



Santa Monica Daily Press

November 5-6, 2005

A newspaper with issues

Volume 4, Issue 238

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

5 13 34 40 46

Meganumber: 6

Jackpot: \$22 Million

FANTASY 5

5 7 12 14 25

DAILY 3

Daytime: 4 3 7

Evening: 2 2 9

DAILY DERBY

1st: 06 Whirl Win

2nd: 04 Big Ben

3rd: 08 Gorgeous George

RACE TIME: 1.43.78

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

NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

Tyler Ing, 20, told the London (Ontario) Free Press in October that his parents "looked at me real weird for a few minutes" but that now "they're proud. My mom shows the (Guinness Book of World Records) to all her friends." The entry that she shows is her son's honor, recently achieved, for having the world's longest nipple hair, certified at 8.89 cm (3.5 inches).

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 309th day of 2005.
There are 56 days left in the year.

Four hundred years ago, on Nov. 5, 1605, the "Gunpowder Plot" failed as Guy Fawkes was seized before he could blow up the English Parliament.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Good taste is better than bad taste, but bad taste is better than no taste at all."

ARNOLD BENNETT
ENGLISH POET, AUTHOR AND CRITIC

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Bubba Gump opens to the masses

After years of circling the waters, Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. has finally anchored in Santa Monica

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Wait staff at Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. spent Thursday finishing their training for the restaurant's grand opening, which is being held Saturday.

SM PIER — After six years of waiting, Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. has finally opened its doors to the public.

"We're very excited, it's been a long road," said Scott Barnett, president and CEO of Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. "It's a tremendous location, and in the restaurant business, it's all about location, location, location."

Bubba Gump first set its sights on Santa Monica in 1999. But because of a bitter legal dispute between City Hall and Naia Sheffield, the owner of the previous restaurant, the Boathouse — anchored on the west end of the pier for 50 years — Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. treaded in the turbulent waters waiting for a resolution.

Sheffield claimed she was unfairly kicked off the pier to make way for Bubba Gump, but officials argued that Bubba Gump's business plan was better.

See **BUBBA GUMP**, page 16

Louisiana officials tap into local market for more filming business

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

OCEAN AVENUE — Despite recent devastation from hurricanes, representatives from Louisiana urged movie producers this week to film in their home state, saying the tax incentives available would make the trip worthwhile.

Sen. Jay Dardenne (R-Baton Rouge) and Baton Rouge Mayor Melvin "Kip" Holden were part of a delegation from Louisiana addressing 100 movie producers at Le Merigot Hotel on Thursday. They promoted a tax incentive package approved prior to the

destruction wrought by Hurricane Katrina. Due to Katrina's economic impact, the incentives couldn't be more timely, they said.

The Aug. 25 hurricane had winds of up to 100 miles per hour along the Gulf Coast and is believed to have caused \$26 billion in damage to parts of Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana.

Breaches in at least one levee allowed water from Lake Pontchartrain to inundate sections of New Orleans. Canal Street was literally a canal, according to some reports. Dozens of people were

See **LOUISIANA**, page 17

Worth 1,000 words



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Artist John Kilduff puts the finishing touch on a commissioned landscape painting titled 'California Incline.' Kilduff, an art school graduate, specializes in 'plein air' (painting done on location).

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HOROSCOPE

Changs happen, Taurus

Santa Monica Daily Press

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ Others might dote on and praise you. Still, you know who you are and you don't allow praise to go to your head. A partner or associate pitches in when you least expect it. Insights keep blowing you away. Please internalize these emotional openings. Tonight: Out on the town.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Work individually with a partner or friend. He or she means well, though sometimes you might have a difficult time seeing it. Others seek you out. Right now, take the detached, more independent stand. Tonight: Changes just happen.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You need to be willing to let go and allow others to take control. If you do, associates, friends and family will feel much more comfortable with you. A partner might have odd jobs that shake you up. Consider this upheaval, and move past black-and-white thinking. Tonight: Listen to someone carefully.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Clear out last-minute errands and projects this morning. By the afternoon, you will want to let go and socialize. Someone feels very strongly about you, forcing you to revise your thinking or causing you to make a decision. Tonight: Go with the flow.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Though you feel more kidlike and free in the morning, by the afternoon, you are saddled with responsibilities. Bite the bullet and do what is needed. Wherever you put your personal touch, there is a creative or caring tone. Tonight: Make a favorite meal.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Handle a personal matter in the a.m., because by the afternoon, you want to be carefree and happy. If you are single, a relationship might be brewing. If you are attached, you connect more deeply with a loved one. Why not let go and relax more? Tonight: Live it up.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ What you say makes a difference, but your actions are as important, if not more so. Your ability to be caring, supportive and nurturing emerges. Expect the unexpected, and you will be A-OK. Tonight: Easy does it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Deal with financial matters with your usually strong hand. You have many different ways or options of expressing your caring. Try to distance yourself from your traditional mode, and do something unusual. Tonight: Let your caring show and verbalize your feelings for a change.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Use the morning well, when the Moon is in your sign. If there is any time you can influence others and have an impact, it is now. By the afternoon you might be evaluating a purchase. What becomes clear is that you cannot control others. Tonight: Express your feelings through a token of affection.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You might not get going until midday, but then you are like a tornado let loose. You spring and turn, zeroing in on what you want. Don't think you can hide your feelings from someone special. Don't even try. Tonight: A surprise communication.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ You might feel more social in the morning. By late afternoon, you want to hide out and use your time to be with someone you care about. Make yourself vulnerable. Allow others to express their deeper feelings. Tonight: Be selective with your company.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Use the a.m. to touch base with family or someone you have to answer to. Let your hair down and allow yourself to just be this afternoon. You cannot hide your feelings. Why not let someone know? Tonight: A good time is had by all.

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PUBLISHER Ross Furukawaross@smdp.com	ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE Rob Schwenkerschwenker@smdp.com	NIGHT EDITOR Michael Tittinger ..somechum@smdp.com
EDITOR Carolyn Sackariasoneditor@smdp.com	ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE Stewart O'Dellstewarto@smdp.com	CLASSIFIEDS SALES MANAGER Annie Kotokanniek@smdp.com
STAFF WRITER Ryan Hyattryanh@smdp.com	TRAFFIC MANAGER Connie Sommerville ...connies@smdp.com	CIRCULATION Keith Wyatt
SANTA MONICA PARENTING Nina Furukawanina@smdp.com	PRODUCTION MANAGER Alejandro Cesar Cantarero IIalex@smdp.com	CIRCULATION Glenn Bolan
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Fabian Lewkowicz	NIGHT EDITOR Lori Luechtefeldlori@smdp.com	SPECIAL PROJECTS Dave Danforthdave@smdp.com
ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE Robbie P. Piubenirob@smdp.com		MASCOT Maya Furukawamaya@smdp.com

LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Santa Monica Elks serve up boxers and briefs

By Daily Press staff

Some local Elks recently had a boxers-and-briefs-themed breakfast. The Santa Monica Elks hosted a “Boxers and Briefs Breakfast” last month when participants donated new packages of men’s and women’s clothes to benefit patients at the Veterans Administration Hospital.

Robbie Robinson, the chairman of the Santa Monica Elks Veterans Affairs Committee, said donations of used outer wear are always accepted, but hospital policy is not to accept under garments. There were 30 packages of men’s wear, 10 packages of women’s wear and \$500 collected. There is a place that will sell the clothes at wholesale prices.

On Nov. 9, the lodge will host 30 men and 10 women patients for dinner at the Lodge. In addition, each will receive a small gift.

The next project is the Christmas gift boxes for overseas servicemen. This project is spearheaded by the American Legion Post 123, the Santa Monica Elks, the Santa Monica Elks Emblem Club, the Jack Showers Foundation and the community. Last year, more than 400 packages were sent from Santa Monica and more than 6,000 from Southern California.

For more information, call (310) 645-8989.

SM Red Cross offers free flu shots

By Daily Press staff

It’s flu season once again. The Santa Monica Chapter of the American Red Cross will be hosting one of the Los Angeles County 2005-2006 flu shot clinics again this year.

Flu shots will be given out from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 9, at the Santa Monica Red Cross located at 1450 11th St.

If you are over 60 years old and/or have a chronic condition such as asthma, heart disease, kidney disorder or diabetes, you are eligible for the free flu shot.

If you are allergic to eggs or have any other serious illness, consult with your doctor before obtaining any flu shots.

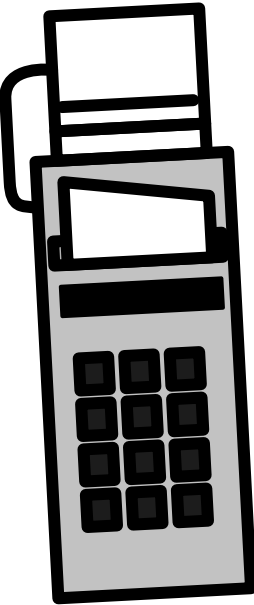
The free flu shots are made possible through the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services.

The American Red Cross of Santa Monica is a publicly supported, 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation that provides health and safety education, youth services, CPR and first aid training, disaster awareness and disaster relief efforts. For additional information or to inquire about other programs or assistance, call (310) 394-3773.

See BRIEFS, page 15

CORRECTION — The Olympic High School student pictured in the photo on page 8 of the Nov. 4 edition was misidentified. The student is Lorenzo Urquidez.

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SURF REPORT

Saturday both the SW and NW swells increase. The NW should boost up size around west-facing breaks to the waist- to chest-high zone when the tide is right, and the SW should be around waist- to occasionally chest-high sets. Note that the NW is steep, running 310+, so many west-facing breaks may see little if any of this swell. Sunday the NW is expected to drop off, leaving only waist-high sets. Same goes for south-facing breaks: waist high or less.

Today the water is:

62°

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	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	3:31	2.7	6:01	-0.3	10:09	6.1	N/A	N/A
SUNDAY	4:07	3.0	7:10	-0.1	1:09	3.3	10:59	5.8
MONDAY	5:11	3.3	8:25	0.0	3:02	3.4	12:07	5.4
TUESDAY	7:37	3:45	9:33	0.0	4:14	3.8	1:38	5.0
WEDNESDAY	9:43	3.0	10:29	0.1	4:52	4.2	3:16	4.8

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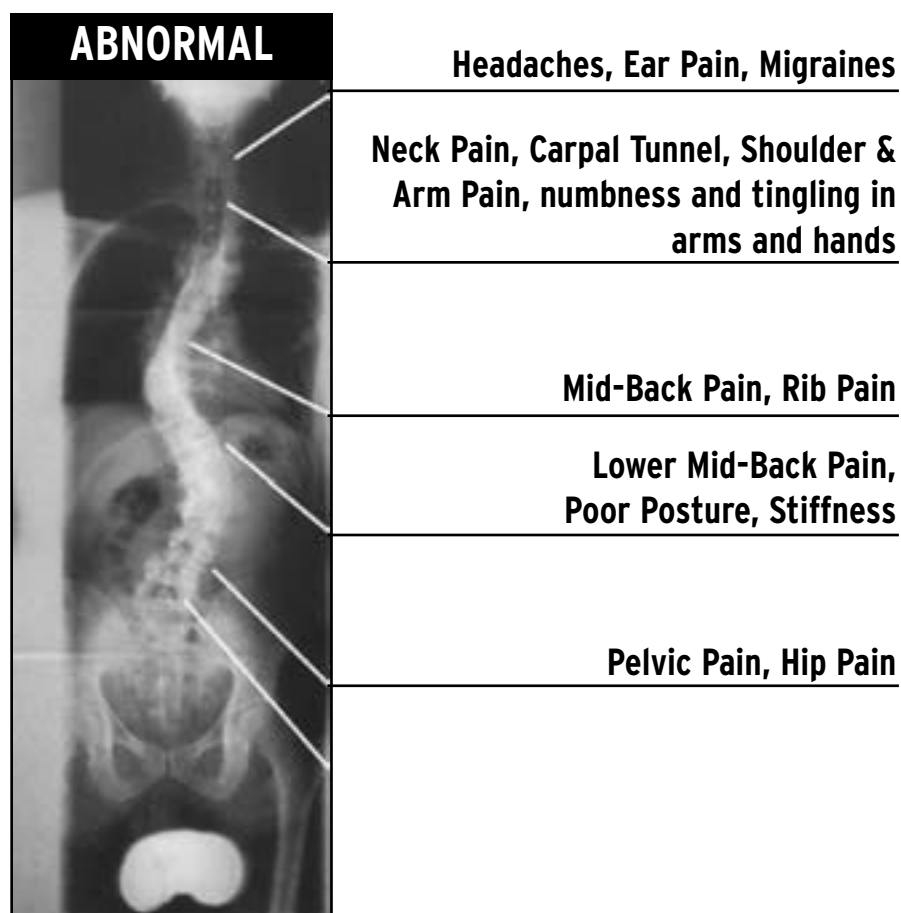


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STATE

Counterculture Bolinas looks forward, sort of, to royal visit

BY MICHELLE LOCKE
Associated Press Writer

BOLINAS, Calif. — Note to Prince Charles: To get here this weekend, turn west at the lagoon and head toward the Pacific Ocean. The sign showing the way has been torn down by xenophobic locals. Repeatedly.

