

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

2 14 35 37 47
Meganumber: 7
Jackpot: \$32 Million

FANTASY 5

27 32 33 37 39

DAILY 3

Daytime: 1 0 7
Evening: 4 6 0

DAILY DERBY

1st: 06 Whirl Win
2nd: 09 Winning Spirit
3rd: 03 Hot Shot

RACE TIME: 1:46.99

NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

Cleveland Indians pitcher Kyle Denney survived a random gunshot on Sept. 29 fired at the bus taking him and his teammates to the airport in Kansas City after a game. The bullet hit Denney's right calf but did not penetrate deep and was immediately removed by the team trainer. The bullet might have gone deeper except that Denney had on high plastic boots as part of the cheerleader's uniform he was wearing. (In end-of-season rituals in major league baseball, rookies like Denney are forced by their teammates to wear ridiculous outfits.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

IN 1996, voters returned President Clinton to the White House for a second term but kept Congress in Republican control.

TEN YEARS AGO: Former President Reagan disclosed he had Alzheimer's disease. George Foreman became boxing's oldest heavyweight champion at age 45 after knocking out Michael Moorer in the 10th round of their WBA fight in Las Vegas.

■ In 1911, Calbraith P. Rodgers arrived in Pasadena, Calif., completing the first transcontinental airplane trip in 49 days.

INDEX

Horoscopes

You deserve to have fun, Scorpio 2

Local

SMC strikes up the bands 3

Surf Report

Water Temperature: 64° 3

Opinion

Letters to the editor 4

Entertainment

New release is incredibly Oscar 11

State

Sprawl hits the Sierras 12

National

He isn't flashy but Reid will do 14

Classifieds

Have some class 17

People in the News

A Universal buzz 20

Pico voters didn't catch Shriver fever

Though he led handily elsewhere, council candidate Bobby Shriver fell to third place on the eastside of town

(Editor's note: This is the first article in a series examining how local neighborhoods voted in the Nov. 2 Santa Monica City Council election.)

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

PICO NEIGHBORHOOD — Bobby Shriver's decisive victory at the polls Tuesday didn't extend to every neighborhood in Santa Monica.

Though Shriver won more votes than any other City Council candidate in 90 percent of local voting precincts, he dropped to third place among voters living in the crime-plagued Pico neighborhood, election records show.

Beating Shriver at polls in the eastside neighborhood were activist Maria Loya, a Pico resident, and Mayor Richard Bloom. City Councilman Ken Genser and past school board president Patricia Hoffman tied for the fourth slot, according to an analysis of election returns from Pico's five key voting precincts.

Citywide, Shriver led the polls with more than 20,000 votes, or nearly twice what he needed to win one of four open seats on the Santa Monica City Council. Incumbents Bloom, Genser and Herb Katz also won seats.

Shriver won all but eight of Santa Monica's 66 precincts, usually by a wide margin. Those precincts where he didn't win, he either tied or was beaten by a few votes. Not so in the Pico neighborhood, where Loya won four of the five key precincts, and fell just two votes behind in the fifth. In one of the precincts, Loya beat out Shriver by nearly 250 votes. In two others, she led by 90 votes.

Loya, who placed seventh citywide with 10,010 votes, worked hard to become the first-ever Pico resident elected to the City Council. Her campaign volunteers phone banked for five weeks, dropped Pico-specific literature in the area, sent special mailers and tirelessly knocked on doors

See PICO VOTERS, page 6

How much does it cost for your vote?

BY PAM WIGHT

Special to the Daily Press

Money doesn't buy everything, as some City Council candidates learned this past election.

It took \$7.98 a vote for Bobby Shriver to win a seat on the City Council, and that's without indirect support from outside groups. And incumbent Mike Feinstein spent \$9.72 per vote but failed to win a seat.

The three incumbents who were re-elected spent substantially less — Richard Bloom spent \$1.50 per vote, Herb Katz paid \$5.04 per vote and Ken Genser spent \$2.27 per vote.

Considering only direct money contributions through the last campaign statement of Oct. 16, the cost of each vote was an average of \$3.55, which was determined by dividing the money raised by the number of votes 11 of the viable candidates received. However, if all the contributions from special interest groups were considered, the cost per vote would be dramatically higher.

With \$162,090 in campaign contributions, Shriver raised the most direct money, translating into \$7.98 for each of his 20,309 votes — the highest received by a candidate. But Shriver also received indirect support from a slate of big money political groups, such as Santa Monicans for Change and Santa Monica Citizens for Sensible Priorities, which

See \$, page 5



Susan Tam/Daily Press
Above: The parking lot north of the Santa Monica Pier has been transformed into a tent city.

On right: Workers for Cavalia pull the big top up at the Santa Monica Pier last Friday. The large canvas pieces, which were cut in Italy, form the largest structure for any show currently touring.



Cavalia rides into town under the big top

Man and horse meet at the beach

BY SUSAN TAM

Special To The Daily Press

SM PIER — When Normand Latourelle comes to town, he doesn't travel light.

His entourage recently hauled to Santa Monica Beach 50 semi-trailer trucks, 37 horses, and 2,500 tons of dirt — roughly the weight of a small warship.

Latourelle is the creator of the spectacle "Cavalia," a touring theatrical production that has recently set up camp at the beach parking lot north of the Santa Monica Pier.

"You go to see the Rolling Stones, and they travel with 40 trucks," Latourelle said. "We travel with 50. It's like building a city."

The show, which opens next Wednesday, is reminiscent of Cirque du Soleil — only with horses. It features a series of choreographed acts including trick riding, Roman riding, vaulting, vertical rope, tumbling, and dancing set to live music and projected images. Horses cavort with acrobats, aerialists and riders in front of a constantly changing background projected on a 200-foot-wide screen. Infused with live music and vocals, the show also features the talents of acclaimed European "horse-whisperer" Frédéric Pignon and his wife, Magali Delgado.

Cavalia incorporates elements of the idea of human versus nature, and explores the relationship between man and horse, said Latourelle, who also is one of the founders of Cirque du Soleil.

With just a few days to go before opening night, 140 people worked this past week to get the big top set up. The big top for Cavalia stands more than 100 feet high, and is the tallest of any

See CAVALIA, page 7

Jacquie Banks

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LOCAL

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Music to your ears at SMC

By Daily Press staff

In the midst of its 75th anniversary, Santa Monica College is striking up all kinds of bands to celebrate.

SMC's music department will present an eclectic mix of concerts in November. All concerts are in the SMC Concert Hall, 1900 Pico Blvd., unless otherwise noted. The lineup is:

■ Friday, Nov. 5 at 7 p.m.: Jazz: Jon Mayer Quintet. The bebop-based pianist brings his quartet and their sounds to SMC. Tickets are \$10.

■ Saturday, Nov. 6 at 8 p.m.: SMC Applied Music Program Benefit. Concert features performances by instrumentalists, vocalists and composers in SMC's "Applied Music Program." Tickets are \$10.

■ Sunday, Nov. 14 at 4 p.m.: SMC Symphony Orchestra 75th Anniversary Concert. Under the baton of James Smith, the orchestra's performance will feature special guest Yohei Nakamiya, an SMC graduate and violinist. Tickets are \$10.

■ Friday, Nov. 19 at 8 p.m.: SMC Jazz Vocal Ensemble featuring conductor Cindy Borquin. Tickets are \$5.

■ Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 20 at 8 p.m. and Nov. 21 at 4 p.m.: SMC Opera Theatre: Opera Highlights. Emmy-winning troupe features SMC students in a fully staged and costumed production performing highlights from popular operas. Tickets are \$16.

■ Sunday, Nov. 21 at 8 p.m.: SMC Musical Theatre Workshop, under the direction of SMC theatre arts professor Perviz Sawoski and music professor Frank Turner. Tickets are \$8.

Tuesday, Nov. 23 at 11:15 a.m.: SMC Musical Theatre Workshop Highlights, under the direction of SMC theatre arts professor Perviz Sawoski and music professor Frank Turner, in a shortened version of the Nov. 21 program. Free.

For information and tickets, call (310) 434-3000, or (310) 434-4323.

And in honor of autumn, the SMC Emeritus College Band will present "A Concert for Autumn," which is an eclectic program of classical, big band music and more at 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 7 at the Westwood United Methodist Church, 10497 Wilshire Blvd. Admission is free.

The 60-member concert band, part of SMC's acclaimed Emeritus College for older adults, is under the direction of Wallace UMBER.

Highlights of the concert include:

■ "Big 10 College Songs" of Ohio State, Michigan, Purdue, Northwestern and Wisconsin.

■ "March of the Steelmen" by Charles Belsterling, written for the National Championship Band of Joliet, Ill. High School, 1937.

■ Theme song from "Laura," the Academy Award-winning film music by the late David Raksin.

■ Big Band Spectacular, featuring 14 themes songs of the big bands.

For more information, call (310) 434-4306, or (310) 474-5271.

Pico youth and family center ready to party

By Daily Press staff

Spirits, culture, dance, music and food is on tap this weekend in honor of tradition.

The Pico Youth & Family Center in collaboration with Santa Monica College invites the community to celebrate an ancient indigenous event to celebrate life.

