



Santa Monica Daily Press

November 19-20, 2005

A newspaper with issues

Volume 5, Issue 6

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

13 15 22 30 38
Meganumber: 20
Jackpot: \$11 Million

FANTASY 5

16 23 29 31 34

DAILY 3

Daytime: 1 6 1
Evening: 4 2 8

DAILY DERBY

1st: 05 California Classic
2nd: 06 Whirl Win
3rd: 09 Winning Spirit

RACE TIME: 1:42.06

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

At 10 p.m. on Oct. 19, Ralph Parker, 93, in his Chevrolet Malibu, eased up to a tollbooth on Interstate 275 in St. Petersburg, Fla., inattentive to the fact that there was a dead body lodged in his windshield (the result of a collision about three miles away). According to police, Parker was off by about 10 miles when asked where he was and by two months on the date, and he thought the body had just fallen from the sky. Parker's son, 66, said he was aware his father had been deteriorating mentally, yet Parker's driver's license was renewed last year through his age 99, based on Florida's lax renewal policy (toughened for the state's 54,000 age-80-and-up drivers only by a vision test). (By contrast, for example, Florida requires 16 hours' training every two years for its licensed cosmetologists.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 323rd day of 2005.
There are 42 days left in the year.

On Nov. 19, 1863, President Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address as he dedicated a national cemetery at the site of the Civil War battlefield in Pennsylvania.

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Samohi parents see what's brewing

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

SAMOHİ — Sixteen Santa Monica High School mothers — and one father — with a thirst for knowledge sipped coffee and nibbled on donuts with the principal on Thursday to discuss what's

happening on campus.

For years, Samohi administrators have hosted such gatherings, which are generally held the third Thursday of the month. Last week, parents met for nearly two hours in the faculty cafeteria to share concerns with principal Ilene Straus regarding the day-to-day task of advancing their chil-

dren's education.

"I like the fact these meetings are informal, unlike other (parent) meetings," said Christina Miller. "It's a nice opportunity to find out what's happening at school."

The mood was light and friendly on Thursday. Straus — a mother of several grown children —

updated Samohi parents on a variety of issues, including curriculum planning, the school's equity fund, campus security and college preparation.

Particularly of note, Straus said she is re-considering whether it's

See **COFFEE TALK**, page 13

Yachta, yachta, yachta



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

A canoe team streams past a collection of yachts harbored in Marina del Rey. High temperatures this weekend are expected to hover around 80 degrees

City set to name new manager

By Daily Press Staff

CITY HALL — There's a new sheriff in town.

The Santa Monica City Council plans to announce who the new City Manager will be at the Tuesday, Nov. 22 council meeting, as outgoing City Manager Susan McCarthy oversees the meeting for the final time.

McCarthy's last day on the job will be Thursday, Dec. 8.

Mayor Pam O'Connor and Councilman Bob Holbrook have requested on Tuesday's agenda

that the council consider the contract terms for the appointment of the new manager. The salary will be somewhere in the range of \$245,000 per year and include benefits listed under the city's executive pay plan, according to the agenda.

The salary package may also include relocation assistance and a housing loan, according to the agenda.

The council may also appoint an interim city manager until the new one assumes his or her position. The interim manager would

be compensated at McCarthy's current level, according to the agenda.

Earlier this week, the council returned from a closed door meeting, after which the Daily Press was able to determine that within the local government three current city employees who applied have been passed over for the city's top position.

Gordon Anderson, assistant city manager; James T. Butts Jr., police chief; and Craig Perkins,

See **CITY MANAGER**, page 15

STATE

Preschool for All Act could land on ballot

BY JULIET WILLIAMS

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — Director and Democratic activist Rob Reiner has collected more than a million signatures to get an initiative on the June ballot that would fund preschool for all California children.

Reiner's Preschool for All Act would increase income tax

See **PRESCHOOL**, page 5

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HOROSCOPE

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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)

★★★★ You will find that home is where you are happiest. You could easily decide to spend money on a new item to enhance the quality of your life. Others seem to be willing to go more than halfway. Let bygones be bygones. Tonight: Invite others over.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Reach out to others. Your calls and caring come through. Your interest perks up others. Make fun plans, but don't head out the door too far from home. You will tend to go overboard. Tonight: At home.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ You might need to fight impulse spending, as you are acting on anger. Is there something you need to discuss or work through? Others want to dive into the good times. Still, spending could be an issue. Tonight: Fun doesn't have to cost.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ You are all smiles and full of get-up-and-go. Let a friend or associate make a suggestion and shove you out the door. You're able to accomplish a lot right now. Someone has strong feelings for you. Tonight: King or Queen Bee.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ Take your time handling different issues that might be bothering you. You might not be ready to take action yet. Thought and discussion might be instrumental. Accept an invitation to a party. You will like being in the limelight. Tonight: Head home early if you want.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Someone presents an unusual but not necessarily comfortable option or energy for the day. Work with it, and you will come out with flying colors. A break from your normal pattern could make you smile more than you know. Tonight: Have a good time.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Others demand your time and attention. You won't have a choice. Know that many admire you and think you have an easy time. Still, your leadership, humor and smile make many happy. Tonight: Happy as can be.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Pack up and take off for a drive or a visit to a museum. The further away you get from your daily life, the happier you will be. Laugh and enjoy yourself to the max. You will like a different perspective and change of environment. Tonight: Relax to music or do some yoga.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Go along with a loved one, even if it creates extra work for you. Ultimately, the good will that emerges could bind your relationship through the bad times as well as the good times. Tonight: Go along with the program.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Others hold the cards. Let them have their way, as their plans could be most entertaining. In fact, feelings build with the enjoyment you experience. Let go of control and go a little wild. A friend always surprises you. Tonight: The only answer is yes.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ You might be focused on a project. If you ask for some support, you might find that you'll complete what you need to far more quickly. You are into your home and getting it more to your liking. Tonight: Take some time to relax.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ You can no longer suppress yourself. The child in you emerges and lets go. Whether playing racquetball or just going to the playground, you have a great time. Be yourself, and let your imagination rock and roll. Tonight: Add laughter.



Got News?

If you see news happening or have something to report, call the Santa Monica Daily Press at our NEW tipline!

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Choraliers perform songs of the season

By Daily Press staff

The Choraliers, a 30-voice choral ensemble, will perform songs of the season in a benefit concert on Dec. 7 at 8 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church of Santa Monica, located at 1220 2nd St. Admission is free with the donation of canned food. Cash donations also will be accepted.

Proceeds from the evening benefit the Ocean Park Community Center's Access Center. The center provides counseling, food and clothes to individuals who are homeless, or suffer from domestic violence and mental illness.

All canned goods will be used in the access center's grocery program, which provides food to low income individuals and families.

First Presbyterian Church is located on the west side of 2nd Street, between Wilshire Boulevard and Arizona Avenue in Santa Monica. Parking is \$3 at the city of Santa Monica parking structure directly across the street.

The stars come out in December

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica College will offer a series of astronomy shows featuring the night sky next month.

"Star of Wonder," a look at possible explanations for the Star of Bethlehem, will be the feature show Dec. 2, 9 and 16 at SMC's Friday night astronomy series.

"Star of Wonder" is at 8 p.m. and is preceded at 7 p.m. by "The Night Sky Show", which re-creates the night sky and provides the latest information on space exploration.

The shows are held in the John Drescher Planetarium, which features the Digistar projection system. It is located on the second floor of Drescher Hall, 1900 Pico Blvd.

Tickets are \$5 each or \$9 for both shows, with discounts for children and senior citizens. For information, call (310) 434-4223.

Open adoption for Katrina 'ruffugies'

By Daily Press staff

There are still victims of Hurricane Katrina searching for new homes.

On Sunday, Dec. 11, New Leash On Life and Rescue For Ruffugees will host Hurricane Katrina Super Adoption at Barker Hangar in Santa Monica. Hurricane Katrina Super Adoption is open to the public 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission and parking are free.

Guests will have the opportunity to shop dozens of pet-related vendors. There also will be a silent auction to support the ongoing Katrina animal rescue efforts. The money raised by silent auction will be collected by New Leash On Life and distributed to more than 30 rescue organizations that cared for Katrina ruffugees.

This event is the culmination of four months of efforts to rescue animals abandoned during Hurricane Katrina. More than 200 homeless pets will be available for adoption from Louisiana and Los Angeles. The goal is to find permanent homes for every adoptable animal.

Due to the large number of adoptable animals, the public must refrain from bringing any pets to the event.

CORRECTION — In the Friday, Nov. 18 issue of the Santa Monica Daily Press, the news story "Official: L.A. will be COG in machine," contained errors. Westside cities may hire a lobby firm to advocate an extension of the Red Line heading west on Santa Monica Boulevard. Also, Westside city representatives desire the second phase of planning for the Expo Line to occur in spring, but it has not officially been determined when it will begin.



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SURF REPORT

Saturday will see the peak of the Japan-originating WNW swell with size in the chest-high zone around west-facing breaks.

The wind event will likely be quite strong in the morning for LA County on Saturday as well, and we'll still have a fairly high tide to deal with by 10 a.m.

Sunday should see the last of the WNW swell as the shorter lagging arrive with size chest high. Winds should relax on Sunday as well as tide recuperates a bit.

Today the
water is:

63°

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and tell us what the surf is doing today at your local break.

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	3:38	3.0	5:58	0.0	12:11	3.5	10:05	5.7
SUNDAY	4:09	3.2	6:55	0.3	1:34	3.4	10:44	5.3
MONDAY	4:59	3.5	7:57	0.6	3:22	3.5	11:33	4.8
TUESDAY	7:20	3.6	8:58	0.8	4:26	3.7	12:41	4.3
WEDNESDAY	9:37	3.3	9:50	0.9	4:53	4.0	2:15	4.0

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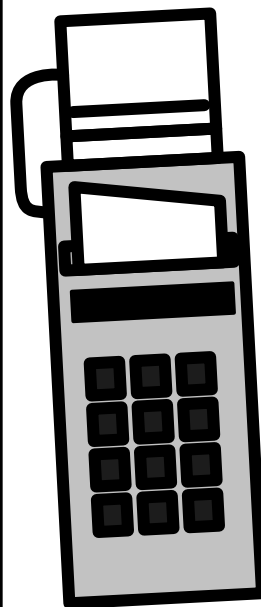
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CHECK OUT THIS WEEK'S Q-LINE
RESPONSES ON PAGE 4.**

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The Q Line

LAST OF ACTION HERO? GOVERNOR, GET GOING

This past week, Q-line asked:

"Where should Gov. Schwarzenegger focus his efforts now?"

Here are your responses:

① "Well, the governor should focus his efforts on life after government service. The sooner the better. He has done enough damage. Maybe he could bike ride with Bush — the two of them off into the sunset."

② "First, to the bank to withdraw sufficient funds to reimburse the state of California the costs of the special elections. Then, after resigning from the office of governor of the state of California, start paying a mind to Maria Shriver, pumping iron and Schatzi's Bar and Grill."

③ "There is several things Gov. Schwarzenegger should do right now. He should focus on bringing business to the state. If this China trip can do something like that then it's a good thing. He should also try to get other businesses in this nation to come to California by lowering certain taxes and things like that. Another thing he could do is try and get the federal government to reimburse California for all the money we waste on the illegal aliens. They are draining our economy, our health care systems, prisons. Something should be done about that. Make the federal government pay for it since they are supposed to stop them from coming in. Another thing he can do is learn how to pronounce the name of the state properly."

④ "It's too bad that Gov. Schwarzenegger chose to put these initiatives on the ballot and spend \$250 million which could go towards the educational system which I think badly needs infusions of funds. That's where I think Gov. Schwarzenegger should focus because if we don't have a good school system in our state, sayonara."

⑤ "Mr. Schwarzenegger should concentrate on 2006 and start reading scripts."