And don't expect too much fanfare. Four days before the planned visit, this scenic seaside village was deeply mellow, from the sun sliding over the silk-smooth surface of the Bolinas Lagoon to the affable yellow dog stretched out on the floor of Smiley's Schooner Saloon, a local landmark.

"I've got a British flag somewhere," said Smiley's owner Don Deane as he mused over what to do in honor of the royal entourage. "I may fly that if I can find it."

It's all part of the raffish charm of this fiercely independent outpost of artists, farmers and vintage hippies perched on the tip of a peninsula jutting into the Pacific, about 30 miles north of San Francisco.

Bolinas has to be taken on its own terms — "You've got what you've got," said organic farmer Dennis Dierks, who runs Paradise Valley Produce with his wife, Sandy.

Bolinas' thriving organic scene is what attracted Charles, who is visiting New York, Washington and the San Francisco Bay area on his first overseas trip with his new wife, Camilla, the Duchess of Cornwall.

Agrarian issues are high on the prince's

agenda. His plans largely skip the stratosphere of San Francisco high society for down-to-earth pursuits. On Monday, Charles is to visit a Berkeley school organic garden sponsored by noted chef Alice Waters.

Still, it's a bit mind-boggling to imagine Charles in Bolinas, where residents have maintained their flair for the eccentric.

In a neat piece of irony, the town is probably best known for its disappearing highway signs, which have been torn down, defaced and painted over a number of times by a merry band of locals known as the Bolinas Border Patrol.

Two years ago, residents passed Measure G, a rambling, poetic declaration affirming the town's affection for nature, including blueberries, bears ... and skunks.

Deane, the owner of Smiley's, said Charles is welcome to come in for a pint at the bar, which is said to have thrived during Prohibition as a barber shop with a back door that customers could use to obtain a little hair of the dog.

Organic grower Peter Martinelli of Fresh Run Farm also was looking forward to the visit.

"I think it's really great," said Martinelli, who was impressed when he heard Charles speak in Italy last year. "He really encapsulates the organic and the sustainable movement."

As for the general lack of hoopla, Martinelli laughed.

"It's Bolinas," he said. "We don't clean our room before Mom comes over. It just is what it is."

Clippers owner told to pay \$5M in lawyer fees over housing lawsuit

BY TIM MOLLOY
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — A judge ordered Los Angeles Clippers owner and real estate mogul Donald T. Sterling to pay nearly \$5 million in fees to plaintiffs' attorneys in a lawsuit accusing him of discriminating against black and Latino tenants.

The case was resolved with a financial settlement that the judge described as "one of the largest ever obtained in this type of case," though the terms were not disclosed.

U.S. District Judge Dale Fisher's order, dated Wednesday, ordered Sterling to compensate plaintiffs' attorneys in a 2003 lawsuit alleging Sterling tried to drive out non-Korean tenants, particularly blacks and Latinos, at apartments he owned in the city's Koreatown neighborhood.

After the suit was filed, Fischer banned Sterling from using the word "Korean" on his buildings and from collecting informa-

tion about tenants' birthplaces.

The judge chided the defense for what she described as "scorched earth" legal tactics, calling the defense's conduct "often unacceptable, and sometimes outrageous."

Sterling's attorney, Michael Kennick, did not immediately return a call for comment Thursday.

Attorneys for the 19 plaintiffs include the nonprofit Housing Rights Center. Liam Garland, the group's litigation director, declined comment.

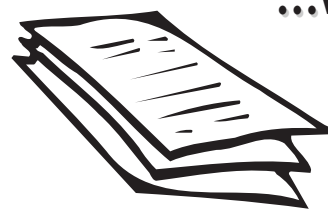
The ruling came two weeks after a jury found in Sterling's favor in a lawsuit filed by a former property manager, Sumner Davenport, who claimed he had sexually harassed her.

Davenport had also alleged that Sterling's companies had racially prejudiced employment and housing practices, an allegation denied by Sterling's lawyer in the case.

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**Email to: editor@smdp.com
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Santa Monica Daily Press

STATE



STATE BRIEFS

Dumping could save environment

By The Associated Press

LA QUINTA — Dumping 6,000 tons of two chemicals harmless to wildlife might cure the troubled Salton Sea.

Pouring alum and polyacrylamide would prevent phosphorus and silt from entering the desert lake, ending the fish kills and rotten-egg smell that plague the Salton Sea, University of California, Riverside, researchers have found.

The lake is a major stopover for migratory birds.

UC Riverside findings will be presented next week to a technical-advisory committee of the Salton Sea Authority, which is working on a restoration effort. The lake is saltier than the ocean and it will shrink further because of a San Diego water transfer.

“This is an option that could be used, but it’s expensive,” said Chris Amrhein, a UC Riverside professor of soil and environmental sciences.

Amrhein and the other researchers found that the sea could be made 90 percent cleaner by applying 6,000 tons of the two chemicals each year at a cost of \$19 million.

Ron Enzweiler, executive director of the Salton Sea Authority, said that the \$19 million cost is in the range of what’s expected to be annual operating costs of any remedy for the sea. He called the research valuable and said that the chemicals could be used in conjunction with other cleanup methods, including algae removal.

Alum and polyacrylamide are used in municipal water-treatment plants to remove phosphorus and solids, Amrhein said.

Voters to decide if cross should be resurrected

By The Associated Press

REDLANDS — Voters decide next week if the “City of Churches” should restore the cross to the Redlands seal.

When the American Civil Liberties Union threatened a costly lawsuit last year if the cross wasn’t eliminated, officials decided the cross must be erased from the city logo. Many residents were outraged and voters will now decide Tuesday if the religious symbol will return.

If Measure Q wins, the ACLU will likely go to court.

“This is the first time this has happened, to my knowledge,” said ACLU attorney Peter Eliasberg, who tracks crosses on seals statewide. He said it is “highly likely” a lawsuit would be filed against the city if it reinstates the cross.

"The cross is clearly unconstitutional," Eliasberg said. "It sends a message of favor for one religion over others."

Last year, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted to take a cross off the county’s seal under threat of a lawsuit by the ACLU.

Scott Siegel, who led the drive to put Measure Q on Tuesday’s ballot, resents that the ACLU forced the city into removing the cross from the city seal.

“What happens in this type of situation is that the ACLU threatens to sue, then the city capitulates on a cost basis, and the case is never decided on its legal merits,” he said. “The ACLU is telling us that it’s a foregone conclusion that we’re going to lose if a suit is filed. That’s just a ridiculous statement.”

Boyfriend charged in Chihuahua killing

By The Associated Press

GARDENA — Felony animal cruelty charges were filed against a man who allegedly tossed his girlfriend’s Chihuahua into the street — where it was run over and killed — because he felt she loved the dog more than she loved him.

Emidio Jesus Medina, 28, of Compton was charged Thursday with one count of animal cruelty and two counts of child endangerment for inflicting mental suffering on his girlfriend’s 2-year-old and 4-year-old children, who witnessed the Chihuahua’s death.

Medina is expected to enter a plea next week. If convicted, he faces up to eight years in prison, Los Angeles County Deputy District Attorney Brad McCartt said.

Patricia Morales, 23, owner of the dog, declined comment. Medina’s telephone was disconnected and he couldn’t be reached.

Police responding to a family disturbance call on Aug. 30 were told by witnesses that the couple was arguing in front of two children before Medina lifted the dog over his head and threw it into the path of a car on Budlong Street.

“She loves that dog more than she loves me. I was trying to make a point,” Medina told an officer, according to the police report.

Oil rig owner pays \$50K, cleanup costs

By The Associated Press

HUNTINGTON BEACH — An oil rig owner charged with polluting the Bolsa Chica wetlands from 1996 to 1998 paid a \$50,000 fine to settle the case.

The charges were dropped this week against John A. Thomas, 66, a former councilman who ran unsuccessfully for Orange County supervisor in 1994 on a pro-environment platform. Thomas operated about 50 oil wells in the Huntington Beach wetlands.

Besides the \$50,000 fine, Thomas paid for the multimillion-dollar cost of cleanup.

“It was an equitable decision to settle the case,” Deputy District Attorney Steve Yonemura said Thursday. The \$50,000 was sent to the state Department of Fish and Game to cover the cost of the investigation, Yonemura said.

Thomas had been charged with dumping 38,000 cubic yards of wood chips and dirt onto 13.5 acres from 1996 to 1998 near the northeast corner of the wetlands, where his rig operated.



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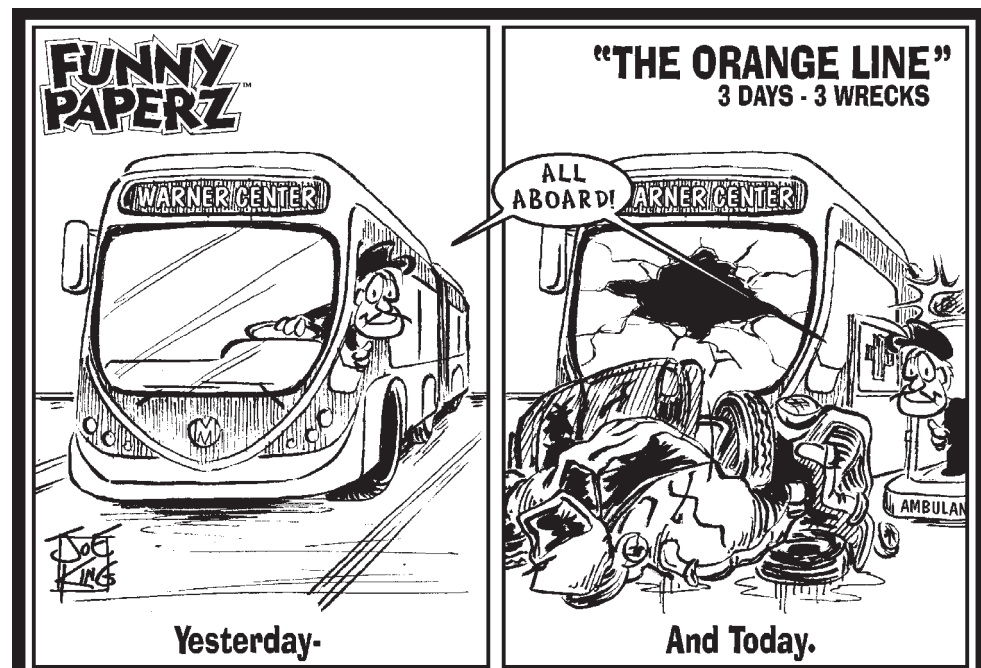
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OPINION



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CLEAN WATER REQUIRES ENFORCEMENT

This past week, Q-line asked:
"What can local and county government agencies do to improve water quality and regulation compliance in Los Angeles County?"