The event is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 6 from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. at SMC's cafeteria. Parking is available at 1900 Pico Blvd. The sixth annual event titled, "Awakening Community Spirit" will be a spiritually empowering celebration full of culture, music, dance, art and native food.

"Our intention is to continue our tradition of bringing the community together to celebrate the lives of our loved ones who have passed on," said Marizsa Bravo, chair of the Dia de los Muertos planning committee. "By doing this we recognize the

See BRIEFS, page 6



SURF REPORT

Today look for an increase in NW wind and ground swell. Northern LA spots see surf in the knee-waist high range, with some chest-high sets at top NW breaks. South Bay spots see more size with waist to occasional chest high surf at many breaks. Standout spots in the north half of the Bay see shoulder high+ and occasional bigger sets. Look for rather unstable weather with variable S wind in the 5-10 knot range for much of the day.

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

Today the water is:

64°

	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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OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Measure S voted on in ignorance

Editor:
It's a sad commentary on Santa Monica and Malibu when a higher share of potential votes are cast to tax the residents for money to give to the college (57.6 percent) than are cast to elect the people who will spend the money (39.3 percent). Sadder yet that many of the people I talked to while campaigning didn't know that only Santa Monica and Malibu residents will be paying for the bond that gives no preferential tuition or class enrollment to them. Saddest of all were the many Malibu residents who said they didn't even know they were part of the district. I consider my campaign a success because I know that I personally informed hundreds of residents to these facts. My special thanks go to each of the 6,168 people who voted for me. I would be glad to hear from you again.

SuSanne Trimbath, Ph.D.
Former candidate for Santa Monica College Board of Trustees

Weller's victims will have to wait

Editor:
(Editor's note: Geoffrey S. Wells represents more than 11 plaintiffs in their wrongful death or personal injury civil suits against the city of Santa Monica arising out of the July 16, 2003 Santa Monica Farmers' Market tragedy. The following is a response to Wednesday's court's ruling that George Russell Weller is to stand trial for 10 counts of vehicular manslaughter with gross negligence).
The past year and a half has been difficult on our clients, especially given the long wait that they've had to endure just to get to this point of having a preliminary hearing conducted against George Russell Weller. They realize that they must continue to be patient as their civil suits will be stayed until the criminal proceedings against Mr. Weller are concluded. In point of fact, the criminal case only deals with Mr. Weller's negligence, and it remains for a civil court to determine the extent of the city of Santa Monica's negligence and to decide whether or not the city failed to protect the public on that tragic day.
Our clients have taken a small measure of comfort in knowing that the National Transportation Safety Board's investigators found that the city of Santa Monica failed to install proper traffic safety measures which would have prevented the extensive death, destruction and personal injury arising out of farmers' market tragedy. These findings dovetail with the position that we've taken in our civil pleadings that the city of Santa Monica bears responsibility for what happened. We will do everything possible on behalf of our clients to make sure that they have their day in court and that the city of Santa Monica does not try to pin this tragedy entirely on Mr. Weller.

Geoffrey S. Wells
Santa Monica

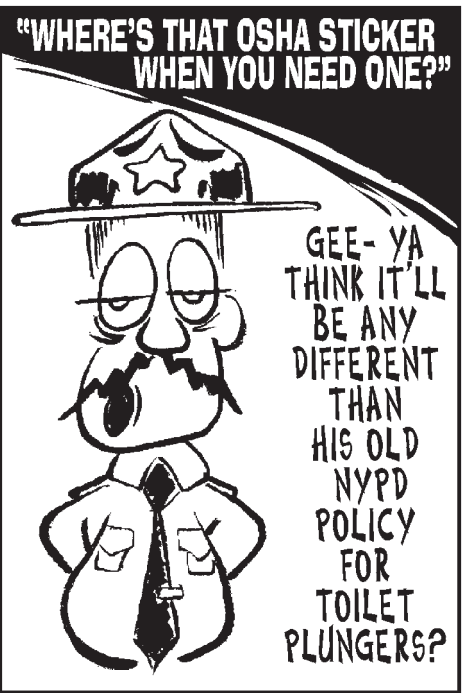
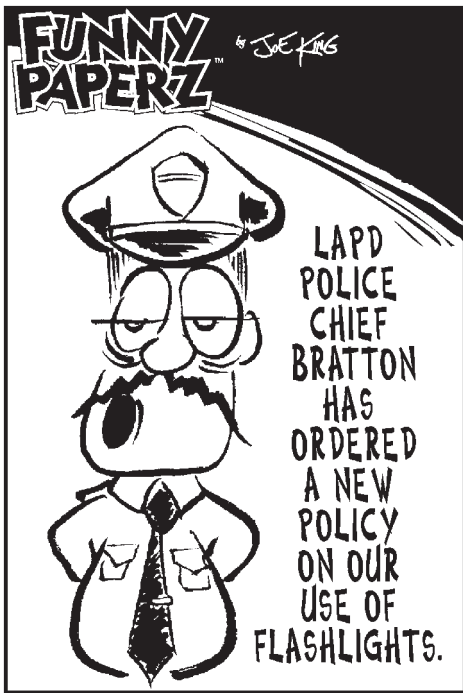
Superintendent speaks up for employees

Editor:
I want to write to express my opinion and feeling about the recent "open letter to the citizens of Santa Monica," from school board member Shane McLoud (SMDP, Oct. 30, page 8). Let me first state emphatically that everyone has the right to freedom of speech and the opinion piece is an example of one of the freedoms our country was founded upon. Furthermore, this is one of the specific freedoms we teach and model in our schools. Along with this important lesson, we also teach about the consequence of expressing opinions. We teach about people like Cesar Chavez, Martin Luther King, Robert Kennedy, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and others, as only a few examples of both the power of the freedom of speech and the understanding of consequence for expressing those opinions. And like all citizens of this remarkable community, I also want to exercise my right to share my opinion about what was writ-

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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ten. This opinion is not about the author, simply the written word as published in the Daily Press.
I do not share the opinions expressed in this work. I explicitly do not share the opinions about the employees of Santa Monica-Malibu Unified. I could provide numerous examples of why I do not share the opinions expressed ranging from how fast we opened our school in the early morning hours following the devastating Northridge earthquake, the evacuation of the student body during the Malibu fires, the critical response to tragic student deaths, or the intensive communication and parent notification efforts in the early hours of 9/11 (as we were being notified about the loss of parents on various planes). All of these tasks (and of course countless others) were executed flawlessly by our district employees, and most by the employee groups named in the opinion piece. I want the consequence of my opinion about this article to be one of respect, support, and pride for the work of our employees. There are other opinions in column I do not share, but this letter is singularly focused on my co-workers and fellow members of the Santa Monica-Malibu learning community.
Please know that if I had questions about an employee's skill level I, and all administrators have and will address this privately. And if I had any questions or opinions about the salary level of any group of employees I will address this at the bargaining table and will respect the confidentiality of the bargaining process. I am committed to these principles of respectful civil discourse and thank each of you for what you do for our students daily.

John E. Deasy, Ph.D.
Superintendent of schools, Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District

Local election far from a mandate

Editor:
If there was ever a time for election reform, it is now. When we can have councilmembers elected with only 16 percent of the vote all the way down to 9.56 percent of the vote winning a seat for a councilmember, it is time for change. How to do it? Easy. Have a primary vote so you have only twice the number of candidates as you do seats. Also, let's draw some simple districts so all parts of Santa Monica can be represented in the City Council. I don't see a single person from the Pico neighborhood on the City Council and never will with the current system. Most of all, to the winning candidates, don't get too big of a head as though this vote gives you some sort of mandate to continue doing what you have been doing. You were elected by only 48.29 percent of the votes cast. That means that 51.71 percent of us don't like you and would like nothing better than to get rid of you next time. See you in 2006. Or 2008.

Brian A. Gray, Sr.
Santa Monica

Election gratitude

Editor:
Who do we have to thank for the outcome of the election?
1) Hollywood: For turning people like Michael Moore loose.
2) Musicians like Eminem: For making parents sit up and take notice (and vote).
3) Teresa Kerry: For simply opening her mouth.
4) Gay rights activists: For pushing to obtain marriage rights by shoving it down the throats of Americans and thereby mobilizing millions of religious people to go out and vote.
5) And last but not least, the Democratic Party: For nominating a candidate who is so far to the left that he is to the left of Ted Kennedy.
Good job guys. Great strategy.
Or maybe this was the plan all along (Hillary in '08?).

Tony Street
Bend, Ore.

LOCAL



Loya spends the least amount per vote at \$.71

\$, from page 1

threw hundreds of thousand dollars into this year's campaign.

Feinstein, who raised \$67,251 on his own, paid a whopping \$9.72 for each of his 6,922 votes. Despite spending the most per vote, Feinstein came in at ninth place. Feinstein lost the backing of Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights (SMRR) and had few endorsements.

"My opposition spent between \$60,000 to \$70,000 on materials to defeat me and that effectively cancels out the cost of my vote," he said.

Backing from political parties, like SMRR, often determine a candidate's success because they raise tens of thousands of dollars for their candidates' campaigns, as well as volunteer toward the effort.

With the backing of SMRR, Bloom independently raised \$21,812, therefore spending a mere \$1.50 of direct funds for his 14,575 votes. Bloom was the second highest vote getter but raised the least amount of money.