⑥ "The governor should reorganize the school systems. Veteran school teachers that were injured at school should have received their pension disability to heal and not be treated like dirt by the school attorneys who ended up getting all the money. This type of procedure has been going on for decades and a lot of the veteran teachers, 25 years-plus, just walked out because they did not want that to happen to them. So, if you look back into the history of teachers that stood by, thick or thin, and got injured, assaulted, or burned out the school district and administrators did not believe them and would not give them a cent disability to heal their wounds and it's just unbelievable. I think all the districts should be broken down into smaller districts and that we need new leadership and not pay our superintendent as much as we do, who gets \$350,000 just as a flat fee, not including all the expenses and everything and start to have a little more respect for the students and the teachers and believe a teacher who has gone to school for a long, long time and just gets pennies to live on that when she is injured or assaulted she is not making up the story and she deserves to

get some disability so she can heal and go back to her teaching. I think it's time that we showed a little more dignity and respect to our teaching profession and the young people of this country."

⑦ "He should focus his efforts on making a graceful exit from the mansion, taking with him all that he brought in, leaving no room for return to retrieve something left behind."

⑧ "If I were the governor, I would gather my millions of dollars and head back to Brentwood, but for some fool reason he seems to want to save California. This state was going 100 mph into a brick wall. The socialist democrat hacks in Sacramento have absolutely no ideas except for their constant security blankie of tax and spend. Cut senators and congressmen's pay by 20 percent to show leadership means business. Cut all state and school educators by 5 percent, cut police and fire by 3 percent, institute a state flat tax 30 percent less than now and have two tiers of taxes. One under \$100,000 and the second above. Will this magically fix our deficit? No, but it's a start."

⑨ "I believe Gov. Schwarzenegger should focus his efforts to returning to the entertainment industry if they will have him. Remember, he always hung his hat on 'I'll be back' and that is exactly where he belongs and not in politics."

⑩ "He needs to retreat gracefully before announcing he won't run again. Maria needs him at home."

⑪ "Well, the cheap shot is "Terminator 4". But seriously, folks, any reformer today has no more chance than the proverbial snowball in hell. There's the concept of the tipping point that has long since been reached. The decline of California in the U.S. began long ago and is irreversible. A democracy will continue to exist up until the voters discover that they can vote themselves generous gifts from the public treasury. From that moment on, the majority will always vote for the candidates who promise the most benefits from the public treasury with the result that every democracy will collapse due to loose fiscal policy which is always followed by dictatorship."

⑫ "I think basically he's a lame duck. The day he vetoed the gay marriage bill ended his political career in California. He cannot win the state now without the liberal votes. So I think Mr. Schwarzenegger should focus his energy on his next acting job."

⑬ "Stupid actors like George Murphy, and Reagan and Arnold couldn't even act yet we elect them to public office. When will people stop idealizing bad actors and thinking that since they can tap dance or play the "Terminator" or "Bedtime for Bonzo" that they could run a country. Arnold, go back to Hollyweird and make "Conan the King," which was promised after his first two "Conans". This is his true persona, a bumbling, muscle-bound oaf."

OPINION

'Flipper' redux: TV, radio targets animals



MODERN TIMES

BY LLOYD GARVER

As many media critics have noted over the past several years, "broadcasting" has become "narrow-casting." In the past, television and radio programs were aimed at the widest possible audience. Today they go for "niche programming." So, on the radio, there are all-sports stations, all-talk, hip-hop, country, oldies and classical stations. TV gives us cartoon stations, all news stations, crime shows for adults, sex-oriented comedies for adults and sex-oriented comedies for young people. Now there's a new niche in radio programming — a radio station just for the listening pleasure of pets.

DogCatRadio.com is an Internet radio station that aims its programming at, well, dogs and cats. It's broadcast from the parking lot in the Eagle Rock neighborhood of LA. Adrian Martinez started it when he noticed that his cat, Snickers, likes to listen to music — especially '80s rock. I remember when the Pet Rock was a silly gag gift.

Success in the radio and television business is all about demographics. Since there are approximately 140 million pets in the United States alone, this is a listening audience that won't go untapped for long.

DogCatRadio.com has DJs who play the music, but so far they are all human. That doesn't seem right, and I'm sure dogs and cats will soon be manning — uh, animaling — the turntables. How hard can it be to teach a pet to turn on a record? The difficult part will be keeping their headphones on. But if pets can walk around in those silly sweaters that some owners make them wear, I'm sure they can be taught not to tear off their headphones.

The station takes requests, and among the most popular songs are, "Hound Dog" and that "who let the dogs out — woof, woof, woof" song. I'm not sure if these requests are made by humans who assume their pets like certain music, or if the animals themselves call the station.

One human listener complained to the station that they weren't playing anything specifically for "our equine friends." This leads me to believe that soon the niche will have other niches. HorseRadio.com, Parakeet Radio, and All Gerbil, All the

Time will not be far behind. And let's not forget, "Radio Flea Europe." Sorry about that.

Those of you who have been reading my column for the past couple of weeks should know that DogCatRadio is bilingual. In addition to English, it broadcasts a Spanish program. It's not clear if this is for the benefit of Spanish-speaking owners or if it's for pets who might prefer Spanish, like Mexican Chihuahuas. If it's the latter, soon we'll be seeing demands for equal time from French Poodles, Yorkshire Terriers, and, of course, Alaskan Malamutes.

I have the feeling that DogCatRadio.com is just the beginning. And with the holidays around the corner, and the knowledge that we spend \$35.9 billion a year on pets in the United States, smart businesspeople will be trying to fetch a bone or two from this latest development. Watch for i-Paws, little iPods that attach to a pet's collar. Laptops for Lapdogs will probably be on sale soon. And don't be surprised if you find yourself buying a computer mouse for your cat.

Once radio cashes in, you can bet a pig's ear that TV will follow. And I don't think it will stop at pet programming. Television is always looking for ways to air all those failed pilots and canceled shows that cost millions of dollars. I can just see some Harvard MBA/Vice President of Programming saying, "Why don't we just put those unsuccessful shows on for the cats, dogs and fish? They won't know the difference." You know, the same attitude they have towards people.

I hope this doesn't happen. I think that attitude underestimates our pets' intelligence, and subjecting our pets to bad TV would definitely qualify as animal cruelty.

I played DogCatRadio for my dog. He just continued to sleep through the songs and the pet-friendly chatter. Now, if they were to broadcast the sound of food hitting the inside of his bowl, he'd perk up and start wagging his tail right away. Just a suggestion. Actually, make that a request.

(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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STATE



Study: Preschool aids math, reading skills

PRESCHOOL, from page 1

rates for the top 0.6 percent of income earners to fund a year of preschool for all 4-year-olds. Reiner also is chairman of California's First 5 program, which pays for programs for children up to age 5.

Reiner was flanked by business leaders Thursday when he made the announcement outside a San Francisco preschool.

"We did this thing the right way. We brought business leaders and labor together to help draft the initiative," he said in a telephone interview after the announcement. "It's a different way to go about creating legislation, and I think a very positive way to look at how we can do really big progressive things."

The initiative would raise an estimated \$2.4 billion a year by increasing income taxes by 1.7 percent for individuals who earn at least \$400,000 a year, or couples earning \$800,000. It also would increase training for preschool teachers and require that they be paid at the level of public school teachers in the same county.

Reiner said he plans to turn the petitions in next week to the secretary of state's office, which will verify the signatures. Sponsors need 598,105 valid signatures to qualify the measure for the ballot.

The effort is Reiner's second stab at getting a statewide vote on a preschool initiative. In 2004, he and the California Teachers Association proposed a different preschool program, but that plan drew criticism as a potential union power grab and a possible threat to nonprofit preschools.

The latest initiative would provide money for existing public and private programs and would be administered by the state Department of Education. It would give oversight to county education authorities, but critics contend that provision could hurt high-quality preschools.

"Every district superintendent is going to be pushing the county board of education for a slice of this \$2.4 billion, and it may hang the nonprofit community out to dry," said Bruce Fuller, a professor of education and public policy at the University of California, Berkeley.

The state estimates that about two-thirds of children already are enrolled in some kind of preschool — about 420,000 of them through state-subsidized programs. A study involving researchers from UC Berkeley, UC Davis and Stanford University earlier this year found a similar rate, but Reiner said only one in five California children is enrolled in high-quality preschool.

He said the initiative would give all children access to good programs with highly qualified teachers. It would require that preschool teachers have a bachelor's degree.

But Fuller said the money would be better spent expanding existing state preschool programs that target children who have been shown to benefit the most, especially those from poor and immigrant families.

The University of California-Stanford study, which surveyed 14,000 children nationwide, found that preschool programs raised early language, reading and math skills but hindered some children's social skills.

An economic analysis earlier this year by the nonprofit research group Rand Corp. found that for every public dollar spent, high-quality universal preschool would generate \$2.62 in benefits by raising high school graduation rates, cutting juvenile crime and producing a more productive work force. Reiner said that's one reason business groups have signed on.

Among Reiner's supporters is the Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce. Policy Director Benjamin Scott said the city's high school graduation rate is only about 40 percent. Only about 12 percent of students there go to college.

"What's happening to all these people? We end up subsidizing them later, either with welfare initiatives or paying for them to be in prison at \$30,000 or \$40,000 a pop," Scott said.

The California Taxpayers' Association, however, called the initiative a "massive tax increase proposal."

"This proposal will subsidize many middle- and upper-income families who already can afford to send their children to private preschool," President Larry McCarthy said in a statement.

Reiner and another Democratic celebrity, Warren Beatty, have been suggested as possible contenders to run against actor-turned-politician Arnold Schwarzenegger next November, but Reiner said he's not applying for that job — yet.

"If at some point down the road I feel like I can get more done as an elected official, I'll think about it then. But I'm not thinking of that at this time," Reiner said.

Schwarzenegger, a Republican, launched his political career with another education initiative, Proposition 49, a proposal to fund after-school programs that was approved by voters in 2002. Next fiscal year may be the first in which the state has enough money to fund it.

Reiner, however, said he has been active on education issue for years. His First 5 program has raised more than \$3 billion since voters approved a tax on cigarettes to pay for it in 1998, but questions have been raised about whether there is enough spending oversight.

Reiner said his preschool plan would give the state superintendent of public instruction authority to revoke funding if any county isn't meeting state standards.

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Crabby mood: Prices keep fishermen at bay

BY TERENCE CHEA
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Larry Collins thought he'd be at sea now, furiously hauling tire-sized traps teeming with the city's famous Dungeness crabs during the frenzied first days of the season.

But on Friday, more than three days after the Central California crab fishery opened, Collins's boat remained tethered to Fisherman's Wharf as he joined crab fishermen in refusing to take the price offered by the West Coast's largest processor: Pacific Seafood.

"I've got to make a living, but I'm not going to be some slave boat for some processor," said Collins, vice president of the San Francisco Crab Boat Owners Association. "We love to fish, but we can't keep doing it if it's a losing proposition."

The dispute that stalled the opening of the Dungeness crab season highlights the increasingly bitter struggle between commercial fishermen and Pacific Seafood, the Portland-based company that dominates the West Coast's seafood industry.

Industry critics call the company the "Wal-Mart of the Seas" — a symbol of what's wrong with the seafood business. They complain the company has become so powerful its uses its dominance to dictate lower prices for their catch and also drives small processors out of business.

"It's the Wal-Mart syndrome," said Pete Leipzig, who heads the Fishermen's Marketing Association. "They are so large that they dictate to companies what to produce and what to pay."

Pacific Seafood officials say they offer prices based on an increasingly global market.

"The fishermen are still independent. They make the choice on where to deliver," said Tim Horgan, the company's chief operating officer. "We can't force them to do business, nor can we force the other processors to pay a lower price."

The Central California Dungeness fishery, which stretches from Monterey County to Mendocino County, officially opened after midnight Tuesday.

But in an unusual show of solidarity, crab fishermen in the region's three main ports — Bodega Bay, Half Moon Bay and San Francisco — have stuck together in what has amounted to a fishing strike after failing to agree on catch prices with Pacific Seafood and other processors.

