Supporters designed the measure to get around Bush administration restrictions on the funding of human embryonic research and they promised it will put California at the forefront of the field. The California money now earmarked for the field dwarfs spending on all current stem cell projects in the United States, whether privately or publicly financed.

Projects eligible for funding include the cloning of human embryos that would be destroyed before growing large enough to be seen without a microscope.

Many scientists believe stem cells hold vast promise for treating an array of diseases from diabetes to Parkinson's. Stem cells can potentially grow into any type of human tissue and scientists hope to be able to direct the blank cells to grow into specific cell types needed for transplant.

But even the most enthusiastic supporters acknowledge that such results are many years away.

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NATIONAL

Arizona cracking down on immigrants, Florida gives its workers a raise

BY DAVID CRARY

Associated Press Writer

PHOENIX — Arizonans on Tuesday approved a first-of-its-kind crackdown on illegal immigrants, adopting a measure that would deter them from voting or obtaining certain government services.

Elsewhere, Florida voters approved a \$1-an-hour hike in the state minimum wage, Montana became the 10th state to legalize marijuana for medical purposes, and Oklahoma voters approved a state lottery, leaving only nine states without one.

In all, 163 measures were on the ballots in 34 states. Eleven states were considering constitutional bans on same-sex marriage; the bans were approved in the first 10 states to report results.

The Arizona immigration initiative was touted by supporters as a way to curtail fraud by requiring people to produce proof of immigration status when obtaining certain government services. It would punish state workers who looked the other way.

Arizona is the busiest illegal entry point on the U.S.-Mexico border, and spends millions annually to provide food stamps, welfare and other social services to illegal immigrants.

Floridians voted to raise the state's minimum wage to \$6.15 an hour, a dollar higher than the federal minimum wage. A similar measure was on Nevada's ballot.

Florida voters also approved a measure limiting the privacy rights of girls seeking abortions, meaning the Legislature can now pass a law requiring parents to be

notified. Lawmakers had been stymied in efforts to pass such a law by court rulings that say they violated the privacy provision of the state constitution.

Many of the most noteworthy ballot items were in Western states, including a potentially history-making proposal to legalize marijuana in Alaska. Federal drug czar John Walters denounced the measure; supporters defended it as a sensible alternative to existing drug policies.

In Oregon, voters were deciding whether to expand their state's existing medical-marijuana program.

Colorado defeated a measure would have allocated its electoral votes proportionally, based on the popular vote for president, and would have applied to this year's race between President Bush and John Kerry.

With defeat of the measure, either Bush or Kerry will get all nine of the state's electoral votes, which otherwise might have split 5-4.

Other issues around the country included:

■ **Taxes.** Voters in Maine and South Dakota both declined opportunities to lower taxes. South Dakotans defeated a bid to scrap the sales tax on groceries, while a measure to cap property taxes lost in Maine after opponents said it would force layoffs of teachers and firefighters.

■ **Medical malpractice.** Doctors and trial lawyers were on opposite sides in bitter debates in Nevada, Wyoming, Oregon and Florida over whether to impose limits on pain and suffering awards and attorneys' fees in malpractice cases.

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NATIONAL



Bush camp feels confident, Kerry not conceding

JUDGMENT DAY, from page 1

"The vote count in Ohio has not been completed," said Kerry campaign manager Mary Beth Cahill. "There are more than 250,000 remaining votes to be counted. We believe when they are, John Kerry will win Ohio."

Not so, according to Bush's advisers who told the president he would capture the state.

"I believe I will win, thank you very much," Bush said while awaiting results with his family and dog Barney.

Kerry, a four-term Massachusetts senator, allowed himself to muse about the problems he might face in the White House, including a soaring deficit and a war that has claimed more than 1,100 lives.

"I'm not pretending to anybody that it's a bed of roses," the Democrat said.

The Electoral College count was excruciating: With 270 votes needed, Bush won 27 states for 249 votes. Kerry won 17 states plus the District of Columbia for 225 votes.

In the early hours of Wednesday, Kerry was still on the hunt for electoral votes the GOP won four years ago. The states won by Democrat Al Gore in 2000 are worth just 260 votes this year due to redistricting — 10 short of the coveted number.

Kerry could pick that up plus some in Ohio with 20 electoral votes. Without the Buckeye state, he could only turn to Nevada (5 votes).

A 269-269 tie would throw the presidential race to the House.

Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D.: "Obviously the presidential race is going to keep us up most of the night."

Bush lost Pennsylvania, a major blow after courting voters with steel tariffs and 44 visits — the most of any state — in a bid to steal it from the Democrats. The loss raised the stakes in Ohio, won by Bush in 2000.

In Nevada, independent candidate Ralph Nader could play the spoiler.

Republicans moved toward increasing their majority in the Senate, winning Democratic seats in Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina and Louisiana while Democrats took GOP-held seats in Colorado and Illinois. State Sen. Barack Obama won easily in Illinois; in January, he will be the third black U.S. senator since Reconstruction.

Republicans extended their decade-long hold on the House for another two years, knocking off four veteran Texas Democrats.

Alongside the White House and congressional races, a full roster of propositions and local offices kept voters busy. But all eyes were focused on Kerry's bid to make Bush the first president voted out of office in the midst of a war.

"I've given it my all," Bush said after voting in a firehouse at Crawford, Texas, hoping to avoid being the first wartime president bounced from office.