"SMRR spent about \$125,000 on four candidates for this election which is small potatoes compared to what some of the other special interest groups paid to oppose my candidacy," Bloom said.

Katz, who raised \$64,140, came in third with 12,722 votes, spending \$5.04 per vote. Katz was endorsed by the chamber of commerce, and appeared on campaign literature paid for by special interest groups.

Genser, the fourth highest vote getter and backed by SMRR, directly raised \$26,639 for his 11,748 votes.

Bloom's direct campaign contributions were lower than his opponents, which concerned him during the campaign. He pointed out that the typical cost for a direct mail flier is at least \$10,000.

"I don't break it down by vote," he said. "Money spent on oppositional literature to my candidacy is more revealing. If you total up the money spent by Edward Thomas who owns the Shutters Hotel and the Casa Del Mar, and the money from the so-called sensible people, and the chamber and others — you're looking at close to \$1 million to advocate against what was the current city government. Imagine how expensive those votes were."

Genser agreed.

"Money is a major influence but it is not the determinant necessarily," he said. "Sometimes too much money spent on a

campaign has backfired. And what about the current hotel money (hotel owner Edward Thomas) for Herb (Katz) and Shriver?"

He added that in recent elections related to the living wage, like Prop KK a few years ago, advocates spent 10 times more than their opposition, only to see their efforts fail.

Even though Shriver received help from the outside big donors and raised the most money, Bloom commended Shriver for reaching out to the community for support.

"He did have a message," Bloom said. "With his name recognition, too, he could have stumped all by himself and raised money, but he reached out to the community."

Because Feinstein didn't receive the backing of SMRR as he did in the 2000 election, he was forced to raise more money in direct campaign contributions, a daunting task to candidates who don't have access to large amounts of cash. Feinstein loaned himself a majority of what was used in his campaign.

Bob Stern, president of the Center for Governmental Studies, told the Daily Press earlier this year that the costs of a campaign have increased because voters are paying less attention.

Bloom finds that fact undemocratic.

"I'm very concerned about having a political system that bases political candidacy on how much money someone has," he said. "If people knew it took \$70,000 to run a local campaign they'd fall off their chairs. This is an extremely important discussion to have because if people see that it takes hundreds of thousands of dollars to run for office in a town of this size ... they will be less involved. Local government is the closest thing we have to real democracy and when they get taken over by heavily funded interests, we're in trouble."

Pico neighborhood activist Maria Loya was one of the SMRR-supported candidates but raised the least amount of direct money out of the top seven competitors. As a result, the cost of each of her votes was only \$.71.

Other candidates' cost per vote were Patricia Hoffman's \$1.98, Matt Dinolfo's \$4.89, Kathryn Morea's \$1.38, David Cole's \$1.28, and Bill Bauer's \$2.34. Hoffman also was backed by SMRR but didn't win a seat on the City council. Dinolfo and Morea were endorsed by the chamber of commerce. Cole and Bauer ran as independents.



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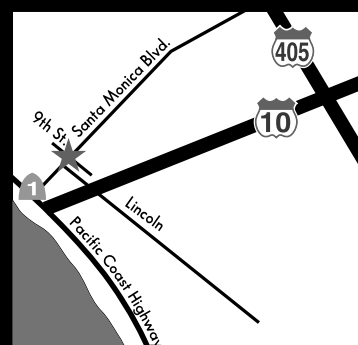
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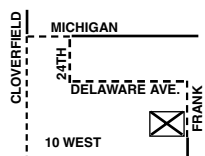
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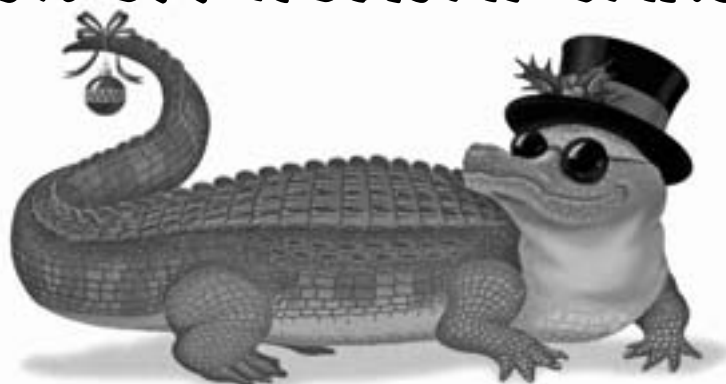


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LOCAL

Pico puts four residents on ballot, but they all fail

PICO VOTERS, from page 1

throughout the area, Loya said.

"We feel that there's a good number of voters in the Pico neighborhood that in the past haven't voted because they haven't felt that their issues were being heard, so there's a factor of disillusionment that we want to address," she said on Thursday afternoon. "The whole point of the campaign was to inspire and motivate people ... We feel that this campaign is part of a bigger movement. It's a progression, where we're getting more and more people involved."

The Pico neighborhood is defined as the area east of Lincoln Boulevard and west of Centinela Avenue, south of Colorado Boulevard and north of Pico Boulevard. County voting precincts don't match those boundaries exactly, and the precincts examined by the Daily Press focus on the heart of the troubled neighborhood.

Perhaps one reason Pico residents didn't back Shriver as enthusiastically as other areas of town is because of the unique challenges the community faces, said Oscar de la Torre, a school board member who heads a youth center in the neighborhood. The neighborhood has more minorities and low-income residents than any other section of the city. Since 1989, it has seen 29 homicides, de la Torre.

Shriver, a California parks commissioner and nephew to the late John F. Kennedy, entered the local political fray after officials at City Hall demanded he and more than 100 other residents cut their hedges or face steep fines.

"People were concerned," said de la Torre, who declined Shriver's request for an endorsement. "Here we're dealing with shootings and economic development, and basically marginalization. Those are the issues that propelled Maria Loya's candidacy. On the other side, you have hedges propelling Bobby Shriver's candidacy. That issue was not going to resonate with people in the community."

Still, de la Torre said there were some commonalities with Shriver, adding "the issue of disrespect, of City Hall's disconnect and outright neglect of residents, that issue did resonate with the Pico neighborhood."

Four people from the Pico neighbor-

If Pico decided ...

The Pico neighborhood has never had a representative on the City Council. Here's how the top four vote getters added up in the troubled east-side neighborhood:

Maria Loya: 1,120

Richard Bloom: 899

Bobby Shriver: 875

Ken Genser: 712

hood ran for elected office this year and all of them failed to garner a seat. City Council candidate Kathryn Morea and Loya both ran for seats on the City Council. Pico resident Doug Willis ran for a seat on the Santa Monica College Board of Trustees and Ana M. Jara of the Pico neighborhood ran for a seat on the board of the Santa Monica-Malibu school district. Their losses leave de la Torre as the only Pico resident on Santa Monica's three main governing boards.

Shriver will be sworn in on Dec. 7. He's said he's looking forward to getting to work on behalf of the troubled Pico neighborhood, and he's no stranger to helping those in need. His father Sargent Shriver started the Peace Corps. His mother Eunice Kennedy Shriver founded the Special Olympics. Shriver himself has raised millions of dollars with U2's Bono for AIDS victims in Africa.

"The next step (for Pico), to me, is to go and get from the people there their ideas," Shriver said. "They have their own police thing there already, but they want more community-based policing. I asked them at one point if they'd like (City Manager) Ms. McCarthy to come down there every six weeks. They said 'yes.' I think that's a good idea."

Shriver sounded surprised he placed third in votes from the Pico neighborhood, saying he canvassed there heavily and held five meet-and-greet events. Asked if he thinks the Pico neighborhood historically has been overlooked by City Hall, Shriver said, "I don't like the question. The real question is what to do in the future, and I think people down there have a lot of good ideas and they should be acted on. What happened in the past nobody can do anything about. We can only look to the future."

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 3

importance of every life to our own existence."

The free community event will feature ballet folklorico dance by Herencia Mexicana, musical performances from five bands including Horny Toad, Viva Malpache, LA-based Inner City Soul, Upground and Columbian-based Very Be Careful. Traditional altars will be on display. Vendors will be selling jewelry, clothing, art work and traditional food. Acknowledgment of youth and community leaders will occur during the event.

"The movement to establish the Pico Youth & Family Center was born when we responded to violence on this day with a vigil for peace and organized our first Dia de los Muertos event in 1998," said Oscar de la Torre, founder and director of the Pico Youth & Family Center. "Having its roots in indigenous tradition, this event is truly American."

"Unlike Halloween, we intend to call back the spirits of those who have passed on," he added. "This event is about peace and unity with the past and the present."

The Pico Youth & Family Center's mission is to: "Equip disenfranchised youth and their families with the leadership and advocacy skills needed to strengthen and sustain the community in which they live. To promote peace, unity and social justice by modeling cooperation and advancing educational and economic opportunity. We work to instill hope in our youth by engaging them in creating solutions to our community's problems."

LOCAL



Susan Tam/Daily Press

Cavalia creator Norman Latourelle stands by the stall of Templado, a horse who has been with trainers for more than a decade. Templado's mane must be braided when he is not performing, to keep him from accidentally pulling his hair out. The braids take more than an hour to do each time and are done by caretakers between shows.

Beach lot transformed into theatre production throughout the holidays

CAVALIA, from page 1

touring show.