Here are your responses:

© "What can these agencies do to improve water quality and regulation compliance in LA County? Monitor and enforce the laws that they are being paid handsomely to do. A good example of this inefficiency is the city of Santa Monica that has numerous laws on the books that no one bothers to enforce. Consequently, the mess that we have in this city, including the beaches."

© "The pollution of sea water along Los Angeles County's coastal shores are caused by three major sources. These sources being the Los Angeles River that empties into Long Beach Bay, Ballona Creek that empties into Santa Monica Bay, and automobile oil spillage that is caused by cracked engine gaskets that leak upon our highways. The first heavy rains of Los Angeles County's rain season washes the accumulated debris from these three sources into the ocean. Santa Monica Bay would greatly benefit if bulldozers were used to clean Ballona Creek prior to the rain season. Ditto Los Angeles River. There would be no oil washed into the bay area waters if automobile owners would have their automobile gaskets repaired."

© "A lot of the bad water quality comes from people dumping stuff in the street. You see a lot of these businesses will close down things, machinery, and just dump the soapy water in the gutter. They should start issuing tickets for that ..."

© "Twenty years of Heal the Bay and we still can't go in the water? Any business CEO with that kind of record would have been fired. Who certifies the water quality? Is it Heal the Bay, is it

Bay Keepers, is it the Surfrider Foundation? I mean how many self-serving nonprofits are supposedly protecting the bay from human contact? Mr. Mark Gold, CEO of the Heal the Bay, declined in a profile of the week in your paper to state his salary. I think any organization that receives one-third of its funding from the taxpayers should be required to list highly paid executives' salaries. All this silly nonsense about emergency beach cleanup. We have a wonderful group called beach maintenance. City workers who use tractors and sand sifters to clean debris from the beach. These hysterics about water quality is just overblown propaganda to justify funding. I have been swimming in the Santa Monica Bay for 50 years, no problems except with the record amount in this town of nonprofit scam artists. How do these nongovernmental organizations have the power to close sections of the beach, or close them off for the snowy plover? Could it be the council's spineless approach to environmental progressives? I would rather see an incredible organization like the National Wildlife Organization doing the testing and monitoring. Wake up Santa Monica and smell the Pacific Ocean, you're getting hosed."

© "Enforce the current regulations on the books, and it would be the same for the homeless in Santa Monica. Enforce the current regulations on the books. It's that easy."

© "The best way to improve the water condition is to remove those minerals which are totally hard and cannot be digested. Also, to remove fluoride."

Must everyone speak English?



MODERN TIMES

BY LLOYD GARVER

About half the states have passed laws that make English the official language of their state. Why is there a need for these laws? Isn't English already the language of the United States? Yes and no. What English-only advocates are bothered by are things like bilingual education, election information and ballots being in languages in addition to English, etc. The attitude is, "My ancestors had to learn English to get along in this country, why shouldn't the new immigrants have to do the same thing?" At first glance, it doesn't seem to be very controversial, does it? So, let's take a few more glances at it.

Not everybody learns English immediately when they come to this country. Some of us had ancestors who could barely speak English their whole lives. Many of these "old" immigrants — the ones from Europe that the English-only people seem to consider the "good" immigrants — lived in neighborhoods with other people from their homelands. That made it natural for many of them to speak the language from the old country. This is one thing some English-only advocates say they don't like about the "new" immigrants. They see them as cliquish people unwilling to assimilate.

One troublesome aspect of this movement is that while many people simply and sincerely believe that English should be the only language used in public schools and public documents. But there is a more sinister attitude among some other people. Some people just hate people from foreign lands. I saw a bumper sticker on a car recently that read, "Speak English Or Die."

Believe it or not, I'm not the expert on heavy metal music that you may have thought I was. So, I had to go to the Internet to learn that "Speak English or Die" is the name of a song recorded by the group with the pleasant name "Stormtroopers of Death." The chorus of the little ditty goes like this:

"You always make us wait
 You're the ones we hate
 You can't communicate
 Speak English or die."
 They also have a verse that says,
 "You come into this country
 You can't get real jobs
 Boats and boats of you
 Go home, you f&*%#ing slob."

Obviously, I have no way of measuring how many of the pro English-only people have these prejudiced views. But just the

fact that there are some is disturbing enough. These words are certainly a far cry from the inscription on the Statue of Liberty.

Many people claim that the main reason they're for this is to save money by doing away with public documents in non-English. But is that just an excuse for some bigoted people who hate "foreigners?" Are they the same people who get upset no matter where they travel in the world because the people they meet can't speak English?

One could get carried away with this "must speak proper English" thing. For one thing, if that were a requirement for public service, George Bush could not be our president.

The English-onlies seem to want one uniform language that all Americans can understand. That's not how English was ever spoken in the United States. If a person from one part of the country has trouble understanding a person from another region, should we outlaw regional slang and accents, too?

When President Bush pronounces "nuclear" properly, maybe I'll consider getting on board. When I stop hearing good American-born citizens say things like, "That's between you and I," (instead of "between you and me"), when I stop reading the non-word "alright," when I stop hearing people tell me that something was "funner" than something else, maybe then I'll think it's time we challenged immigrants to speak as well as native-born Americans. But until we can set a better example, it's hard to be upset about new arrivals who don't speak properly.

One thing the English-onlyites seem to forget is that America has always been a melting pot. There are examples of Spanish, French, Yiddish, and German words that have been absorbed by English and are now used by Americans every day. It makes for a richer language and culture. Is there any reason to think that in the future when we start to adopt some of the language of the "new" immigrants, that English will be any less enriched?

I know some people may say that my attitude "literally" made them explode, but unless they actually blew up, they, too, should learn better English before they criticize others.

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



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Special Election Opinions

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(Editor's note: These will be the last opinions published regarding propositions that will appear on the special election ballot on Nov. 8.)

Top 10 reasons to vote 'no' on Prop. 75

Editor:

If you're still undecided about how to vote on the election's most contentious proposition — Prop. 75, which would restrict the ability of public-employee unions to use dues money for political campaigns — here are 10 points in favor of a "no" vote.

10. It's leading proponent, right-wing political operative Lew Uhler, is a former activist of the extremist John Birch Society.

9. Prop. 75 supporters are motivated by ideology, not fairness. They include anti-tax crusader Howard Ahmanson, who believes that the Bible opposes the minimum wage, and the anti-union National Right to Work Committee.

8. It unjustly singles out public sector unions. If Prop. 75 were really necessary to protect the rights of ordinary employees, as its proponents claim, it should apply to private-sector unions as well.

7. Prop. 75 is unnecessary. Union members already have the right to stipulate that their dues money should not be used for political purposes. Its true purpose is to weaken unions by tying them up in red tape.

6. It would further distort the financial imbalance in California politics. According to the non-partisan Center for Responsive Politics, corporations already outspend unions by a margin of 24-1. Prop. 75 would make this situation even worse by silencing the voice of ordinary employees without placing any restrictions on the political contributions of corporations.

5. Voters, legislators and judges in several other states have rejected similar measures as bad public policy. Earlier this year, so-called "paycheck protection" measures were rejected by a Republican judge in Ohio — who ruled that it violated unions' constitutional right to free speech — and state legislators in Georgia.

4. This is not the first time that "paycheck protection" has been considered in California. Voters rejected a similar measure, Prop. 226, in 1998. Union members voted overwhelmingly against it. Many of the same anti-union activists who promoted Prop. 226 are behind Prop. 75.

3. A handful of ultra-wealthy individuals, large corporations, investment bankers and longtime adversaries of unions have bankrolled virtually the entire Prop. 75 campaign — hardly the grassroots movement of ordinary employees, concerned citizens and small businesses that its backers would have you believe.

2. The people who are the alleged beneficiaries of the measure, public sector workers, overwhelmingly oppose it. Only 181 of the 1 million union members who would be affected by Prop. 75 have come out in support of it. Supporters of Prop. 75 were so short of genuine public sector employees who support the measure that they had to purchase a stock photograph of a firefighter from Seattle-based Getty Images for their brochures.

1. Governor Schwarzenegger thinks that Prop. 75 is a good idea. Indeed, his advisors were the very people who persuaded Lew Uhler to start his campaign against public sector unions in the first place. What else do you need to know?

John Logan

Teacher, Industrial Relations Department at the London School of Economics

Propping up 77, clarifying 75

Editor:

It's hard to imagine how any citizen who values their constitutional right to vote, would be anything but ecstatic about passing Proposition 77.

Why? Because if the measure passes, it would mean a voter's voice actually counts for something again. It would end the legislature's power to pick its voters by manipulating electoral districts and preventing voters from having real choices at the ballot box, thereby making the act of voting little more than a trivial waste of time.

The consequences are real. Of the 153 congressional and state legislative races last November, not one incumbent faced defeat. This was not an accident, but rather a planned result through collusion and manipulation of the electoral system.

We expect this from third-world despots and totalitarian regimes, not from what is supposed to be the planet's greatest democracy. The whole practice stinks of the desperate need for reform, which is too long overdue. Proposition 77 does that by taking that power out of the hands of those who stand to benefit and turns it over to a panel of three impartial judges selected by the Legislature. Districts would become competitive with election results dependent upon an elected official's accountability to the voters rather than winks and handshakes in the protected halls of the legislature.

The argument that this is a Democrat versus Republican issue doesn't stand since both sides play and benefit from the same game. It's as much a conflict of interest as it is detrimental to the health of our government, but it continues because citizens just don't seem to care. Well, when California hits rock bottom, maybe they will.

And anyone who takes the time to educate themselves on Proposition 75 will see that the measure is pro-union, despite what we are hearing from its leadership. Proposition 75 empowers organized labor by requiring that permission from public employee union members be obtained before dues can be spent on political activities. It gives members a stronger voice with more control over how their dues are spent when financing political activities that they may or may not agree with, plain and simple. It also protects them from having their role in the union diminished when they

voice grievances that go against the interests of their leadership.

How is labor being silenced when employees are given a stronger voice in their cause, more choice in how dues are spent, and more accountability from their leaders? This proposition does nothing to stop spending from public employee unions. It simply requires them to ask for donations rather than raiding employee paychecks for political activities without consent. Members who don't support their leadership's agenda should not be forced to finance it. Proposition 75 doesn't silence organized labor, it protects it.

Joshua M. Pelzer
Pasadena

The case against 76

Editor:

The California State PTA believes that Proposition 76 would be so damaging to public education in California that its state board of managers voted to focus the organization's special election efforts on defeating it. For that reason, the PTA has not taken a position on any other measure in this election.

Unions and Democrats are not the only opponents of Proposition 76. It has been difficult to get that message out because the supporters of the proposition would have you believe that only unions and Democrats are opposed. In fact, the California State PTA, the Santa Monica-Malibu Council of PTAs, the League of Women Voters of California and the California School Boards Association are all strongly and actively opposed to it.

Under Proposition 76, the funding guarantee for education, established by Proposition 98, would be fundamentally changed. Impartial, nonpartisan analyses published by the Legislative Analysts Office, the California Budget Project, School Services of California and the USC-California Policy Institute all say that enactment of Proposition 76 would decrease the amount of funding allocated for public education.

