

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

4 5 15 32 42
Meganumber: 2
Jackpot: \$13 Million

FANTASY 5

3 9 17 30 31

DAILY 3

Daytime: 0 1 1
Evening: 6 2 1

DAILY DERBY

1st: 05 California Classic
2nd: 07 Eureka!
3rd: 06 Whirl Win

RACE TIME: 1:49.50

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

Archie W. Roth, 68, was indicted for murder in Yorktown, Va., in May for killing his wife; he said he was angry because the couple had been living in the home for "several years" but still hadn't unpacked. And Mark Raggiunti, 42, of Sharpsburg, Pa., pleaded guilty in July to killing his father after the father (who was blind) had yelled at him for leaving a light on. And Christopher Offord, 30, was sentenced to death in August in Panama City, Fla., for killing his wife because she had been nagging him to cuddle after they had sex, contrary to his desire to watch sports on TV.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 327th day of 2005.
There are 38 days left in the year.

On Nov. 23, 1945, most U.S. wartime rationing of foods, including meat and butter, ended.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"We are incredibly heedless in the formation of our beliefs, but find ourselves filled with an illicit passion for them when anyone proposes to rob us of their companionship."

JAMES HARVEY ROBINSON
AMERICAN HISTORIAN (1863-1936)

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Council names new city manager



LAMONT EWELL

BY RYAN HYATT AND
CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writers

CITY HALL — The embattled city manager from San Diego, who was appointed last year to save that city's government from a very public and controversial financial disaster, is Santa Monica's newest and highest paid administrator.

The Santa Monica City Council on Tuesday announced that it unanimously agreed to hire Lamont Ewell as the new city manager. Ewell will start his job — which pays a base salary of \$245,000 a year — on Jan. 16. City Hall also will help finance Ewell's relocation and provide him with a loan in order to purchase a home in the city.

His appointment follows a

nationwide recruitment that attracted more than 60 candidates, and culminated with the City Council's interviewing six finalists over the past few weeks. Assistant City Manager Gordon Anderson will serve as acting City Manager from Dec. 9 until Ewell takes the helm.

Santa Monica Mayor Pam

See EWELL, page 6

Market shares



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Ernesto Carrillo (left), director of engineering at the Fairmont Miramar Hotel, and gingerbread house chef Alejo Guzman work on a 'gingerbread city' that will be placed under the fig tree in front of the hotel, located at Wilshire Boulevard and Ocean Avenue, on Dec. 4.

Writing on the wall could spell trouble

By Daily Press staff

Local police are on high alert after receiving a tip that gang tensions between members in Los Angeles and Santa Monica have intensified.

The Santa Monica Police Department has received unconfirmed and uncorroborated information from an informant regarding recent gang activity in the Los Angeles area. The information

identifies a Santa Monica gang as a potential target for retaliation, according to police.

The SMPD reports an increase in gang-related graffiti in the Pico neighborhood, which is indicative of gang tension. Such graffiti in the past has been a precursor to gang violence, police said.

However, the SMPD has been in contact with the LAPD for the surrounding area and they have received no recent reports of gang

violence attributed to Santa Monica gang members as suspects.

"We are making this information public and are asking for the public's assistance to report any suspicious activity in your neighborhood," said SMPD Lt. Frank Fabrega. "Again, we want to emphasize that the information is general and unconfirmed. The police department, as always, con-

See GRAFFITI, page 7

STATE

Deep blue decibals harming marine life

BY PAUL CHAVEZ

Associated Press Writer

Increasing levels of ocean noise generated by military sonar, shipping, and oil and gas exploration is threatening dolphins and whales that rely on sound for mating, finding food and avoiding predators, according to a new report released by a Santa Monica-based environmental group.

The report released Monday by the Natural Resources Defense Council found that the affects of ocean noise on marine life range from long-term behavioral change to hearing loss to death.

The report, a follow-up to a 1999 study, included details from necropsies performed on beached whales suspected of being exposed to Navy sonar.

Scientists who examined more than a dozen whales that beached in the Canary Islands in September 2002 found bleeding around the brain and ears and lesions in the animals' livers and kidneys.