The stage for Cavalia is not a ring because the audience faces the stage, Latourelle said. The 110-foot stage also is extremely steep, so that everyone can see, he said.

"In terms of design, everything is doubled, (compared to other productions)," Latourelle said.

The horses are tended to around the clock in their stables, as well as in their new paddock by the sea, which was created by trucking in 5 million pounds of materials, including a rock dust that is layered on top of the asphalt parking lot to provide cushioning.

The show uses 69 performers and 37 horses from all over the world, 18 of which are stallions.

Depending on the needs of the horses, shows will run five to six days a week, possibly through December. If the horses need rest, shows will be cut, which is why there are not too many advance ticket sales, Latourelle said.

"Some people say that the horses are treated better than the people (that work on the show)," Latourelle said.

Latourelle first came up with the idea for Cavalia 10 years ago in Drommondville, Quebec while working on a historical documentary production. He wrote the script for the show, which at one point, called for a horse to cross the stage.

"We had 125 performers. Every night when the horse walked across the stage, that's what people were looking at,

despite all the choreography of the performers that we put so much effort into," Latourelle said, adding it was the attention given to the horse that inspired him to explore the possibilities.

"I had no idea what a horse was ... a horse and camel was the same thing," Latourelle said, laughing. "Then, from that, I started to buy books, videos, and go to every event. Rodeo, dressage, jumping. Two or three years later, I bought horses. I called couple of friends who were doing stunts to come see what we can do.

"Five or six years ago, I saw video of (husband and wife team) Frédéric (Pignon) and Magali (Delgado) so I went to meet them. It was a revelation."

Latourelle thinks Santa Monica is the best venue in the world for his show.

When he first arrived more than a year ago, the show was set to be in downtown Los Angeles.

"When I first flew here, somebody picked me up and told me to hurry because they were late to the site. I said, 'no, no, I want to see the ocean,' because I am from the East, and I want to see the Pacific," he said.

When he saw the pier, Latourelle instantly decided that he had to have the show there, despite restrictions by the city. The City Council voted unanimously in September to allow the show.

"... It's not a circus, it is a theater," he said. "We had to fight for it.

"Well, this is the perfect spot. It's the most fabulous site. Look at the view of the ocean, he said, with a sweep of his arm.

"It's the best site."

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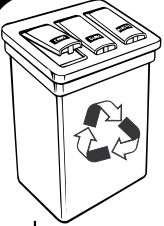
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STATE

STATE BRIEFS

Deputies stumble upon assault weapons

By The Associated Press

BARSTOW — Deputies helping two men in a pickup truck conked out in the Mojave Desert allegedly found a cache of weapons and ammunition in the vehicle, including assault rifles.

Andrew Dominguez, 22, and Ryan Kidwell, 21, both of La Habra, were arrested earlier this week and booked for investigation of possession of illegal weapons, investigators said. Bail was set at \$15,000 each.

At 4:15 a.m., deputies were called to help a towing company locate a disabled 2003 Ford pickup off Interstate 15 near Hodges Road. They found the pickup and the weapons inside, said Sgt. Doug Hubbard of the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department.

In addition to an AK-47, an AR-15 and magazines containing hundreds of rounds of ammunition, Dominguez and Kidwell also had several handguns, including two that were concealed and loaded, the sergeant said.

There were no other details.

LA officials look toward future of trash

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The City Council wants to peer 20 years into the future of trash disposal.

The council voted Wednesday to pay for a \$100,000 study on urban landfills using money from a trust fund created to benefit neighbors of Sunshine Canyon Landfill. It's the last of the \$1 million community amenities trust fund financed a decade ago by the dump's operator.

Councilman Greig Smith said the \$100,000 approved Wednesday will help planning for landfills over the next 20 years.

"We want to look at all the alternatives that are out there," Smith said. "We need to bring in some experts to look at what other jurisdictions are doing."

Smith recently returned from a trip to Europe, where he met with officials to discuss how various countries handle their trash. He said he plans to meet in coming weeks with various neighborhood councils to discuss his findings with them.

The trust fund was used to offset the impact of the years of operation at the landfill, which currently is located in unincorporated Los Angeles County but has gotten city clearance to expand into the northern San Fernando Valley community of Granada Hills.

Sunshine Canyon operator Browning Ferris Industries created the fund, with the money being used for a park, a nature center at a nearby school and other improvements.

Mayor James Hahn has promised he will stop dumping the city's trash in Sunshine Canyon by 2006.

Drug raids net arrests

By The Associated Press

COSTA MESA — Five people were arrested during raids by gang-unit detectives investigating an Orange County methamphetamine sales operation.

During the raids Wednesday night at two Costa Mesa homes, investigators also seized drugs and weapons and found three illegal immigrants recently smuggled from Mexico and held against their will, police said.

The raids came after a two-month investigation into methamphetamine sales by a Costa Mesa street gang, detectives said. Undercover purchases of the drugs were made five times during the probe.

David Salgado, 24, Raul Valencia, 24, Dulce Alvarez, 21, and Maria Vargas, 20, all of Costa Mesa, were arrested and booked for investigation of trafficking methamphetamines. Jusiry Toscano, 24, also of Costa Mesa, was booked for being a felon with a firearm.

About five ounces of methamphetamine, a handgun, four rifles and a shotgun were confiscated.

The three people recently smuggled in from Mexico said they were being held until relatives paid money owed to smugglers. They were turned over to the Immigration Customs Enforcement Service.

Schwarzenegger agenda may be tough to reach

By The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's failure to make a dent in the Democrats' big majorities in the California Legislature, despite extensive campaigning for Republicans in key districts, could make it tougher for him to enact his agenda.

"By and large, I think it's clear that the Democrats in the Legislature have nothing to fear from the governor and they can deal with him as equals, as we did this year," Senate President Pro Tem John Burton said Wednesday.

"That club is not there," he added, referring to the threat that Democrats in marginal districts could lose their seats if they didn't go along with the Republican governor.

Fending off tough Republican challenges in eight swing districts, Democrats kept 48 of 80 Assembly seats and 25 of 40 Senate seats — the same numbers they have now.

Schwarzenegger made campaign appearances for all eight of those GOP contenders but failed to sway voters.

STATE STATE BRIEFS



Voting machines work in California

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Electronic voting appeared to regain some credibility in California on Election Day and could be bound for wider use in the future — if the results stand.

Election officials and other observers said California’s experience with touch screen machines largely mirrored that of the nation, where scattered problems were reported but apparently fell short of the miscounts and tampering that had been feared.

The California secretary of state’s office called the performance of the technology reassuring but declined to draw any conclusions until returns and monitoring were analyzed.

“The secretary is not prepared to say anything more than ‘good thing we got through the election and good thing we didn’t have any problems,’” said Caren Daniels-Meade, a spokeswoman for Secretary of State Kevin Shelley.

The voting machines were used in areas with nearly a third of the state’s 16.5 million registered voters.

In the March primary, many polls in San Diego County didn’t open on time because of computer malfunctions. Machines failed in Alameda County after some equipment was shipped without fully charged batteries. In Orange County, malfunctions caused thousands of people to use the wrong ballot.

After the mishaps, Shelley put 10 counties with electronic voting through a grueling array of extra security, prompting many disgruntled registrars to say he was overstepping his authority.

California split in political realm

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — When it comes to politics, California has a split personality. Presidential election returns in California Tuesday followed a familiar east-west fault line, with Democratic nominee John Kerry generally dominating the more urban, liberal coastal counties while President Bush piled up large margins on conservative turf inland.

Perhaps appropriately, Democrats dominate the left side of the map, Republicans the right.

For example, unofficial returns showed the Massachusetts senator carried eight of 10 votes in San Francisco County, the heartland of California liberalism. He also won Los Angeles County by about a 2-to-1 margin.

By comparison, Bush carried seven of 10 votes in Modoc County in the northeast corner of the state, and the president ran up about a 2-1 margin in Placer County in the Sierra foothills. The Republican president also notched comfortable margins in the Republican-tilting Inland Empire — San Bernardino and Riverside counties.

“It’s still east vs. west in California,” said Bob Mulholland, a spokesman for the state Democratic Party.

Commando faces court martial

By The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — A military lawyer has recommended that a U.S. Navy commando not face a court-martial for allegedly abusing Iraqi prisoners, including one who died at Abu Ghraib prison, the sailor’s defense lawyer said Wednesday.

Problems with evidence presented at a pretrial hearing led the Navy lawyer to instead recommend nonjudicial or administrative punishment, attorney John Tranberg said. He declined to discuss the contents of the report, much of which is classified.

The recommendation from Lt. Cmdr. Andrew Henderson will be considered by Joseph Maguire, the rear admiral in charge of the Navy’s special warfare branch, who will make the final decision on what charges, if any, the SEAL should face.

Jeff Bender, a spokesman for Naval Special Warfare Command in Coronado, said he could not comment until the admiral makes his decision. It is unclear when that will come.

The recommendation could signal problems ahead in the Navy’s efforts to prosecute seven members of a Sea, Air, Land unit known as Seal Team-7 for abusing Iraqi prisoners. Charges were dismissed last week against one SEAL. A second received administrative sanctions Friday in exchange for his testimony against his comrades.