In fact, passage of Proposition 76 would result in a permanent loss to our schools of approximately \$4 billion every year. This loss would be the equivalent of \$600 per student per year, or \$15,000 per classroom. At a time when California's spending for education is already embarrassingly low compared to other states, Proposition 76 would not only lower education funding levels, but would keep them there, ensuring that school funding in California would remain mediocre at best.

California's children deserve the best we can give them. That means voting "no" on Proposition 76.

Barbara Inatsugu
Santa Monica

Prop. 77: A guide for the curious

Editor:

The advertisements opposing Proposition 77 are so duplicitous, disingenuous and divorced from the proposed text, it is amazing that a substantial minority is planning to vote for it. The political fog which surrounds the opposition to 77 depends on voters who have not studied it. It is not a perfect document, but is a very worthy one, and deserves a few minutes of your time.

Gerrymandering is the practice of designing Assembly, State Senate, or congressional districts so that only a member of one particular party can win there. California is thoroughly gerrymandered: not a single one of these districts changed party in the most recent elections. Therefore, the representatives of these districts worry very little about being unseated. Therefore, the representatives of these districts are less attentive to the needs of the voters in their districts.

Proposition 77 is designed to end gerrymandering by taking the power to make district boundaries away from the Legislature, and giving it to three retired judges. These three judges must survive several steps designed to ensure that the boundary plan they produce is as unbiased as is humanly possible (contrary to the utterly false assertions of several political ads). First, the initial pool of 24 judges must be balanced between Republicans and Democrats. Second, the pool is reduced to 12 as each of the four legislative leaders (two Republican, two Democrat) gets to nominate three of these judges for further consideration, but the judges picked by each of these four must be from a party different from his or her own. That is, the two Republicans can't pick Republicans, and the two Democrats can't pick Democrats. This step alone will remove most bias, but the protections don't stop there. Next, each of these four leaders gets to remove one of the nominated 12 (thereby leaving eight judges), making the possibility of a biased remaining judge even more remote. From these eight, the final three judges are drawn by lot, and each of the two major parties must be represented. Ex parte communications are restricted, public hearings must be held, the effect of the plan on current legislators and parties must be disregarded, the selection of any plan must be unanimous, the plan must produce districts which are contiguous, compact and follow existing city and county lines to the extent practicable. Finally, the voters get to approve or disapprove the plan selected, after its first use.

If you think gerrymandering is a serious problem, and if these protections against bias are satisfactory to you, Proposition 77 deserves your vote.

Charles Berry
Mendocino, Calif.



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STATE

Move to advance 9th Circuit split draws heat

BY ERICA WERNER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — House Republicans on Thursday included a break-up of the San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in a budget bill that would be immune from Senate filibuster, drawing complaints from Democrats.

"It does not have the support to pass both houses of Congress, so House Republicans are seeking to stifle debate and the democratic process by inserting a controversial measure into the expedited budget process," said House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-San Francisco.

The House Budget Committee included the measure in a \$54 billion deficit-reduction bill that is expected to get a House floor vote next week.

The measure would create a 9th Circuit covering California, Hawaii and the Pacific Islands, and a new 12th Circuit covering Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Nevada and Arizona.

Supporters say the 9th Circuit, which

covers nine states with about 54 million people, is too large to operate effectively. But opponents allege politics by Republicans angry at some of the court's rulings, like the 2002 opinion that declared the Pledge of Allegiance unconstitutional when recited in public schools.

Republicans have been trying for years to break up the 9th Circuit. They've tried unsuccessfully in the past to get the measure through Congress attached to budget bills full of other provisions lawmakers want to support.

The full Senate passed its own version of the deficit reduction bill on Thursday without the 9th Circuit split. If the breakup makes it through the House, congressional negotiators would have to work out whether to include it in the final bill the House and Senate would vote on.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., said Thursday that if the circuit split measure comes to the Senate floor she'll block it with a technical objection against allowing non-budgetary provisions in budget bills.

Court: False accusations against police officers are protected speech

BY DAVID KRAVETS
AP Legal Affairs Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — A federal appeals court on Thursday nullified a California criminal law adopted after the Rodney King beating that made it unlawful for citizens to knowingly lodge false accusations against police officers.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said the law was an unconstitutional infringement of speech because false statements in support of officers were not criminalized. The decision, hailed by civil liberties groups and opposed by the California District Attorneys Association, overturns the California Supreme Court, which in 2002 ruled that free speech concerns took a back seat when it came to speech targeting police officers.

The case concerns Penal Code Section 148.6, which lawmakers enacted after a flood of hostile complaints against officers statewide following King's 1991 taped beating. The 1995 law is punishable by up to six months in jail.

"The imbalance generated by section 148.6, i.e., only individuals critical of peace officers are subject to liability and not those who are supportive, therefore turns the First Amendment on its head," Judge Harry Pregerson wrote for the unanimous three-judge panel.

The case concerned Darren Chaker, now 33 of Beverly Hills, who was convicted in San Diego County in 1999 of making a false complaint against an El Cajon police officer.

Chaker was originally arrested for "theft of service" for retrieving his car from a mechanic without paying — charges that were later dropped. He complained that the arresting officer, without provocation, hit him in the ribs and twisted his wrist.

Authorities charged him for allegedly making up the story, and he was convicted by a jury in 1999 after a hung jury in the initial trial. He was sentenced to two days in custody, 15 days of community

service and three years' probation.

Chaker appealed to California's courts, to no avail. A federal judge had ruled against him as well, so he went to the San Francisco-based appeals court.

"It was up to the police department to determine if the speech was false," Chaker said. "I made a complaint against a police officer for twisting my wrist and was charged as a criminal."

San Diego County prosecutors said they were considering asking the appeals court to reconsider or asking the U.S. Supreme Court to review the decision.

Pregerson wrote that precedent for his ruling stemmed from a 1992 U.S. Supreme Court decision striking down a hate-speech ordinance in St. Paul, Minn., which banned speech that "arouses anger, alarm or resentment in others on the basis of race, color, creed, religion or gender."

Justice Antonin Scalia wrote that the law imposed special prohibitions on speakers who express views on "disfavored subjects" but did not punish those speaking on behalf of favored topics.

Thursday's decision undercuts the California Supreme Court, which in a 2002 unanimous decision by Justice Ming Chin, upheld the statute and the 30-day sentences of two Oxnard residents who complained that an Oxnard police officer exposed himself to about 50 teenagers at an awards banquet. The Oxnard Police Department said it investigated the couple's allegations and could not corroborate them, so Ventura County prosecutors charged Barbara Atkinson and Shaun Stanistreet for filing a false complaint.

The two, who vigorously maintained the allegations against the officer were true and were being covered up, were convicted by a jury and ordered to serve 30 days. California's justices, in ruling against the pair's First Amendment challenge, ruled the potential harm from false reports could damage an officer's credibility and even waste police resources investigating the complaints.



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Patagonia's founder rallies for environment

BY LESLIE EARNEST

Associated Press Writer

VENTURA, Calif. — Yvon Chouinard has climbed a glacier on the face of Mount Kenya, survived an avalanche on Minya Konka in Tibet and kayaked down the Yellowstone River through a treacherous rock wall canyon. He has also helped preserve millions of acres of wild lands in the U.S. and South America — all this on top of building an outdoor apparel business with \$240 million in sales.

But the founder and chairman of Ventura-based Patagonia Inc. is now facing what could be his biggest challenge: convincing corporate America that environmental awareness can be a profitable business model.

Chouinard has a new book, "Let My People Go Surfing: The Education of a Reluctant Businessman," which describes the pitfalls of growing a business too fast and the perils of polluting. In a nutshell, he wants people to think first about the planet.

It is, he admits, "a hard sell."

The 66-year-old Chouinard, who backed into a career when he began making climbing tools almost 50 years ago, isn't brimming with optimism. "I'm very

pessimistic about the future," he said during a recent interview at his Ventura office. "I don't feel like we've had much impact yet."

Even his own company has a long way to go, he observed ruefully. He noted that he recently paid \$2 million to install solar panels over a parking lot which is filled with employees' gas-guzzling SUVs.

He hopes his book will make a difference.

In it, Chouinard describes how, after working through successes and failures, he began seeing Patagonia as a potential model for other businesses.

Environmental groups and some business leaders say it has done just that.

"Patagonia made a difference because they stood out as a leader in the apparel industry," said Todd Larsen, managing director of the environmental activist group Co-op America. "They're a true success story."

Patagonia's decision to switch to organic cotton in 1996, for example, prompted other companies to think harder about the materials they used to make clothing.

Chouinard also co-founded 1 percent

See PATAGONIA, page 11

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STATE



Environmentalism can be 'a hard sell'

PATAGONIA, from page 10

for the Planet, an alliance of 175 small businesses that have agreed to give at least that amount of sales to environmental groups.

But business consultant Michael Kami, whom Chouinard sought out for advice more than a decade ago, holds out little hope that others are likely to follow his lead.

Observers note that a major reason Chouinard can implement his vision at Patagonia is that the company is, and always has been, privately held. With shareholders watching from the wings, it's much harder for a publicly held business to follow such a vision.

Chouinard has kept his focus on the environment "at the expense, I'm sure, of major commercial success in growing his company," said Dick Baker, chief executive of Irvine-based Ocean Pacific Apparel Corp. "He's a very different animal than virtually all public companies."

Chouinard is known for his blunt, often downbeat, assessments of the state of the planet and the shortsightedness of corporations. He describes American businesses as "lemmings" and says free trade and globalism are "absolutely killing us." As for the stock market, it's "evil," partly because shareholders get only a sliver of a company's tangible worth, he says.

So uncompromising is the 5-foot-4-inch-tall Chouinard about his principles that pal Tom Brokaw calls him the "tiny terror."

The former NBC anchor has known Chouinard for 20 years; the two have climbed Mount Rainier and the Grand Tetons together. As Brokaw sees it, Chouinard and the outdoors are inextricably linked. "It's his whole world," Brokaw said.

The young Yvon Chouinard didn't seem destined for business success. Born in Maine, he got his Gallic name from his father, a French Canadian from Quebec. As a child, Chouinard was bored by school, developed an attitude and hung out with "fellow misfits," his book says. As a young outdoorsman, he considered politicians and businessmen "greaseballs" and viewed corporations "as the source of all evil."

But he became an entrepreneur in spite of himself, to make better climbing tools.

Chouinard's father helped him build his first shop in 1957 out of an old chicken coop in the backyard of their home in Burbank, according to the book. In 1966, he moved to Ventura to be closer to the surf, setting up shop in a tin boiler room of an abandoned slaughterhouse.

In the late 1960s, Chouinard Equipment Co. added clothing to its product mix, a line that eventually was dubbed Patagonia and became a separate apparel company.

In 1991, as the nation entered a recession, Patagonia was struggling with distribution and other problems and hit a wall. Dealers canceled orders, and the bank cut Patagonia's credit line. On July 31 the "darkest day in the company's history," according to the book, the company laid off 120 workers, about 20 percent of the work force.

After a trip to Argentina, during which Patagonia's managers took a hard look at

the direction of the business, they adopted a values statement. It said the Earth was in peril and vowed that Patagonia would reorder its values, making all future decisions "in the context of the environmental crisis," the book says.

The company took a fresh look at the way it made clothes, and it became the first to make fleece jackets using recycled bottles instead of polyester. It also reined in growth. It currently sells through 700 retailers, many of them small specialty stores, plus its own chain of about 40 stores.

The company banned paper cups and plastic trash-can liners from its offices and built an extension to its headquarters using 95 percent recycled materials. Children at the company's day-care center help wheel the cafeteria's kitchen scraps to the corporate compost heap.