The race showed signs of being as close as 2000, when Bush lost the popular vote to Gore but won the Electoral College count and the presidency after a ruling by the Supreme Court gave him Florida. The incumbent hoped to avoid the fate of his father — former President George H.W. Bush, who was bounced by voters in 1992 after waging war against Iraq and overseeing an ailing economy.

Braced for a replay of the 2000 recount, legions of lawyers and election-rights activists watched for signs of voter fraud or disenfranchisement. New lawsuits sought clearer standards to evaluate provisional ballots in Ohio and a longer deadline to count absentee ballots in Florida.

While complaints were widespread, they weren't significant. "So far, it's no big, but lots of littles," said elections expert Doug Chapin.

Voters were torn over the presidential race, in ways all too familiar.

Exit polls suggested that slightly more voters trusted Bush to handle terrorism than Kerry. A majority said the country was safer from terrorism than four years ago, and they overwhelmingly backed Bush.

However, among those who said they were very worried about a terrorist strike, Kerry held a slight lead. That was a troubling sign for the incumbent as was this: A majority of voters said things were going poorly in Iraq, and they heavily favored Kerry.

With nearly 1 million jobs lost in Bush's term, Kerry was favored by eight of 10 voters who listed the economy as a top issue.

The nation's mood? There was division on that, too. Half said the country was headed in the right direction, a

good sign for the incumbent.

Voters welcomed an end to the longest, most expensive presidential election on record. "It's the only way to make the ads stop," Amanda Karel, 25, said as she waited to vote at a banquet hall in Columbus, Ohio.

Both sides spent a combined \$600 million on TV and radio ads, more than twice the total from 2000.

Bush won among white men, voters with family incomes above \$100,000 and weekly churchgoers. Three-fourths of white voters who described themselves as born-again Christians or evangelicals supported Bush.

The president had hoped to increase his support among the religious right since 2000, but exit polls suggest there was little change.

Kerry retained Gore's margins among blacks and union households, key parts of the Democratic base. His voters named the economy and Iraq as top issues.

One in 10 voters were casting ballots for the first time and fewer than 10 percent were young voters, hardly the groundswell that experts had predicted.

Officials predicted a turnout of 117.5 million to 121 million people, the most ever and rivaling the 1960 election in the percentage of eligible voters going to the polls.

Only nine of 34 Senate races on the ballot appeared competitive. One of them was held by Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, who was in a pitched fight against Republican John Thune.

All 435 House seats were up for election, but Democrats had little hope of a takeover. Republicans hold 227 seats, Democrats 205, with one Democratic-leaning independent and two vacancies in Republican-held seats.

Eleven gubernatorial contests were being decided Tuesday, along with 5,800 legislative seats in 44 states.

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Real Estate

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LTOs: A creative approach into the market



BUYING AND SELLING
BY THOMAS KHAMMAR

With the price of homes in Southern California as high as they are, sellers may need to start getting more creative in order to sell their home for the price that they want. One way to do this is to offer the home as a lease-to-own, or as we call them in the real estate world, LTO.

As a seller, the LTO program is one way to keep the sale price of your home high. Buyers who purchase through an LTO agreement often do so because they don't have enough money for a down payment or need to repair their credit. One way that they can still move into a home and achieve this is to use a LTO. Therefore, they are willing to pay a little more for the home because the savings that they will receive when they improve their credit and better rates on their mortgage are enough to cover the additional home costs.

An LTO helps the buyer build equity in the home that they plan to purchase. This allows people who could not normally afford a home, the chance to earn one. According to a report by the California Association of Realtors, only 5 percent of Californians make enough money to be able to afford the average home purchase in California. Therefore, if there are more options involved in buying a home, there will be more buyers available as well.

One of the things that makes home prices come down is supply and demand. When there are more buyers, there is more demand and the buyers will try to out-bid each other on homes, which increases the sales price.

Although there have been home

price reductions and homes have sat on the market longer, you still have an opportunity to sell high through the LTO program, but you have to have the time and money available to do so.

HOW AN LTO WORKS

First, the seller and the buyer should agree to the terms of the lease-to-own agreement. An LTO agreement should still be reviewed by a real estate professional to ensure that it is structured to benefit both the seller and the buyer. It should include many elements that are included in the standard purchase agreement, including price, conditions, inspections, etc. In addition, it should also include the lease provisions covering the lease option fee, the term of the lease and period within which the buyer can purchase the home.

Once the buyer starts to lease the home, a portion of the lease payment, usually called the lease premium, is saved to be credited toward a down payment for the home. This is a great asset for a buyer because it also builds equity in the home. Buyer beware, however, if the buyer chooses not to exercise the option to buy, this credit is forfeited to the seller.

The buyer can purchase the home, in accordance with the purchase agreement, and within the time period set forth in the agreement. A mortgage is obtained and pays off the seller's prior mortgage and the proceeds that they will receive from the transaction.

If the buyer cannot afford to purchase the home at the end of the lease agreement, it will be at the seller's discretion if they will extend the purchase option term. Extensions may be something that you will want to consider include in the original agreement.

BENEFITS OF THE LTO

One of the benefits for the seller, if they considered using the property as a rental, tenants that intend to purchase the property will take better care of it. In the event that the home doesn't sell, it should be in good condition.

The seller also benefits from the buyers extra lease premium. This helps ensure that the home will sell. If it doesn't, it will certainly cover marketing the home for a new buyer.

The seller also is able to continue to enjoy a tax credit for the mortgage interest. If you are looking to sell your home in an LTO, please consult your accountant to discuss your tax rights.

