

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

FANTASY 5

6, 30, 31, 28, 14

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 7, 6, 7

Evening picks: 5, 8, 9

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 6, Whirl Win

2nd Place: 12, Lucky Charms

3rd Place: 11, Money Bags

Race Time: 1:42.19



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

A deep-sea research voyage in June, jointly run by Australia and New Zealand scientists, discovered what The Age newspaper called an 1,800-species "freak show" of bizarre creatures (their condition caused in part by the extreme water pressure, which may be hundreds of times greater than at the surface). Examples include: the fangtooth (teeth, longer than its head, would puncture its brain if not for special tooth sockets); the viperfish (whose head is on a hinge); the coffinfish (with a glowing "sign" on its head to attract prey and the ability to swallow large quantities of water to avoid predators); a squid with one big eye (for offense) and one small one (for defense); and the snoothead, which was not described.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Nothing anybody tells you about marriage helps."

— Max Seigel

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Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press
Dorte Lindegaard on Tuesday rides 'Regal,' a 4-year-old Danish Warmblood in the arena at Will Rogers State Park in the Santa Monica Mountains. It will be at least another 18 months before the state government allows a permanent horse operation at the park, if at all.

Horses still bucked from state park

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

Despite that government officials said equestrian activity will remain the focal point at Will Rogers State Park, it's been more than a year since horses have been banned from being there permanently.

The state department of parks and recreation determined in the fall of 2001 that the horse operation at the park was significantly degrading the environment. State officials suspended overnight horse boarding while a new management plan for the park was developed.

But so far, there has been no environmental assessment com-

pleted and no management plan presented, horse enthusiasts claim.

Steve Capps, the deputy director of communications for parks and recreation, said on Tuesday that horses haven't returned to the area because of extensive construction activity that includes refurbishing Will Rogers' original home.

"As long as those activities are going on, there will be no horses in the park," he said, adding he couldn't confirm if an environmental analysis of the area has been done. He did confirm, however, that no management plan has been completed. Capps estimated that the construction would

See WILL ROGERS, page 6

SMC board fills crucial seat for future of school

New member believes cuts aren't the answer

BY JOHN WOOD
Daily Press Staff Writer

Appointed to the Santa Monica College board of trustees Monday night, local accountant Graham Pope has vowed to fight for the good of the broader community.

Pope joins the board during one of the worst budget crises SMC has experienced — classes are down by 26 percent, five programs have been eliminated and hundreds of jobs have been lost since February.

"To me, the community college system is absolutely crucial to providing quality education for our diverse population," said Pope, 58, who lives with his wife north of Montana Avenue. "And one of my concerns is the issue of access and affordability. When you have decreases in the number of classes, cuts in programs and decreases in the enrollment, all of those things pose a problem ... I don't think we can cut our way to prosperity."

Pope won four of six votes at a special meeting of the board to

replace former trustee Patrick Nicholson until his term expires in November of 2004, when the next general election will be held. A total of five candidates were asked a series of questions by the board before members cast their votes, and Pope was sworn in.

The board of trustees meets monthly and is responsible for guiding the future of SMC, which is con-

sidered one of the best junior colleges in the state with more than 25,000 students and a budget that exceeds \$200 million. As a trustee, Pope will receive \$400 a month and full benefits for health, dental and vision.

He also will be closely watched by faculty, students and staff who have criticized the \$10 mil-

lion in cuts approved by the board this year.

About 80 people attended Monday's meeting, a third of them donning the bright yellow T-shirts synonymous with a campaign led by a group of students, faculty and staff called "86 the Trustees — Put the Community Back in our College." The committee, which didn't endorse Pope because he declined to meet with its members,

See TRUSTEE, page 5



Graham Pope

SF voters weigh in on 'living wage' initiative

By staff and wire reports

SAN FRANCISCO — Voters here must decide whether employers should have to pay their workers a minimum wage that mirrors the cost of living in one of the nation's most expensive cities.

Proposition L, one of 14 measures on the city ballot Tuesday, would impose an \$8.50-per-hour minimum wage on all employers in the city, not just those awarded municipal contracts. The state's hourly minimum wage is

\$6.75, and the minimum required under federal law is \$5.15. The outcome of the election wasn't known by presstime.

The initiative's backers, who include advocates for the poor, labor unions and San Francisco's elected supervisors, maintain that a city-specific pay mandate is long overdue in a place where working parents need to earn about twice the proposed amount to meet basic expenses.

"A full-time worker making \$8.50 an hour

makes less than \$17,000 a year, and people say that seems like a lot. A lot to who?" asked Beth Shulman, the author of "The Betrayal of Work," a book about low-wage workers.

Spearheaded by the city's restaurant industry, opponents argue the measure is ill-timed during an economic recession. They say it is also unnecessary because it would primarily benefit food servers, who earn well above the minimum wage when tips are included.

See INITIATIVE, page 7

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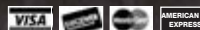
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HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, November 5, 2003:

Your ability to convey your point helps you take strong actions both at work and in your daily life. Others respond to your suggestions. At times, you just know something for whatever reason. You find that your strong leadership helps you at work. You might block new ideas inadvertently. Ask for help from others in unblocking a situation. If you are single, you will find that you fall into a very important relationship. You will either meet this person through your friends, or this person becomes a close friend. Romance all you want, but at the same time network. If you are attached, your relationship improves if you work as a team. ARIES helps you with projects.

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ You know and feel that you have the energy to meet others' demands. You might be more imaginative as well as energetic than you have been for a while. With the Moon glowing in your sign, everything and all is possible. Tonight: Just be yourself.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Though others mean well and express their affection and feelings, you might find it difficult to work with someone as a team member. Touch base with a key friend or associate that you can have a heart-to-heart talk with. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ You get what you want because of your charming style and your deep insight. Your intuition helps you get past a problem quickly. Gather with those you care about. A meeting could prove to be significant. Tonight: Where your friends are.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Take charge, and others will respond. Sometimes you pull and make requests in a much stronger manner than you'd anticipated. Demonstrate your feelings through actions. Others will recognize your commitment and power. Tonight: Work as late as possible.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Your perspective opens doors. You find that you could be low or depressed, but somehow you jump over the issue or mood. Your smile warms others up, and before you know it, you have bypassed a problem and changed your mood. Tonight: Hop on the computer.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Financial matters come to the forefront. A conversation might be a bit overdue. You can be sure that what others reveal and what comes out could be most interesting. An imaginative idea at work pays off. Tonight: Be with your favorite person.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Others reach out for you. You might not be sure which way you want to go. Certainly, a lot is suddenly tossed on your plate. Confusion surrounds a friendship, which can be very hard on you. Work with another on a one-on-one basis. Tonight: Take a midweek break.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Dig into work. You might even surprise yourself at what you accomplish. You have a lot of energy, but you will accomplish a lot more if you listen to an expert. Your personality radiates. Enlist another's help. Tonight: Easy does it.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22- Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Let the real you out. Your creativity and dynamic attitude take you in a new direction. A partner could be overly serious and touchy. Follow your instincts, and you'll get results. Discussions might be very active. Tonight: Playtime.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Follow your friends, be it at work or at play. You have a way of expressing yourself that does make a difference. Others listen as you assume leadership at work or with your friends. You have great ideas. Tonight: Where the action is. Be careful with money.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ You like what comes down your path. Express more self-confidence when making decisions. Use your imagination and creativity to accomplish much more of what you want. A co-worker or associate might be difficult to work with. Tonight: Work late; have dinner late.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Think before you spend, or you could make a mistake that might be most uncomfortable. How you deal with a loved one could change once you understand where he or she is coming from. Your instincts lead you to the right person or to an expert. Tonight: Indulge in some fall shopping.