Not that Patagonia claims purity. Chouinard says he's still a polluter who makes many products using nonrenewable resources. So he's doing "penance" — Patagonia has contributed more than \$22 million to environmental groups since 1985, Chouinard said, and he and his wife, Malinda, co-owner of the company, also give 30 percent of their salaries. Royalties from his book also will be donated, he said.

Environmental groups and business owners say Patagonia is making a difference by proving that a company can incorporate sound environmental practices into its business model and still be successful.

"When (Chouinard) says, 'I've never made an environmental decision that hasn't turned out to be profitable,' I think it raises eyebrows and causes people to say maybe we should be looking at that as well," said Matt McClain, spokesman for the Surfrider Foundation, a San Clemente-based environmental organization that works to protect oceans and beaches.

Patagonia does not disclose earnings, so its claim of profitable altruism is hard to quantify, although the company says it has always been in the black. Patagonia's sales have been uneven in recent years but are expected to rise 4 percent to \$242 million in 2005 over last year. That would be 19 percent above 2000's revenue.

Outdoor equipment retailers say Patagonia's commitment to the environment is a selling point.

"That environmental message resonates with a lot of customers," said Nicole Fallat, spokeswoman for Recreational Equipment Inc., which sells the Patagonia brand in its 80 REI stores across the nation. "They're one of our biggest brands in action sports-wear."

In fact, Patagonia's stand regarding organic cotton, which is grown without using pesticides, even caused REI to be more conscious of the materials it uses in its private-label apparel, Fallat said.

But many consumers simply don't care whether a product is organic or not, according to research conducted by Hartman Group in Bellevue, Wash.

Some consumers may indeed desire a "soul connection" with the product they buy, but that loyalty weakens as the price starts to rise, said Jenny Zenner, client service manager for the market research firm.

"There is price resistance," she said, "even if they buy it for their children."

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Budget-cutting action moves into the House

BY ANDREW TAYLOR
 Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — A battle over cuts to popular federal programs like Medicaid and food stamps promises to intensify next week in the House despite relatively smooth sailing in the Senate.

A measure the Senate passed Thursday calls for mild cuts in the health care programs for the elderly, poor and disabled, while leaving the food stamp program untouched.

A House plan approved by a key committee Thursday cuts more deeply across a broader range of social programs. Republican moderates who don't like the cuts say it makes even less sense to vote on them if it's clear the Senate won't go along.

To ease passage next week, House GOP leaders may drop a provision that would allow drilling in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, with the intention of revisiting it in final compromise talks with the Senate.

The Senate bill, which passed 52-47, also would permit exploratory oil drilling in the Alaskan refuge, prompting five Republicans in the GOP-controlled chamber to vote against the bill. An earlier vote to extend a 44-year-old drilling ban in the refuge failed, 51-48.

The Senate bill is estimated to trim \$36 billion, or 2 percent, from budget deficits forecast at \$1.6 trillion over five years. The cuts total \$6 billion for the plan's first year, with deficits predicted to exceed \$300 billion.

For now, the House bill generates \$54 billion in savings, in part by imposing new fees on Medicaid patients, eliminating about 300,000 people from food stamp rolls and cutting enforcement funds against parents who duck child support.

"Who bears the burden of the cuts made by this bill?" said Rep. John Spratt of South Carolina, top Democrat on the House Budget Committee. "Single mothers seeking child support from deadbeat dads. Students struggling to pay loans for their college education. Foster children. The sick and poor whose only access to health coverage is Medicaid, or whose nutrition depends on food stamps."

Republicans say the debate is an important moment for their party, which gained control of Congress 11 years ago with promises to balance the budget. The return of intractable deficits and surging spending has caused heartburn for many Republicans over their record on holding the line on spending and addressing budget deficits.

The long-planned budget bills would make the first cuts to mandatory programs

since 1997. These programs account for 55 percent of the budget and include Medicare, Medicaid, farm subsidies and student loan subsidies.

"This is a major step forward," said GOP Sen. Judd Gregg of New Hampshire, chairman of the Senate Budget Committee. "It is a step towards fiscal responsibility and it is a reflection of the Republican Congress' commitment to pursue the path of fiscal responsibility."

The House Budget Committee approved the bill Thursday on a party-line vote. But so many GOP lawmakers are unhappy with the bill that Republican leaders acknowledge it will have to be reworked before a final vote in the full House next week.

Despite strongly supporting the overall effort, the White House has threatened to veto the bill over an obscure proposal to kill subsidies for some regional health insurers that offered Medicare prescription drug coverage. The White House's stand threatens \$5.4 billion in savings.

"Today, the Senate took an important step forward in cutting the deficit," Bush said in a statement. "Congress needs to send me a spending-reduction package this year to keep us on track to cutting the deficit in half."

Democrats generally opposed the bill because it allows the oil drilling and increases the deficit when coupled with a \$70 billion tax cut bill.

"Their budget ... actually would make the deficit worse," said Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev. "That's fiscally irresponsible at any time, but especially when we should be saving to prepare for the baby boomers' retirement."

Yet in the Senate, Republicans did pick up the support of two Democrats, Sen. Ben Nelson of Nebraska and Mary Landrieu of Louisiana, whose hurricane-devastated state won emergency aid under the bill.

The Senate Republicans who opposed the budget bill over the drilling issue were Norm Coleman of Minnesota, Susan Collins and Olympia Snowe of Maine, Lincoln Chafee of Rhode Island and Mike DeWine of Ohio.

The Senate bill reflects the influence of moderates who provided swing votes in the full Senate and in Senate Finance Committee, which came up with proposals to curb the growth in Medicaid and Medicare.

As a result, the Senate's cuts largely protect beneficiaries of the programs, while turning to drug companies, pharmacies and insurance subsidies for much of the savings. The House bill exacts more savings from beneficiaries and less from industry groups.



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NATIONAL



Senate endorses oil drilling

BY H. JOSEF HEBERT

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Senate opponents of drilling in an Alaska wildlife refuge failed Thursday to strip the measure from a massive budget package, as supporters of exploration argued that the oil is needed to lessen America's import dependency.

Environmentalists, who believe strongly the refuge should continue to be off limits to oil companies to protect the area's wildlife, had acknowledged that it was a long shot to get the provision killed and now are concentrating on defeating the overall budget bill.

A vote on the budget measure, which includes a myriad of spending cuts from food stamps to welfare funds, was expected later in the day.

An amendment offered by Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., that would have removed drilling authority for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), was defeated 51-48. She called the drilling proposal a gimmick that will have little impact on oil or gasoline prices, or U.S. energy security.

Drilling supporters, including President Bush, who has made opening the refuge a top energy priority, argued that the country needs the estimated 10.5 billion barrels of oil that lies beneath the coastal plain. The oil represents a key to improving the country's energy security, they said.

Today about 60 percent of the oil used in the United States is imported. The measure calls for the Interior Department to issue its first two leases for ANWR oil within two years.

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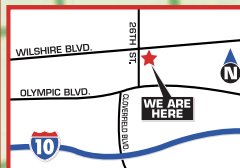
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Garden Rules

As always, rule number one is forget the rules and grow what you like. Having said that, if you'd like some suggestions on how to best use your garden space, here are some vegetables that offer a very good yield...

- **Tomatoes** offer a good crop yield for the space allotted. Staking the plants conserves space and makes picking easy.
- **Green onions** pack a lot of crop and flavor into a small space.
- **Leaf lettuce** and **spinach** are cool-season crops that produce early in the spring. Plant them again in late summer for a second, fall picking.
- **Turnips** are another cool-weather crop that offers a double return — you get to enjoy the greens and the roots.
- **Squash** and **zucchini** vines cover a lot of ground, but supply lots of produce in return.
- **Pole beans** do best grown vertically. Bush beans also produce very good yield for the space.
- **Herbs** in general are also a great investment. Fresh herbs in the market can be expensive and often you must buy more than you really need.
- **Corn** require deep, loose soil, but are fun to grow, especially for children.
- **Radishes** are one of the fastest-growing veggies, some varieties mature in 30 days or less.
- **Cucumbers**, especially trellised, produce a lot of food for the space.
- **Peppers** of all types can also be expensive at the supermarket. In addition to providing food, peppers are attractive additions to the home garden.

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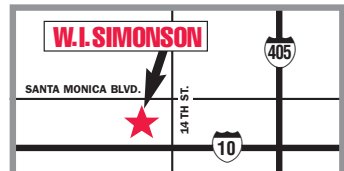
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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 3



Photo courtesy

Tennis coordinator Rick Grant (left) welcomes this year's 'Service Ace Award' recipient, Shelley London (center), a breast cancer survivor and long-time Westside Challenge participant. Also on hand to congratulate London is Westside Challenge founder Nina Nisenholtz (right).

Tennis tourney looks to beat breast cancer

By Daily Press staff

Tennis was tied to cancer last month during a round robin tournament.

At the eighth annual "Westside Challenge to Beat Breast Cancer" on Oct. 22, nearly 100 tennis enthusiasts teamed up to beat out the second-leading killer of American women.

The event, which raised more than \$130,000 to benefit Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center's low-cost mam-

mography screening and educational programs, was held at the UCLA/Los Angeles Tennis Center and included a fast-pasted round-robin tennis marathon, simultaneous silent auction, entertainment and family activities, followed by a post-tournament reception and awards ceremony.

Funds raised by the tournament benefit low-cost mammography screenings for uninsured and underinsured women under the age of 40. To date, more than 1,200 women have received mammograms and more than 56,000 have received breast health education through the program.

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Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

MORE THAN JUST SHRIMP: Francisco Aranga, a chef at Bubba Gump Shrimp Co., puts barbeque sauce on baby back ribs on Thursday. Restaurant staff practiced their serving techniques this week in preparation for Saturday’s grand opening.

Grand opening to be held Saturday

BUBBA GUMP, from page 1

The movie-themed chain restaurant expects to bring in more revenue for City Hall and help establish a family-friendly environment on the pier.

Bubba Gump’s 25-year lease with City Hall started in July 2001, and the restaurant had plans to open in the spring of 2003. But the lawsuit, as well as bureaucratic red tape in the building approval process, slowed down the plans.

As a result, the old, dilapidated build-

ing sat abandoned, City Hall lost out on years of rent, and Bubba Gump lost out on sales revenue. City Hall should be able to recoup its losses quickly as Bubba Gump is paying about double what the Boathouse was paying in rent. Bubba Gump started paying rent when it got its building permit in September 2004.

Bubba Gump pays more than \$10,000 in base rent a month, or 2.5 percent of the restaurant’s food, beverage and retail

See **BUBBA GUMP**, page 18

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LOCAL



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LOUISIANA, from page 1

rescued from roofs and attics. Thousands took shelter in the New Orleans Superdome.

Dardenne explained that he and other Louisiana groups in recent years have been developing the state's film industry. As such, the Louisiana legislature passed tax incentive laws catered to production companies as a way to lure them into the Pelican State to film.

Although Southern areas have been largely decimated by Katrina — and there continue to be infrastructure difficulties — delegation representatives assured movie producers on Thursday that Louisiana is "open for business" and progress will continue, despite recent setbacks.

"You can still walk down Bourbon Street, and Baton Rouge was completely spared," Dardenne said. "Opportunities now abound, and it's a great time to take advantage of what we have to offer, a tax incentive package par excellence."

During the presentation, Dardenne played a video featuring Louisiana sights and scenery while a poem he wrote about the Pelican State was recited over an audio system. Dardenne explained to the audience that films such as "Bound for Glory," "Dukes of Hazzard" and "Reaping" were recently shot in Louisiana. In addition, during the American Film Market — an industry event held annually in Santa Monica that

took place last week — \$200 million in movie deals were brokered that will be filmed in Louisiana, organizers said.