For the buyer, the lease premium helps build equity in the home, making it possible for them to afford the home of their dreams. There are no requirements that the buyer must be a first-time buyer nor are their any income requirements. So, an LTO could also help the move-up family get into a bigger home where they need a larger down payment than what they can get from the sale of their home.

In addition, if the buyer is using the LTO to allow them time to repair their credit, they will save money on financial costs when they do obtain a mortgage. The better credit they have the better the interest rate they can obtain.

Even the option not to purchase the home can be a benefit to the buyer. In the event that they have to move somewhere else or there is something wrong with the house, the lease premium that they would lose from walking away from the deal is less than the costs involved in buying and then reselling the home.

Consult your real estate professional to determine if the market is right for you to sell or purchase with a lease-to-own.

(For all your real estate needs contact Thomas Khammar at Pacific Ocean Real Estate email him at tkhammar@pacificoceanrealestate.com)

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Sold Santa Monica 10/21/2004	537 ALTA AVE SqFt: 4,665 Lot Size: 16,796	SANTA MONICA 90402 List Price: \$4,999,925 Sold Price: \$0	Bed: 5 Bath: 5.50
Sold Santa Monica 10/19/2004	1636 OAK ST SqFt: 1,686 Lot Size: 7,050	SANTA MONICA 90405 List Price: \$899,998 Sold Price: \$967,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 2.00
Sold Santa Monica 10/19/2004	1334 HILL ST SqFt: 1,378 Lot Size: 6,440	SANTA MONICA 90405 List Price: \$899,000 Sold Price: \$0	Bed: 2 Bath: 1.75
Sold Santa Monica 10/22/2004	1316 PEARL ST SqFt: N/A Lot Size: 6,350	SANTA MONICA 90405 List Price: \$1,090,000 Sold Price: \$1,165,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 1.00
Sold Santa Monica 10/25/2004	408 SYCAMORE RD SqFt: 1,407 Lot Size: 4,650	SANTA MONICA 90402 List Price: \$1,595,000 Sold Price: \$1,600,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 1.00
Sold Santa Monica 10/21/2004	133 FRASER AVE SqFt: N/A Lot Size: 3,415	SANTA MONICA 90405 List Price: \$2,500,000 Sold Price: \$2,500,000	Bed: 3 Bath: 2.75
Sold Santa Monica 10/19/2004	814 18TH ST #F SqFt: 1,500 HOD: \$250	SANTA MONICA 90403 List Price: \$700,000 Sold Price: \$700,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 3.00
Sold Santa Monica 10/21/2004	2222 NEILSON WAY #102 SqFt: 1,850 HOD: \$450	SANTA MONICA 90405 List Price: \$839,000 Sold Price: \$839,500	Bed: 2 Bath: 3.00
Sold Santa Monica 10/18/2004	1253 11TH ST #3 SqFt: 1,951 HOD: \$318	SANTA MONICA 90401 List Price: \$835,000 Sold Price: \$800,000	Bed: 3a Bath: 2.50
Sold Santa Monica 10/21/2004	2624 KANSAS AVE #11 SqFt: 949 HOD: \$196	SANTA MONICA 90404 List Price: \$399,000 Sold Price: \$432,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 1.50
Sold Santa Monica 10/19/2004	1127 10TH ST #303 SqFt: 1,079 HOD: \$215	SANTA MONICA 90403 List Price: \$529,000 Sold Price: \$531,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 1.75
Sold Santa Monica 10/19/2004	123 GEORGINA AVE #1 SqFt: 3,100 HOD: \$474	SANTA MONICA 90402 List Price: \$1,995,000 Sold Price: \$1,995,000	Bed: 5 Bath: 3.50
Sold Santa Monica 10/22/2004	2663 CENTINELA AVE #105 SqFt: 1,366 HOD: \$265	SANTA MONICA 90405 List Price: \$539,000 Sold Price: \$539,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 3.00
Sold Santa Monica 10/22/2004	1236 CHELSEA AVE #1 SqFt: 1,404 HOD: \$275	SANTA MONICA 90404 List Price: \$649,000 Sold Price: \$647,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 2.50
Sold Santa Monica 10/19/2004	1329 YALE ST #7 SqFt: 1,091 HOD: \$229	SANTA MONICA 90404 List Price: \$489,000 Sold Price: \$496,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 2.00
Sold Santa Monica 10/21/2004	126 MONTANA AVE SqFt: N/A HOD: \$252	SANTA MONICA 90403 List Price: \$1,099,000 Sold Price: \$1,023,750	Bed: 3 Bath: 2.50
Sold Santa Monica 10/20/2004	1107 19TH ST #D SqFt: 1,213 HOD: \$260	SANTA MONICA 90403 List Price: \$689,000 Sold Price: \$680,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 2.50
Sold Santa Monica 10/17/2004	2020 6TH Street ST #4 SqFt: 1,669 HOD: \$300	SANTA MONICA 90405 List Price: \$850,000 Sold Price: \$835,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 3.00
Sold Santa Monica 10/20/2004	1511 16TH ST #303 SqFt: 1,007 HOD: \$312	SANTA MONICA 90404 List Price: \$489,000 Sold Price: \$479,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 1.00

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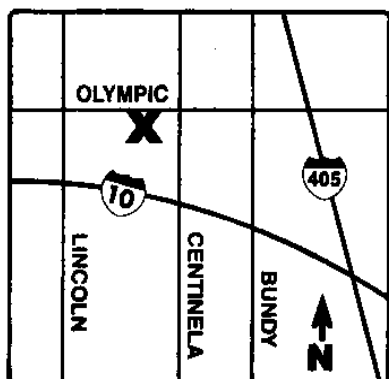
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Getting an accurate appraisal is key to your real estate success



DAYS ON THE MARKET

BY JODI SUMMERS

An appraisal is an estimate of a property's current market value. Whether you're buying or refinancing, the appraisal of your new property is a vital part of getting the loan amount you request from your mortgage broker. The thing is, with the westside real estate market increasing at least 20 percent a year, it can be difficult to get an accurate handle of your property's true worth.