Citizens turned away on athletic facility

By The Associated Press

ORANGE COUNTY — The Orange County registrar rejected two petitions seeking to stop the proposed development of a 29-acre athletic facility at Junipero Serra High School in San Juan Capistrano.

The petitions lacked the necessary 1,752 valid signatures, the registrar of voters said this week. The petitions, designed to force a citywide vote, sought to overturn City Council approval of development plans at the school.

The petitions were forwarded to the registrar Oct. 13 for review and verification.

One petition dealt with architectural components of the project including athletic fields, and the other dealt with the development agreement between the city and Junipero Serra High that included a head tax for each student.

7 Deadly Mistakes That Will Cost You Thousands When You Sell Your Home

WESTSIDE – A new report has just been released which reveals 7 costly mistakes that most homeowners make when selling their home, and a 9 Step System that can help you sell your home fast and for the most amount of money.

This industry report shows clearly how the traditional ways of selling homes have become increasingly less and less effective in today’s market. The fact of the matter is that fully three quarters of homesellers don’t get what they want for their home and become disillusioned and – worse – financially disadvantaged when they put their home on the market.

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make 7 deadly mistakes that cost them literally thousands of dollars. The good news is that each and every one of these mistakes is entirely preventable.

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WHAT'S PLAYING ...

RAY
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Starring: Jamie Foxx, Regina King, Kerry Washington

BIRTH
Even a mildly disappointing third act twist cannot mitigate the intensity of "Birth," which ranks among the year's best.
Starring: Nicole Kidman, Lauren Bacall

SAW
Gratuitously violent, unoriginal and entirely too loud. Proof that atmospherics and gore alone do not a compelling serial killer thriller make.
Starring: Cary Elwes, Danny Glover

IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE
As the designated interpreters of the director's scattershot musings, Phoenix and Danes are hopelessly lost.
Starring: Joaquin Phoenix, Clare Danes

THE GRUDGE
Americanized version of a commercially successful, albeit humdrum Japanese horror flick is silly rather than chilling.
Starring: Sarah Michelle Gellar

SURVIVING CHRISTMAS
It's entirely likely star Ben Affleck will come to rue this wreck even more than last year's notorious flop, "Gigli."
Starring: Ben Affleck, James Gandolfini

SIDEWAYS
A fantastic movie from Alexander Payne, who may very well be America's most provocative cinematic storyteller.
Starring: Paul Giamatti, Virginia Madsen

UNDERTOW
The cast imbues every scene with genuine emotion, working within the confines of a rich, intense narrative.
Starring: Dermot Mulroney, Jamie Bell

SHALL WE DANCE?
It's pure pabulum, set to Rodgers and Hammerstein numbers. Better to sit this one out.
Starring: Richard Gere, Susan Sarandon

TEAM AMERICA: WORLD POLICE
Isn't as consistently smart or amusing as the irreverent creators' TV series, "South Park," or their previous forays into feature filmdom.
Starring: Trey Parker, Matt Stone

P.S.
Credulity is stretched to the limits, and despite the solid work from an excellent cast the film fails to fully engage.
Starring: Laura Linney, Topher Grace

TAXI
Unless your destination is Dudsville, this is one "Taxi" you should certainly avoid hailing.
Starring: Queen Latifah, Jimmy Fallon

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS
One of the most entertaining sports films ever made.
Starring: Billy Bob Thornton, Derek Luke

RAISE YOUR VOICE
Pop princess's latest offering is another bowl of sugar-coated pap that will have little girls everywhere asking for bigger spoons.
Starring: Hilary Duff, Rita Wilson

I HEART HUCKABEES
Inspired casting, a retro-European production design and the director's smart incorporation/exploration of several conflicting existential philosophies combine to make this one of the most interesting comedies in recent memory.
Starring: Jude Law, Naomi Watts, Dustin Hoffman, Lily Tomlin

Marisa Tomei shows her bad girl side in 'Alfie'

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

Having starred in films such as "My Cousin Vinny" and "In the Bedroom," Marisa Tomei is no stranger to the feisty girlfriend role. This time around, she stars as one of the many women in "Alfie's" harem. Not surprisingly, the Oscar winner is as spirited and opinionated off-camera. We chat with the Brooklyn-native about the joys of doing "naughty things" and America's sexual revolution.

QUESTION: Do women really prefer bad boys over good guys?

MARISA TOMEI: Bad boys, probably, yeah. I personally have encountered that a bunch of times. Every woman does, at some point, encounter some kind of rogue who drives you mad. I think the bad boy thing allows the woman to be the bad girl that she really is inside. I don't mean in a rogue kind of way, but just to be free or wild or go on adventures and do naughty things.

Q: Alfie asks your character, Julie, for a second chance, but she doesn't give him one. Why not?

MT: He's kind of an ass. He's kind of revealed himself to be not very deep.

Q: Could you envision anyone besides Jude Law playing Alfie?

MT: I can't, actually. He gets away with a lot with those eyes.

Q: Why remake "Alfie?" Wasn't the first one good enough?

MT: It's a fantastic movie. A perfect movie. I'm sure (the remake) is a little head-scratching, like, "Alfie? Why are they doing it again? It was a great movie." But this is a different take on it. The culture has changed, there's been a sexual revolution — that's what interesting about it, revisiting this character in these times. It honors the classic that the original "Alfie" is, and yet it invents its own thing, too.

Q: You're from Brooklyn, which in recent years has become quite the hot spot. What's your take on the hip quotient of your old neighborhood?

MT: It's very fascinating to me that Brooklyn has become, like, THE cool place. It was a great place to grow up, and I'm glad I've got that Brooklyn blood in me. But it's great for me now, because if there's some happening party off of Smith Street or someplace, I know how to get there.

Q: What haven't you tried yet on film that you'd like to?

MT: I'd like to do something about the women's liberation movement in the '60s, or even about the suffragettes. They did something recently on HBO, but I think there's still a lot of characters (from that movement) that are pretty fascinating.



Law lays it down in 'Alfie'

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

Jude Law acquits himself quite smoothly as the incorrigible bachelor Alfie Elkins, reprising the role that made Michael Caine a star back in 1966. Society's sexual mores have changed quite a bit since then (though, in America, it appears they're changing

Review

back) and so, too, has the timbre of "Alfie." Where the original film was somewhat sensational and ultimately a sober-minded study of the pitfalls of serial seduction, this revisiting is much lighter in tone, decidedly more farcical. Alfie, circa '66, was a cad; the new model is metrosexual to the max. Law's a movie star who's awfully easy on the eyes and boundlessly talented. As a British limo driver in Manhattan who routinely extends full service to his wealthy female clientele, Law glides through this one with impressive ease and prepossessing charm. Along the way, he's escorted by a bevy of "birds" that includes Marisa Tomei as Alfie's "semi-permanent-quasi-sort-of-girlfriend," Susan Sarandon as the sexy older siren who beats him at his own game, Jane Krakowski's frustrated housewife, Sienna Miller as a beautiful but damaged "statue," and the eminently watchable Nia Long as his best bud's girl — the woman who ultimately forces Alfie to endure a painful reckoning. Mick Jagger and the Eurythmics' Dave Stewart contribute three fantastic original songs to the soundtrack, complimenting a delightful retro-hip score by composer John Powell. Charles Shyer ("Baby Boom," "Father of the Bride") directs.

(Rated R for sexual content, some language and drug use. Running time: 103 minutes)

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And the Oscar goes to the 'The Incredibles'

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

It's that time of year again. The studios have emptied out the end of summer/early fall garbage, and are ready to unveil the good stuff with eyes on prizes like Oscar, and all the extra coffer-filler such accolades tend to generate. For critics, it's a time when at least once a week we leave a screening room asking ourselves, "Was the film I just saw the best of the year?" Regarding the new Pixar wonder, "The Incredibles," my answer to that question is "Yes ... so far." We're barely into November but, boy, has visionary writer-director Brad Bird ("The Iron Giant," "The Simpsons") ever thrown down the gauntlet. "The Incredibles" boasts the total package: Great cast, invigorating storytelling, state-of-the-art 3-D animation and, best of all, that elusive quality known as movie magic. It's a wondrous feeling that grabs you right from the film's outset, and never lets go. This is a family film with an edge that you're going to want to see again and again.

When we meet Bob Parr, aka Mr. Incredible (voiced with deadpan cool by Craig T. Nelson), he's a celebrated masked crime-fighter with a sculpted, inverse-pyramid physique and a rubbery superhero sweetie, Elastigirl (Holly Hunter). After a few miscues and some costly lawsuits, the government suspends all superhero activity, and Mr. Incredible and his ilk are forced to take on civilian identities and retreat to the suburbs. Fifteen years later, a bloated Bob is an insurance adjuster living a life of quiet desperation with Elastigirl — now known as Helen — and their unnaturally-powered kids: the brooding teenage Violet, the lightning-quick ten-year-old Dash and drooling baby Jack-Jack.

Bob's itching to get back in the crime-fighting game, and he gets his chance when a mysterious communication summons him to a remote island for a top-secret assignment. Ah, but things aren't what they seem, and Mr. Incredible is soon in need of rescue, forcing Helen and her brood to suit up and swoop in. In the process they discover the true power of self-expression and clan unity. As The Incredibles' nemesis, Syndrome, Jason Lee is wickedly good, and director Bird damn near steals the show as the voice of diminutive fashion diva, Edna Mode. What fun. What a movie.