The fishermen originally asked for \$1.85 per pound, while the processors offered to pay \$1.50 per pound. After negotiations between crabbers and processors at the three ports, Pacific Seafood raised their offer to \$1.65 per pound by midweek, but the fishermen wouldn't go lower than \$1.75.

Pacific Seafood lowered its offer to \$1.25 on Friday, saying the fishermen had missed the deadline to meet the lucrative market for the weekend before Thanksgiving.

The fishermen said fuel and bait expenses have nearly doubled and they can't afford to fish for \$1.25 per pound, 50 cents below last year's rate.

"The price of everything has gone up except the price of my crab," said Dave Shogren, 60, whose boat called "Aleutian Storm" sat idle Friday.

The processors said they were also dealing with higher energy prices as well as weaker demand because Hurricane Katrina had wiped out casinos and hotels that have become big crab buyers in recent years.

"Everybody's got higher fuel costs," said Joe Cincotta, who manages Pacific Seafood's San Francisco plant. "With the amount of money it would cost us to process, we gave them the best offer we could this year."

The standoff left San Francisco Bay area retailers and restaurants without the fresh crabs consumers have come to expect in mid-November — two weeks before the opening of fisheries further north and just in time for Thanksgiving.

Michael Guardino, owner of Guardino's restaurant at Fisherman's Wharf, was selling fresh crabs shipped in from Canada because that's what his customers want.

"San Franciscans are waiting for local crabs," Guardino said. "Until they settle this dispute, I can't sell local crabs."

Last season, California's crab fishery had its second largest catch on record with 23.7 million pounds landed, said Pete Kalvass, a marine biologist with the state Department of Fish and Game. But he expected lower numbers this year.

The Northern California fishery, which stretches from Mendocino to the Oregon border, was set to open on schedule Dec. 1 after test results Thursday showed the crabs were mature enough to harvest, game officials said.

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STATE



Prosecutors: Crips founder should be executed

BY DAVID KRAVETS

AP Legal Affairs Writer

SACRAMENTO — Los Angeles County District Attorney Steve Cooley strongly urged Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on Thursday not to spare Crips street gang founder Stanley Williams from being executed next month for murdering four people.

"Stanley Williams does not deserve your sympathy, leniency or mercy," the district attorney wrote in a lengthy letter that included gruesome details of the murders and bloody pictures of the dead.

The letter said the 1979 Los Angeles murders were "truly horrific," and added that a jury determined that "Williams suffer the penalty of death for his crimes."

The district attorney was responding to Williams' plea to Schwarzenegger 10 days ago, in which Williams asked Schwarzenegger to grant him clemency and commute his sentence to life without parole. Williams claims he is innocent, says he has turned his life around behind bars, and is doing good deeds such as preaching peace to gang members from an Internet site from San Quentin State Prison's death row.

Cooley disputed Williams' assertion of innocence and his claims that he has turned his back on the Crips street gang he co-founded. In terse language, Cooley demanded Williams' death and decried to the governor "not to allow Williams to usurp the compassion that is due" his four

victims.

Williams, 51, is in line to become one of three California condemned inmates to be executed within months. He is scheduled to die by lethal injection at San Quentin State Prison on Dec. 13.

He was condemned in 1981. Williams claims fabricated testimony sent him to death row and also says Los Angeles County prosecutors violated his rights when they dismissed all potential black jurors from his case.

The California Supreme Court, the federal trial and appellate courts, and the U.S. Supreme Court have already ruled against him.

Williams last week asked the California Supreme Court to reopen the case, saying faulty forensics linked him to three of the murders, assertions Cooley disputed Thursday.

Williams was convicted of killing Albert Owens, a 7-Eleven clerk during a robbery; and Yen-I Yang, Tsai-Shai Chen Yang and Yu-Chin Yang Lin. Those three were gunned down two weeks after Owens when their motel was robbed.

While in San Quentin State Prison, Williams has been nominated five times for a Nobel Peace Prize and four times for the Nobel Prize for literature for his series of children's books and international peace efforts intended to curtail youth gang violence.

Cooley, in urging Williams' death, told Schwarzenegger that Crips "gang warfare has been responsible for literally thou-

sands of murders in Los Angeles County alone." He said Williams threatened jurors in the courtroom when he was convicted, and also plotted an escape from jail.

The district attorney included letters from the victims' families, Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca, and William Bratton, the Los Angeles Police Department chief — all urging Williams' death.

Prison officials also maintain that Williams is still a gang leader whose "minions" carry out his objectives.

Cooley submitted a laundry list of reports of misconduct by Williams while in prison, one of which included Williams throwing a chemical substance on the face of a guard.

His last mix up in prison, Cooley said, was in 1993, when Williams was involved in a fight with other inmates.

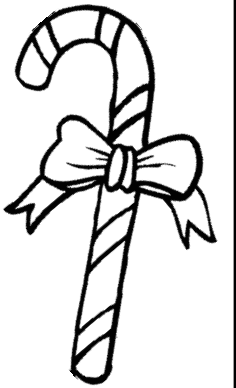
Schwarzenegger has the constitutional authority to commute Williams' sentence, and has denied doing so for two other death row inmates who have requested it. The governor, who is traveling in China, has not said when he will make a decision.

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Wildfire scorches 2,000 acres in Ventura County

BY JEFF WILSON

Associated Press Writer

VENTURA, Calif. — Pushed by fierce Santa Ana winds, a 2,000-acre wildfire crept toward about 200 large, ridge-top homes Friday, prompting a voluntary evacuation before decreasing winds helped firefighters with their attack.

About 1,200 firefighters and other personnel worked the late-season blaze, first reported around 3:30 a.m. in School Canyon — a hilly, rocky area between Ventura and Ojai, about 60 miles northwest of Los Angeles.

At midmorning, a wall of flames as high as 30 feet snaked along hillsides, and by early afternoon a huge plume of whiskey-brown smoke carried ash to the nearby Pacific Ocean.

In just a few hours, the wind-driven fire tripled in size. But the fire calmed down in the early evening as a cooler onshore breeze helped decrease winds and temperatures.

"It's going better than anticipated because the winds shifted and died down," said Rose Regalado, a spokeswoman with the Ventura County Fire Department. "They're holding the fire."

The National Weather Service canceled a wind advisory that had been in effect. Forecasters, however, cautioned that winds would continue in the area through early Sunday, at 15 to 25 mph with isolated gusts near 35 mph.

The fire roared down School Canyon heading to the northern edge of the city. At one point, the fire burned to the backyards of several large homes. The fire by early Friday evening was zero percent

contained.

"We have a lot of crews up there and are making every effort to protect those structures," said Joe Luna, a spokesman with the Ventura County Fire Department. "But we are confident that the winds — when they calm down — will allow us to put this out."

Two nearby schools were closed before students could arrive early Friday and two Red Cross shelters opened to assist evacuees, though no one had gone to them as of early evening.

The cause of the fire was under investigation. One minor firefighter injury was reported.

Besides homes, the hills also have a number of oil wells that fire officials were doing their best to avoid.

"We have to be careful with our bulldozers that are out there making clearings," Ventura County Fire Chief Bob Roper said.

Television footage appeared to show at least one structure burned, apparently on an oil field, though fire officials said they had no information. They did say the fire started in the area of an oil field facility.

Many of the stucco homes in the area have tile roofs, and fire officials said requirements that brush be cleared around houses were helping efforts.

Still, firefighting equipment was headed to Ventura from throughout the state. Bulldozers and hotshot crews worked their way up Highway 101 from Los Angeles. Water-dropping helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft also were called in to assist firefighters on the ground.

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A reflective Shriver takes own path in China

BY BETH FOUHY

AP Political Writer

SHANGHAI, China — Touring a state-run home for orphaned children on Thursday, Maria Shriver was reminded it was exactly two years since her husband was sworn in as governor of California.

"Is it?" Shriver said with a laugh, apparently not dwelling much on the memory of Nov. 17, 2003, the day she became the state's most reluctant first lady.

"It's been challenging for me. I'm always very straight about that," she said of the last two years. "I've found it humbling in many ways, exciting in many ways, inspiring. I have to say, I feel pretty good about how I've done."

The longtime television journalist, who turned 50 earlier this month, has traveled her own path since the historic recall election that swept Arnold Schwarzenegger into office.

Accompanying Schwarzenegger on a six-day China trade mission, Shriver has spent the week much as she has spent the two years since his inauguration. She has been his partner, but also has kept a separate schedule that reflects her own interests.

At the Shanghai Children's Home, Shriver visited the Half the Sky Foundation, a program offering snuggles and stimulation to thousands of orphaned children in foster care or waiting to be adopted. Shriver distributed teddy bears to several children and briefly choked back tears as little girls toddled toward her, calling her "Mama."

The foundation, launched in 1998 by San Francisco Bay Area resident Jenny Bowen, fused Shriver's interests in promoting "remarkable California women" as well as social programs to help the disadvantaged.

She explained how the program is named for a well-known Chinese saying — that women hold up half the sky.

"Most women I know hold up the whole sky," Shriver joked.

Earlier this week, in Beijing, Shriver visited the Maples Women's Psychological Care Center, which offers counseling to victims of sexual harassment, domestic violence and other forms of abuse. The center has taken 80,000 calls since opening in 1988.

"The women I met today had no idea, they had nowhere to turn, until they heard about the Maples Center," Shriver said after visiting with two of the center's clients. "They had no hope and no under-

standing of what they could do with their lives or their marriages."

In Hong Kong, the final stop of the three-city trade mission, Shriver will visit Harmony House, a shelter for battered women.

To be sure, Shriver's week has included its share of official duties, including a trade-promotion dinner with Schwarzenegger at Beijing's Great Hall of the People. The couple also were mobbed by curious onlookers after a Special Olympics event Monday afternoon.

There have been plenty of glamorous moments, too.

She was scheduled to walk the red carpet with Schwarzenegger at the Shanghai premiere of "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire." And earlier this week, in Beijing, she donned a lacy designer gown to promote California couture at a state trade show.

Her appearance in the dress prompted its designer, Kevan Hall, to proclaim Shriver was "a young, modern Jackie O."

That the late Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis was also the widow of Shriver's uncle, President John F. Kennedy, was an odd, if inadvertent, reference to Shriver's complicated history.

Shriver's mother, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, was the late president's sister. It's a legacy she mentioned Thursday as she reviewed her two years as first lady.

"I grew up the child of politics. It's a very challenging place to be," Shriver said, adding that her goal as first lady was to make sure her four children developed identities separate from their famous family ties.

Her hope, she said, was "that they knew who they were, separate from being Arnold Schwarzenegger's kid, a Kennedy, a Shriver, whatever that is."

A liberal Democrat, Shriver stayed conspicuously silent this year after Schwarzenegger called a special election and campaigned for a series of measures aimed at reducing the power of unions and Democratic lawmakers in the state. He suffered a humiliating loss Nov. 8, when voters rejected all four of his "year of reform" initiatives.

Schwarzenegger said he was glad he has a wife who can openly disagree with him.

"It's what makes my relationship with my wife such a special relationship," he told students at Beijing's Qinghua University. "My wife has been an incredible partner. Even though she comes from a different political background ... she's been very supportive."

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NATIONAL

Prelude to a comeback: Gifted musician starts anew

BY JULIA SILVERMAN

Associated Press Writer

PORTLAND, Ore. — Back in the sweet, slow world of New Orleans, the city that he'll always think of as home, tenor saxophonist Calvin Johnson played his first professional gig at the legendary Tipitina's at the tender age of 14. Afterward, he toasted along with the bartender and the band, to years ahead and gigs to come.

So Johnson, now 19, was taken aback when he headed to some of this Northwestern city's premier jazz venues and ran smack into an arcane Oregon law that prohibits underage performers from hanging out in bars when they've finished their set. He was turned away everywhere, he said, even from the bar at the Hilton Hotel, even though he tried three times.

"I played a Mardi Gras party for Playboy when I was in the 10th grade," he said. "I've gotten used to, no matter where I go in the states, I have my horn and I'm playing."