Appraisal is an art. An accurate appraisal combines a variety of information, including recent sales prices of comparable nearby properties, plus an inspection highlighting the pluses and minuses of said property. Appraisals from two licensed appraisers can differ by tens of thousands of dollars, depending on their experience, as well as neighborhoods of expertise and the comparable property sales price information they used to arrive at the appraised value.

In 2003 and 2004, there have not been enough properties for sale in the neighborhood to meet buyer demand. Therefore, a home that's reasonably priced by local standards may get 12 to 15 offers and sell for close to \$100,000 over the asking price. Unless you're putting a huge chunk of cash down, having the property appraise for the sale price can be a big issue.

In a rising market like we have seen over the past several years, it can be difficult to justify the sales price. If the market is increasing 20 percent a year, and the most recent published sales are even four months old, you're already showing a 7 percent difference in price. Thus, using recent sales may not necessarily validate the new price of a property.

A mortgage broker gets you a loan, but he does not put up the money. Brokers are middlemen between home loan borrowers and the actual lenders. They handle the home loan application and paperwork but don't lend their own funds. Therefore, both the mortgage broker and the lender rely heavily on the appraisal to determine a property's value.

Whether you are purchasing or refinancing, there are ways to get the most accurate appraisal for your property. Real estate columnist Bob Bruss offers these points for consideration:

1. BE SURE THE PROPERTY IS IN TOP CONDITION WHEN THE APPRAISER COMES TO CALL. If the property is a mess with items from the seller scattered throughout waiting to be disposed of, it can leave a negative impression with the appraiser, even though it shouldn't affect the property's market value. The appraiser should photograph the property — the front of the house, the interior, as well as the neighborhood. The photos will be included in the package delivered to the lender, substantiating the appraiser's price analysis. Make sure the property looks as good as it can.

2. ACCOMPANY THE APPRAISER ON HIS TOUR OF THE PROPERTY. Have the buyer and/or real estate agent

accompany the appraiser as they inspect the property, so that any and all questions can be answered in a manner that benefits the buyer. Ask for a business card, make sure the appraiser is licensed, and not just a trainee. Make their job easy, point out property benefits that you feel the appraiser might miss, and give them a written list of the property's features and benefits to be included in the appraisal report.

3. OFFER DOCUMENTATION THAT JUSTIFIES THE PRICE. Good appraisers are busy. Make their job easier. Give the appraiser the information they need so that the appraiser can justify the requested loan amount to the lender. Have the real estate agent pull up sales comparables (a.k.a. comps) that support the property's selling price. If you leave the appraiser to pull up this information on their own, your pristine property may end up getting compared to the recently sold neighbor property that had foundation and dry rot issues, and required a complete rehab.

4. REQUEST A COPY OF THE APPRAISAL FROM THE LENDER. The appraiser is hired by your mortgage broker to justify the amount the lender will loan on the property. If you, the borrower, are not satisfied with the appraisal, call the appraiser and ask how he arrived at the loan amount. If you are not satisfied with the amount they are offering to lend, request a "review appraisal" from your broker, and see that it is paid for by the lender. Be sure the second appraiser is familiar with the local real estate market.

5. AVOID ELECTRONIC APPRAISALS. Mortgage brokers lately have begun using computerized appraisals for residential properties. This can be a particular problem if you're paying top dollar for the property, as information that's a couple months old is already obsolete.

Wall Street bond investors who buy into the secondary mortgage market are truly concerned about accurate property valuations. When a borrower defaults and goes into foreclosure, investors take heavier losses if a property's value has been inflated. According to Fitch Ratings, a major risk-assessment firms for the global bond market, "Anything less than an on-site, exterior and interior professional appraisal is likely to overstate the true worth of the property if it's in any of dozens of slowly appreciating markets."

"Appraisers visit the property and observe its condition, and the condition of the neighborhood," noted Sarbashis Ghosh, Fitch's senior director for residential mortgage-backed securities.

Automated valuation models depend on public records of closed sales and are not up-to-date on pricing in changing markets. An automated property valuation in a depreciating market such as San Francisco or San Jose could cause a \$1 million property to be devalued by \$100,000 to \$150,000 for bond market purposes.

Locally, our market remains constant, though the multiple bid way-over-asking price frenzy seems to be calming down.

(For your real estate needs, e-mail Jodi Summers at jodis@boardwalkrealty.com, or call (310) 309-4219).