(Rated PG for action violence. Running time: 115 minutes)



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STATE

Suburban sprawl reaches Sierra Nevada area

BY JULIE CART
Associated Press Writer

MARTIS VALLEY — Migration to this high mountain valley north of Lake Tahoe has taken a stunning, evolutionary turn.

Formerly known for many thousands of deer and flocks of birds, the seasonal influx here is now marked by well-to-do vacationers flying in on private jets to a winter resort community that is about to become the largest in the Sierra Nevada.

Nearby Lake Tahoe's enduring popularity has bred an appetite for mountain living that it can no longer accommodate.

The result is the resort-sprawl that has been creeping for three decades into this 45,000-acre valley tucked between Truckee and the northern beaches of the azure lake.

Now, growth is on the verge of transforming Martis Valley into a checkerboard of 6,000 high-end homes and nearly 1 million square feet of commercial space with hotels and shopping centers.

If the projects stay on schedule, construction is expected to continue for the next 15 years.

Conservationists, the town of Truckee and California's attorney general are staunchly opposed to

the half-dozen gated golf and ski resort communities under construction or planned. The critics warn that population increases, traffic congestion and a shortage of affordable housing will destroy the bucolic appeal of a historic sawmill town.

The Placer County Board of Supervisors late last year approved a new master-plan for the valley and recently gave the go-ahead to the area's fifth subdivision.

In response to critics, board members say that they have modified the original 1975 plan that would have allowed 12,000 homes. And they note that most of the homes being built are hidden by trees and not visible from the valley floor.

Rex Bloomfield is the only board member opposed to the latest plan.

"There's a lot of concern about losing the sense of this part of the Sierra, the open meadow with its forested sides," Bloomfield said.

"What we are seeing is a big push to high-end subdivisions. We're talking about people who fly their jets in and spend a few weeks at their third or fourth home. I'm not sure that's the way we want to go. If it continues, in a generation or so, we may be scratching our heads and saying, 'We should have stopped it sooner.'"

The California Department of Fish and Game warned that the county's environmental study "substantially

understates project impacts to vegetation and wildlife, substantially overstates the value of proposed mitigation measures and improperly concludes that significant project impacts to vegetation and wildlife are mitigated to below a level of significance."

Wildlife biologists say a deer herd that used to number at least 10,000 has dwindled to 3,000 because of building in the valley over the past three decades. The development began with the Northstar ski area and an accompanying complex of vacation homes. The resort remains the nexus of much of the construction, which is being done by East-West Partners, based in Vail, Colo.

"It certainly has been a controversial plan, it's understandable," said David Tirman, project manager at Northstar. "Growth here is inevitable. The key is to carefully think and plan that growth. It's a balancing act. But I think development and protection of the environment, they are not mutually exclusive necessarily."

East-West Partners has set aside a \$5 million fund to purchase land in the valley for conservation as well as another fund for environmental projects in the region.

That's not enough for opponents who hope to halt or scale back the handful of projects awaiting approval.

"If you give up on this area then you're going to give up on the Tahoe-Truckee region," said Tom Mooers, executive director of Sierra Watch, a conservation group that opposes the scale of the planned communities in Martis Valley.

"This will happen everywhere. Is the Sierra Nevada going to be a high-altitude suburbia with a lot of golf courses, big developments and traffic congestion? Or is it going to be this majestic landscape? That's what's at stake here."

Similar arguments have helped persuade residents of Lake Tahoe, just a few miles away, to enact policies that impose strict limits on growth, making it one of the state's most protected communities.

This year, planning officials released just 225 single family home "allocations." An allocation is the first step

See GROWTH, page 13

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Activists call for improved migrant death counts

BY ANDREA ALMOND

Associated Press Writer

SAN DIEGO — Flying low over the Sonoran Desert, Border Patrol agents spotted a skeleton sprawled in the brush.

The harsh terrain just inside Arizona is a busy trafficking corridor for illegal immigrants; the person could have died while trying to sneak into the United States. But busy Interstate 8 runs nearby — the person could have been a slain U.S. citizen, a suicide, a runaway.

The Border Patrol is grappling with just how to count the dead found along the 2,000-mile U.S.-Mexico border. “It’s rarely a cut-and-dry decision,” said Joe Brigman, spokesman for Yuma Border Patrol. “In some cases, you just don’t know.”

Clues and documents found on the body east of Yuma let agents conclude the victim was indeed an immigrant — among 325 the Border Patrol counted in the fiscal year which ended Sept. 30, down from 340 the year before.

The agency says that its increased vigilance has helped reduce deaths among illegal immigrants.

Human rights activists say it’s in the government’s interest to keep that number low. They contend the agency tries to shave its count by excluding many skeletal remains, car-accident victims and bodies discovered by local law enforcement agencies.

Claudia Smith, a San Diego attorney with the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation, says the ad hoc counting methods lack consistency from one government agency to the next — and even sometimes from one Border Patrol sector to another.

For instance, in Arizona, the busiest stretch for illegal entries, migrants died in record numbers for the third straight year in fiscal 2004. The Border Patrol reported 177 deaths, the highest death toll ever for a single state. But medical examiner’s offices in Arizona put the toll even higher — about 221 deaths.

Andy Adame, spokesman for the Tucson Border Patrol sector, said local law enforcement agencies do not always notify the Border Patrol when they handle the death of a possible illegal immigrant.

Activists also blame the lack of a consistent tabulation strategy for the Border Patrol, which has 11,141 agents nationwide. Agents in Tucson, for instance, say they do not count the deaths of smugglers or guides.

“We count someone who is furthering their entry into the United States,” Adame said in a telephone interview. “And we feel smugglers and guides are just going back and forth, so they aren’t counted.”

Border Patrol officials in Washington, D.C., however, say it has been standard policy to include smugglers since 1998, when the tracking began.

Smith contends the Border Patrol has a political inter-

est in keeping the numbers low.

Last summer, the agency was embarrassed when the death toll increased despite high-profile efforts that included building rescue beacons in remote areas and launching an international campaign warning of the dangers of crossing through harsh terrain and dealing with smugglers.

This year, the U.S. government spent \$13 million to fly deported immigrants into the Mexican interior in hopes of deterring them from attempting another crossing.

Smith, who has tracked migrant deaths for 10 years, wrote a letter in June to Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Robert Bonner, protesting the methodology that allows “dozens of migrant deaths a year (to) go uncounted by the Bureau.”

She points to one notorious 2003 case — the deaths of 19 people found in a sweltering truck-trailer near Victoria, Texas. It was the deadliest immigrant-smuggling attempt in the United States in more than 15 years, but the numbers were not included in Border Patrol statistics, officials say, because they were found too far from the border.

The agency’s count typically only includes people found in 43 U.S. counties that are within a 100-mile-wide belt along the border with Mexico.

That method also excluded 11 people whose bodies were found in October 2002 in a sealed rail car in Denison, Iowa, and three bodies found in a rail car near Baytown, Texas, in July 2003.

“The American people have the right to know the human cost, the real human cost, of these policies,” Smith says.

Border Patrol officials bristle at the allegation they are undercounting deaths.

“We are very interested in knowing about any death discovered along the border,” said Mario Villareal, a Washington-based spokesman for Customs and Border Protection. “But every death at the border shouldn’t be assumed to be a migrant death.”

If bodies of suspected migrants are found far inside U.S. territory, agents likely would record them internally but not in the official death toll, he said.

“Unfortunately, there are deaths that occur every day throughout the country,” Villareal said. “Making a determination about a possible migrant death 200 or 300 miles from the border is outside our operational authority.”

The agency also only counts deaths of migrants found on the U.S. side of the border. On the other hand, Mexico tracks fatalities on either side of the line, but only those of Mexican nationals. Migrants who are from other countries, or whose national origin is uncertain, are omitted from the count, according to Mexico’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In 2004, it counted 286 such deaths. In each of the previous three years, Mexico’s death toll was higher than the total kept by the Border Patrol.

“Each government maintains their own system,” said Gloria Chavez, a Border Patrol spokeswoman. “There isn’t a common methodology for tracking migrant deaths.”

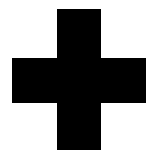
Some activists are calling for an independent agency to take charge of counting the dead.

“It’s time for some other entity to do the demographics and homework on this,” said the Rev. Robin Hoover, founder of Humane Borders, an organization that has set up water stations in the Sonoran desert for border crossers.

“We’re entitled to know the human cost of these (border control) programs,” Hoover said. “How can we possibly devise proper public policies if we don’t even have an accurate body count?”

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Growth taxing city’s infrastructure

GROWTH, from page 12

to getting a building permit that may never be issued.

That system has made Martis Valley and its expanse of private land all the more attractive to developers. The valley floor was formerly ranch land, used for cattle grazing and, at its fringes, timber harvesting. Though it has remained a popular destination for hiking, fishing and cross-country skiing, development has been altering the character of the valley since the 1970s.

A small airport sits on its northern rim, and the decades-old Northstar ski resort occupies much of the valley’s midsection. There are thousands of acres of undeveloped land, but much of it will be filled in by developments that have been approved by the Board of Supervisors.