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LOCAL

Revered SMC professor dies

By Daily Press Staff

Retired Santa Monica College English professor Dick Dodge, 77, died Friday in his Pacific Palisades home.

Dodge, who taught at SMC for 36 years before his retirement in 1992, also was a prolific author who wrote or co-wrote more than 20 books on subjects ranging from basketball to "Star Trek."

He was well-known on campus for his "11 Great Books" list he often talked about, ranging from Evelyn Waugh's "The Loved One" to "Huckleberry Finn" and "Walden." He had colorful anecdotes — often relating to his many students who went on to be celebrities.

Dodge once noted that he had seen some strange things during his tenure at SMC, but one of oddest was when one of his students — Dean Martin's son Dino — walked into a writing conference with an agent. "What do you do with something like that ... negotiate with the agent for a grade?" he told a reporter in 1990.

He gained national notoriety as advisor to the campus yearbook when it published a nude, male centerfold in 1972.

Dodge taught at UCLA for a year before joining the SMC faculty in 1956. He co-founded the UCLA Writing Project in 1977 and served as its co-director.

During his tenure at SMC, he also made his mark across campus as a co-founder of the college's study abroad program in Guildford, England and as director of the Center for the Humanities at SMC's Airport Campus.

Born in Lawrence, Mass., Dodge earned a bachelor's degree at the University of New Hampshire and a master's degree at UCLA. He served in the army from 1944 to 1946 and in the Korean War from 1951 to 1953.

He is survived by his wife, Corrine; two children from his earlier marriage, Ashley and Jason; and two grandchildren.

Services will be held at 3 p.m. Wed., Nov. 5 at the Unitarian Church, 1260 18th St. (at Arizona Avenue) in Santa Monica. The family has asked that instead of flowers, memorial donations be sent to the John Wayne Cancer Institute for Melanoma Research, 2200 Santa Monica Blvd., Santa Monica 90404.

Dodge made an indelible mark on this college and on generations of students. He will be remembered for his uncanny knack for engaging students, unique personality and spirit will have a permanent place in the college history. He was an institution at SMC, and his students loved learning from him as much as he loved teaching.



Dick Dodge



'Revolutions' surpasses 'Reloaded'

Review

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

When last we visited the Matrix, an army of menacing machines was bearing down on the last bastion of humanity, our hero Neo (Keanu Reeves) learned that the Oracle's prophecies may simply be another system of the machines' control, and befuddled audiences the world over staggered out of theaters feeling as though they'd just failed a calculus exam. One thing — the only thing, really — that was clear by the end of the kinetic second installment of this mega-moneymaking trilogy is that not even good Will Hunting

could compute the Wachowski Brothers fuzzy math. But "Reloaded" was more or less a set-up for "Revolutions," with a promise that the third act will answer all the lingering questions without inundating us with metaphysical mumbo-jumbo. Well, "Revolutions" doesn't deliver on that promise.

This isn't to say part three is a total disappointment. On the contrary, it's an improvement over — though no less puffed up — its convoluted predecessor. "Reloaded" featured mind-blowing action and combat sequences, but Neo, Morpheus (Laurence Fishburne), Trinity (Carrie-Anne Moss) and the evil Agent Smith

See MATRIX, page 6



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OUTLOOK: The S swell will start to wind down on Thursday, but we will still be able to pull in a few chest-high sets at the best spots, and then it will continue to drop through the end of the week.

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

Today the
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64°

Sunrise: 6:20 a.m.
Sunset: 5:07 p.m.

	LOW TIDE				HIGH TIDE			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	9:46	3.2	10:38	0.0	5:03	4.2	3:14	4.8
SUNDAY	11:07	2.6	11:29	0.1	5:43	4.6	4:37	4.8
MONDAY	N/A	N/A	12:02	1.9	6:15	5.0	5:40	4.8
TUESDAY	12:08	0.3	12:45	1.4	6:42	5.3	6:31	4.8
WEDNESDAY	12:41	0.5	1:22	0.9	7:06	5.5	7:15	4.7
THURSDAY	1:09	0.8	1:55	0.5	7:28	5.7	7:55	4.5
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The Q Line

City Hall has spent a lot of time, money and effort in making sure the ocean is as clean as possible in Santa Monica Bay.

Though Friday's brief downpour was a welcome development for the brittle and scorched landscape of Southern California, it wasn't so kind to the ocean. The rain carried garbage, motor oil and other debris into area channels and eventually down to the sea. The result was filthy water and garbage-laden beaches.

The water appeared mostly clear by Sunday morning, though water-quality levels remained poor.

So, this week, Q-Line wants to know, "Are Santa Monica beaches clean and safe enough to enjoy?"

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



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LETTERS

Park project unfairly favors Hispanics

Editor:

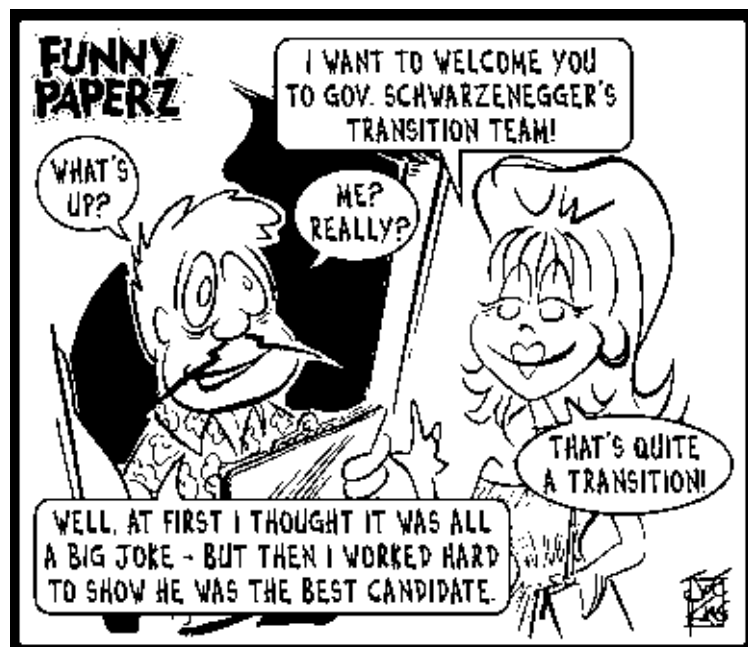
Recently at a Santa Monica City Council meeting, the Council approved awarding all contract construction work for the upcoming Virginia Park improvement project to so-called "at-risk youths" in the Pico neighborhood. The idea was to help Hispanics, between 18 and 24 years old, on parole or probation and having difficulty finding work.