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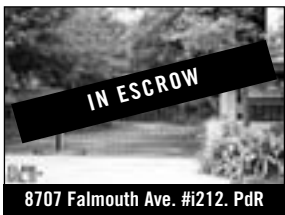


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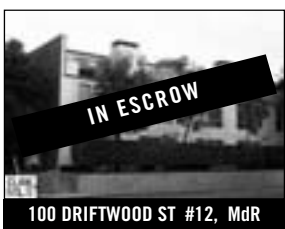


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Brokers predict next year's commercial trends



IN YOUR SPACE

BY CHRISTINA S. PORTER



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As pointed out in previous survey reports, the brokers at NAI Capital Commercial are among the first to spot a trend in the marketplace. They have day-to-day exposure to a wide variety of players — tenants from different industries, landlords, developers, investors and financiers. They are part of the decision-making process, and the decisions that their clients are making today won't show up in the market statistics for another three to six months. We first formally tapped into this resource in a survey of NAI Capital Commercial brokers in the fall 2002, and repeated the survey in the fall 2003. Those surveys accurately predicted that between then and now:

■ Demand for retail space would be very strong and retail market conditions would continue to tighten.

■ The apartment market would be healthy and demand from investors for apartments would be very strong.

■ Demand from tenants to lease industrial space would weaken, but demand for for-sale product would remain very strong.

■ The office market would begin tightening in 2003 and then accelerate in 2004, as well as for-sale prices remaining firm. In the fall of 2004, we repeated that survey, and present our findings to you in this report. The major findings from this survey include:

■ Demand for retail space is likely to remain very strong and the market is projected to remain tight. Most envision rental rates and sale prices to be firm, at current high levels.

■ The apartment market is projected to continue to tighten, and rents and prices are projected to climb at a strong pace — plus 4.5 percent and 6 percent respectively.

■ Demand for industrial space is expected to shift from for-sale product to leased product, as interest rates climb in 2005. Market conditions are generally expected to remain tight or will tighten even further, keeping rental rates and sale prices firm. The greatest investment opportunities are seen in small buildings.

■ Interest in future office requirements is accelerating and construction activity remains limited. Market conditions are projected to continue to tighten, and strong, effective rent growth is projected, plus 4.6 percent.

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Address	Type	SQ. FT.	Price	Date
Arizona Ave.	Office	2,544	\$1,200,000	10/21
Colorado Ave.	Office	1,087,952	\$443,600,000	8/02
Main Street	Office	9,600	\$3,000,000	8/17
Pico Ave.	Office	9,340	\$1,900,000	7/27
19th Street	Retail	2,530	\$1,275,000	10/01
Broadway	Office	13,639	\$1,933,000	9/23
Main Street	Retail	5,257	\$3,000,000	9/03

The above information is deemed reliable but not guaranteed.

Interest is reported to be particularly strong from logistics firms and distributors, but weak from manufacturers. Most brokers expect that market conditions will remain at their current tight levels, or will tighten even further. As a result of a continuation in tight market conditions, 55 percent of the brokers surveyed expect effective rents to climb significantly — 3 percent to 8 percent — over the next 12 months. Forty-five percent expect either shrinking or static rents. Last year, the emphasis was more toward static rents. Demand to buy industrial buildings remains intense, driven in large part by very low interest rates. Supply is very limited. However, prices have climbed very sharply in the past five years, and views regarding whether it can maintain this pace are mixed, with nearly a third of the respondents anticipating a flattening, but two-thirds anticipating continued growth in prices. The outlook is currently more bullish on prices than it was 12 months ago. Risks cited by the brokers include high prices, low cap rates and the risk of climbing interest rates. The greatest opportunities were seen in small buildings.

OFFICE SPACE

The Los Angeles Basin office market hit bottom in late 2002 and started to tighten in 2003. The pace of improvement accelerated in early 2004. The survey indicates that this acceleration will likely continue into 2005. Sixty-two percent of the office brokers surveyed said interest in future requirements are up — 12 months ago, and 50 percent saw an increase in interest. Twenty-four months ago it was only 8 percent. The increase in interest is broad-based, including firms in professional services, finance and entertainment. Thus far, interest from technology and communication firms is only modest.

Half of the brokers surveyed expect that leasing activity over the next 12 months will pick up, and 43 percent expect it will maintain its current healthy pace. A year ago, the percentage expecting an increase was greater, but this was due to the fact that the brokers were answering this question during slower times. As a result of the projected increase in demand and restrained construction, most of those surveyed anticipate a tightening in office market conditions over the next 12 months. None expect a softening. This is a very strong improvement over 24 months ago, when the majority projected static conditions, and a slight improvement over 12 months ago.

(The information given in this article is for informational purposes only and not meant to be taken advice. (The above is an excerpt from NAI Capital's third annual broker survey. Christina S. Porter is in the business of leasing and selling office and industrial buildings you can reach her at (310) 806-6104 or e-mail at cporter@naicapital.com)

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NATIONAL



Oregon tribes approve 42 words to replace the offensive name, 'squaw'

By The Associated Press

BEND, Ore. — The word "squaw" has long been considered an offensive term for women by American Indians. Yet that is the name of Squaw Creek, which traverses the ancestral land of the Warm Springs tribes.

Now, after years of internal debate, the Warm Springs Tribal Council has approved a list of 42 words that could be used to rename the creek and other nearby squaw place names.

The council of Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, comprising the Wasco, Paiute and Warm Springs tribes, passed a resolution last week accepting the translation of 15 of the 42 words into the three distinct languages of their people.

Although the tribes have long wanted to change the creek's name, this is the first time the tribal council has approved a list of possible replacements, said Bobby Bruno, the tribes' director of natural resources.

The names were decided by a group of tribal elders, Bruno told The Bulletin. They include the words for animals, plants and physical features that can be found near the creek.

To balance the formerly offensive name, the tribes also made sure to include positive references to women, said Sally Bird, an archaeologist for the tribes.