Everything is different now for Johnson, just as it is for the thousands of displaced Louisianans who are starting over in unfamiliar cities, from Houston to New York, Los Angeles to Chicago, living lives that will be forever divided into two parts — B.K., for Before Katrina, and A.H., after the hurricane.

Bound for starting over, Johnson bounced from city to city, landing finally in Portland in October, just as the rainy season was setting in, a city where there

are days when he walks for blocks and doesn't see another black person, where he's had to buy, by his count, four jackets, three blazers and "a couple of hats" just to stay warm, where there are no hurricanes, but earthquakes lurk.

He's one of a group of nine musicians who took the Portland Jazz Festival up on their post-hurricane offer to move to the city. The Jazz Festival and its corporate sponsors have paid for their lodging, helped them find jobs in the city's nightclubs and classrooms, thrown a benefit for the musicians and promised them each a spot in the festival's February lineup.

For Johnson, the organization has gone a step further, offering him help to continue his education, after his studies at the University of New Orleans were interrupted by the hurricane.

Pianist Darrell Grant, one of Portland's godfathers of jazz, likened Johnson to a John "Coltrane in his formative stage," referring to the legendary saxophonist who played alongside fellow greats Miles Davis and Thelonious Monk in the 1950s and 1960s, before launching on his own improvisational flights.

"(Calvin) practices about six hours a day," a habit that also distinguished Coltrane in his younger years, said Grant, professor of jazz at Portland State University. "We're trying to get him into the jazz program at PSU."

Johnson says he's grateful to be in a safe place, but aimless too, so far from his family and friends and everything familiar.

Born to a family where his grandfather and four of his uncles were musicians and jazz was always spilling from his father's record player, Johnson grew up on a tidy block in the now-infamous Ninth Ward, where his family had the street's only swimming pool, every other house had a basketball hoop, and his father made him cut the grass every five days. Hurricanes were routine; he could recall leaving only once, for Hurricane Ivan in 2004. The rest of the time, the Johnson family "went about our business," he said.

Johnson soaked up the opportunities available for a young, eager musician in New Orleans, attending the New Orleans Center for the Creative Arts — the Louisiana equivalent of the "Fame" school — being mentored by some of the town's leading lights, playing Lincoln Center with the New Orleans Jazz Orchestra.

He went back to school full of plans after a summer teaching at the Louis Armstrong Jazz Camp. He'd be studying with Brice Winston, who plays saxophone with the legendary Terence Blanchard. He'd be living on his own for the first time and playing more gigs with his own band, the Calvin Johnson Quarter, at clubs like the evocatively named Funky Butt.

Then came the phone call from his sister, early on a Saturday morning, after Johnson had been out late the night before, just a few days after classes had begun at the University of New Orleans and Johnson had dropped \$500 on his books. Are you leaving? she demanded, and he told her he had no idea what she

was talking about.

He left in a hurry, grabbing three or four days worth of clothes and his saxophone, and headed for a friend's apartment in Baton Rouge. His stay there turned into two weeks, during which he mostly sat glued to the television, until he couldn't bear it anymore, tired of sleeping on the floor and of squeezing into a home that was now holding 21 people — there was no way to say no, not when friends and family needed shelter.

Johnson headed for Texas, enrolling at the University of Houston, until Hurricane Rita cleared out that city too, and he detoured to his sister's home in Atlanta. He returned to Texas when it was safe, only to find a bill from the University of Houston in his mailbox for \$3,200 tuition — money that had been covered by scholarships in New Orleans, money Johnson certainly didn't have.

Scrolling down the Internet, looking for a solution, Johnson found the Portland Jazz Festival's offer, and jumped at it.

"There's no place like (Portland) anywhere else I've ever been," he said, over hot chocolate at one of the city's ubiquitous coffee shops, where Zydeco music just happened to be playing in the background.

Much of his time in Portland has been spent at the Park Lane Suites, an extended stay motel perched high above the city where the manager has had to ask the nine musicians to stop their impromptu jam sessions after noise complaints from other guests.



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NATIONAL



'Luck' on their side: WSU honors Murrow

BY NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS

Associated Press Writer

PULLMAN, Wash. — He graduated from Washington State University 75 years ago and has been dead for four decades, but journalist Edward R. Murrow remains the pride of his alma mater.

The new movie "Good Night, and Good Luck" brings new attention to perhaps the most famous graduate of what is now called the Edward R. Murrow School of Communication.

The school recently sponsored a special showing of the black-and-white film, starring David Strathairn as Murrow and George Clooney as producer Fred Friendly, and depicting their fight with Sen. Joseph McCarthy, R-Wis., during the Red Scare of the 1950s.

From his war reporting to his thrashing of McCarthy, Murrow has become a mythic figure in broadcast journalism, and the movie celebrates that, said Susan Ross, an associate professor at the communications school.

"It's definitely hardcore, watchdog, muckraking journalism," Ross said of the film. "It raises questions about contemporary journalism practices, but also about how any individual ever knows when to take on the powers that be."

Photos of Murrow hang in the communications school, and he appears on any list of WSU's top alumni.

Glenn Johnson, a professor in the Murrow school, said he uses "Murrow moments" in teaching his classes to write.

Murrow would tell people: "Imagine you are telling a story to a professor at dinner while the maid's boyfriend, a truck driver, was listening from the kitchen. Describe things in terms that make sense to the driver without insulting the professor's intelligence," Johnson recalled recently.

The school also presents the annual Murrow Symposium on journalism and gives the Edward R. Murrow Award for Lifetime Achievement in Broadcasting. Next year's recipient will be Tom Brokaw, former anchor and managing editor of the "NBC Nightly News."

Previous recipients of the Murrow Award include Peter Jennings, Daniel Schorr, Walter Cronkite, Sam Donaldson, Bernard Shaw, fellow WSU graduate Keith Jackson, Ted Turner and Al Neuharth. Schorr is the last of the so-called "Murrow boys," young reporters hired and mentored by Murrow, still working as a journalist.

Murrow was born in Polecat Creek, N.C., and moved as a child with his family to a farm in Skagit County, Wash., where he learned to draw water from the well, feed the chickens, weed the garden and slop the pigs. His birth name was Egbert Roscoe Murrow, but he changed his first name to Edward while in high school.

Perhaps what made Murrow most memorable was his command of the language, retired WSU professor Val Limburg wrote in a recent article for an alumni magazine. Limburg attributed that

in part to hearing the Bible read with theatrical flair by his mother.

From his mother, Murrow learned old locutions that had survived in his family for centuries; "ere" for "before," "commence" for "begin," "forth and back," "t'was" and word inversions like "this I believe," Limburg wrote.

After graduating from Edison High School, Murrow went to Washington State. He took a speech course from a teacher who turned out to be an important mentor, Ida Lou Anderson.

According to one Murrow biographer, he called her his "other woman." She called him her "masterpiece." She is credited with giving him the half-second pause that became his trademark in such phrases as "This ... is London," Limburg wrote.

Murrow was student body president at Washington State and also became president of the National Student Federation of America, before graduating in 1930 with a bachelor of arts degree in speech.

In 1935, he joined the Columbia Broadcasting System, and the next year became the CBS European director and transferred to London.

It was during World War II, when he reported live during the bombing of London, that Murrow made his reputation, bringing the sounds of war to his American listeners. He also flew during a bombing run over Berlin.

Murrow moved seamlessly from radio to television, when his show "See It Now" debuted in 1951. The show became popular by taking the public into previously unfiled areas.

The "See It Now" program that focused on McCarthy is viewed as a turning point in the "Red Scare" and earned Murrow a Peabody Award.

When Murrow was told later that it took courage to stand up to McCarthy, he demurred.

"Let's face it," Murrow said. "McCarthy can't hurt me except economically. I was born with an outside toilet, and I can go out the same way."

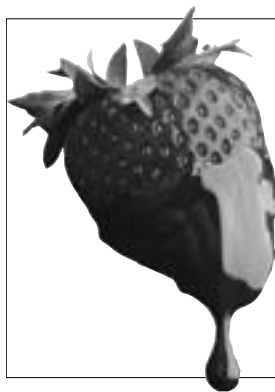
Murrow retired from CBS in 1961 and took control of the U.S. Information Agency. He retired from that position in 1964 due to lung cancer. He died at the age of 57 on April 27, 1965.

Murrow is revered these days for his early warnings that broadcasting news should not be trivialized.

In a famous speech to the Radio-Television News Directors Association, he said television "can teach, it can illuminate, and it can even inspire. But it can do so only to the extent that humans are determined to use it to those ends. Otherwise, it is merely wires and lights in a box."

The concerns that Murrow expressed about the media and the news business five decades ago still resonate today, Ross said.

"Murrow decried the dominance of corporate objectives over news values and longed for the early days of his career when the fear of a slight reduction in business did not result in an immediate cut-back in bodies in the news and public affairs department," Ross said.



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Senators agree beefed up border protection needed

BY JENNIFER TALHELM
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Sens. Pete Domenici and Byron Dorgan on Thursday laid out a sweeping plan for beefing up U.S. border protection and enforcement that calls for hiring hundreds of more immigration judges, lawyers and officers and provides millions of dollars for fences, barriers and new technology.

The senators, who represent states at both U.S. borders, say that the package is vital even if Congress does not act on its plans to change immigration laws next year.

"I believe that before we can act on needed immigration law reforms, we must secure our borders," said Domenici, R-N.M.

Dorgan, D-N.D., said stronger borders are needed to protect against terrorists, not just to stem illegal immigration.

"Terrorists are looking for the weakest link," he said. "We need to do a better job of securing our borders, and we need to do so on an urgent basis."

Domenici and Dorgan's bill joins a slew of other proposals in Congress for how to deal with border protection and the up to 12 million illegal immigrants living in the United States.

The Bush administration has urged Congress to act on a guest worker program and has proposed a plan that would allow undocumented workers to get three-year work visas.

Dueling plans in the Senate — one proposed by John McCain, R-Ariz., and Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., and the other by John Cornyn, R-Texas, and Jon Kyl, R-

Ariz. — would establish procedures for immigrants to apply for temporary work visas.

Republicans are deeply divided over how to approach immigration, however. Many argue that the only way to gain control of the border is to regulate the demand for illegal workers.

But Domenici and Dorgan said their states have immediate needs on the border that must be addressed regardless of immigration policy.

This summer, New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson declared an emergency on the state's border with Mexico in order to free up money to help deal with immigration and drug- and human-smuggling related crime. Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano followed suit a few days later.

Dorgan said two of the Sept. 11 hijackers entered through the northern border.

"We need to know who is coming and going from our country and why," Dorgan said. "We must do better."

Domenici and Dorgan's bill authorizes:
■ Hiring more Border Patrol and immigration officers, and lawyers and judges to handle the immigration and smuggling cases.

■ Spending \$1 billion over four years on new technology, fences, barriers, roads, vehicles and other facilities.

■ Improvements to ports of entry.

The bill also requires the federal government to reimburse states for the cost of detaining illegal aliens while deciding whether to deport them. And it authorizes the National Guard and a volunteer force of retired police officers to help monitor the borders.

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LOCAL



Nothing to see here



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Those taking advantage of Friday's warm weather got a rude awakening on the Santa Monica Beach bike path, as they were turned away due to a series of ongoing construction projects.

Safety drills staged regularly to prepare kids for unexpected

COFFEE TALK, from page 1

feasible to re-configure the school year to make it smoother for faculty, parents and students alike.

Currently, the school year is divided up so that students are dismissed for the winter break prior to finishing their final projects and tests for the semester. Upon their return to school following the holidays, students must complete work and testing from the fall. The lag can be an obstacle, with students returning to school rusty on old material, parents said.

In the past, parents and staff have suggested the Samohi calendar be altered to better resemble that of a college schedule. That would mean the first semester finishes prior to the winter break, so students begin the spring semester on a fresh note, with all projects and tests having been completed.

"I just wanted to see what you think of (changing the school year)," said Straus, who will be discussing the option further with staff in coming months.

Overall, the parents in attendance seemed enthusiastic about the change, feeling it would make the transition into the spring semester easier for both them and their youths.