The Council erred grossly in its judgment and ought to be sued for violating long-established labor laws and for openly practicing racial discrimination. The Council should redo their unfair awarding of such contracts and be more fair in their inclusion of those who are not of Hispanic ethnicity. Just because someone lives near a city construction project — such as Virginia Park — does not entitle them to preferential hiring.

The so-called Pico neighborhood is a part of all of Santa Monica, not some exclusive enclave to Hispanics. One could not say without being accused of racism that Christine Emerson Reed Park is a "white" neighborhood park.

Not only are 18 to 24 year olds of other races unfairly excluded, this age group actually consists of adults — not youths who are in some sort of hypothetical state of "risk." The labor on Virginia Park and any other city projects ought to be more fairly available to all people, regardless of gender or race — as long as they are of age and legal to work in this country. Any preferences in hiring at all should rightfully go to unemployed veterans and U.S. citizens before all others. It also would help the city to set aside a small percentage of that lucrative contract labor for the local homeless to reduce their dependency on the city.

Patrick Holland
Santa Monica



Member: AAEC, NCS, SCS, SCS **.

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CBS trips over integrity in mad flight from right



INCITES

By Ed Silverstein

CBS, a once renowned producer of such fearless shows as 60 Minutes, now has all the credibility of an Arthur Anderson financial statement.

According to the LA Times, the network has announced that it is considering shelving or moving to cable a biopic of President Ronald Reagan. The network, upon learning that the conservative bullies were displeased over some unflattering moments in this portrayal of their "beloved president," practically wet their pants. The CBS gang of terrified geldings immediately went to work trashing artistic (and historic) integrity in an effort to sanitize the film they had already approved.

Never mind that Ronnie was responsible for removing regulations on Savings and Loans that cost taxpayers nearly a trillion dollars. Forget that this president was

in bed at 6 p.m. watching sit-coms and claimed that trees caused air pollution. And heaven forbid we should investigate his trickle-down economics and tax cuts that resulted in ('til now) the largest U.S. deficit in history.

Of this not a word shall ever be uttered. And let's not cloud history by dredging up that nasty Iran Contra affair. As far as Ronnie was concerned the illegal guns "for" drugs operation was much like a Steve Martin routine. The one in which the comedian has killed someone and, when asked if he knew that what he had done was a crime, replies, "I forgot."

The right wing would like you to believe that this uprising against CBS was a ground swell of public sentiment. Nothing could be further from the truth.

This was a well-orchestrated attack funded by rabid conservative billionaires like Richard Mellon Scaife (behind the attacks on Bill Clinton) and the Koch Brothers, whose more liberal father founded the John Birch Society.

These zealots have shelled out hundreds of millions to fund right-wing organizations and causes. One stroke of

brilliance was the creation of propaganda factories posing as think tanks, such as the Cato Institute and Heritage Foundation, whose mission is to forward right-wing brainwashing, but more importantly, slaughter any opposing view.

Working off their scripts are shock jocks and TV pundits supported by media tycoons like Rupert Murdoch. This media mercenary, whose empire includes Fox News, the Al-Jazeera of the Republican Party, will pander to any political group willing to tear apart regulations meant to ensure diversity and prevent monopolization of the media.

And then there's Clear Channel, owner of 45 percent of the nation's radio stations, which demonstrated impartiality by banning the Dixie Chicks from the network because one of them was embarrassed to be from the same state as President George Bush.

These co-conspirators would have us spoon fed an exclusive diet of PR fluff such as Showtime's "DC 9/11: Time of Crisis," written by conservative Lionel Chetwynd and financed by who knows who.

The film, which portrays Bush as a

heroic hero, conveniently forgets that he was hiding out during the first crucial hours after the attack.

Of course truth has never been a main priority of politics. That's why the soldiers, who wrote 500 letters to newspapers extolling how peachy the war was going, knew nothing about them. Nor did the crew of the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln have anything to do with the "Mission Accomplished" banner that President George Bush claimed they had made, nor is it even likely that they believed the mission was, in fact, accomplished.

There was a time when networks like CBS would expose such lies and resist strong-arm tactics rather than capitulate to them. They wouldn't consider censoring news in order to maintain access to an extortive administration. Nor would they allow a group of ideologues to intimidate them into rewriting history or pulling a show.

But apparently that's not the case today. Which might just explain why so few people are watching.

(Ed Silverstein is a "fair and balanced" writer living in Santa Monica. Comments may be e-mailed to edsincites@aol.com.)

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

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LOCAL



New member pledges to grow out of crisis at SMC

TRUSTEE, from page 1

hopes to persuade the board to reinstate the classes, jobs and programs cut earlier this year.

Student committee member Angelica Garcia, a sophomore, said more than 300 students walked out of classes Monday to protest the cuts and another 100 gathered before the trustees' meeting. Shortly before the meeting began, small clusters of ralliers were bundled up in the cold early evening. They carried signs and waved banners outside of the SMC business building, as a group of police officers watched.

Committee members said that although the budget scenario looked grim earlier this year, the final adopted budget will actually bring \$1.6 million more to the college than last year. They accused SMC administrators of exaggerating the budget's impact.

"We didn't suffer a cut," said Richard Tahvildaran, a committee member and SMC professor of political science.

But Tom Donner, SMC's executive vice president, said the committee hasn't read the numbers correctly.

"They're not taking into consideration what the increased expenses in the budget are, nor are they taking into consideration that we don't qualify for many of the new revenues in the state budget," he said, pointing to expenses like raises for faculty members and the increasing cost of providing retirement benefits to workers, which cost more than \$2 million.

"I could go on pointing out different pieces of the budget on the expense side that they are basically not taking into consideration," Donner said. "And on the income side, they're putting in figures that we don't qualify for."

While campus groups and administrators continue to read the budget differently, Pope said he is looking forward to getting his hands dirty as the newest trustee.

"We have to have a level of civility and collegiality by all constituencies of the college," he said. "To me that's vital if we're going to work in a very cooperative way with all the stresses of the budget."

"I know the board of trustees is working hard on these problems and have had to make difficult decisions over the past year," Pope added. "We now have to move forward and, irrespective of our differences, find ways to allow an expansion of the college and allow an increasing number of students an opportunity to get low-cost, quality education."