The word laughing was included to signify "happy women working together." Translated it appears as akayaulal in Wasco, ti-yat in Sahaptin, the language of the Warm Springs tribe, and soowi'ena in Paiute.

Although the creek doesn't flow

through the reservation, it does run through the ceded lands of the Warm Springs tribes.

That means the tribes may get preference when the Oregon Geographic Names Board chooses the name, said Champ Vaughan, president of the names board. The board will also listen to opinions of the U.S. Forest Service and city of Sisters, Vaughan said.

But Sisters City Manager Eileen Stein said some of the names the tribes submitted may be too difficult to pronounce. Several of the Wasco names use unconventional symbols, such as an "l" with a diagonal line through it, that aren't included in most word-processing programs.

Bird, the tribe's archaeologist, replied that even spellings that seem difficult can be pronounced by non-Indians.

"What I don't want them to do is to discount Wasco words because they think they're unpronounceable," Bird said, noting that "wixat," the Wasco word for road, is pronounced "wicut."

Once the Oregon board makes its decision, the U.S. Geographic Names board will take six to 12 months to give final approval, Vaughan said. Because of that lag time, it's unlikely the tribes will meet an Oregon deadline for changing the squaw names.

The Oregon Legislature passed a law in 2001 banning cities and other public bodies from using the term "squaw" in organization or property names. The law set a deadline of Jan. 2, 2005, for changing the name.

In the Deschutes National Forest, there are 26 squaw place names, with eight of those in the Sisters Ranger District.

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NATIONAL

Immigrant deaths create backlog at Pima County morgue

BY LUKE TURF
 Associated Press Writer

TUCSON, Ariz. — The bodies and bones of illegal immigrants stack up faster than they can be identified at the Pima County morgue.

They die from the cold, and they die from the heat. They die of massive head trauma, ejected from overloaded vehicles that blow a tire and roll.

One man, hiding in a smuggler’s car trunk, took a bullet in the chest as border agents and smugglers exchanged fire.

Some drown. Some fall. At least one is believed to have committed suicide.

Most of the bodies and human bones scattered across southern Arizona’s deserts end up in Pima County for autopsies.

Of the 221 people believed to be foreigners who died border-related deaths since Oct. 1, 2003, 168 bodies came to Pima County for examination. So did the remains of a Border Patrol agent killed in the line of duty.

“We have a backlog of people we’re trying to identify and process so they can be buried,” Pima County Chief Medical Examiner Bruce Parks said. “We don’t want to just throw our hands up and say, ‘Let’s get this person buried’ when we haven’t tried all the avenues of identification.”

Parks said the backlog can slow autopsies of Pima County residents by a day or two, but the situation isn’t severe for his staff of 24.

“We just have to have extra people pitch in and work a little harder,” said Parks.

The work will expand storage capacity, partly in response to rapid growth in illegal immigrant deaths. In 2001, Parks’ office saw twice as many border fatalities as

the previous year. Then it was up to 146 in 2002, 157 in 2003 and already more in 2004 before the year has ended.

Parks expects that after the expansion he’ll have room for up to 110 bodies, about 40 more than now.

Those whose relatives know they are missing may be identified, as may those who still have fingerprints. Husbands identify their wives’ remains; children pick through belongings found with bodies, looking for something they might recognize.

But often there are only teeth to work with, as in the case involving a skull found stuck in a mesquite tree west of Tucson.

In September, the Pima County medical examiner’s office held 46 unidentified people believed to have died crossing the border since October 2003, and another 22 still unidentified from the previous fiscal year.

At about \$1,500 an autopsy and about \$816 per funeral for all of those expected to go unidentified, dead illegal immigrants will cost Pima County taxpayers about \$300,000 this fiscal year.

Kat Rodriguez, organizing coordinator of Tucson-based human rights group Derechos Humanos, called the situation a failure by the U.S. government. She blamed the lack of legal means for workers to cross over and enforcement policies that push illegal immigrants into desolate areas away from cities.

“Every year has been the deadliest ... every summer has been the deadliest,” Rodriguez said, reflecting on Border Patrol operations during the past 10 years. This summer brought the \$30 million Arizona Border Control effort.

Border Patrol spokesman Andy Adame said while the effort may not have reduced deaths, the agency takes

credit for rescuing at least 562 people, about 200 more than in 2003. One Border Patrol agent in Yuma, James Paul Epling, died in December after pulling a Chinese illegal immigrant from the Colorado River, Yuma sector spokesman Joe Brigman said.

To save illegal immigrant lives, Adame said, more than 13,500 people were sent home on free flights — costing the United States more than \$15 million — which Adame figures will get word out that it’s too dangerous to cross and too easy to get caught in Arizona.

“We broke the migration cycle that has been in place for the last five years,” Adame said. “Odds are they won’t be coming through here in the summer.”

The Mexican consul in Tucson, Juan Calderon, said some people have taken the free flight home only to come back to the border, get caught again, and again take the free flight. But Calderon also credits the flights with saving lives. He said 18 people died in his jurisdiction during the program, compared to 48 in the same period the previous year.

Another part of the problem, Rodriguez said, is trade policies, such as the North American Free Trade Agreement, which she said floods the Mexican market with cheap subsidized U.S. farm goods and drives the Mexican farmer out of Mexico.

U.S. Rep. Jim Kolbe, R-Ariz., a NAFTA proponent who considers the pact a success, is working to get a guest worker proposal in front of Congress. Kolbe said the legislation may be passed next year, blaming the lack of progress on election-year politics and sharp divisions among Republicans.