"It is a set of symptoms that have never before been seen in marine mammals," said Michael Jasny, the report's principal author. "That physical evidence has led scientists to understand that the sonar is injuring the whales in addition to causing them to strand."

Researchers believe that whales are suffering the same type of decompression sickness that is known as "the bends" in

See SONAR, page 7

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HOROSCOPE

Get some sleep, Libra

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)

★★★ With your energy, the morning
works better than the afternoon. You might get
fussy or try to buck the natural happenings later
in the day. Confusion surrounds you, and others
as well. Confirm conversations and meetings.
Tonight: Dig into work.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ You are full of life and fun as the
day progresses. The problem might be that oth-
ers are so serious-minded. Still, funnel your
imagination into a key project that makes a dif-
ference to you. Tonight: Very happy as long as
you don't try to push someone.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Clear your desk and make calls first
thing in the morning, because by the afternoon,
you might feel as if you are playing "Who's on
first?" Do your best to make sure everyone is on
the same page. Remember, past doing 100 per-
cent on your part, you cannot do any more.
Tonight: Head home.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Handle money with strength and
clarity this a.m. By the afternoon, misunder-
standings happen way too quickly. Don't get upset if a
meeting or communication gets messed up. Try
to be as clear as possible. Be gentle, even if you
get frustrated. Tonight: Swap war stories.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ Use the morning, when the Moon
still stars in your sign. By the afternoon, your
focus needs to be on work. Others' instructions
might not be as clear as you would like. Verify
what you hear. You might want to confirm a
meeting. Don't stand on ceremony if a call isn't
returned. Tonight: Take some time for yourself.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Start slowly, but as your energy
levels increase, express this energy. Don't lock
horns with a family member. Right now, deci-
sions need to be put on hold. Inevitably, some-
one will misunderstand. Tonight: Keep smiling; others
will relax.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ Get an early start on your day, as
the afternoon has the potential for tremendous
frustration. Try as you might, you cannot get your
message across. Pull back or leave the office
early, if you can. Tonight: Get some extra sleep.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ Your responsibility pays off in
spades. You might need to talk to someone again.
With a steady, even, realistic approach, you land
in the winner's circle. You have a winning way.
Tonight: A party begins that might go for a while.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Check out information this morn-
ing. If it seems vague or off, you will be relieved
to find accurate facts. You make a strong presen-
tation in the afternoon. Tonight: Ignore another's
flak.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ You might want to let others take
charge again. You see through a problem, but
others cannot get what you're saying or seeing.
Remain optimistic. You can explain another time,
another day. Tonight: Think "turkey."



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Others might not agree with you.
Confusion surrounds communication, even
though you might be very direct. Could someone
be subconsciously showing his or her real feel-
ings or lack of desire? Tonight: Talk to your best
friend.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Use the morning to accomplish
what you need and want to do. By the afternoon,
distractions knock on your door. Meetings and
networking are highlighted. Don't for one minute
believe that everyone is hearing the same thing.
Tonight: Accept an invitation.



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LOCAL



Time for a break



Walter Shirk/Special to the Daily Press

Emergency response crews attend to an accident scene on Tuesday along the Pacific Coast Highway near Montana Avenue. A tractor-trailer and sports car struck one another. No injuries were reported. The accident closed the southbound lane of the PCH for two hours.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Making room in the city for the holidays

By Daily Press staff

Wish you had an extra bedroom for friends and relatives coming in from out of town for the holidays? Santa Monica hotels are extending discounts for Santa Monica residents and visiting friends and family this holiday season. Now until Feb. 13, all you have to do is show proof of Santa Monica residency (California ID or driver's license) and you'll get a discount on hotel rooms.

Look for additional information on all Santa Monica holiday events at the Santa Monica visitor information center located at 1920 Main St., Suite B and the visitor information kiosk located in Palisades Park.

To soldiers, with love

By Daily Press staff

Thirty members of the community packed boxes for overseas servicemen and servicewomen at the Elks Lodge last week.