It's an attitude that may stand well for Pope as he deals with a fractious campus frustrated over the cuts made this year. Lantz Simpson, president of the faculty association, a teacher union, and member of "86 the Trustees," said he looks forward to working with Pope and is encouraged that the new trustee hopes to grow out of the crisis.

Kelly Hayes-Raitt, spokeswoman for the campaign, said the group will begin meeting with local businesses and community groups in an effort to send a clear message that the cut programs must be restored.

"I think in all of the dialogue sometimes people forget why we're there. And it's really to ensure that students get the best possible education."

— NANCY GREENSTEIN
SMC board of trustees

The "86 the Trustees" committee endorsed all four other candidates for the job, including former Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District member Pam Brady, retired LA Superior Court Judge David Finkel and attorneys Rob Rader and William Winslow. Though Pope received four votes, two votes went to Finkel and one advisory vote from student trustee Melvon George went to Brady.

Pope said he declined to meet with the committee because he felt the decision was between the candidates and the board.

"It was not a political campaign," he said, adding that also an issue was that he had just returned from a business trip and wasn't given adequate notice of the interview. "Nobody was running for office."

A certified public accountant by trade, Pope's affiliation with the college goes back almost a decade. He is immediate past president and a board member of the SMC Foundation, a private fundraising organization, and chair of SMC's Citizens Bond Oversight Committee, which oversees the Measure U money, a bond approved by Santa Monica-Malibu voters in 2002.

Pope will resign from those organizations effective immediately, said Bruce Smith, spokesman for SMC.

Pope also has served on the SMMUSD Budget Advisory Committee and is a member of the Rotary Club. He is past president and a current board member of the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce, and a former board member of the Santa Monica Visitors and Convention Bureau.

Trustee Nancy Greenstein, who in the past has earned praise for voting not to cut the academic programs, said she is looking forward to having Pope on the board. She said she is committed to preserving SMC's academics and hopes he is too.

"I think in all of the dialogue sometimes people forget why we're there," Greenstein said. "And it's really to ensure that students get the best possible education."

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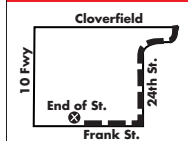


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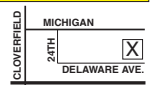
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page 2

LOCAL

Polo and riding still allowed at Will Rogers State Park

WILL ROGERS, from page 1

take another 18 months and said horses will return after that.

State parks officials had said in 2001 that the removal of the horses would only be temporary.

There were about 45 privately owned horses boarded at Will Rogers State Park, some of which were owned by prominent people like Maria Shriver, Jim Carrey and Billy Crystal.

Park officials removed the horses so they could evaluate the environmental damage they say is caused by the horses. The state says that the horses generate about 4,500 pounds of nitrogen, 2,800

"Everyday people tell me it's a shame. Actually, they say a lot worse than that."

— DORTE LINDEGAARD
Horse enthusiast

pounds of potassium and 765 pounds of phosphorous every year. Ecologists fear the chemicals were being carried by runoff into adjacent streams.

State officials argue that private boarding shouldn't be part of a public-funded park. Rather, they would like to see equestrian activities like public riding lessons,

polo matches and trail riding — not a permanent place for people who can afford to board their horses there.

"It got so out of hand it was damaging the park," Capps said.

But boarders say it's not the interests of a few celebrities that is at the heart of their argument. The lead plaintiff in a lawsuit filed in December of 2001 that sought to prevent the state from evicting the horses, was an 8-year-old Los Angeles girl, who took riding lessons there. Genesses Rievera, along with 34 other plaintiffs and the support of 1,300 petition-signing members of the public, filed suit in the Santa Monica Courthouse to enjoin California's Department of Parks and Recreation, as well as its director, Rusty Areias, from terminating horse boarding and other equestrian activity at the park. A judge ruled against the group, and the horses were evicted in February of 2002.

The park, located in Pacific Palisades, is a popular destination for hikers of the

Backbone Trail, as well as recreationalists who come to watch polo matches, play soccer and other sports. Since Will Rogers gave the land to the state, the park had been used for horse enthusiasts to board their horses, as well as a place where kids learn to ride. Polo matches still occur from May through October, and riding the trail is still allowed.

West Los Angeles resident Dorte Lindegaard, who exercises her horses in the arena just north of the polo field on a daily basis, said people consistently approach her wondering when the horses will come back permanently.

"Everyday people tell me it's a shame," she said. "Actually, they say a lot worse than that."

Horse enthusiasts believe the state's eviction is the first step to outlawing any horse activity there in the future.

According to the suit, the parks department has flouted the state's promise in 1944 to Will Rogers' widow that the park will be used "as a memorial and historical monument to the memory of the late Will Rogers." The suit also claimed that the department's actions violated its own 1992 plan governing the park's operations. The plan deemed an equestrian presence "essential to any realistic interpretation of Will Rogers' life."

Matrix 'Revolutions' lead actors exceed expectations

MATRIX, from page 3

(Hugo Weaving) were lost in the delirium of all those elaborate set pieces. Character was sacrificed on the altar of visual effects. With "Revolutions," the Wachowskis eschew at least some of the high-tech razzle-dazzle for a bit more storytelling. Still, the narrative is lacking in several areas. Neo finds himself stranded between the Matrix and the Machine World, his quest for truth having been derailed by The Architect's stunning revelation in the previous film. Meanwhile, an enormous army of machine sentinels has penetrated the humans' stronghold and threatens to destroy civilization. Morpheus and Trinity must battle the machines as well as the notion that Neo, The One they've invested so much hope in, is merely another pro-

gram invented by the creators of the Matrix. On top of that, Agent Smith grows more powerful by the minute, and — like a nasty computer virus — could corrupt and destroy the entire system.

Presented the opportunity to act as well as kick butt, the leads really go after it. Neo is certainly the most complex character in the series, and Reeves does a decent job mixing strength with vulnerability. Moreover, his internal struggle is more clearly illustrated here than in the previous films, leading to a satisfying, if somewhat overwrought, pay-off in an emotionally-charged finale with Moss. Fishburne is wonderful as always, and Jada Pinkett-Smith, who returns as tough-as-nails freedom fighter Niobe, turns in the film's best supporting performance.

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STATE



Bush comforts Southern California fire victims

BY SCOTT LINDLAW
Associated Press Writer

ALPINE — President Bush on Tuesday walked the remnants of a Southern California community devastated by wildfire, comforting residents he said were resilient despite being "crushed by the material loss."

"A lot of people in this neighborhood lost all their possessions, but the spirit is strong," the president said. "America has got some wonderful citizenry who just refuse to be defeated." He praised residents for pulling together at a time of great loss, saying, "The worst of nature can bring out the best in our fellow human beings."

The president flew from his Texas ranch to this fire-scorched area of California as firefighters neared containment of the state's largest-ever wildfires. They have killed 22 people, destroyed nearly 3,600 homes and blackened more than 743,000 acres of brush and timber.