Another project Samohi administrators are working on has to do with the district's equity fund — moneys gathered from campus groups and redistributed in a manner to support programs that ensure student academic progress. School groups must contribute 15 percent of their revenues into the fund.

Straus said she is looking for programs that will redistribute funds in a way that's effective and fair. One proposal, from the athletic department, is to use a portion of the funds to set up a tutoring program for student athletes and other after-school participants. Straus is interested in the proposal, since 1,000 of Samohi's 3,400 students are involved in after-school sports and activities. She said the proposal needs to be refined before it's put into practice.

Amid the discussion, an emergency alarm sounded and the school participated in a 10-minute lockdown drill. A security guard walked by the faculty cafeteria and made sure the doors were locked.

students know what to do in the case of certain emergencies in which the campus might need to be secured quickly.

"When you go on lockdown, you tighten security and then loosen it up from there," she said. "It's intended so (unwanted) people can't get in the building, but (staff) can."

Straus said one reason for the lockdown drill was because a man once escaped from Santa Monica jail and ran through the campus, posing a safety risk. Having lockdown drills prepares students for unlikely, but potentially dangerous situations, she said.

Parents also discussed an April melee between students which required police assistance from several agencies in order to secure the campus. One mother suggested students learn how to escape from a locked classroom by breaking windows in the event a madman with a gun is running loose in a building.

Straus said she will have at least two fire drills and an earthquake drill before the end of the school year, all intended to prepare students for a variety of life-threatening scenarios.

Another major topic of discussion concerned the district's intention to develop a program through which Samohi students will be advised about the college entry process. Students will also be required to submit at least one college application to an institution of higher learning.

While 90 percent of Samohi's white students who continue to Santa Monica College ultimately transfer to a four-year university, statistics show the percentage of minority students who do the same is far fewer, less than 10 percent, according to Straus.

Having a program to better prepare students who statistically struggle through higher education would help ensure their success, Straus said.

Parents were enthusiastic about the program. Many of them said they are helping their children prepare for college and found aspects about it confusing.

They said more guidance in this area would be helpful for young adults, especially those who lack support at home.

The next informal parent gathering will be held in January.

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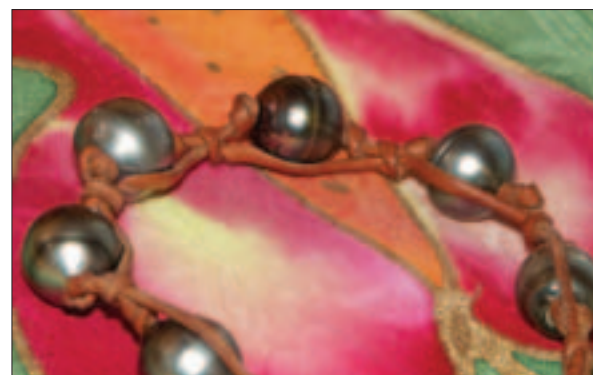
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It pays to be city manager

CITY MANAGER, from page 1

director of environmental and public works, each applied for the position, but the City Council has decided to pursue other applicants.

Of the 61 applicants for the position, Holbrook estimates two-thirds have been

residents of California. Most applicants are city managers or other high-ranking government administrators, although some also work in the private sector, Holbrook said.

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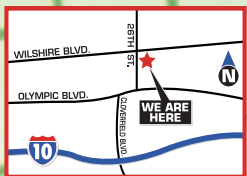
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NATIONAL

Even pulp friction couldn't close book on Sitka

BY SEAN COCKERHAM

Associated Press Writer

SITKA, Alaska — Sitka survived an attack in 1802 by the hammer-wielding Tlingit war chief Katlian. It weathered the ensuing vengeance of the Russians who poured cannon fire down on the Tlingits huddled in a wooden fort.

A century later the city once called Paris of the Pacific lost its status as territorial capital of Alaska. The honor and money moved 95 miles northeast to the muddy upstart mining boomtown of Juneau.

It was in 1993, however, that people said Sitka was really in trouble.

That was the year the Japanese-owned Sitka timber pulp mill shut its doors after 34 years. The mill had provided hundreds of stable well-paid jobs. With paychecks and purchasing, it generated more than 20 percent of the town's economy.

Sitka's mayor at the time, Dan Keck, said the shutdown would be devastating. Seasonal pulses of fishing and tourism would not make up for the year-round mill jobs, he predicted.

But Sitka is bouncing back again. Even the pulp-mill site out on Silver Bay is showing signs of life, with a chocolate factory, fish processing and hopes for other businesses. Jobs are up. Housing is tight. Population is holding.

Sitka newspaper editor Thad Poulson said the town has done better than it had a right to expect. In part, he said, that's because it is an attractive place to live.

"What Sitka had going for it after the mill closed was the determination of so many people to stay here no matter what," Poulson said.

Sitka is being touted nationally as an example of how a town can survive after losing its major resource industry.

Ed McMahon, a national council member of The Conservation Fund, co-authored a book about balancing nature and commerce that highlighted Sitka's comeback.

"In fact, the closure of the mill may have actually helped Sitka by improving local air and water quality and forcing the community to diversify its economy," the authors wrote in "Balancing Nature and Commerce in Gateway Communities."

State economists wouldn't go that far, but they are impressed with how the town has recovered.

"It's kind of the bright spot here in Southeast," said Neal Gilbertsen, regional economist for the state Department of Labor. "This year it actually registered some growth. Most of the rest of the area is either showing losses or flat."

Such examples are particularly welcome in boom-and-bust Alaska, where many towns are as vulnerable as Sitka was, as dependent on mining or drilling or fishing as Sitka was on logging.

Sitkans braced for years for the bottom to drop out of the local economy, saying the full effects of the mill closure might yet be felt. A dozen years after the shutdown, though, many express a cautious optimism that the worst is behind them.

It helped that the pulp corporation paid severances to workers and financial obligations on the way out of town, said Poulson, the newspaper editor. Millions of dollars in federal economic disaster-relief dollars helped. So did an upsurge in charter fishing and related businesses, Poulson said, aided by local waters getting clearer in the years after the mill shut down.

The Sitka pulp mill shut down in 1993 amid sagging pulp markets and arguments over pollution and environmental rules. The population was at a peak of 9,083 when the mill closed.

Although there are about 200 fewer people, as of 2003, the most recent data compiled, Sitka had almost 300 more jobs than when the pulp mill was open, according to the state Department of Labor. The town has seen additional job growth since then.

But the total inflation-adjusted payroll declined from \$140 million to \$135 million in the decade after the closure. That fits with the loss of high-paying mill jobs and a reliance on lower-paying service jobs such as tourism and social services.

The town's strength, economist Gilbertsen said, is its wide range of employers. Many of the elements were in place when the mill closed and made it easier for Sitka to recover: There are two small universities — Sheldon Jackson College and the University of Alaska Southeast Sitka — tourism and a fishing fleet. It's also home to two major seafood processing plants.

Health care has replaced the mill as the town's biggest employer. The Sitka-based

Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium, a Native health services organization, has expanded with the help of federal grants and employs more than 500 people.

Sitka, the former capital of Russian America, has the benefit of rich history and gorgeous scenery. It is surrounded by mist-shrouded mountains and thick, dark rainforest. Slate-dark Sitka Sound is dotted with small emerald islands. Locals say it's a great place to head out in a boat and catch fish on the weekend.

Visitors think so, too. The charter boat industry reported less than \$2 million in gross annual sales the year the mill closed. Now it is more than \$16 million.

Cruise-ship traffic is more than 40 percent higher than in the mill days. Sitka gets about 240,000 cruise visitors a year. But after years of steady growth it dropped by 9 percent in 2004. Sitka is on the outside of Baranof Island, facing the open ocean, a bit off the popular Inside Passage cruise route.

Some argue it's also at a disadvantage by not having a deepwater dock. Cruise ships moor offshore and the passengers are lightered into town on small boats.

The town's main drag, Lincoln Street, was bustling on a sunny afternoon this summer. Cruise-ship tourists wandered the streets, stopping at T-shirt emporiums and gift shops or enjoying the new outdoor beer garden.

Old Harbor Books, at one end of the street, was full with browsing tourists and locals.



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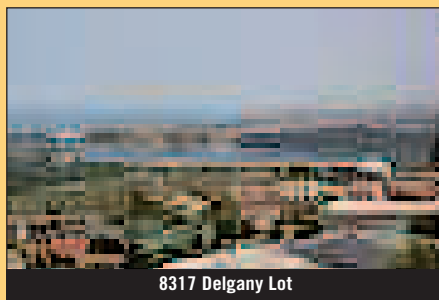
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NATIONAL



Kapolei rising as Oahu's Second City

BY ALEXANDRE DA SILVA

Associated Press Writer

KAPOLEI, Hawaii — Jane Ross saw Kapolei rise from the ashes.

Since settling into a home on a West Oahu plantation 40 years ago, the retired school teacher has seen sugar fields that once were cleared by fire transformed into a second city for Hawaii's main island.

Change came fast after giant landowner James Campbell Estate broke ground 15 years ago and erected a new headquarters in a block now at the heart of this fast-growing urban center of 26,700 homes, 800 companies and 25,000 jobs.

Featuring wide streets and clusters of four-story Hawaiian-style office buildings with green roof tiles and adobe-like walls, the planned community on a plain west of Pearl Harbor was envisioned from the start as Oahu's second city. Planners and city officials hoped it would absorb island population growth and reduce traffic in and out of downtown Honolulu while expanding the island's economy.

More than 84,000 of the island's 875,000 people now live in the carefully designed city 25 miles west of Waikiki, and population should double by 2025.

Technically, Kapolei will always be part of Honolulu, because the island only has one elected government. But it is starting to look like a real city.

The community now features a welcoming statue of a hula dancer outside the police station, a new library, the island's only waterpark and its own city hall.

Kapolei High School graduated its first senior class last year, the same time a private college prep-school, Island Pacific Academy, opened. Dining options have also expanded from a few fast-food joints to more than 30 restaurants.

Kapolei's fifth largest employer, The Honolulu Advertiser, has built an \$82 million printing plant that brings in a monthly supply of 1,800 tons of paper from a nearby harbor that has become the state's second busiest commercial port.

It's a stark change from when Ross first arrived here in April 1964.

"There was nothing else but the wonderful sky with all

the stars; you could see them all," said Ross, 77, who at the time lived in a house with no mail delivery in a subdivision with dark, unpaved roads. "The only thing that there was was garbage pickup."

But despite all its promise, there have been concerns that Kapolei may have been badly planned, with developers rushing in to profit from the island's real estate boom before enough jobs and services were created.

Eighty percent of the city's working population still hold jobs outside the region — something that has, ironically, worsened gridlock on the only freeway and one other road that links Kapolei with downtown Honolulu.

"It's largely a bedroom community. You can tell by the traffic patterns," insists Karl Kim, who chairs the department of urban and regional planning at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. "Because of the order in which they did it, I think it's much more difficult to change things."

Kapolei resident Maeda Timson is among thousands of West Oahu commuters who endure the sometimes three- to four-hour roundtrip into Honolulu, where she works at the Bank of Hawaii.

"Traffic is our biggest gripe," said Timson, who chairs Kapolei's neighborhood board. "That's the negative."

Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann, who supported the emerging city when campaigning for office last year and who now tries to work from an office in Kapolei once a week, said too many subdivisions were approved too soon.

"I got to play catch up," said Hannemann, noting traffic should improve by 2009 with a planned new transit system connecting West Oahu to downtown. "Our job now is to create a better balance between housing and infrastructure."

Rampant development in Kapolei has been driven by cheaper land and home prices.

Single-family homes in Kapolei fall below Oahu's current \$620,000 median. Commercial space is also cheaper than in the tight Honolulu market, where square footage is more than four times higher, recent transactions show.

When Hoku Scientific Inc. unveiled its new building at Kapolei business park last month, executives for the

fuel cell company said the location was just right: reasonably priced and with enough vacant room for future expansion.