Small boxes were pushed along by "Santa's helpers" and put in pads of paper, pens, envelopes, flash lights, batteries, a deck of cards, snacks, pocket books and candy. The small boxes were then sealed and stamped with a Red Cross stamp. Eight boxes were then placed in a large box, which in turn was sealed and stamped. The finish boxes made a pile nine feet long, six feet wide and five feet tall, representing 600 individual gifts to the servicemen. The boxes were then transported to the post office and shipped to a central location.

The Red Cross will supervise the overseas distribution.

The American Legion (posts 123 and 177), the Santa Monica Elks, the Jack

See BRIEFS, page 7



SURF REPORT

Most south-facing breaks are seeing waist- to chest-high sets, shoulder high on the better set-waves at standouts. West-facing breaks are running waist- to chest-high. On Wednesday, the SW and NW decline leaving small surf in the knee- to waist-high zone just about everywhere. However, south-facing breaks could still see some occasional chest-high sets, although rare.

Today the water is:

63°

Write us at alex@smdp.com 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
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
THURSDAY	10:52	2.8	10:32	1.1	5:14	4.3	3:45	3.8
FRIDAY	11:39	2.5	11:04	0.7	5:41	3.9	4:17	3.2

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The Q Line

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Some local skaters recently have voiced frustrations over the limited weekday hours of operation at the new \$550,000 skate park, the Cove, located at the corner of Olympic Boulevard and 14th Street. The park, typically open about two hours a day during the week, is not equipped with lighting, meaning skaters have to pack it up once the sun goes down. City officials say they'd like to be able to give residents more access to the park but the current budget does not provide for the needed staffing.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "How can City Hall increase access for residents to the new skatepark without putting a strain on its budget?"

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

EST. 1934

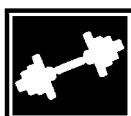
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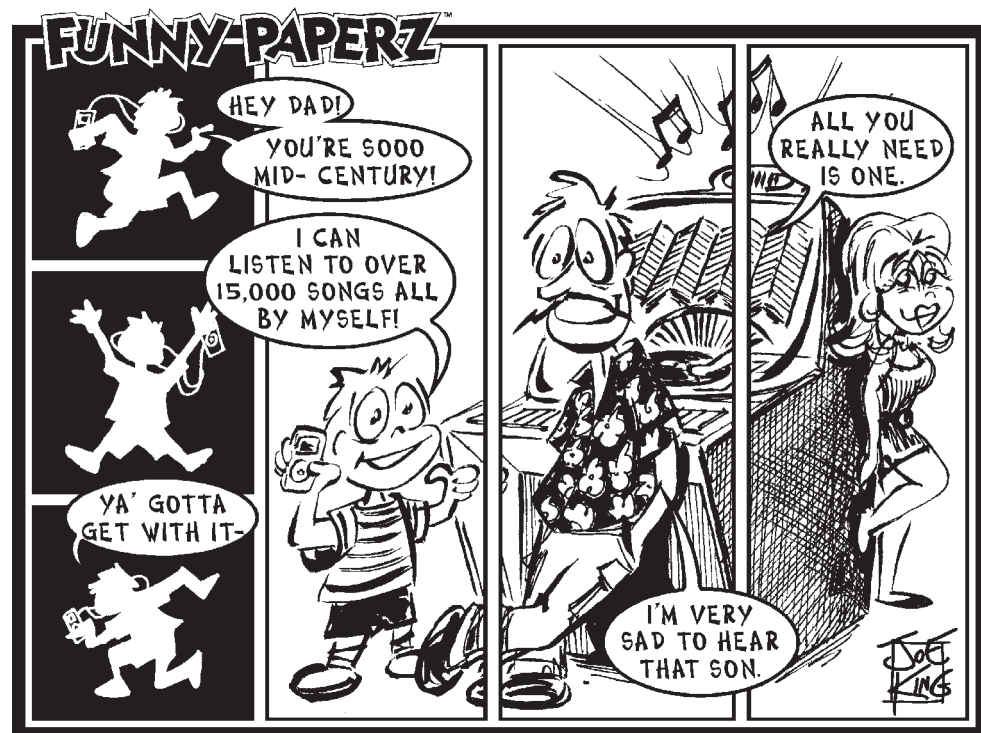


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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mad as hell

Editor:

The media keeps warning us that gas prices are going to skyrocket this winter for heating our homes and putting fuel in our vehicles, and now they say that food prices are going up due to rising gas and oil prices. They bitterly report that the increases are dues to Hurricane Katrina, et al.