Bush also stepped into the aftermath of California's recall election. Gov. Gray Davis and Gov.-elect Arnold Schwarzenegger joined him in Marine One, the presidential helicopter, for a tour of fire damage and at a briefing by fire officials.

White House officials ensured that the president alone was seen consoling fire victims. Davis and Schwarzenegger were sent on their own tour while Bush hugged residents of Harbison Canyon, 28 miles east of San Diego, amid a breathtaking tableau of destruction.

Little more than chimneys, foundations and the incinerated shells of cars remained. The acrid smell of air hung thick in the air.

Frank Peters and Karen Hayes guided Bush through the ruins of their home, where two sewing machines and an air conditioner sat, melted and mangled among the rubble. Bush hugged the two residents and ruffled the hair of their children, Shannon and Sean.

Some residents lining the canyon roads seemed shell-shocked, taken aback by the president and those accompanying him through their obliterated community. But others seemed in good spirits, laughing and waving as they snapped pictures of the White House procession.

One woman flipped open her picture

phone and photographed Bush and other residents posing in front of the ashes of a home.

Bush went from one wrecked home to the next, introducing himself as simply "George Bush" and shaking his head as he approached residents.

"I see tragedy and heartache," Bush told reporters during his tour. "However, I see a strong spirit which exists here, I see people who are resolved to rebuild their lives." The president said he met "some families here that are, obviously, crushed by the material loss," but he praised their resiliency.

At the height of the fires last week, California was spending an estimated \$9 million a day fighting the wildfires. The total cost of fighting the blazes could reach \$200 million.

Bush had declared five counties in Southern California federal disaster areas, which can clear the way for aid for individuals and businesses.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Small Business Administration have written checks for nearly \$7 million in grants and loans, the White House said.

Bush carried no new aid to the state Tuesday in a three-hour visit, his 10th to California.

"No, what I do is I answer questions as to whether or not the help that is available is being delivered," Bush said. He said residents had given high marks to the federal efforts.

"I've seen the truth of the devastation of a fire. That's evident. Now I want to know whether or not the help that is available is being expedited and made available," Bush said.

Those fighting the fires described their efforts to the president, Schwarzenegger and Davis in a "war room" established for Bush's visit.

From the air, Bush saw the evidence of the firefighters' efforts. Undeveloped hills were blackened for mile after mile, and even the runway where Bush touched down was burned. But the flames stopped at housing developments in almost all areas.

"I think when people realize the scope of the fires, the historic nature of these fires, they'll realize what a superhuman effort you all put in to save lives," Bush told fire fighters. "This is, to me, an ultimate act of sacrifice."

San Francisco votes on issue similar to SM's living wage

INITIATIVE, from page 1

"There is not a cushion to absorb a minimum wage increase, especially a 26 percent increase that is going to some of our most highly paid employees," said Patricia Breslin, president of the Golden Gate Restaurant Association.

If it passes as expected, San Francisco would be the first California city and only the third in the nation to set its own minimum wage.

Santa Monica was in the middle of a similar battle last year when voters were asked in November to require all businesses in the coastal zone that make more than \$5 million in annual revenue pay their employees \$10.50 an hour with benefits or \$12.50 without. The living wage ordinance, which had been adopted by the

Santa Monica City Council earlier, failed by a small margin.

Washington, D.C., guarantees its workers \$1 more than the federal minimum, which Congress last raised in 1997. Earlier this year in New Mexico, the Santa Fe City Council set a local minimum wage of \$8.50 for all businesses with at least 25 employees.

San Francisco's measure is a little more ambitious because it doesn't exempt small businesses from the mandate. The new wage would take effect in three months for for-profit businesses, but would be phased in over two years for nonprofit organizations and firms with fewer than 10 employees.

City contractors already are required to pay their employees an hourly "living wage" of \$9 for nonprofits and \$10.25 for for-profit companies.

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The art of selling one property to buy another



DAYS ON THE MARKET

By Jodi Summers

Grace was in a quandary. Her condo north of Wilshire Boulevard had appreciated considerably since she purchased it five years ago, and she had received several salary increases as she gained tenure in her position as a public defender. She was ready to trade up to a more elegant residence. The question was how to maneuver her finances to sell one home and buy another.

Peter Burgdorff, chief executive officer of the ERA realty company, said planning is important in helping to make sure you've got the best chance for a smooth transition.

We have it easy locally — there is not enough supply to meet demand, thus everything sells. If your property is moderately desirable, and you're selling it at fair market value, it should sell almost immediately. The downside to this is that by the time you sell your home, the one

you wanted is gone.

"I made a very strong offer on a property, but because the offer was contingent upon the sale of another property, I did not even get a counteroffer," Grace recalled. "It was obvious I had to use another strategy if I wanted a larger home."

Most sellers will take a no-strings offer over a conditional one, so your offer will be tossed aside in favor of the half-dozen other offers that offer the seller more appealing terms.

"Many sellers don't want a potential provision that would negate a sale," stated Cathy Wahatley, vice president for the National Association of Realtors.

In a perfect world, the money for this transition is readily available — you've got enough in cash savings and you can tap those reserves to make a big enough down payment on the second home so that you can secure financing for it in spite of your other mortgage. Or you can borrow from friends or family.

If not, a simple option is to write a sale-leaseback option into your sales agreement. This will allow you to rent back your old home for a set length of time (i.e. 60 days) after your old home is sold, but before you have closed on your new home.

If life's realities kick in and you just don't have that \$250,000 put aside, talk to lenders about your home trade-up intentions. There are lenders who might help you cross the transition by offering "bridge" loans — short-term loans (typically six months) that allows you to borrow against equity in your old house. A bridge loan is designed to get you from one home to the next while both homes are still in the closing process.

"There are a variety of methods by which bridge loans are made," observed Keith Gumbinger, vice president of mortgage tracker HSH Associates.

One use of a bridge loan is to provide the down payment for your second home. If you own a \$200,000 home in which you have \$50,000 equity, you can borrow up to \$50,000.

Another type of bridge loan is similar to a cash-out refinance. You replace your first mortgage with a newer, larger mortgage. With this kind of bridge loan, you can borrow up to 80 percent of your home's value and pocket the difference in cash after costs. This structure of bridge loan will allow you to pay off your first mortgage and secure the down payment for your new home. Talk to your lenders

about the costs and details.

Do bridge loans get you intimidated? You have another finance option when you have enough income to carry two mortgages, but not enough cash to close on the new property. You can cash out some of the equity in your existing house using a home-equity line of credit on the old house. Both a home-equity loan (HEL) or line of credit (HELOC) allow you to borrow against the equity in your first home. HELs and HELOCs can be a relatively cheap source of money and the interest you pay is often tax-deductible. "If you've already got one set up, you're good to go," Gumbinger said.

If you're thinking of taking a home equity loan after you've put your home on the market, you may have trouble. Lenders often won't make equity loans if your house has been up for sale in the past six months.