And while Campbell Estate acknowledges Kapolei is falling behind in jobs, it insists homes needed to be built first to give companies incentive to do business here.

"That gives those companies a competitive advantage," said Theresia McMurdo, spokeswoman for the estate, who noted jobs in the area will grow by 160 percent to more than 64,000 by 2025.

There are currently 17 projects on the works for Kapolei, including a second major shopping center. A \$95 million court complex and a juvenile detention facility are expected to generate some 600 jobs.

"We are closing in on the gap," McMurdo said.

The University of Hawaii, the state's only public university, is building a four-year campus in Kapolei. Its first phase, scheduled to open in 2008, should cost \$120 million and welcome 1,500 students on 100 acres.

There also are high hopes for a marine theme park planned for Kapolei's Ko Olina resort, which enjoys spectacular man-made lagoons, a lavish beachfront marina, golf courses and rising timeshare towers.

City Councilman Todd Apo, who represents Kapolei, said more offices need to move to the area so it can grow in the right direction.

He said that although residents treasure Kapolei's low-lying traditional Hawaiian architecture, they wouldn't mind sacrificing some open space for more job opportunities.

"I would love to see somebody come in and build a mid-rise commercial office space in Kapolei," said Apo. "Something 10 stories high to bring some density and help create the attitude that this is, in fact, not just a place for retail and restaurants but a place for business."

Ross, who used to have six neighbors and occasional visits from chickens from a nearby farm, said she's starting to lose track of what goes on in her once quiet neighborhood.

But it doesn't seem to bother her.

"People ... want to stop all buildings, but I don't think it can happen. It's part of development," she said. "I'm glad I live out here."

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NATIONAL

Congress boosts its pay, delays tax cut

BY DAVID ESPO
AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON — The Republican-controlled Congress helped itself to a \$3,100 pay raise on Friday, then postponed decisions on bills to curb spending on social programs and cut taxes in favor of a two-week vacation.

In the final hours of a tumultuous week in the Capitol, GOP House leaders sought political advantage from the war in Iraq, maneuvering for a surprise vote on one Democrat's call to withdraw the troops.

On another major issue, a renewal of the Patriot Act remained in limbo as an unlikely coalition of liberal Democrats and conservative Republicans sought curbs on the powers given law enforcement in the troubled first days after the 2001 terrorist attacks.

Both the House and Senate were in session after midnight Thursday, working on the tax and deficit-cutting bills at the heart of the GOP agenda.

"What it does is start to turn down the escalating costs ... for our children and our grandchildren. One of the things that we cannot leave to that next generation is a huge deficit that they can't afford," House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., said after enactment of a \$50 billion deficit-reduction bill.

Democrats dissented.

"The Republicans are taking food out of the mouths of children to give tax cuts to America's wealthiest. This is not a statement of America's values. Democrats believe that together, America can do better," said the Democratic leader, Rep. Nancy Pelosi of California.

The cost-of-living increase for members of Congress — which will put pay for the rank and file at an estimated \$165,200 a year — marked a brief truce in the pitched political battles that have flared in recent weeks on the war as well as domestic issues.

So much so that the issue was not mentioned on the floor of either the House or Senate as lawmakers worked

on legislation whose passage will assure bigger paychecks.

Lawmakers automatically receive a cost of living increase each year, unless Congress votes to block it. By tradition, critics have tried to block increases by attaching a provision to the legislation that provides funding for the Treasury Department. One such attempt succeeded in the Senate earlier in the year but failed in the House. The provision was omitted in the compromise measure cleared during the day for President Bush's signature.

The overall bill provided \$140 billion bill for transportation, housing and other programs. It cleared the House on a vote of 392-31. Senate passage was expected by voice vote.

Pay raise harmony aside, Republicans spent the day celebrating a party-line, post-midnight vote in which the House cleared legislation to reduce deficits by \$50 billion over five years. The vote was 217-215, with all the Democrats who voted in opposition, along with 14 GOP rebels.

Acting Majority Leader Roy Blunt of Missouri said Republicans would make their tax cut bill the top item on the agenda when lawmakers return to the Capitol in December.

The House-passed measure attacks deficits by limiting spending for the first time in a decade on Medicaid, food stamps, student loans and other benefit programs that normally rise with inflation and eligibility.

The House GOP leadership had hoped to clear the measure a week ago. It was forced to retreat when Republican moderates rebelled, even after Hastert agreed to strip out a controversial proposal to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling.

The Senate-passed companion measure calls for less deficit reduction, \$35 billion over five years, but includes the ANWR provision.

The differences are expected to make it difficult for the House and Senate to reach a compromise by year's end, particularly since Republicans can't count on any Democratic support.

The tax bill presents difficulties of its own for a GOP majority struggling to translate last fall's election gains into this year's legislative achievements.

The Senate cleared a measure after 1:30 a.m. that calls for \$60 billion in cuts over five years.

The measure drew bipartisan support, passing on a vote of 64-33. Its provisions would continue a series of existing tax breaks that otherwise will expire, and shelters 14 million upper middle-income families from higher taxes.

The White House has threatened a veto, citing a provision that raises taxes on oil companies.

The House has yet to pass a companion measure. When it does, the tax on oil companies is unlikely to be included, and it is likely to be jettisoned before a compromise measure reaches the White House.

Hastert said Republicans want to "make sure that we support our troops that are fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan ... a lot of people say: Look, this is a tough time, we just ought to pull out and leave. We pull out and leave, we strand an effort to make sure that we can tamp down terrorism, to tamp down a dictatorship, that we can stabilize an area in the Middle East," he added.

GOP aides conceded the maneuver was designed to put Democrats in a political squeeze — voting for withdrawal and exposing themselves to attacks from the White House, or voting against it and risk angering the voters that polls show want an end to the conflict.

Democrats angrily attacked the GOP move. Rep. Jim McGovern, D-Mass., called the measure "a piece of garbage" and an attack on Murtha, a decorated veteran and respected congressional voice on military matters.

House and Senate negotiators announced a tentative agreement earlier in the week to pass a seven-year extension of the Patriot Act. Key senators lawmakers involved in the talks balked at the terms, and officials said they would resume compromise efforts when Congress returns to work in December.

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NATIONAL



Life preserver: Rural doctors forced to accept jelly payments

BY JAMES MACPHERSON
Associated Press Writer

NEW SALEM, N.D. — Dr. Tom Kaspari says it's not true he works at the medical clinic here for free.

"I usually get jars of plum jelly or some salsa," he says.

It's enough for him. But it may not be enough to keep the New Salem Community Clinic in business. Even with a staff of volunteers, the clinic is in the red.

"I don't know how much longer we can stay open," says 89-year-old Milt Grube, one of Kaspari's regular patients who also serves on the clinic board of directors. "We need some federal money to keep afloat."

But getting money for the clinic seems questionable in a region with a dwindling population.

All across the country, declining rural areas are looking for doctors and nurses. But in North Dakota, one of the few states that has lost population, the challenge is especially daunting. Grube, a retired farm implement dealer, said many of the town's 800 residents are elderly, "I suspect like most other small North Dakota towns."

The number of rural clinics in the state fell from 80 in 2002 to 62 this year, said Bill Finerfrock, executive director of the National Association of Rural Health Clinics. The country as a whole lost only 100 rural clinics during that time.

Grube said the New Salem clinic had about 3,100 patient visits in the past year and a half. Finerfrock said a clinic that size probably needs at least 4,200 visits a year to stay afloat. Sitting west of Bismarck, New Salem is the home of Salem Sue, a huge fiberglass cow statue standing watch along Interstate 94. The clinic is near a vacant 1970s-era shopping mall with a gravel parking lot.

Kaspari (pronounced KAS-per), 44, comes to the clinic every Wednesday afternoon and evening, dressed more like a cowboy than a doctor. He sees up to 21 patients with all kinds of ailments. Thank-yous and occasional jars of homemade goodies are his payment.

"It wasn't my plan to be here two years, but that's the way it's ended up," he said recently as a half-dozen, mostly elderly people waited in the lobby.

Grube said the town is fortunate and that Kaspari reminds him of "old Dr. Gaebe," who served the com-

munity a century ago. "People used to pay him with a half-dozen chickens or a pig," Grube said as he waited for a blood pressure check.

If the New Salem clinic closes, the nearest doctors are in Bismarck, the state capital just 30 miles away. But even that distance can be a problem for many old people.

"We have a lot of elderly who don't have transportation," Grube said, adding that many seniors who do drive, shouldn't.

The problem is it's too expensive for the city hospitals that run the small clinics to keep them open, said Brad Gibbens, with the University of North Dakota's Rural Health Center. "Whether it's a hardware store or a hospital, all businesses need thresholds."

Bismarck-based Medcenter One Health Systems closed the New Salem clinic two years ago, along with six others. The company said it was losing \$675,000 a year on the satellite health centers because of low Medicare reimbursements and rising health care costs.

New Salem managed to reopen and has stayed alive because of Kaspari and volunteer nurses and other staff, along with donations. Grube said the clinic is also seeking about \$25,000 from a local tax-supported economic development fund, but it would still need about \$45,000 a year. And that's without a salary for Kaspari.

Gibbens said a few towns have joined a network of community health centers that get some federal money. The clinics share administration and costs while getting reimbursement based on a patient's ability to pay.

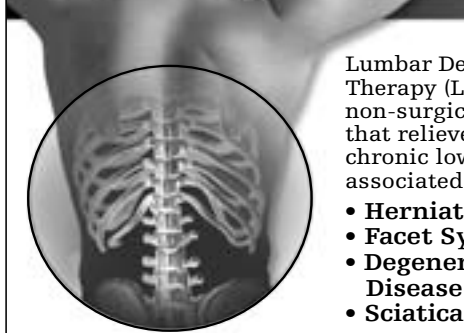
The New Salem clinic has been pursuing such an arrangement, and a community network is seeking federal funding to add New Salem to the group. But government support has languished.

"The federal budget has a lot of pressure on it," said Karen Larson, of the Community HealthCare Association of the Dakotas. "I'm not sure when money will become available."

Kaspari, a North Dakota native, believes the preventive medicine done at rural clinics not only saves lives, but also saves taxpayers money in the long run.

As Grube sees it, the clinic is crucial for the life of the town, too. "The clinic is an asset to our community. We have to have it to survive."

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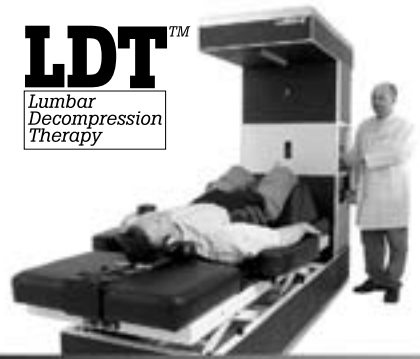


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NATIONAL

One woman's remarkable career — as jewel thief

BY ANGIE WAGNER

Associated Press Writer

LAS VEGAS — When Doris Payne went to work, she stepped into her fancy dress, high heels and donned a wide-brimmed hat. Her creamy, mocha skin was made up just so, her handbag always designer. Sometimes a pair of plain gold earrings would do. Always, she looked immaculate, well-to-do.

It was a lonely job. She worked by herself and few people knew what she did.

New York. Colorado. Nevada. California. They all beckoned, and so did Greece and France, England and Switzerland as she plied her trade over five decades.

She is 75 now, and she remembers the things she has

done with amusement. Yes, she says, that was me, and she throws back her head and laughs.

There was the February day, eight years ago, when she strolled into the Neiman Marcus store on the Las Vegas Strip and asked to see a pair of diamond earrings.

Hmm, she said. She'd think about it over lunch.

She returned and asked to see diamond rings. Employee Linda Sbrocco showed her several — this one ... no, this one ... how about that one? Soon Sbrocco was swapping jewelry in and out of cases at a dizzying pace. Payne slipped rings on and off, and had Sbrocco do the same.

Then Payne was gone. And so was a \$36,000 marquise cut, 2.48-carat diamond ring.

This was how Doris Payne went about her work as an international jewel thief.