This in spite of the fact that the recently published quarterly reports of profit from the oil companies (Exxon, Chevron, ARCO, etc.) show a profit in the \$10 billion range and over — a three-month profit figure. Not total earnings, but profits.

If the oil companies do start raising the price of our food and the price to heat our homes, etc., then I say it is profiteering in the face of disasters and they all should be brought up on charges as the criminals they are. Hurricanes are not a reason to jack up the prices and/or use as an excuse to invade pristine wilderness to drill for more oil — not when they all make such enormous profits. If they are fellow Americans, let them step up and do their share with their enormous profits and help the people and places impacted by the hurricanes and quit gouging the rest of us with higher and higher prices, all the while counting on individual Americans to bear the brunt of helping these people.

I think it's time we take a page from the movie "Network" and all go to our windows and yell, "I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take this anymore."

Marilyn Brennan
Santa Monica

Maintain our school

Editor:

The metal railings throughout the John Muir School campus, as well as other metal finishes (louvers, vents, trim, access panels, etc.) suffer from a lack of maintenance. The school is only about five years old, yet looks older due to the poor condition of all metal surfaces. I understand the city has deferred maintenance on this facility for at least another two years, which is unacceptable to taxpayers, children and teachers at the school. By ignoring such simple and inexpensive maintenance of highly visible surfaces, the City Council sends a message that they don't care about maintaining school facilities.

In my opinion, the City of Santa Monica has no business building expensive new facilities when they are incapable of properly maintaining the facilities currently owned.

Jeff Weinstein
Santa Monica

Christmas tree an ugly sight

Editor:

Welcome to People's Republic of Santa Monica. This time our city has excelled for a second year in a row, displaying the worst Christmas tree at Third Street Promenade (at Broadway). Such a record must be entered on "The Guinness Book of Records." It is amazing that so much money was poured into a beautiful pedestrian walk, only to be tarnished with an ugly Christmas tree not worth ever setting our eyes on. How far away is Santa Monica from the 50-foot tall Christmas tree on exhibition at Rockefeller Plaza in New York City, where people flock to see and admire it, traveling from thousand miles away? So it is in Chicago or any other important city in United States.

Our clown governor should include in future ballots a measure stating that California forbids ugly Christmas trees to be displayed on our beautiful state. Perhaps his muddy deep popularity at the polls may improve with some more intelligent ideas.

Charly Brown
Santa Monica



OPINION

An opportunity past, but a life lived fully



THE
WITNESS
STAND
BY CLIFF NICHOLS

His given name was Wolf. But to his friends, in the last days of his life, he was affectionately known as "Willie". His passing was startlingly quick. One day he was there smiling and waving to friends. The next day he was gone. As is often the case, it was only after his passing that we considered what he might have told us about his 91 years. We thought of the questions we would like to have asked too late — a golden opportunity lost. Unfortunately, all that remains today are the memories he left with those he loved and left behind.

Wolf's life began in Poland in 1914, the same year that gave birth to World War I. His parents lived in a city called Lodz, but soon left to open a clothing factory in some other town now forgotten by his family. Does it matter? Perhaps not. Their stay there was not long. The government confiscated their business, left the family impoverished and forced their return to Lodz. Today, we are left only with speculation — it may not have been a good thing at that time to be Jewish in Poland.