Another option — put your stuff in storage and rent a corporate suite on a week-by-week or month-by-month basis.

(If you would like more information of interest to property owners, e-mail Jodi Summers at jodis@boardwalkrealty.com, or call at (310) 309-4219.)

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10/27/2003	Lot Size: 6,499	Sold Price: \$525,000	Bath: 1	10/30/2003	Lot Size: 8,698	Sold Price: \$2,235,000	Pool Bath: 5	10/28/2003	HOD: \$356	Sold Price: \$595,000	Pool Bath: 2.5
SOLD	757 PIER AVE	SANTA MONICA	90405	SOLD	1454 YALE ST #2	SANTA MONICA	90404	SOLD	1037 16TH ST #3	SANTA MONICA	90403
Sold Date	SqFt: 1,755	List Price: \$749,000	Bed: 3	Sold Date	SqFt: 1,320	List Price: \$439,000	Bed: 3	Sold Date	SqFt: 1,540	List Price: \$699,000	Bed: 3
10/31/2003	Lot Size: 5,497	Sold Price: \$700,000	Bath: 2	10/27/2003	HOD: \$330	Sold Price: \$419,000	Bath: 2	10/31/2003	HOD: \$330	Sold Price: \$684,000	Bath: 2.5
SOLD	3117 5TH ST	SANTA MONICA	90405	SOLD	1749 12TH ST #C	SANTA MONICA	90404	SOLD	2121 DELAWARE AVE	SANTA MONICA	90404
Sold Date	SqFt: N/A	List Price: \$899,000	Bed: 4	Sold Date	SqFt: 1,245	List Price: \$429,000	Bed: 2	Sold Date	SqFt: N/A	List Price: \$595,000	#Units: 5
10/30/2003	Lot Size: 4,795	Sold Price: \$875,000	Bath: 2	10/30/2003	HOD: \$160	Sold Price: \$429,000	Bath: 2.5	10/31/2003	Lot Size: 6,019	Sold Price: \$560,000	GRM: 0.00
SOLD	1036 CEDAR ST	SANTA MONICA	90405	SOLD	520 STRAND ST #3	SANTA MONICA	90405	SOLD	1522 16TH ST	SANTA MONICA	90404
Sold Date	SqFt: 1,988	List Price: \$999,000	Bed: 3	Sold Date	SqFt: 0	List Price: \$479,000	Bed: 2	Sold Date	SqFt: 1,642	List Price: \$760,000	#Units: 2
10/30/2003	Lot Size: 5,588	Sold Price: \$1,025,000	Bath: 2.5	10/27/2003	HOD: \$305	Sold Price: \$470,000	1.75	10/27/2003	Lot Size: 7,496	Sold Price: \$760,000	GRM: 1
SOLD	1024 CENTINELA AVE	SANTA MONICA	90403	SOLD	1017 2ND ST #204	SANTA MONICA	90403	SOLD	1238 17TH ST	SANTA MONICA	90404
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10/30/2003	Lot Size: 8,999	Sold Price: \$1,100,000	Bath: 2	10/31/2003	HOD: \$230	Sold Price: \$490,000	Bath: 2	10/30/2003	Lot Size: 7,497	Sold Price: \$970,000	GRM: 15
SOLD	142 HART AVE	SANTA MONICA	90405	SOLD	821 BAY ST #A4	SANTA MONICA	90405	SOLD	1246 25TH ST	SANTA MONICA	90404
Sold Date	SqFt: 0	List Price: \$1,195,000	Bed: 2	Sold Date	SqFt: 1,480	List Price: \$479,000	Bed: 2	SqFt: 4,812	List Price: \$1,300,000	#Units: 4	
10/28/2003	Lot Size: 2,356	Sold Price: \$1,195,000	Bath: 1	10/31/2003	HOD: \$175	Sold Price: \$528,000	Bath: 2	10/30/2003	Lot Size: 5,305	Sold Price: \$1,205,000	GRM: 16.70
SOLD	2215 CALIFORNIA AVE	SANTA MONICA	90403	SOLD	914 LINCOLN BL #101	SANTA MONICA	90403	SOLD	1128 OCEAN PARK BLVD	SANTA MONICA	90405
Sold Date	SqFt: 0	List Price: \$1,419,000	Bed: 3	Sold Date	SqFt: 1,395	List Price: \$554,000	Bed: 3	Sold Date	SqFt: 44,194	List Price: \$8,150,000	#Units: 43
10/28/2003	Lot Size: 5,057	Sold Price: \$1,400,000	Bath: 3	10/30/2003	HOD: \$318	Sold Price: \$530,000	Bath: 2	10/31/2003	Lot Size: 30,370	Sold Price: \$7,850,000	GRM: 12.30
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Sold Date	SqFt: 3,573	List Price: \$2,150,000	Bed: 4	Sold Date	SqFt: 1,948	List Price: \$599,000	Bed: 3				
10/30/2003	Lot Size: 7,496	Sold Price: \$1,800,000	Bath: 5	10/31/2003	HOD: \$293	Sold Price: \$575,000	Bath: 3				

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REAL ESTATE

Another option for seniors to get cash out of their homes

Until recently, there were two main ways to utilize your home to obtain cash — selling it or borrowing against it and making monthly loan repayments. A reverse mortgage provides you with a third option to get money from your home, without having to sell it or make regular loan payments.

Q: What is a reverse mortgage?

A: A reverse mortgage is a loan against your home that you do not have to pay back for as long as you live there. Think of it as a mirror image of a traditional mortgage. With a traditional mortgage you borrow money to buy a house and make regular payments to the lender until the loan is paid off with interest. With a reverse mortgage the opposite occurs: The lender makes payments to you and the debt is paid off later.

Q: How does a reverse mortgage work?

A: Here is an example: A couple in their 70s has paid off a 30-year mortgage on their home. The home has been appraised at \$250,000. By taking out a reverse mortgage, the couple can borrow up to 65 percent of the home's value, or \$163,000.

They can receive the payment as a lump sum, a regular monthly advance or a line of credit, and they will not have to make repayments as long as they live in the home. Reverse mortgage loans are repaid in full, including all interest and other charges, when the last living borrower dies, sells the home, or permanently moves away.

Q: Who is eligible for a reverse mortgage?

A: Borrowers must be at least 62 years old and have some equity built up in their home. As a general rule, the older you are and the greater your equity, the larger the reverse mortgage benefit will be. There are no income or credit requirements to qualify, and you might even be eligible for a reverse mortgage if you still owe money on your first mortgage. Additionally, owners must occupy the home as a principal residence.

Q: How much can I borrow?

A: The amount of benefit you qualify for depends on your age at the time you apply for the loan, the type of reverse mortgage you choose, the value of your home, current interest rates and, for some products, where you live.

Q: Are there costs for getting a reverse mortgage?