In a region where longtime residents find they no longer would be able to afford their family home, posh resorts are not always welcome.

“We bought our home more than 10 years ago, and it has more than tripled in value,” said Tony Lashbrook, community development director for the town of Truckee. “I could not afford it today.”

During winter, what is normally a 15-minute drive from Kings Beach at Lake Tahoe north to Truckee can take three hours, residents say. Placer County’s growth plan considers the possibility of widening Highway 267, which bisects Martis Valley, from two lanes to four.

The Truckee City Council has opposed much of the growth in the valley, saying the town’s infrastructure and services would snap under the strain.

“Truckee bears the burden,” Mayor Joshua Susman said. “The people who will be serving these people will be living in the town of Truckee. We have our own problems with affordable housing. Development needs to pay its way.”

But Truckee, with a population of 15,000, has ambitious growth plans of its own. Current projects will add more than 1,000 homes, a hotel and two golf courses to the former railroad town. The town’s master plan would allow the population to swell to 50,000 in 20 years.

Half of the homes in Truckee are second homes and the vacation retreats in Martis Valley are occupied only a few weeks of the year. The idea of so many absentee homeowners with no emotional investment in the region worries some, who consider the shift from rural to suburban the biggest threat to the area.

Stefanie Olivieri runs a Truckee clothing store that has been in her family’s hands for three generations. She shares the ambivalence of some businesspeople here who say the growth will be good for business, but bad for the community.

“Oh, I’ll make money from it,” she said. “But I’ll lose some things that are very important to me, that sense of community, the small town atmosphere. This planning is driven by greed and development. People don’t become outspoken until the bulldozer is outside their door. But it’s here.”

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NATIONAL

Reid: New leader of Senate Democrats, steady, not flashy

BY MARK SHERMAN

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Sen. Harry Reid regulated gambling in Nevada when organized crime ran some casinos, and he lived to tell about it. His steely resolve in a sometimes dangerous job could come in handy as the new Democratic leader in a more conservative Senate.

The soft-spoken Reid will, in essence, be the Democratic Party's most powerful elected official, thrust into a position of prominence by the twin defeats of current Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle of South Dakota and Sen. John Kerry.

Until now, Reid was Daschle's deputy, best known by C-Span audiences as the constant Democratic presence on the Senate floor. He focused on the chamber's sometimes arcane procedure — the kind of work that wins respect from colleagues but is virtually invisible to the public.

He soon will preside over a group of Senate Democrats generally regarded as liberal. And the caucus will be smaller by four because of Democratic defeats Tuesday.

Republicans might find it hard to pigeonhole Reid as a liberal since his anti-abortion, anti-gun-control views are contrary to Democratic dogma. He was among the minority of Democrats who voted for a ban on certain late-term abortions and he opposed extending the ban on assault weapons, winning the endorsement of the National Rifle Association.

Yet no Democrat is challenging him for leader.

"I think Harry Reid has done the work, put in the time," said Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., a strong supporter of both abortion rights and gun control. "He is a very good floor leader, very smart. I like the fact that he is a Westerner, frankly, because I am convinced we have to build the West here. So I think he is the logical choice at this time."

The son of a hard-rock miner from

Searchlight, Nev., Reid also has been a staunch defender of the mining industry, upsetting environmentalists who otherwise give him high marks. Critics also have said Reid has been too willing to help mining and other interests with financial ties to members of his family.

While Reid's stands on some social issues are more conservative than those of most other Senate Democrats, he has been the most vocal opponent of building a nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain, roughly 100 miles from Las Vegas, an extremely important issue to Nevadans.

He also stood with Daschle, whom Republicans attacked as an obstructionist because he led Democrats in blocking Bush nominees to federal judgeships and GOP-written legislation to limit lawsuits.

Reid lacks a commanding television presence, but he has been the Democrats' day-to-day leader in the Senate for six years. He received a lot of the credit when Vermont Sen. Jim Jeffords left the Republican party in 2001, handing control of the Senate to the Democrats.

"He's got a quiet way of sneaking up on you," said Sig Rogich, a longtime friend and Republican strategist from Nevada. "He's not flashy, but he's very steady. He does his homework."

Reid occasionally has shown flashes of anger. A year ago, he spoke on the Senate floor for 8 1/2 hours straight, upset that Republicans were planning to spend 30 consecutive hours talking about four judgeships Democrats had blocked.

"Amateur leadership," Reid said, assessing Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn.

He later apologized to Frist.

But something else Reid said at the time will likely be put to the test now that Republicans have expanded their majority and replaced moderate Democrats with conservative Republicans.

"We cannot be taken for granted," Reid said. "We cannot be thought of as nothing."

Manager of deadly Cramer wildfire leaves Forest Service in new deal

By The Associated Press

SALMON, Idaho — Alan Hackett, the U.S. Forest Service incident commander when two firefighters died in the Cramer fire in 2003, has left the agency, but officials declined to release details of his departure.

Hackett's attorney, Aaron Thompson of Pocatello, confirmed that "an agreement has been reached" and that Hackett is no longer employed at the Salmon-Challis National Forest. He said he could not discuss details.

Jean McNeil, a spokeswoman with the U.S. attorney's office in Boise, said the office had started a criminal investigation of the Cramer fire, but shifted into a mediation role. The agreement ending Alan Hackett's employment at the Forest Service was part of that mediation, McNeil said.

Regional Forester Jack Troyer announced in July that six Salmon-Challis employees faced discipline over their actions on the Cramer fire, but the employees' names were not released. The proposed actions ranged from suspension to firing, Troyer said at the time.

Troyer could not be immediately reached for comment by The Associated Press. The regional spokeswoman, Erin O'Connor, referred questions to the U.S. attorney's office.

The deaths brought the Forest Service under close scrutiny.

Jeff Allen, 24, and Shane Heath, 22, were members of a helitack firefighting crew who rappelled into an area above the Cramer fire to clear a helicopter landing pad. When the fire shifted, they radioed for help at least twice but died when they were overtaken by smoke and flames. A helicopter had not been dispatched in time, and it was too smoky for the pilot to find the men.

An investigation by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration found that fire managers broke all 10 basic safety standards listed under the Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations, and that the Forest Service committed serious, willful and repeated safety violations.

A separate government investigation had similar findings.

INTERNATIONAL



U.S. jets hit Fallujah ahead of expected offensive

BY ROBERT H. REID

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — U.S. forces pounded parts of Fallujah from the air and ground Thursday, targeting insurgents in a city where American forces were said to be gearing up for a major offensive. Three British soldiers were killed in central Iraq.

Al-Jazeera television broadcast a threat by an unspecified armed group to strike oil installations and government buildings if Americans launch an all-out assault on Fallujah. The report was accompanied by a videotape showing about 20 armed men brandishing various weapons, including a truck-mounted machine gun.

The three British soldiers were in the Black Watch regiment, the forces moved closer to the Iraqi capital to back up American troops, the British government said Thursday in announcing their deaths. The soldiers were part of an 850-strong unit deployed last week to allow U.S. Marines to reposition in Anbar province, home of guerrilla strongholds of Fallujah, Ramadi, Hit and Husaybah.

The move from the relatively peaceful sector to the American controlled zone, where troops come under daily attack from insurgents, carries the risk of higher casualties and is politically sensitive for British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Early Thursday, U.S. aircraft fired on several barricaded militant positions in northeast and southeastern Fallujah, the military said. Later in the day, U.S. artillery batteries fired two to three dozen 155mm shells at insurgent bastions in the city, the military said.

Insurgents and U.S. forces also clashed briefly Thursday in Ramadi, west of Fallujah, but there were no U.S. casualties, the military added.

The fresh action followed overnight fighting on the southeastern outskirts of Fallujah after insurgents fired a rocket-propelled grenade at Marines. Two insurgents were killed while no U.S. casualties were reported, said Lt. Nathan Braden, of 1st Marine Division. Hospital officials in Fallujah reported three civilians were injured in the overnight shelling.

U.S. forces are preparing for a major offensive in Fallujah, west of Baghdad, and other Sunni militant strongholds in hopes of curbing the insurgency ahead of January's election.

An Iraqi National Guard patrol was hit Thursday by a car bomb in Iskandariyah, an insurgent hot spot 30 miles south of Baghdad, killing three people and wounding 15, Iraqi hospital officials said.

A suicide car bomber killed three and wounded nine others when his explosive-laden vehicle barreled into the city government offices in Dujail, 46 miles north of the capital, police said.

On Wednesday, a U.S. soldier was killed and another wounded in a roadside bombing 12 miles south of the capital. A suicide driver detonated his vehicle at a checkpoint near Baghdad airport, injuring nine Iraqis and forcing U.S. troops to close the main route for hours.

Gunmen killed a senior Oil Ministry official, Hussein Ali al-Fattal, after he left his house in the Yarmouk district of western Baghdad, police said. Al-Fattal was the general manager of a state-owned company that distributes petroleum byproducts.

The violence served as a grim reminder of Iraq's rapidly deteriorating security situation, which President Bush must address now that he has been re-elected.

On Thursday, Al-Jazeera aired video of three Jordanian truck drivers taken hostage by a militant group calling itself Jaish al-Islam, or Army of Islam. The men appealed to their country to warn its citizens against working with coalition forces in Iraq, Al-Jazeera said, although their voices were not audible on the tape.