Never did she grab the jewels and run. That wasn't her way. Instead, she glided in, engaged the clerk in one of her stories, confused them and easily slipped away with a diamond ring, usually to a waiting taxi cab.

She is, says retired Denver Police Detective Gail Riddell, like a character from a movie — a female Cary Grant, smooth and confident.

"She is very good at what she does," said Riddell. "She has the style."

And she has been very, very successful. Every month or every other month — no one knows how many times over more than 50 years — she strolled into a jewelry store and strolled out with a ring worth thousands of dollars.

Occasionally, she was caught. Mostly, she was not.

She grew up in Slab Fork, W.Va., where her daddy worked in the coal mines and her mother sewed dresses and did alterations for extra money. Payne was the baby, the youngest of six who liked school and loved to show her illiterate father places on the world maps she made out of salt and flour, places she would someday visit.

When she was a teenager, the family moved to Cleveland. One day, her mother gave Payne a \$5 bill — \$2 to get her hair straightened, the rest to pay the family's bill at a clothing and jewelry store.

"My mom says if I get good grades this year, she's going to buy me a watch," Payne boasted to the store owner, Bill Benjamin.

She had always liked Mr. Benjamin. He was kind and friendly, and this time he showed her some watches. She tried a few on, but then a boisterous white man entered the store, and suddenly it seemed that Mr. Benjamin didn't want to be seen being nice to a black girl.

He rushed her off and she made it to the door before she realized she still had a small gold watch on her wrist. Mr. Benjamin had forgotten.

"Oh Mr. Benjamin," she shouted gleefully, holding up her wrist, "I forgot this watch."

Mr. Benjamin snatched the watch from her arm.

People, she had learned, could forget.

It became a teenage game. Payne would enter a jewelry store with her girlfriend and try on watches. "I simply tried to cause the man to forget how many they would show me. I always managed to be able to keep one on my arm," she said.

She didn't steal. Not yet. But she made it clear to the sales clerk that she could have.

After high school, Payne went to work at a nursing home, the last legitimate job she would ever have. By then, it was just Payne and her mother living together, her mother having left her abusive father. Payne was pregnant at 18 with a son, and would later have a daughter, too.

Doris wanted her mother to know that she had figured out a way to raise money, to take care of her. "I know how to cause the man in the jewelry store to forget," she confided.

"That's stealing," her mother warned.

"It's not stealing because I'm only taking what they give me," Payne said.

Her mother's reaction was so harsh, Payne never mentioned it again.

But "I began to cause it to happen," she said.

She knew she needed the right lingo, the right plan, the right dress. Clerks had to assume she had money. A cheap purse wouldn't do.

She started with bargain jewelry stores. But she found out quickly that cheap stores obeyed the rules. They never pulled out more than one item at once.

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INTERNATIONAL



Ex-occupation official lived large off kickbacks from reconstruction bids

BY MARK SHERMAN

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — A former U.S. occupation official in Iraq bought real estate, cars, jewelry and home improvements with the kickbacks he received from a businessman who won more than \$13 million in reconstruction work, federal authorities say.

Robert J. Stein Jr., 50, of Fayetteville, N.C., and his wife, even used the money pay federal taxes and restitution for Stein's earlier federal fraud conviction, an affidavit made public Thursday said.

Stein faces conspiracy, money laundering, wire fraud and other charges stemming from his alleged role in helping Philip H. Bloom, a U.S. citizen who has lived in Romania for many years, get the Iraqi contracts, federal authorities said Thursday.

More than \$630,000 flowed to Stein and others from accounts Bloom controls in banks in Switzerland, the Netherlands and Kuwait, prosecutors said. Bloom, 65, has been charged with conspiracy and money laundering stemming from an investigation that Justice Department officials say could result in additional charges against others.

Stein, who worked for the Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq, and other CPA officials allegedly helped rig bids for Bloom and three companies he controlled for contracts to do work in Al-Hillah and Karbala, two cities 50 miles to 60 miles south of Baghdad.

Bloom was arrested Sunday at New Jersey's Newark International Airport, while Stein was arrested Monday in Fayetteville, authorities said. They were being held in federal custody, pending hearings in U.S. District Court in Washington beginning next week.

Robert A. Mintz, Bloom's lawyer, said he was reviewing the allegations against his client and had no comment. Stein was represented by a federal public defender in a brief appearance Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Fayetteville. Elizabeth Luck, a spokeswoman for the public defender's office, declined to comment on Stein's case.

Stein was the comptroller and funding officer for the CPA's South Central Region.

Court records show he was convicted in 1996 for defrauding a financial institution. He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to eight months in prison and three years of supervised release. He also was ordered to repay the unidentified institution \$45,000.

According to the affidavit supporting the latest charges, he used \$200 of the money from Bloom to make a restitution payment. His wife used \$5,821 to pay 2001 federal taxes — a payment made in January 2004, the affidavit said.

It is unclear whether CPA officials knew about his prior conviction. Jim Mitchell, spokesman for the special inspector general for Iraq reconstruction, said there was a lack of oversight when the CPA was hiring people because the inspector general's office was not yet in place there.

The U.S.-controlled CPA ran Iraq from shortly after the March 2003 invasion until June 2004. It had final say over spending from the Development Fund for Iraq, made up mainly of Iraqi oil revenues.

Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., said Thursday that the complaints against Bloom and Stein revealed egregious misuse of the money and deserve congressional hearings.

"Now that there is concrete evidence of fraud involving U.S. officials and the Development Fund for Iraq, we have an obligation not to avert our oversight," Waxman wrote Rep. Chris Shays, R-Conn., chairman of a House Government Reform subcommittee that has examined fraud allegations in the U.N. Oil-for-Food program.

The allegations against Bloom and Stein have their roots in audits performed by Inspector General Stuart W. Bowen Jr.

Attacks near Iranian border kill 74 Shiite worshippers

BY CHRIS TOMLINSON

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Suicide bombers killed 74 worshippers at two Shiite mosques near the Iranian border Friday, while a pair of car bombs targeting a Baghdad hotel housing Western journalists killed eight Iraqis.

The suicide attackers targeted the Sheik Murad mosque and the Khanaqin Grand Mosque in Khanaqin, 90 miles northeast of Baghdad, as dozens of people were attending Friday prayers, police said. The police command said 74 people were killed and 75 wounded in the largely Kurdish town.

At sunset, dozens of people were still searching the rubble of the three-story Khanaqin Grand Mosque. As the men dug, 12-year-old Sarkhel Akram collected copies of the Quran, the Muslim holy book, then she kissed them and put them away.

The suicide attacker walked into the mosque and detonated his explosives in the middle of a group of people, said Ali Abdullah.

Omar Saleh, 73, said from his bed at Kalar hospital that he was bowing in prayer when the bomb exploded.

"The roof fell on us and the place was filled with dead bodies," he said.

The blasts near the Hamra Hotel in Baghdad knocked down protective concrete walls and blew out windows but caused no structural damage. Several nearby homes were destroyed, and firefighters and U.S. troops joined neighbors to dig through the debris to pull out victims.

Gunfire followed the blasts, which came less than a minute apart and echoed throughout downtown Baghdad. They sent a mushroom cloud hundreds of feet into the air.

"What we have here appears to be two suicide car bombs (that) attempted to breach the security wall in the vicinity of the hotel complex, and I think the target was the Hamra Hotel," U.S. Brig. Gen. Karl Horst told reporters at the scene.

News organizations housed at the Hamra include NBC News and The Boston Globe.

The attack was the first against a hotel housing international journalists since the Oct. 24 triple vehicle bomb attack against the Palestine Hotel, where The Associated Press, Fox News and other organizations live and work.

In that attack, which killed 17 Iraqis, one of vehicles blew a hole in a concrete wall, opening the way for a cement truck packed with explosives to penetrate the compound. The truck detonated only a few feet into the compound after U.S. troops raked the vehicle with small arms fire and the driver got stuck in debris. A third vehicle went off a short distance away, perhaps as a diversion.

Mike Boettcher of NBC News, who was in the Hamra when Friday's bomb exploded, said on the "Today" show that the blast struck about 8:12 a.m., and "we were blown out of our beds."

"We got down on the floor and crawled, and then the second bomb hit, and we were blown back," Boettcher said. "That blast wall saved our lives."

Sa'ab al-Izzi, an Iraqi journalist with the Globe, also was inside the hotel.

"They were trying to penetrate by displacing the blast barriers behind the hotel and then get to the hotel," he said. "I woke up to a huge explosion which broke all the glass and displaced all the window and doors frames."

At first, the target appeared to be an Interior Ministry building where U.S. troops on Sunday found about 170 detainees, some of whom appeared to have been tortured.

Maj. Gen. Hussein Kamal, the deputy interior minister, said initial reports indicated that "the first car bomber was trying to pave the way for the second one ... to get in and hit the Hamra Hotel, not the Interior Ministry."

Also Friday, insurgents attacked U.S. and Iraqi troops in western Iraq, setting off gunbattles that killed 32 insurgents, a U.S. military statement said.

One Marine and an Iraqi soldier suffered minor injuries during the attack, the U.S. forces said. Most of the fighting took place around the a mosque in the center of the town.

"Marines reported that they received sustained small arms fire originating from the mosque," the statement said. "A nearby U.S. Army outpost also reported receiving enemy fire from the area surrounding the mosque."

The U.S. forces estimated that at least 50 insurgents took part in the coordinated attack, which quickly dissipated when the Iraqi and U.S. forces returned fire, the military said. Iraqi troops entered the mosque and found spent ammunition.

Also Friday, the top U.N. human rights official called for an international investigation into the conditions of detainees in Iraq following the alleged abuse of those found at the Interior Ministry building.

"In light of the apparently systemic nature and magnitude of that problem, and the importance of public confidence in any inquiry, I urge authorities to consider calling for an international inquiry," said Louise Arbour, the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Prominent Sunni Arabs have complained for months about abuse by Interior Ministry forces, whom they claim have been infiltrated by Shiite militias. The Sunnis called for an international investigation after the Jadriyah detainees were found.

The government denies the militia allegations.

"I reject torture and I will punish those who perform torture," said Interior Minister Bayn Jabr, a Shiite. "No one was beheaded, no one was killed."

He also said "those who are supporting terrorism are making the exaggerations" about torture and that only seven detainees showed signs of abuse.

The U.S. Embassy said Thursday that Iraqi authorities had given assurances that they will investigate the conditions of detainees found Sunday night and that the abuse of prisoners "will not be tolerated by either the Iraqi government" or U.S.-led forces anywhere in the country.

U.S. officials have refused to say how many detainees showed signs of torture and whether most were Sunnis, pending completion of an Iraqi investigation.

In another setback for sectarian reconciliation, the leader of Iraq's largest Shiite political party will not attend an Arab League meeting this weekend in Egypt, his spokesman said Friday. The 22-member Arab League has invited some 100 prominent Iraqis for the preliminary meeting ahead of a planned reconciliation conference, probably to be held early next year in Iraq.

The head of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, Abdul-Aziz al-Hakim, will not attend, his party said. Instead, the delegation will be headed by Sheik Humam Hammoudi, said the group's spokesman, Haitham al-Husseini.

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INTERNATIONAL

Al-Zarqawi claims wedding was not targeted

BY JAMAL HALABY

Associated Press Writer

AMMAN, Jordan — The Mideast's most feared terrorist sought Friday to justify a triple suicide bombing on Amman hotels that killed 59 civilians, insisting he did not deliberately target a wedding party and appealing to Muslims to believe that he was not attacking them.

Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the leader of al-Qaida in Iraq, took an unusually defensive tone in an audiotape posted on the Internet, seeking to shore up support after widespread anger over the civilian deaths, even among sympathizers.

Still, the Jordanian-born al-Zarqawi made clear he was not about to stop the bloodshed, warning he will attack more tourist sites in Jordan and threatening to behead

King Abdullah II. He said he was targeting Jordan because it is serving as a "protector" for Israel, helps the U.S. military in Iraq and has become a "swamp of obscenity," with alcohol and prostitution in its tourist sites.