A: The costs associated with getting a reverse mortgage are similar to those associated with a conventional mortgage, such as the origination fee, appraisal and inspection fees, title policy, mortgage insurance and other normal closing costs. With a reverse mortgage, all of these costs can be financed as part of the mortgage.

Q: Are there restrictions on how I can use the money?

A: There are no restrictions on how the cash can be used. Many reverse mortgage borrowers use the money to supplement their retirement income and apply the extra cash to a variety of options including:

- Home improvements
- Medical bills
- Vacations
- In-home care
- Estate tax planning
- Payoff of existing debt

And the money is exempt from taxation because funds from a reverse mortgage are considered loan proceeds, not income.

Q: Why should I consider a reverse mortgage?

A: Seniors today face more challenges than ever before. Mounting health care bills and reduced retirement incomes have threatened the quality of life for many older Americans. Reverse mortgages can be an effective way for homeowners 62 years or older to get extra income by tapping into the equity built up in their homes.

(Bill Evans, a reverse mortgage specialist, has worked with Metrociti Mortgage for five years. Metrociti is ranked among the top 1 percent of mortgage companies nationwide).

Guest Commentary

By Bill Evans

Real Estate & Tax Problem Solvers

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9/19/03	Santa Monica Blvd	4.00 nnn	3,050 sq.ft.



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STATE

Two California soldiers die in helicopter crash

BY MIELIKKI ORG
Associated Press Writer

LIVINGSTON — Pfc. Karina Lau dreamed of returning to school and someday setting up her own music shop, after finishing her military duty with the U.S. Army in Iraq.

On Sunday morning, Lau, 20, boarded a Chinook transport helicopter headed to the Baghdad Airport, where she was scheduled to board a plane to the United States for a two-week surprise visit with her family in California. Lau and 35 other soldiers were being granted special leave time because they were expected to stay in Iraq for an extended period.

"I prayed for her everyday telling her to be careful," said her mother, Ruth Lau, from the living room of the family's home in Livingston, the Merced County city where Lau grew up. "She said she was safe. We never expected that anything would happen to her."

Lau's father, Agustin Lau, sat on the couch and sobbed, unable to speak.

Lau and 15 other soldiers died when the chopper went down in a blaze Sunday morning after being shot by a missile fired from the ground near Fallujah, about 35 miles west of Baghdad. Twenty others were wounded, some critically.

"Emotions range from anger because of the situation to sadness to grief. She had just e-mailed my wife just two hours before she got on the helicopter," Lau's brother-in-law, Noel Rivera.

Also killed in the attack was Staff Sgt. Paul A. Velazquez, 29, of San Diego.

Velazquez, who was married, enlisted on Aug. 14, 1992 and had been stationed at Fort Sill, Okla., base spokesman Master Sgt. Tony McKinney said. He had no other details.

Lau had planned to come home to visit

her parents, her half-sister Martha Rivera, 35, and half-brother Jose, 37.

Instead, the family set up a makeshift memorial in the living room of the family's modest, ranch-style home. On the low table were high school photographs, baby pictures and awards Lau had won for music and math. She sang and played clarinet and saxophone. Her family said she sang the National Anthem at her 2001 graduation from Livingston High School.

"I prayed for her everyday telling her to be careful."

— RUTH LAU
Soldier's mother

Another brother, Luis Lau, 28, is an active duty Marine who teaches math in South Carolina. He's due to arrive in Livingston late Monday.

Lau attended the University of Pacific on a music scholarship before joining the U.S. Army in January 2002. She received training as a radio operator in Fort Hood, Texas, during boot camp before she was deployed to Iraq at the beginning of the war.

Noel Rivera, a former Marine who suffered shrapnel wounds when his tank was fired on during Operation Desert Storm in 1991, said he was sure Lau was well aware of the risks of her duty. Her family was supportive of her decision to become a soldier.

"Every time I heard there was an attack, I worried," Martha Rivera said. "But I knew she was safe."

Martha Rivera received an e-mail Lau had sent just a few hours before she boarded the helicopter.

"Don't worry. I'll be careful," it read. "I need some time off."

Ski resorts get snow from California to Colorado

BY ROBERT WELLER
Associated Press Writer

DENVER — Still trying to rebound from a sluggish economy, ski resorts across the West got a big boost from the weather this week as heavy snow fell from California to Colorado.

"The timing of these storms couldn't be better," said Joani Lynch, communications manager for Mammoth Mountain in California.

Mammoth, which added a foot of real snow Monday to several feet of the machine-made version, plans to open with two chairlifts on Thursday.

The snow will help the multimillion-dollar ski industry, but it is also welcome news for farmers, ranchers and Western cities that depend on melting snow for much of their water supply. Most of the region has been mired in a years-long drought and snow helps reduce the threat of fire.

Before last weekend, much of the West had been dry and warm, with the heat fueling deadly fires in Southern California.

But Brighton, in Utah's Wasatch Mountains, has picked up more than 4 feet of snow and has a 35-inch base, spokesman Dan Malstrom said.

"We're stoked," he said Tuesday. "We are

expecting another burst this week and we were able to make snow during the storm, giving us a solid base." Brighton will open Thursday or Friday with three lifts.

Big Sky resort in Montana had more than 6 inches of fresh snow on the ground Tuesday.

"We're scheduled to open Thanksgiving Day, but I know management likes to ski, so I wouldn't be surprised to see an early ski day or two," Big Sky spokesman Dax Schieffer said.

The colder weather has reached New Mexico and several resorts expected to begin making snow this week. Taos has been making snow since Oct. 20.

Telluride, in Colorado's southwestern mountains, picked up a foot of snow and nearby Wolf Creek is boasting about 3 feet. Loveland, the first ski area in the nation to open, picked up 7 inches Sunday night and 3 more Monday as cold weather settled over the mountains west of Denver. Colorado's Copper Mountain reported 10 inches in 28 hours.

Winter Park, a ski area 40 miles west of Denver, plans to open Nov. 12.

"I shoveled for more than an hour this morning," spokeswoman Joan Christensen said. "Two days ago, the ski trails were brown, now they are covered in white."

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Guerrillas kill American soldier with roadside bomb

Associated Press Writer

■ Insurgents ambushed a U.S. patrol Tuesday with RPGs in the city of Khaldiya, located west of Baghdad in the volatile "Sunni Triangle," witnesses said. There were no reports of casualties.

Five more of the injured were flown on Tuesday to Ramstein Air Base in Germany, where 16 others who arrived a day earlier were being treated at the U.S. military's Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. Nine were in intensive care unit, including five in serious condition, said hospital spokeswoman Marie Shaw.