The guest worker proposal would help solve the problem by making it feasible for employers to get legal workers. But “it won’t solve all of it,” Kolbe said.

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Quakes recorded off Vancouver Island, no damage reported

By The Associated Press

Vancouver, British Columbia — A series of at least four medium-intensity earthquakes was recorded Tuesday in a seismically active area beneath the Pacific Ocean west of Vancouver Island, scientists said. No damage was reported.

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NATIONAL



EPA study says nuclear shipments broke rules

By The Associated Press

SANTA FE, N.M. — At least 602 drums of plutonium-contaminated waste sent to the federal government's nuclear waste dump near Carlsbad, N.M., violated a directive against shipping waste when there are questions about whether the shipments were properly tested.

An internal Environmental Protection Agency document obtained by the Albuquerque Journal says one option under consideration is shutting down shipments from the Hanford nuclear reservation to the Waste Isolation Pilot Project.

The shipments from the Washington state facility were made in violation of the EPA's August 2003 directive about testing.

It's the second incident this year and the fourth since WIPP opened in March 1999. The internal review said such problems threaten public confidence.

The EPA and the Energy Department "need to demonstrate that the violation is being taken seriously, and that

changes will be made to ensure that it does not happen again," the review said.

State Environment Secretary Ron Curry called the problem "mismanagement at the highest level."

New Mexico environmental officials were concerned about how long the DOE might have known about the problem and why energy officials haven't been talking about it.

In the most recent case, Hanford had set up a testing program that EPA had not yet approved as sufficient, WIPP manager Paul Detwiler wrote the EPA on Oct. 18. He said EPA had forbidden shipments of questionable waste while the review was under way.

EPA spokesman Dave Ryan, in a statement Monday, said the agency is conducting a technical review of the waste and gathering information about any further action required. He would not answer questions.

The DOE had no comment.

The state Environment Department is negotiating with the DOE over a fine that could run up to \$2.4 million as a result of a similar incident in which more than 100

drums of plutonium-contaminated waste were shipped to WIPP from the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory without proper testing.

The DOE suspended shipments from the Idaho lab in mid-July after workers at WIPP discovered drums of waste that should have not been in the shipment. The drums were added after a batch readied for shipment had been tested for explosives, chemicals and other materials prohibited at WIPP.

In each case, the DOE and EPA determined after the shipments that no prohibited waste ended up being buried in WIPP, which places plutonium-contaminated materials left over from nuclear weapons work in underground rooms excavated in salt beds.

"Although we do not believe this waste will adversely affect WIPP's performance or affect protection of public health and the environment, a serious and thorough response to these problems is necessary to maintain public confidence in the WIPP's performance and EPA's oversight," the internal review said.

Study: Bears kill more Yellowstone elk than wolves

By The Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. — Grizzly and black bears killed a majority of elk calves in northern Yellowstone National Park for the second year in a row, contrary to claims by some hunters that reintroduced wolves are to blame for a decline in the region's elk herd.

Researchers monitored 44 calves this spring and summer in the second year of a three-year study to determine what is killing calves in the park's northern range.

Some hunters, outfitters and politicians have blamed wolves for declining elk numbers. But park scientists maintain that a variety of factors, such as drought and other predators, are at play.

Of the 44 calves monitored this year, 31 died. Of those, 18 were killed by grizzly and black bears, four by coyotes, three by wolves and one by a golden eagle, researchers said.

One calf was killed by wolves or bears, two were killed by unknown predators and two died for reasons other than predators.

In the study's first year in 2003, bears killed 19 elk calves, wolves killed five, coyotes killed three, a mountain lion killed one and a wolverine killed one. Two were killed by wolves or bears.

Researchers warned against reading too much into the research, and said another year of data must still be collected. "These cause-specific mortality results are prelimi-

nary and could easily be misinterpreted," said the report written by researchers from the Yellowstone Center for Resources, the U.S. Geological Survey and the University of Minnesota.

Although bears were responsible for 58 percent of the calves' deaths between May and September, wolves could play a larger role at other times of the year, the researchers said.

Bears tend to hunt in a grid-like pattern in the spring and summer in search of young calves that are hiding, while wolves are more likely to kill calves in the fall and winter when they're with larger groups of elk, according to the study. The number of elk killed by bears could also be affected by changes in other food supplies.



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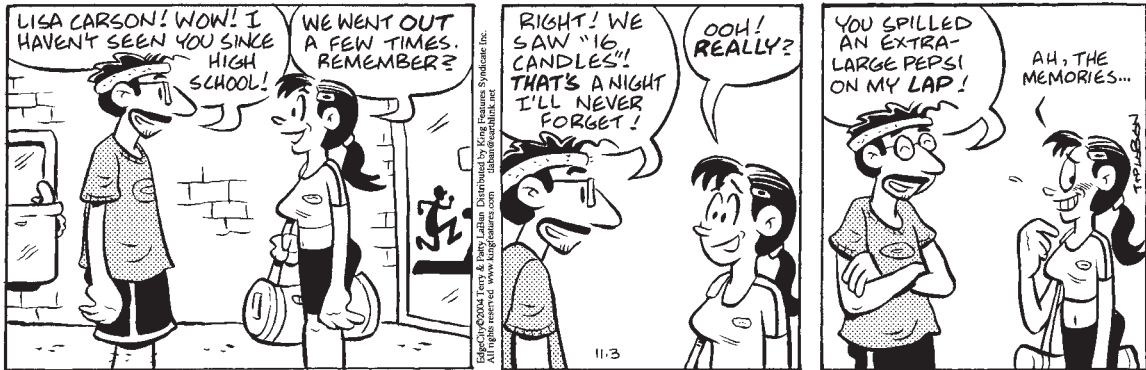