It's believed that movie companies filming in Louisiana would be part of a larger recovery effort intended to kickstart the state's economy. While the months since Katrina have left parts of Louisiana in disarray, infrastructure is now in place to accommodate production crews, officials said.

"We have hotel availability," said Paul Arrigo, CEO of the Baton Rouge Convention and Visitors Bureau. "Until now, that's been our hole in the plan."

"Our hotels are open, and we're ready to fill them."

The tax incentive package will enable producers to save more than 25 percent of their filming budget for the next two years. Depending on the film's budget, producers can expect to save up to 80 percent of the taxes they would normally pay prior to the passing of Dardenne's legislation, organizers said. Movie budgets as low as \$300,000 qualify for the incentives.

Jeff Begun, vice president of business development for Axium International — a company that handles industry accounting services — said the tax incentives being offered in Louisiana for the next two years are one of a kind, exceeding Canada and the Czech Republic.

"This year and next year, Louisiana is by far the best place for production," Begun said.

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City hopes Bubba will inject family fun into pier

BUBBA GUMP, from page 16

gross sales, whichever is greater. The Boathouse paid \$5,429 in monthly rent, \$168 for annual promotional fees and 8 percent of its gross revenues in excess of \$688,088 in annual sales.

Barnett expects the Santa Monica location — the 19th in the chain — to generate about \$7 million annually in sales, which is the average for most of its individual restaurants.

The company has put a considerable amount of time, effort and money into the Santa Monica location. Construction costs have exceeded \$5 million, Barnett said.

"We knew it was going to be an expensive project and an expensive process," he said, adding that the restaurant just received a certificate of occupancy from City Hall on Tuesday after a year of construction. "There was a lot of high risk involved."

A COMPETITIVE EDGE

Barnett said Santa Monica was a natural fit for the chain because it dovetails with the 1994 movie "Forrest Gump," in which the character, played by Tom Hanks, ends up at the Santa Monica Pier on his cross-country run.

Since it first got involved in the Santa Monica market, Bubba Gump has opened a half dozen locations.

There are Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. restaurants throughout the country and the islands, with the most recent one opening in Cancun this past summer. The first restaurant opened in Monterey, Calif., in 1996. Since then, the chain has opened on average one new restaurant a year.

"Our plan is to opportunistically grow the concept and the company as sites become available," Barnett said, adding all of the restaurants have been renovated from previous establishments. "You are not going to see a Bubba Gump on every street corner, nor do we want that."

Other Bubba Gump Shrimp Cos. can be found in Minneapolis; Daytona Beach; Miami; Chicago; Breckenridge, Colo.; New Orleans; Charleston, S.C.; Hawaii; New York; Japan; the Philippines; as well as Long Beach and San Francisco, on Pier 39.

Barnett said the New York location, situated in Times Square, is the highest grossing Bubba Gump, with about \$16 million in annual revenues.

The Miami restaurant just reopened after Hurricane Wilma swept through South Florida. The New Orleans and Cancun locations are still closed as a result of hurricanes, Barnett said.

San Clemente, Calif.-based Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. plans to open restaurants in Orlando's City Walk and another in Mexico, possibly Cabo San Lucas, in the next two years.

Barnett said he's keenly aware of his competition in each market and it appears that a majority of Bubba Gump locations stand on their own.

"Where we compete, we take a fair share of the business," he said.

That's certainly the case on Pier 39 in San Francisco, where Bubba Gump is one of 13 restaurants, including the Hard Rock Cafe, another themed, chain restaurant. That location, which opened in 1997, brings in more than \$10 million a year in revenue, Barnett said.

"It's been one of our top producers all along," said Kathy Paver, senior vice president of marketing for Pier 39, which is privately owned. "We felt confident in them because they were established, and it's definitely exceeded our expectations."

Paver added that she considers the restaurant, which attracts both locals and tourists, a destination for many who come to Pier 39.

"It's more or less an attraction for the town," she said. "They are good advertisers, calling out their destination, and they are a good partner because they do a lot of travel conventions and work with tour operators."

WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Santa Monica officials are hopeful that Bubba Gump will re-energize the pier, not only in family clientele, but also as an eating destination. Bubba Gump will compete with a handful of restaurants, including the high-end Lobster, as well as a Mexican restaurant, Marisol, and Rusty's Surf Ranch, another seafood eatery.

"Bubba Gump is sort of an anchor restaurant for the pier," said Ben Franz-Knight, executive director of the Pier Restoration Corp., which manages the pier with City Hall. "There is already response from the tenants here, and I think it will really raise the bar on food service."

The PRC in the past decade has attempted to bring back the family orientation on the pier, starting with Pacific

Park opening in the mid-1990s. During the 1940s and '50s, the main attraction was a gambling boat stationed off the pier. And through the 1970s and '80s, the pier still lacked a family attraction.

"This restaurant marks a significant shift of the pier," Franz-Knight said. "Bubba Gump crystallizes that vision of (a family environment)."

To introduce the Santa Monica location, a VIP party was held on Friday night, complete with red carpet arrivals that included celebrities, local sports stars and dignitaries.

Bubba Gump is donating 50 percent of the sales generated Saturday, Nov. 5, to the Santa Monica/Malibu Unified School District Equity Fund.

Donating to the community is typical for the company. Barnett said Bubba Gump raised \$20,000 on its first day for a local charity when it opened in New York, and \$15,000 was raised for the aquarium in Long Beach on its opening day.

"The proof is in the pudding; if we're not a good member of the community, then you'll know it, but that's not going to be the case," Barnett said.

FROM THE SILVER SCREEN TO SILVERWARE

Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. attempts to capture the charm that made "Forrest Gump" a hit, featuring the down-home décor reminiscent of the movie's setting in Alabama. Film memorabilia and still photos decorate the walls, along with reproductions of script pages, storyboards and costumes, in an attempt to create a fun, family atmosphere. Scrawled "Gumpisms" grace the varnished tabletops inside, and guests can try on the plaster casts of Forrest's running shoes at the famed bus bench in front of each restaurant location. Menu selections include references to the fare described in the film, including a myriad of ways to eat shrimp; the "bucket of boat trash," which includes fried shrimp, slipper lobster tails and more; the "Run Across America" sampler plate; and other seafood selections. The average menu price is \$13.

When Paramount Pictures debuted the film, Viacom Consumer Products, the studio's licensing division, approached Rusty Pelican Restaurants Inc., which Barnett headed. That was when Barnett and his executive team put seafood restaurant expertise to work and developed the concept for Bubba Gump Shrimp Co., the first and only restaurant chain based on a motion picture.

"It's very fun, very festive, and kids love it," Paver said of the Pier 39 Bubba Gump. "They do a very good job executing."

THE BACKSTORY OF BUBBA GUMP'S SANTA MONICA DEBUT

City Hall, which owns the pier and the buildings on it, ended its month-to-month lease with the Boathouse in 2001. But Sheffield wouldn't leave, claiming the PRC offered the Boathouse a long-term lease in 1993 but then reneged on the deal.

It wasn't until June of 1998 that Sheffield was informed by the PRC that it was looking for other businesses to lease the space, and the Boathouse would be included in that selection process.

The PRC solicited bids from other restaurants — a process Sheffield claims she was left out of intentionally. In an attempt to be part of the selection process, Sheffield provided a proposal that included a \$2 million renovation to the restaurant.

After a series of proposals and a detailed approval process, Bubba Gump

won out with city officials over Sheffield's proposal to change her aging restaurant into an American Indian motorcycle-themed Route 66 establishment. Dozens of companies submitted requests for proposals to open a restaurant on the pier.

But city officials were adamant that the next restaurant on the pier be "family oriented," and a motorcycle theme wouldn't meet that goal. The PRC looked at many aspects of the proposals it reviewed, including how much money the new restaurant could make for the city, as well as what was on the menu.

In 2001, Sheffield filed suit against City Hall and the PRC in U.S. District Court and federal court, claiming breach of contract, violation of her right to due process and unlawful takings. She also claimed that the PRC violated the state's open meeting laws and that the city intentionally misrepresented the lease agreement. She asked for \$50 million in lost future revenues in the restaurant her grandfather had started five decades before. She also attempted to launch a national smear campaign against Paramount, an investor in Bubba Gump, for helping to shut her restaurant down.

Meanwhile, a Santa Monica Superior Court judge granted City Hall the authority to evict Sheffield from the property, which happened in April of 2002. And the courts eventually sided with City Hall by tossing out the lawsuit.

The PRC has been criticized by many, including former Santa Monica Mayor Mike Feinstein, that it has engaged in behind-the-scenes political maneuvering for years. A controversial series of non-decisions by which the city refused to honor its own mandate to change the membership of the PRC may have been one reason for the Boathouse's demise. Others cited a less-than-desirable clientele, poor menu selection and food service, and an aging building as other reasons the Boathouse sunk.

Several members remained on the PRC board since the 1980s, until they were finally replaced in 2001. But they were kept on long enough by some elected officials to ink the Bubba Gump deal and give the Boathouse the boot.

"It is a very sad situation," City Councilman Kevin McKeown told the Daily Press in 2002. "I argued along with Mike (Feinstein) to keep the restaurant there."

And while McKeown doesn't support corporate chains replacing longtime businesses in Santa Monica, it's become a reality.

"I don't want to speak out against Bubba Gump specifically, they are a part of our community now, and we need to accept that and work with them," he said in 2002.

The selection of Bubba Gump Shrimp seemed to go against the PRC's own leasing guidelines, which were approved a few years ago. The guidelines specifically state that preference should be given to tenants on the pier that are locally owned businesses. The guidelines say chain restaurants are not wanted.

Despite some community apprehension to chain outlets, it appears that most people have accepted Bubba Gump, especially the crowd at Friday night's VIP party.

"It's desperately needed here; you have high-end and very low-end restaurants here. It's a perfect meeting ground," said Paul Dimitruk, a Santa Monica resident who attended Friday's event.

"It's in a great location."

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NATIONAL



Former Wyoming refinery now a golf course

BY BOB MOEN
Associated Press Writer

CASPER, Wyo. — The rolling fairways, manicured greens, water hazards and wildlife belie the true purpose of the Three Crowns Golf Course.

The 18-hole public, championship course is designed not only to challenge the golfer, but to slowly and naturally eliminate underground pollution left by an oil refinery that stood on the site for more than 80 years.

The golf course is one part of a \$160 million effort to turn a rusting, shuttered, polluting eyesore into a useful, rejuvenated recreation and economic development center that cleans the environment. It is touted as a model for what can be done with closed oil refineries around the world.

"I would classify this as a success story," said Felix Flechas, an engineer with the Environmental Protection Agency in Denver. "What happened here, I think, is unique."

Three Crowns sits on 340 acres along the Platte River in the heart of this oil-patch city. The polluting smokestacks, huge storage tanks, more than 200 miles of pipe and tons of concrete of the old refinery are gone. In their place are the verdant golf course, a business park, walking and biking trails, 2,000 new trees, picnic areas, a whitewater park, ducks and deer.

The only hint of hazard is the occasional acrid chemical odor and underground wells in the golf course's rough.

The Casper project's success persuaded British oil giant BP PLC, which owns the site, to make it a model for its other shuttered refineries around the world, including Sugar Creek in Missouri, Wood River in Illinois and Llandarcy in Wales, according to Joe Deschamp, manager of the project for BP.

"It always has to be modified to site-specific conditions, but the concept should work at any former refinery," Deschamp said.

While there have been other projects involving golf courses being built on former industrial land or landfills, the Casper project is unique because of its design to incorporate an active underground cleanup, officials said.

Flechas said the Casper project is impressive because it is an example how a piece of land has come full circle: how the refinery was first built on the High Plains, how it grew into a major supplier of fuel at the expense of the environment, how it became obsolete and an environmental hazard, and now how it is returning to a natural, peaceful setting.