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COMICS

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Natural Selection® By Russ Wallace



The party suddenly gave up when everyone realized that someone had put the candy in lunchboxes and killed the pineapple with tuna salad.

edge by KERRY PATRICK LARSON



Reality Check® By Dave Whammond



Speed Bump® By Dave Coverly



CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Timber wolf
- 5 Lessen
- 11 Press
- 12 Saxophone player, in slang
- 13 Like bulls
- 14 False report
- 15 Everything
- 16 Pool table cover
- 17 Brewing need
- 19 Do some finger painting
- 22 Battling
- 24 Skiing spot
- 26 Dove calls
- 27 Different
- 28 Easy gaits
- 30 Skin spots
- 31 Turf
- 32 Extreme pain
- 34 Painter Joan
- 35 Owl's question
- 38 Caviar type
- 41 Stable youngster
- 42 Arthur's resting place
- 43 Emphatic
- 44 Turn from sin
- 45 Altar exchange

DOWN

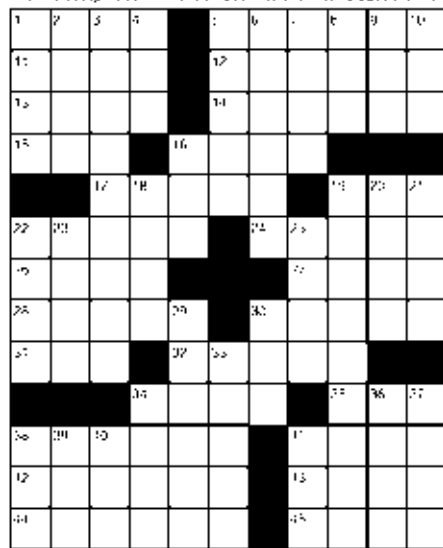
- 1 South American city
- 2 Vaccine type
- 3 India's film business
- 4 Undivided
- 5 Track events
- 6 Glorifies
- 7 Body shop concern
- 8 Actress Thurman
- 9 Train unit
- 10 Stop
- 16 Remote
- 18 Compass point
- 19 Parton's amusement park



Yesterday's answer

- 20 Church part
- 21 Honey bunch?
- 22 Does something
- 23 Matador's foe
- 25 Boxer Spinks
- 29 Ho Chi Minh City, once
- 30 Cattle call?
- 33 Endowment
- 34 Cart puller
- 36 Angel topper
- 37 Auto pioneer
- 38 Saloon
- 39 Genesis name
- 40 Track trip
- 41 "The X-Files" org.

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Williams sisters fashion a runway appearance in SM

By The Associated Press

■ **SANTA MONICA** — Serena and Venus Williams traded the tennis court for a catwalk when they modeled their own fashion designs in a charity event.

Serena introduced a couture line under her label Aneres (Serena spelled backward). Her sister Venus, their half-sister Lyndrea and pop singer Brandy were among the models at a hotel Monday night.

"I just did it for Serena, otherwise I'd be way too shy," said Venus, who wore a super-short chocolate brown and beige snake print dress.

Serena culls ideas from pictures in various pop culture and fashion magazines. The 22-year-old has taken fashion design classes when she isn't playing tennis.

"I don't want to end my career and then start something," said Serena, who has been sidelined since July with a knee injury. "I like to do something while my career is still hot and I've always enjoyed designing."

Venus designed a small collection of black, red and white leather pants and jackets for Wilsons Leather stores nationwide. Like her younger sister, she has been out since July, with an abdominal injury.

"There's plenty of time after my tennis to definitely go full-time fashion, when I have arthritis and all that fun stuff," the 23-year-old said.

■ **NEW YORK** — As if being the top-ranked tennis player in the world and dating pop star Mandy Moore didn't make him enough of a celebrity, Andy Roddick will soon have his own reality show.

"The Tour" will track the 21-year-old U.S. Open champion next summer as he deals with fame, fans and fellow players.

"I am totally amped for this show," Roddick said Tuesday. "I'm just this guy who happens to play tennis, but my life has become this circus. It's a wild ride, and I've given 'The Tour' producers total access ... except my bedroom — sorry, I have to draw the line somewhere!"

Moore, however, told The Associated Press last month that she wouldn't want to be the subject of any reality show, although she's a big fan of MTV's "Newlyweds," about pop singers Nick Lachey and Jessica Simpson.

"My personal life is my personal life and it's behind closed doors," the 19-year-old singer-actress said. "I like watching other people, though."

Cameras will follow Roddick from May to September next year during the 2004 ATP Tour. Craig H. Shepherd, producer of the hit series "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy," will pitch the show to broadcast networks this week.

■ **LONDON** — Britney Spears has canceled plans to appear at the MTV Europe Music Awards later this week because of an illness, the cable channel said Tuesday.

The pop star returned to the United States Saturday after contracting the flu and a throat infection, said David Frossman, a spokesman for Jive Records, the New York-based label that represents Spears.

She also canceled a promotional event in Paris last week for her upcoming album "In the Zone" because she was sick, Frossman said, adding that the singer had returned to her family home in Louisiana.

He said the 21-year-old singer had planned to present one award at Thursday's MTV event in Edinburgh, Scotland.

■ **NEW YORK** — Regina Carter, the first non-classical artist and the first black musician to play Paganini's world-famous violin, was reunited with the instrument in a concert that marked the violin's first appearance on U.S. soil in a decade.

Carter, along with her quintet and an orchestra, played a mixture of classically inspired songs and jazz tunes on the 18th-century violin at a sold-out concert at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall Monday night.

The jazz violinist first performed on the instrument, crafted by Guarneri, at its home in Genoa, Italy, in a his-

tory-making concert in 2001. Before Carter, only classical musicians had been allowed to play the violin, owned by the virtuoso Nicolo Paganini.

Carter later recorded with the violin for the album "Paganini: After A Dream," released earlier this year.

"I thought that would be the end of my dream," Carter told the audience. "But the dream continues."

The violin made the trip, along with armed guards and a police escort, so Carter could play it in New York.

She first performed with her own violin; when she brought it out, she joked that there were "no armed guards" for her instrument.

Then, after an intermission she returned with the 257-year-old Guarneri violin, holding it delicately. To illustrate why the violin was so revered, she asked an orchestra member to play her violin before playing a few notes on the Guarneri — and its sharp, booming sound was evident.

"So you know we're not making up a story," Carter joked about its sound.

■ **WHITE PLAINS, N.Y.** — A man who accepted tens of thousands of dollars for arranging speeches by celebrities allegedly neglected to give the speakers their share of the fees, stifling an astronaut, a boxer and a former Cabinet member, prosecutors say.

Andy Rooney of "60 Minutes" says he's another victim. Alan Walker, 65, was arraigned Monday on mail fraud charges at the federal courthouse.

According to the complaint, Walker never paid former boxer Rubin "Hurricane" Carter, Mercury astronaut Scott Carpenter, former U.S. Assistant Secretary of Education Diane Ravitch and underwater explorer Robert S. Ballard for speeches they gave, though he was paid for the speeches.

Together, the four speakers are due more than \$54,000, the complaint said.

Walker's lawyer, Raymond Granger, said, "At no time did Mr. Walker intend to defraud anyone. ... He looks forward to the chance to vindicate himself in court."

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