They were part of a convoy of seven truckers who came under attack Tuesday near Fallujah, according to an official at the Jordanian Truckers Association. One of the drivers was killed in the attack, two others are still missing and a fourth man escaped, he said.

A militant group, the Ansar al-Sunnah Army, posted a videotape on a Web site showing the beheading of man it said was an Iraqi army major captured in Mosul. The group called Maj. Hussein Shanoun an "apostate" and said he confessed to participating in attacks against insurgents.

Just before his death, Shanoun warned Iraqi soldiers and police against "dealing with the infidel troops," meaning the Americans.

In other developments Thursday:

— Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi reaffirmed that Italy would keep its 3,000 troops in Iraq for as long as the Iraqi government wanted. His comments, following a meeting with Iraq's interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, came a day after Hungary said it would withdraw its 300 non-combat troops from Iraq by March 31, undercutting Bush's effort to hold the multinational force together.

■ Allawi received encouragement from Pope John Paul II, a staunch opponent of the war, for building democratic institutions in Iraq. John Paul received Allawi at the Vatican and in a brief speech read for the frail pontiff by an aide said he was praying "for all the victims of terrorism and wanton violence" and for those working for the reconstruction of Iraq.

■ Iraqis who live outside the country will be allowed

to vote in the January national balloting, the Iraqi election commission said. Commission spokesman Fareed Ayar said the government planned to establish voting centers in countries with large Iraqi populations.

■ The body of a Kurdish contractor missing for three months was found in a deserted area outside Kirkuk, an Iraqi official said. Youssef Ahmed, who did business with the interim Iraqi government, was found shot in the head with his hands bound behind his back, said Maj. Gen. Anwar Mohammed of the Iraqi National Guard.

■ The international medical aid group Medecins Sans Frontieres said in Belgium it was pulling out of Iraq because of the escalating violence and targeting of aid workers. The organization is also known as Doctors Without Borders.

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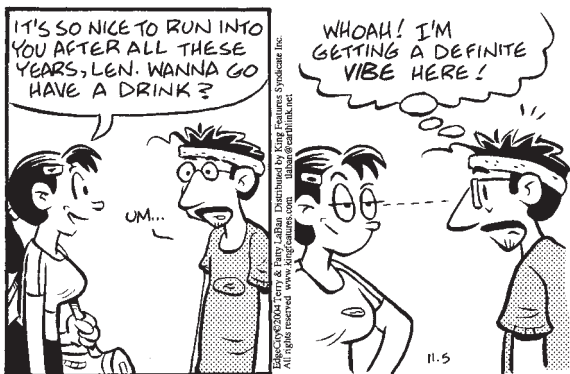


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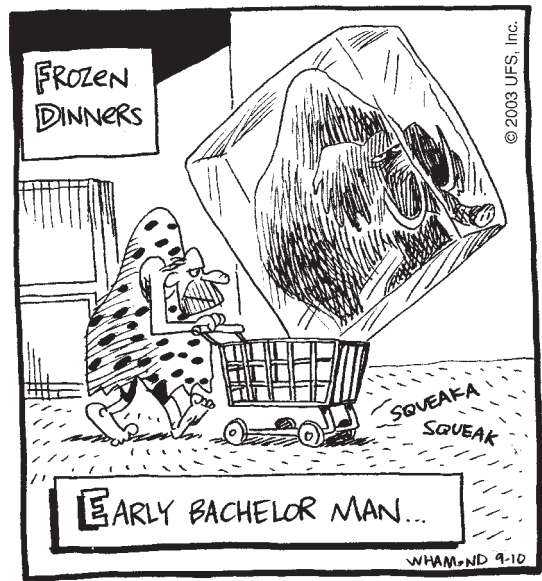
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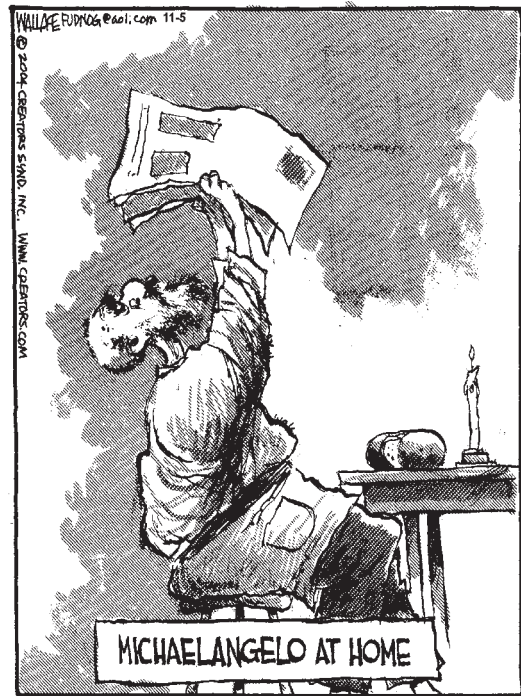
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11-5

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Universal Pictures abuzz with new movie release

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Universal Pictures, citing good buzz from early screenings, has moved up the release date of “Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason” one week to Nov. 12.

Previously scheduled to debut Nov. 19, the movie will instead expand from about 500 theaters to 2,500 theaters nationwide on that date, the studio said this week.

“After the tremendous response to our early press and word-of-mouth screenings — as well as from exhibitors ... we looked at the competitive landscape and realized that we had the goods for our target audience and the flexibility to deliver the film ... in selected markets one week earlier,” Nikki Rocco, Universal Pictures’ president of distribution, said in a statement.

“This will give us a jump-start on the holiday business,” Rocco said.

“Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason” stars Renee Zellweger, Hugh Grant and Colin Firth reprising the roles they originated in 2001’s “Bridget Jones’s Diary.”

LONDON — Singer Marc Almond says he hopes to make a full recovery from injuries sustained in a motorcycle crash last month.

A message posted on Almond’s Web site says he’s recovering in the hospital and “is confident he will get back to full health eventually, though he realizes it is going to take time.”

“He is overwhelmed by the amount of support shown and says it has been a big help,” said the message, posted Wednesday.

Almond, 48, of 1980s duo Soft Cell, was a passenger on a motorcycle that collided with a car in London’s financial district on Oct 17. Police said the singer suffered

severe head injuries when he was thrown from the bike.

Soft Cell earned a No. 1 hit in Britain and major U.S. airplay in 1981 with “Tainted Love,” their synthesizer-laden cover of a classic Gloria Jones soul song.

Almond and fellow band member David Ball broke up in 1984, and Almond began a successful solo career. He scored a major hit with a 1989 duet with Gene Pitney on Pitney’s “Something’s Gotten Hold of My Heart.”

NEW YORK — NBC’s Al Roker reports on his health since his gastric bypass surgery, and the potential dangers and benefits involved in the procedure, in an hour-long special to air Friday night on “Dateline NBC.”

Roker, the weatherman on the network’s “Today” Show, underwent gastric bypass surgery two and one-half years ago.

“For anybody who thinks that this is a magic bullet — you do this and it’s done. You’re making a mistake. It’s not,” he says.

In the four-part report, “Weighing the Risks,” Roker talks to teens, parents and a physician about some possible dangers, and whether teens have a tougher time dealing with emotional and physical changes that come with the surgery.

DETROIT — John Mellencamp will perform at half-time of the Thanksgiving Day game between the Detroit Lions and the Indianapolis Colts.

Mellencamp will perform for the NFL and the United Way on Nov. 25. He’ll sing “R.O.C.K. in the U.S.A.” and his new single, “Walk Tall.” Accompanying Mellencamp on “Walk Tall” will be singer-producer Kenneth “Babyface” Edmonds.

The theme of the halftime show will be “Join the Team: Millions of People Giving Back in Hundreds of

Ways to Celebrate One America.”

NEW YORK — Freddie Prinze Jr. is set to do television.

The 28-year-old “Scooby-Doo” actor has signed a deal with Warner Bros. and ABC to create and star in his own sitcom.

Although the clean-cut Prinze has popped up for guest spots on “Boston Legal” and “Friends,” he’s most noted for his turns in both “Scooby-Doo” movies and the slasher film “I Know What You Did Last Summer.”

“This was something I wanted to do for a long time,” Prinze told The Associated Press while on the set of his latest movie.

“It’s tough working on the road all the time. I love my family. I love my wife. I miss them. I want to be in Los Angeles. A TV schedule, especially half-hour, allows you the opportunity to go and make movies when you want to make movies and then still be able to satisfy yourself creatively from home.”

In the sitcom, Prinze will portray a Puerto Rican raised in a household of women, an experience he said is based on his own life. Prinze was raised by his mother in New Mexico after his father, “Chico and the Man” star Freddie Prinze, committed suicide in 1977.

“I told them I won’t do TV unless I’m the executive producer, unless I’m the creator, unless I’m a writer on the show,” Prinze said. “If that’s a problem, I understand that and respect that. I have to make sure it’s represented the way it is. The only way to do that is if I have one boss and not seven.”

Prinze, who’s married to “Buffy the Vampire Slayer” star Sarah Michelle Gellar, is filming the coming-of-age drama “Nailed Right In” with Alec Baldwin and Mena Suvari in New York.

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