"It came out of the dirt, reached its zenith and was reborn in the site that we

see today," said Flechas, who was involved in the Casper refinery site for nearly 20 years. He called it a testament to how a community, local leaders, an oil conglomerate and government can work together.

Midwest Refining Co. opened the refinery in 1913 to process petroleum produced from nearby oil fields. The first paved road in the county led from the oil field to the city. At the height of production, it employed 750 workers. Standard Oil took over the refinery in 1921 and expanded it. A year later the refinery was touted as the largest in the world for volume of gasoline produced.

The refinery closed in 1991 because of declining oil production in Wyoming, the aging equipment and the impracticality of investing millions of dollars to bring the refinery into compliance with environmental rules. It was a major blow to the city.

"It was a very large anchor in this community," said Alice Kraft, executive director of the board that now manages the site.

The closure also left behind a mess. Over its nearly 80 years of operation, the plant had leaked millions of gallons of crude oil and refined hydrocarbons. An estimated 10 million to 20 million gallons of oil reached the groundwater beneath the refinery site. By comparison, the Exxon Valdez spilled 11 million gallons in 1989.

Oil seeped under property outside the refinery and into the Platte River where an oily sheen formed along the banks. Signs were posted along the river warning people to stay out of the water.

The Environmental Protection Agency and Amoco, Standard Oil's name by then, negotiated for several years without resolution on how to clean up the site.

A group of citizens then sued Amoco, saying the refinery posed an "imminent and substantial endangerment" to human health and the environment. In early 1998, the same year BP took over ownership of the refinery, U.S. District Judge Clarence Brimmer found that Casper residents had a right to expect a "concerted, honest cleanup effort from the company that benefited greatly from the community and its surrounding natural resources."

The ruling spurred a series of actions that included agreements on what was to be done with the property.

To keep the polluted groundwater from seeping into the river, a 35- to 40-foot high steel wall was sunk into the bedrock along the Platte River. A system of pumps keeps the groundwater 6 inches below the river level.

The groundwater is pumped out at a rate of about 700 gallons a minute by nearly 100 wells, and the oil and other

chemicals are separated through a series of filtering wetlands — which also serve as water hazards on the golf course.

The system has yielded about 4,000 gallons of oil a month. It will take up to 300 years before the groundwater is considered drinkable.

The treated water from the golf course is then pumped to Soda Lake north of Casper, where the refinery used to dump its wastewater. Soda Lake is being cleaned as well and is now being maintained as waterfowl habitat.

Besides the golf course and lake, business parks have been established on the former refinery site and at a former oil

tank farm across the river. The property cannot be used for housing, hotels, nursing homes or detention facilities in order to protect against future damage claims, Kraft said.

"There is absolutely no health risk out here at all," she said. Her office is located in the new business park on the property.

The Casper project is among about a dozen projects across the nation that have been recognized by a panel of environmental professionals and business, academic and government leaders as an outstanding redevelopment of a polluted former industrial sites, known as brown fields.



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NATIONAL

Reno ranchers find that gentle alpacas wear profitable coats

BY SEVIL OMER
Associated Press Writer

RENO, Nev. — Webster is an aristocrat with dreadlocks. The auburn fleece that he carries is more rare than cashmere and slicker than silk.

In the world of luxury fibers, Webster is the hottest commodity today.

He's a baby alpaca and the newest member of R.T. Crowe's herd on the Bar C Ranch north of Reno.

The alpaca's fiber and sweet nature have sent retirees from Reno and dot-comers from California to cash out.

Alpaca farming has become big business and the trendy thing to do with one's life and 401(k).

More alpaca ranches have cropped up in the area near the Bar C in the past decade, with a few setting up in smaller lots in Reno. Alpaca ranching has appealed to former dairy and sheep farmers and couples who want to slow down in the country.

Some investors are seeing up to a 70 percent return.

Take the owners of the Lazy K Ranch, Ed and Kay Rodriguez. In 1999, the California couple moved to the area and set up their alpaca farm on a small lot.

"We were planning on retiring but didn't know what to do. Then, one day Kay brought me a magazine and said 'I want to do this,'" said Rodriguez, who retired as an engineer from America Online. "She wanted to raise alpacas. So we did. We bought 17 acres and that grew into 100. It's been great."

A descendent of the camel and cousin of the llama, the alpaca stands out from the crowd. Its claim to fame is its fleece, which can fetch up to \$4 an ounce. Fleece is taken from an alpaca each May, with coats weighing from 4 to 8 pounds.

The younger the animal, the better quality of fiber, which means more money.

But raising them is far from kid's play.

"It's a lot of hard work, but the rewards are amazing," Jeannette Miller said.

Miller, a retired nurse from Reno, nudged her husband to warm up to the South American animals after researching the subject on the Internet.

More alpaca ranches have cropped up in the area near the Bar C in the past decade, with a few setting up in smaller lots in Reno.

"It was scary at first, but my wife was sold on the idea," David Miller said. "She really wanted to do this. I went for it, too. We put our life savings on the line and bought a starter herd for \$80,000 in 1997."

They bought an acre five miles from the Rodriguez farm.

The Millers worked hard on their land, raising and caring for the animals with the gentleness of doting parents.

The herd blossomed under their care. The Millers made money from fleece and bought 10 more acres, which they named Sierra Nevada Alpacas. Now, the fleece pays for their feed and vet bills. The couple breaks even with their \$20,000 yearly investment.

"These animals are wondrous, exquisite and stare right into your soul," Jeannette Miller said. "I look out into the valley and see the gorgeous herd. I have to pinch myself every morning, because at this moment I am the happiest person on the planet."

The Millers recently opened their farm to the Fourth Annual Alpaca, Fiber and Craft Festival. Several farmers, mostly neighbors, hauled their alpacas to the Miller compound for the day.

Each alpaca herd had a custom-made pen, filled with food and water. Farmers spent the day chatting about their new babies, the cost of medicine and the personalities of each alpaca.

No one frowned about the future of fiber or whether their herd would net them a decent living this year.

"I don't know anything else that would be more exciting than what we are doing right now," David Miller said. "It has grown beyond my expectations."



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INTERNATIONAL



Little confidence expressed in job promises from leaders

BY ALAN CLENDENNING

Associated Press Writer

MAR DEL PLATA, Argentina — Across the street from luxury summer retreats for wealthy Argentines, children run through smelly alleys of a slum and play soccer in dusty lots littered with trash and rubble.

Nearly 1,000 people live in this “villa,” Argentine Spanish for a shantytown, but few are paying attention to this weekend’s Summit of the Americas at an elegant oceanfront hotel a mile away.

The theme of the summit of 34 nations is jobs, but slum dwellers are not counting on those leaders to lift them from their misery. They say they have heard the promises for decades, but little has changed.

“If you’re born poor here, you’ll probably die poor here,” said Segundo Aguirre, a 52-year-old construction worker who helped build some of the \$150,000 brick houses yards from his one-room concrete block home. “We’re always hoping for something better, but the promises are always hollow, and nothing happens.”

Most people here make less than the Argentine minimum wage equivalent to \$150 per month. The work is irregular — mostly low-paying summer jobs selling trinkets, cleaning homes or doing yard work for rich and middle-class Argentines at this beach resort about 250 miles from the capital, Buenos Aires.

Their story plays out across Latin America and the Caribbean, where per capita income averages \$3,280, World Bank statistics show. That’s compared to \$24,470 in Canada and \$37,870 in the United States.

President Bush is poised to unveil a job proposal for the region at the summit, but analysts doubt it will have much effect.

“The main problem is that Washington is in denial about the economic failure,” said Mark Weisbrot, who specializes in Latin American economics for the Center

for Economic and Policy Research in Washington, D.C. “More Latin American leaders are aware of it, but it does not seem to be discussed. What is needed at a bare minimum is some discussion about what has gone wrong.”

Bush is also expected to push his long-term solution for the region, a 34-nation Free Trade Area of the Americas that he says will generate wealth and create jobs.

But blue-collar Argentines in Mar del Plata say they are weary of hearing about the long-stalled proposal. Thousands of anti-Bush protesters from 25 nations in the hemisphere have descended on the city of 700,000 to bitterly oppose it and many wanted Bush to simply stay away.

“We’re mad that Argentina even opened the door for his visit,” said Wayma Maman, a 50-year-old Indian who traveled three days on a bus to participate in protests against Bush. “For us, he’s the devil and he should stay away with his proposals.”

A few blocks away, Donato Gonzalez was mixing concrete with his sons and beginning work on an addition to his one-room house in the shadow of a soccer stadium. He buys a sack of concrete whenever he has enough spare money from his job eking out an existence reupholstering furniture.

But Gonzalez, 49, said he only had the time to work on the house Friday. His usual clients, middle-class Mar del Plata residents, left the city for Buenos Aires because summit security has closed down much of the city.

Gonzalez immigrated from Uruguay four years ago, thinking there would be plenty of work in Mar del Plata because of its thriving tourism. But he is not surprised life did not improve.

“The conditions are the same as they were in Uruguay,” Gonzalez said. “But remember, this is South America.”

So will the summit make a difference?

“I’m just sick of hearing about it,” he said.

Signs of both hope and uncertainty as Iraq approaches its last democratic milestone

BY SALLY BUZBEE

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The last, most important political milestone since Saddam Hussein’s fall is now on the horizon: a December vote to create a democratically elected government that will run Iraq for the next four years.

On the political side at least, things are going about as well as anyone could expect. A significant chunk of the country’s minority Sunnis have decided to take part in the political process, secular moderates are getting back in the game, and even the dominant Shiites are likely to make some compromises.

Yet, in an eerie echo of past milestones, none of that political progress seems to be slowing the bloody insurgency. Instead, as it has repeatedly, the United States is busy warning that the violence will ramp up before the election, while fervently hoping it begins to taper off afterward.

Past examples are not encouraging. The insurgency has proven itself resilient after each of the landmark events of the last 2 1/2 years, still capable of mounting debilitating attacks that have kept key parts of Iraq in chaos.

The question now is whether, after the Dec. 15 election — if it’s successful — the violence will finally start to slow, allowing the United States to begin pulling out next year and leaving Iraqis in fuller control.

In this November lull before the vote, there are both hopeful and gloomy signs:

■ Recent high-profile attacks in downtown Baghdad and central Iraq proved that insurgents can still launch big suicide operations, right after U.S. commanders claimed they were slowing insurgents’ ability to do just that. While the attackers did not succeed in bringing down a hotel housing journalists, they did prove they still have power — a key goal for a group that pays much attention to propaganda.

■ U.S. troops suffered their fourth-deadliest month of

the war in October, with at least 95 soldiers dying. Many were killed by homemade bombs that the Pentagon has said are becoming more sophisticated.

■ Insurgent attacks against Shiite Muslims also continue at a high rate; the latest in the town of Musayyib on Wednesday killed about 20 people. Such attacks fuel the already high sectarian tensions between Sunnis and Shiites. Nevertheless, outright civil war has been averted.

■ For average Iraqis things remain hard, with electricity still sporadic and gas lines long. A U.S. special inspector general for Iraq reconstruction told Congress recently that security costs have eaten into the \$30 billion fund to rebuild the country, meaning many projects will never be done. He said the Bush administration hasn’t met its goal of restoring water, electricity and oil production to prewar levels.

Yet in Baghdad, street traffic seems up slightly, and people appeared to be out shopping for food and treats this last week before the Muslim Eid el-Fitr holiday.

None of this guarantees either certain success or failure after the election.