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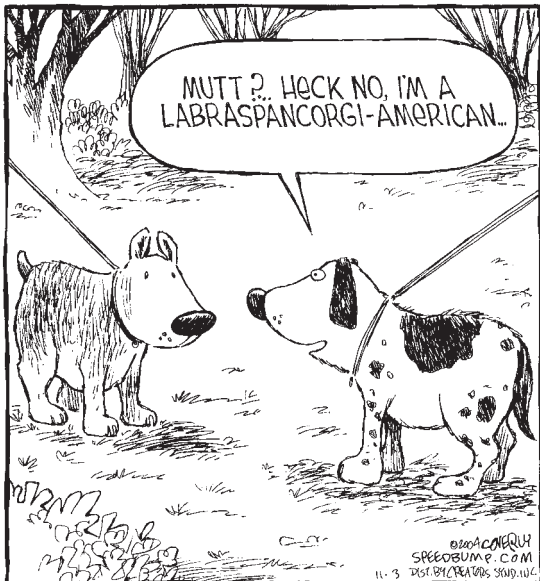
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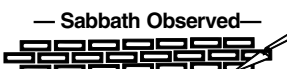
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Muhammad Ali poses and auctions off pictures

By The Associated Press

LONDON — A small leather-bound volume in which Muhammad Ali drew pictures of himself fighting archrival Joe Frazier has sold for \$30,000 at auction.

It was the most expensive item at an auction organized by Tatler magazine that raised a total of \$225,000 for a south London charity for the homeless, Sotheby's auction house said Tuesday.

Tatler sent two dozen 1-inch-high books bound in leather to celebrities from the worlds of arts, sport and politics and asked them to fill the pages with whatever they liked.

South African casino tycoon Sol Kerzner bought the Ali volume, which was somewhat bigger than the others as Ali has Parkinson's disease, and paid another \$17,000 for British artist David Hockney's effort, nine sketches of his native Yorkshire, at Monday's auction.

Ali fought Frazier in three brutal fights — losing the first but outlasting Frazier in the others.

The second most expensive lot, at \$23,000, was former Beatle Paul McCartney's book, which contained the handwritten lyrics to "Hey Jude." Tatler provided an acrylic-bound volume for the vegetarian McCartney.

Third was author J.K. Rowling's offering, which included pictures of young wizard Harry Potter's broomstick and wire-rimmed spectacles — at \$20,000.

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Muhammad Ali posed for pictures, gave out hugs and performed magic tricks for about 150 people who turned out for a "topping out" ceremony at the downtown center named for him.

The event was to mark reaching the center's highest

point. As part of Monday's ceremony, a large crane was to hoist the highest beam into place on the steel frame of the six-story Muhammad Ali Center. But rain kept that from happening, and the beam was lifted only a few feet off the ground.

The \$34.5 million, 93,000-square-foot center is scheduled to open Nov. 19, 2005. It will include 24,000 square feet of exhibits, featuring six themed pavilions. Each will focus on a different trait of the former heavy-weight boxing champion.

Lonnie Ali, Ali's wife, said the Alis are committed to the center "becoming a global gathering place, where individuals not only have a platform for ironing out their differences, but a place" to motivate visitors to strive.

The Ali Institute, based at the University of Louisville, plans to hold seminars and other events at the center to promote peacemaking and conflict resolution.

Officials also announced new contributions to the project of \$2 million, which match an anonymous donor's grant for a total of \$4 million.

ASHEVILLE, N.C. — More interest in plot- and character-driven movies means times are good for independent films, says Oscar-winning director Ron Howard.

"There's an ever-expanding interest in stories, thank God," said Howard, who will appear at the Asheville Film Festival this weekend. "More and more, there are compelling financial reasons — the artistic reasons have always been there — to make films that target a smaller audience base."

The Asheville festival runs Thursday through Sunday. Howard, who won a best-director Oscar in

2002 for "A Beautiful Mind," will be in town to attend the Spotlight Celebration Awards Dinner on Saturday night. His father, longtime character actor Rance Howard, will receive a lifetime achievement award.

Finding money for independent films has also gotten better, though financing any movie, independent or otherwise, is never easy, said Howard, who shared the best-picture Oscar for "A Beautiful Mind" with producing partner Brian Grazer, in a phone interview Monday.

"It's always a high-wire act to get an independent film made," the 50-year-old director said. "Always. But there was a time when it was really trying to hit a bull's-eye on a dartboard a long way away. And now, it's a little more fair. ... In the last 10, 15 years, there's the beginnings of a kind of economic structure."

Howard's movies also include "Cocoon," "Backdraft" and "Apollo 13."

NEW YORK — Brandy is looking for a new record label.

Brandy, 25, split from her longtime label, Atlantic Records, her publicist, Courtney Barnes, announced Monday. The departure came after relatively disappointing sales of her last album, "Afrodisiac." Although the album generated the moderate hit "Talk About Our Love" with Kanye West, it disappeared quickly from the charts.

It was a departure from her previous three albums, all of which sold at least 1 million copies.

Barnes says Brandy is looking at other labels and also plans to be co-executive producer of a comedy series for Fox television next year.

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