"Your star is fading. You will not escape your fate, you descendant of traitors. We will be able to reach your head and chop it off," al-Zarqawi said, referring to the king.

Al-Zarqawi, who has a \$25 million bounty on his head from the U.S., told Jordanians to stay away from bases used by U.S. forces, hotels and tourist sites in Amman, the Dead Sea and the southern resort of Aqaba and embassies of governments participating in the war in Iraq, saying they would be targeted.

"People of Islam in Jordan, we want to assure you that we are extremely careful over your lives ... you are more

beloved to us than ourselves," he said.

The authenticity of the audiotape, posted on an Islamic militant Web forum, could not be confirmed independently, but the voice resembled that of al-Zarqawi on previous tapes.

The tape was posted following widespread outrage over the Nov. 9 bombings against three Amman hotels that killed 59 people, 30 of them in a Jordanian-Palestinian wedding party held in a ballroom.

Jordan has seen a series of large demonstrations denouncing the attack, including one on Friday. Thousands marched through downtown Amman, chanting "Al-Zarqawi, you coward," and carrying banners that read "Al-Zarqawi, you are the enemy of God."

Contributors to militant Web forums — who generally lionize al-Zarqawi and praise his attacks — criticized the bombings. In the militant leader's hometown of Zarqa, east of Amman, many residents denounced him, saying he has lost any sympathy he had there.

In the past, al-Zarqawi has defended Muslim civilian casualties in attacks by his suicide bombers in Iraq, saying they were justified because the attacks are part of a "jihad" against U.S. occupiers and their Iraqi allies. "God ordered us to attack the infidels by all means ... even if armed infidels and unintended victims — women and children — are killed together," he said in an audiotape released in May.

But he sounded more penitent in Friday's audio.

"People of Jordan, we did not undertake to blow up any wedding parties," he said. "For those Muslims who were killed, we ask God to show them mercy, for they were not targets. We did not and will not think for one moment to target them even if they were people of immorality and debauchery."

In the deadliest of the triple attacks, a bomber set off his explosives belt in the Radisson hotel, killing 30 people at a Jordanian-Palestinian wedding party in a ballroom. Both the bride's parents were among the dead, as was the father of the groom.

But al-Zarqawi insisted that Jordanian officials' accounts that the bomber specifically targeted the wedding were a "lie."

Al-Zarqawi claimed the bomber struck a hall where Israeli and American intelligence officials were meeting at the time. Part of the roof fell in on the wedding hall, either from the blast or even — he said — from a separate bomb placed in the roof, though not by al-Qaida.

"Our brothers knew their targets with great precision," he said. "God knows we chose these hotels only after more than two months of close observation (that proved) that these hotels had become headquarters for the Israeli and American intelligence," he said.

Al-Zarqawi accused the Jordanian government of hiding casualties among Israeli and American agents.

The Radisson attack involved two bombers — an Iraqi husband and wife. Witnesses told Jordanian security officials that the couple talked their way into the wedding, telling hotel employees they wanted to watch, then went to different sides of the hall. When the woman's explosives belt failed to go off, her husband told her to leave, then he jumped on a table in the ballroom and set off his blast, Jordanian officials have said.

Al-Qaida in Iraq issued a claim of responsibility soon after the blasts, saying a husband and wife carried out one of the attacks — a statement that appears to have backfired, alerting Jordanian authorities that a woman was involved and leading to her capture four days later.

The woman, Sajida al-Rishawi, later made a televised confession, saying she and her husband entered the wedding party ballroom.

Bassam al-Bana, the spokesman for the Radisson, denied al-Zarqawi's claims about an intelligence meeting. "There were no meetings of Israelis there," he told The Associated Press.

Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman Mark Regev refused to comment when asked whether Israeli intelligence officers were meeting at the hotel. "This man has the blood of many innocents on his hands, most of them Muslims. To claim that those innocent victims in Jordan were working for Israel is simply ludicrous and deserves ridicule," he said.

The only Israeli killed in the blasts was an Israeli Arab who was attending the wedding. Four Americans were killed in the triple bombings — including the Syrian-born moviemaker Mustafa Akkad and his daughter, who were guests at the Radisson wedding reception.

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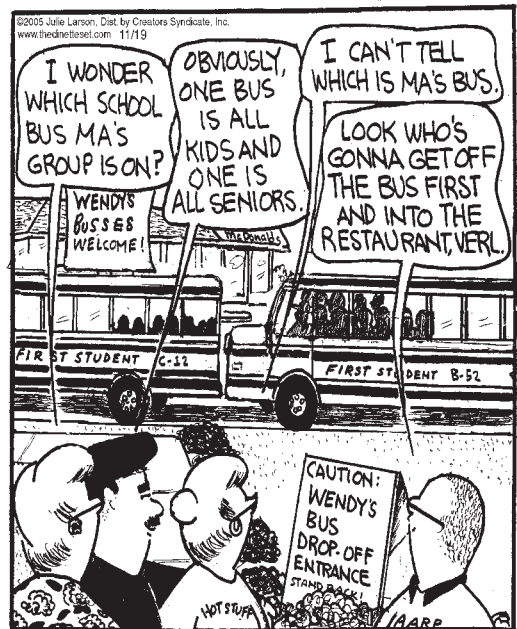
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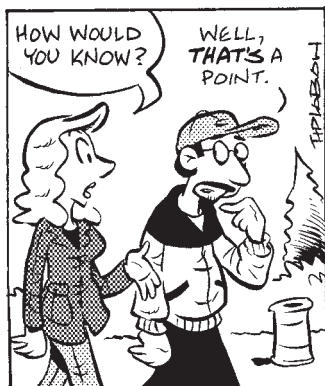
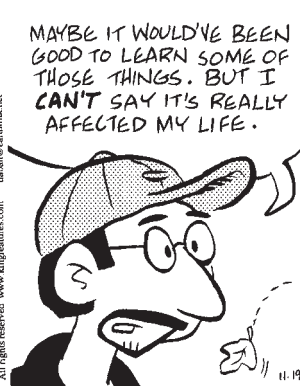
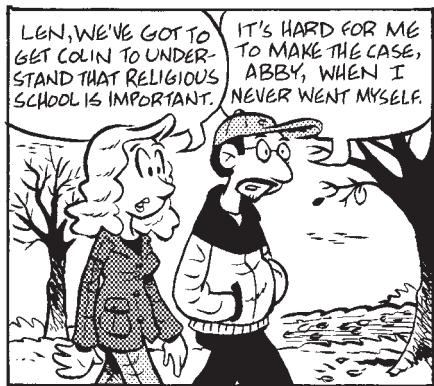
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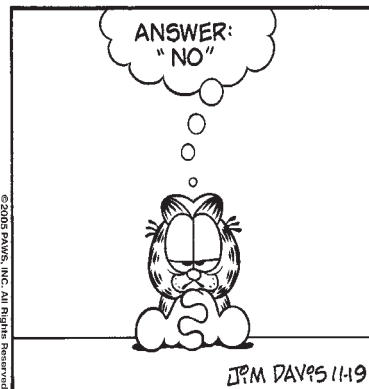
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- 14 Reply to an unlikely claim
- 16 Pub supply
- 17 Stray
- 18 Noggins
- 20 Follow
- 22 Sums up
- 23 Hermit
- 25 Fair
- 28 Crowd scene players
- 32 Free-use graphics
- 34 Before now
- 35 Brink
- 36 Lemon, perhaps
- 38 Skirt
- 40 Some pollution
- 41 Shilling units
- 42 Raiment
- 43 Spotted
- 44 Rani's gown

DOWN

- 1 In excess
- 2 Last
- 3 Freshly
- 4 Met by chance
- 5 "Tiny Bubbles" singer
- 6 Binary digit
- 7 Friend of Drew and Lewis
- 8 Staggered
- 9 "Frida" star
- 11 Bit of hair
- 15 Oklahoma team
- 19 Move quickly

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Yesterday's answer

- 21 Settle heavily
- 24 Lengthens
- 25 Fight
- 26 Relish-tray items
- 27 Al Pacino film
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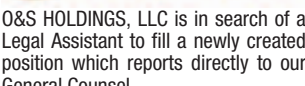
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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE
NO. 05 2419412 FIRST FILING. The following
person(s) is (are) doing business as All Stars
Academy, 11503 Menlo Ave., #8, Hawthorne, CA
90250. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Tina
Maria Williams, 11503 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

DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE
NO. 05 2546753 FIRST FILING. The following
person(s) is (are) doing business as Universal Home
Supply, 15018 Sylvanwood Ave, Norwalk, CA
90650. The full name of registrant(s) is/are :
Alexander Carlos, 15018 Sylvanwood Ave, Norwalk,
CA 90650 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/: Alexander Carlos
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of
LOS ANGELES County on 10/21/05. 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
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PRESS to publish 11/19/2005, 11/26/2005,
12/3/2005, 12/10/2005

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Notice of Hearing on Petition Notice is given that on November 29, 2005 at 8:30 a.m. or as soon after that time as the matter may be heard, petitioner Ross Furukawa, will move for an order pursuant to Government Code §6008 adjudicating The Santa Monica Daily Press as a newspaper of general circulation for the County of Los Angeles. The hearing will be held in Department 64 of the Los Angeles Superior Court, 111 N. Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. The Petition sets forth the following: 1. Petitioner, Ross Furukawa, is publisher of the newspaper known as The Santa Monica Daily Press, which is seeking adjudicated under Government Code §6008 as a newspaper of general circulation for the City of Santa Monica. 2. The Santa Monica Daily Press is published for the dissemination of local or telegraphic news and intelligence of a general character in the City of Santa Monica, California. The business address is 1427 Third St. Promenade, Suite 202, Santa Monica, CA 90401. 3. The Santa Monica Daily Press has a bona fide subscription list of paying subscribers, and substantial distribution to subscribers numbering 1023 in the City of Santa Monica and surrounding areas for a total weekly distribution of approximately 20,000. 4. For more than three years preceding the filing of the petition, the petitioning newspaper has been established under the name of The Santa Monica Daily Press, and has been so established and published, that is, issued and sold or distributed regularly each day in the City of Santa Monica and the surrounding areas. 5. During each of the three-year period preceding the filing of this petition, the newspaper has maintained a minimum coverage of local news and intelligence of a general character of not less than twenty-five percent of its total inches; it has a principal office of publication located in the City of Santa Monica, County of Los Angeles. WHEREFORE, petitioner prays that The Santa Monica Daily Press be adjudicated pursuant to Government Code §6008 as a newspaper of general circulation for the City of Santa Monica, Santa Monica Judicial District, County of Los Angeles, State of California. DATED: November 5, 2005 Lisa Grace-Kellogg Attorney for Petitioner

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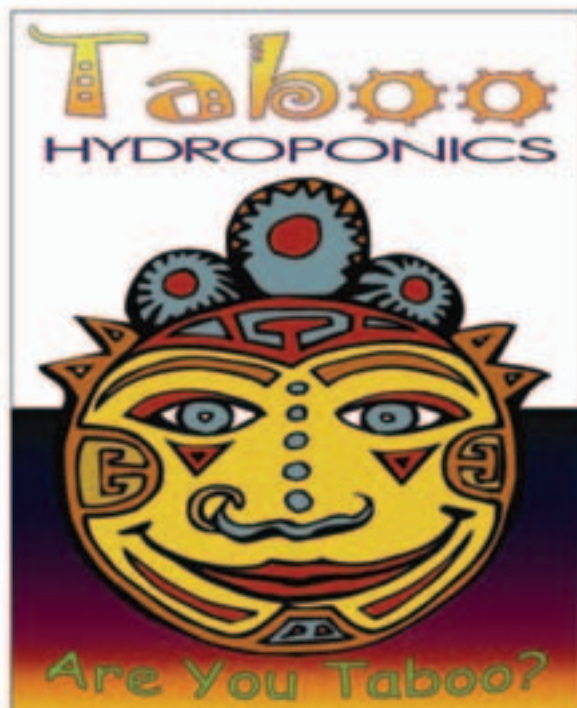
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