One key factor is that even after the vote, it will take some time for the Iraqi political situation to shake out and for compromise on key issues like federalism and sectarian militias, said Anthony Cordesman, an Iraq expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

The Bush administration has signaled it would like to begin partly drawing down its forces next year, but also cautions that will depend on the election’s success and Iraqi forces’ ability to stave off insurgents.

One other wild card has recently been thrown into play: hints that Iraq’s top Shiite cleric might demand a U.S. withdrawal timetable next year, after the new government takes office. Any such call from Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, if he also called for street protests to back up his words, would create intense pressure.

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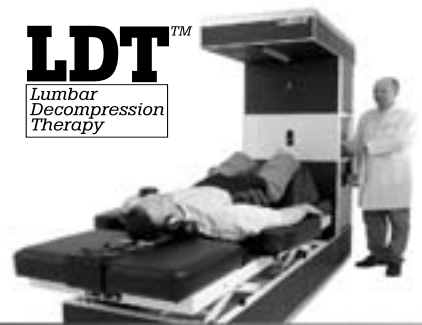
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INTERNATIONAL

Arson attacks spread beyond Paris suburbs as unrest enters second week

BY JAMEY KEATEN
 Associated Press Writer

LE BLANC MESNIL, France — Bands of youths roaming Parisian suburbs burned more than 500 vehicles and hurled stones at police as rioting — the nation's worst in a decade — entered its second week Friday and spread for the first time to other parts of France.

The violence prompted the U.S. and Russian governments to advise citizens visiting Paris to steer clear of its impoverished outlying neighborhoods, where authorities were struggling to regain control.

A savage assault this week on a bus passenger highlighted the dangers.

Attackers doused the woman, in her 50s and on crutches, with an inflammable liquid and set her afire as she tried to get off a bus in the suburb of Sevran, judicial officials said. The bus had been forced to stop because of burning objects in its path. She was rescued by the driver and hospitalized with severe burns.

Justice Minister Pascal Clement deplored the incident Friday, saying it caused him "great emotion."

With the unrest growing beyond the French capital, gangs burned five cars in the eastern city of Dijon and 11 in the southern city of Marseille.

A national police spokesman, Patrick Hamon, said there appeared to be no coordination among gangs in different areas. But he said youths in individual neighborhoods were communicating by cell phone text messages or e-mails — arranging meetings and warning each other about police operations.

The violence started Oct. 27 after the accidental electrocution of two teenagers who believed police were chasing them in the Seine-Saint-Denis region, dominated by low-income housing projects.

Since then riots have swelled into a broader challenge against the French state and its security forces. The violence has exposed deep discontent in neighborhoods where African and Muslim immigrants and their French-born children are trapped by poverty, unemployment, racial discrimination, crime, poor education and housing.

Across the Paris region, the burned remains of at least 520 cars littered streets, an increase from previous nights. Five police officers were lightly injured by youths throwing stones or bottles, the Interior Ministry said.

At a depot in Trappes, to the southwest, 27 buses were incinerated, officials said.

There were "few direct clashes" with security forces late Thursday and early Friday, however, no bullets fired at police, and far fewer large groups of rioters, said Jean-Francois Cordet, the top government official in Seine-Saint-Denis.

Instead, Cordet said, the unrest in Seine-Saint-Denis was led by "numerous small and highly mobile groups" that burned 187 vehicles and five buildings, including three warehouses.

The commuter train line linking Paris to Charles de Gaulle airport ran limited service Friday after two trains were targeted Wednesday night.

The U.S. Embassy called the protests "extremely violent" and warned travelers against taking trains to the airport because they pass through the troubled area.

The Foreign Ministry said it was concerned that foreign media coverage was exaggerating the situation. "I don't have the feeling that foreign tourists in Paris are in any way placed in danger by these events," ministry spokesman Jean-Baptiste Mattei said, adding that officials were "sometimes a bit surprised" by the foreign coverage.

Still, the violence has alarmed the government of President Jacques Chirac, whose calls for calm have gone unheeded.

"This is the first time (suburban violence) has lasted so long and the government appears taken aback at the magnitude," said Pascal Perrineau, director of the Center for Study of French Political Life.

The unrest erupted with youths angered over the deaths of Bouna Traore, 15, and Zyed Benna, 17, who were electrocuted when they hid in a power substation in the suburb of Clichy-sous-Bois.

Traore's brother, Siyakah Traore, called for protesters to "calm down and stop ransacking everything."

"This is not how we are going to have our voices heard," he told RTL radio, adding his voice to neighborhood groups working to stop the violence.

Dozens of residents and community leaders were stepping in to defuse tensions, with some walking between rioters and police to urge youths to back down.

Abderrhamane Bouhout, head of the Bilal mosque in Clichy-sous-Bois, said he had enlisted 50 youths to try stop the violence. "We've had positive results," he said.

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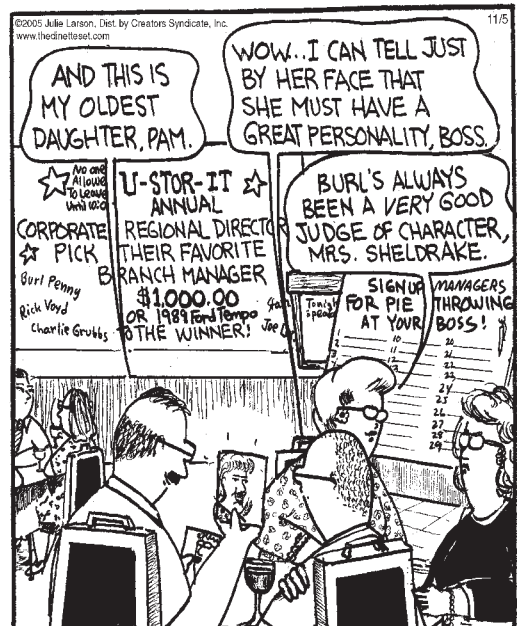
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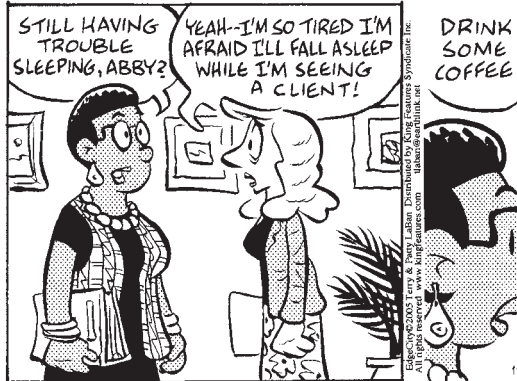
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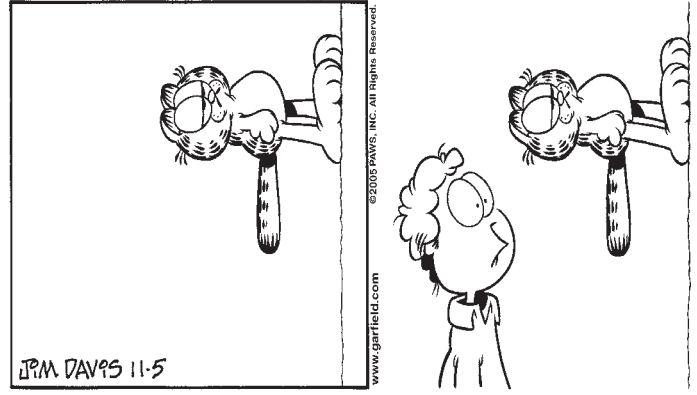
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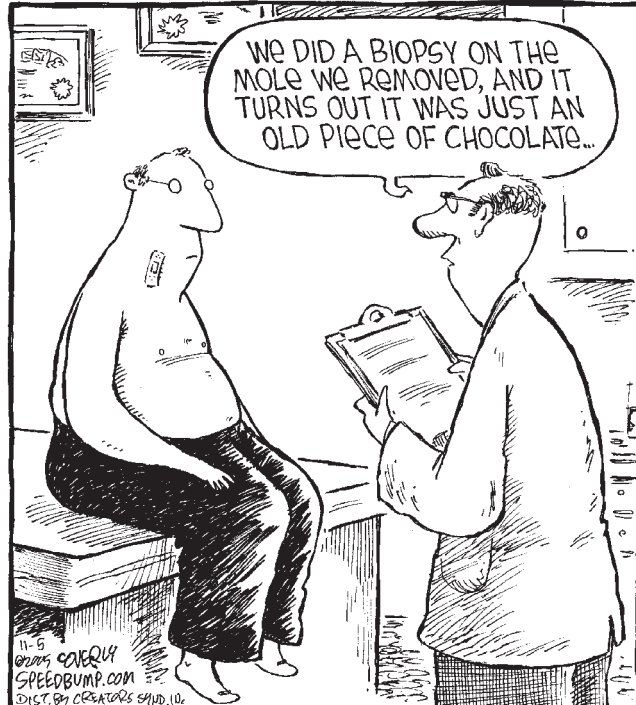
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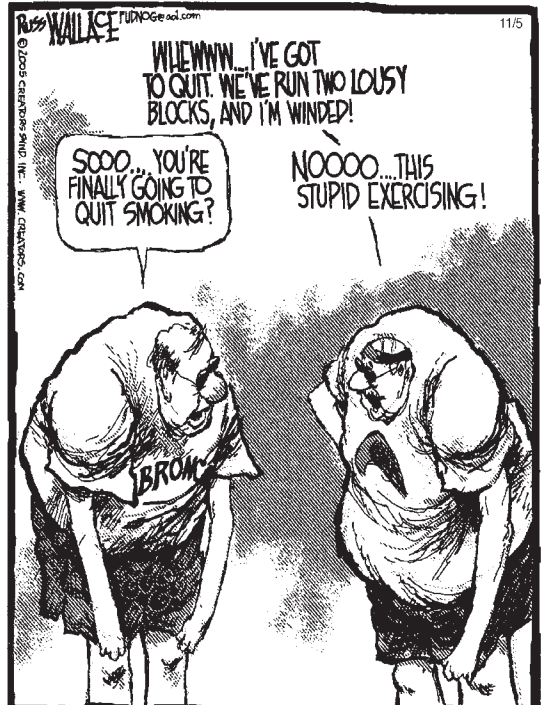


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ACROSS

- 1 Kilmer poem
- 6 Half a 1960s group
- 11 Raring to go
- 12 Forsaken
- 13 Caper
- 14 Historic caravel
- 15 Pollux's twin
- 17 Hogwash
- 18 Cassowary cousin
- 19 Whodunit staples
- 22 Agent, for short
- 23 Gretzky's game
- 24 Batter of verse
- 25 Monks' music
- 27 Sulky state
- 30 Chamber group
- 31 Mock
- 32 Ornamental vase
- 33 Entice
- 35 Hiss of history
- 38 Friend of Nancy
- 39 Because of
- 40 Honeydew, e.g.

DOWN

- 41 Mist
- 42 Antlered beasts
- 1 Shipping inquiry
- 2 Change the title of
- 3 Relishes
- 4 Fix text
- 5 Apple-polisher
- 6 Travel aid
- 7 Ring legend
- 8 Fifth president
- 9 Caesar's friend
- 10 Bus units
- 16 Farm alarm

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Yesterday's answer

- 20 They lead to slippery roads
- 21 Sun setting
- 24 Compact, e.g.
- 25 Get into a ball
- 26 Closet item
- 27 Rice dish
- 28 Book wrap-up
- 29 Mortises' partners
- 30 Campus areas
- 34 Frost, for one
- 36 LAX guess
- 37 Singer Orbison

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 2419412 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as All Stars Academy, 11503 Menlo Ave., #8, Hawthorne, CA 90250. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Tina Maria Williams, 11503 Menlo Ave., #8, Hawthorne, CA 90250 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/ Tina Williams
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 10/06/05. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 11/5/2005, 11/12/2005, 11/19/2005, 11/26/2005

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