Over the next decade or so, Wolf learned the garment business from his dad. To help support the family, from the age of 12 he attended school only for half-days and then left to work for his father making clothes. Soon, however, the winds of war again began to stir in Europe and the little time he had been afforded for his youth came to an abrupt end. In 1937, the social unrest festering in Germany soon spread to Poland and ultimately exploded in Lodz itself. A pogrom commenced that lasted three days. As Jews throughout the city were attacked without mercy, interestingly the memory that most indelibly impressed Wolf was his absolute disbelief at the police who, though present, stood by with a complicit indifference, doing nothing to either protect or rescue any of his family and friends. Wolf experienced firsthand the ugliness mankind is capable of when they irrationally choose to hate others solely on the basis of a difference only they perceive. Sadly, however, for Wolf that experience would not be his last.

In 1939, the Germans attacked Poland and all men between 18 and 55 years old were ordered to Warsaw to defend the country. Since transportation was not provided, Wolf and his friends started the three-day journey by foot. It was a walk he would never forget. German planes attacked them continuously with machine gun fire, and Wolf at one point was blown unconscious into a ditch. When he awoke all those who had been with him now surrounded him in death except one — Wolf's friend who managed to escape and return to Lodz only to report to Wolf's

dad his belief that Wolf was dead — a blow that Wolf remembered his dad never recovered from even though he learned only a few weeks later that Wolf was alive.

After arriving in Warsaw, Wolf, along with the rest of Poland, was soon captured by the Germans, and he found himself in a work camp. Unbearable humiliation was the order of each day, and Wolf quickly found a way to escape. By then, however, the Germans had imposed a 5 p.m. curfew throughout Poland, and anyone found in violation was to be summarily shot and killed. Wolf was thus overjoyed to find there existed another side of human nature — a side that was good. He found strangers he would never again see who were willing to risk not only their lives, but the lives of their entire families, in order to hide him, feed him and guide him on his perilous journey back to Lodz, only to say good-bye quickly to his family before continuing his escape to the east in the hope of reaching Russia. What Wolf did not know when he left Lodz that day, was that he never again would see his mother and father, his grandmother, his older sister, her husband and their child.

Once in Russia he again was captured, this time by the Russians who at first held him for an extended period in a small room with 80 or so others and no bathrooms. The filth and sickness nearly overwhelmed him before he was eventually relocated to a work camp comprised of captured Polish exiles. But even there he found the conditions to be equally dismal. Of the 1,500 in his camp, only half survived prior to those left alive being shipped to but another assignment elsewhere. And so it went for him over the next several years. From work camp to work camp he was moved until eventually he found himself in Siberia where he was permitted to again tailor clothing for the remainder of the war. More importantly, however, it was there also that he met Rachel who had arrived in Siberia in much the same way as Wolf did. In love, they soon married and remained together for the rest of Wolf's days on this earth.

Often in life the passing of one opportunity makes room for another, and so may be the case here. If we're lucky, perhaps it will be a renewal of the opportunity thought lost — to learn what more we can from the experiences of men like Wolf. Perhaps Rachel will share with us how they as a couple were able to greet their friends always with a wave of their hands and warm smiles — smiles that reassured all to whom they were given that life is good — even after all that which they had been forced to endure. Wolf, may God bless you with a peaceful rest you so richly deserve.

(Cliff Nichols is an attorney practicing criminal defense/entertainment law in Santa Monica. He may be contacted at (310) 917-1083, cliff@cliffnicholslaw.com or www.cliffnicholslaw.com. You may join his blog at www.thedailystand.com.)

OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff.

Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to editor@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite 202, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

COMMENTARY



Let's talk turkey: Tom has some tales to tell

PISTACHIO PERSPECTIVE

BY SUSAN ANN CONNOR



It's Tuesday evening, before Thanksgiving. I'm about to assess the food preparation process. A good long stare at the inside of my fridge always brings clarity. So I open it up, and it's jammed. You'd think I was serving an army, not a party of five. Holiday ingredients are bursting out all over. I can't even see my precious popcorn, that I keep cool and in full frontal view. Instead, there's a naked turkey gaping back at me.

I gaze at the big bird with unexpected sentiment. He looks so sweet, yet a bit unhinged and wanton. This intrigues me. I wonder about his path ... how he got from his wobbling, gobbling days to the stationary nippy nights of my refrigerator.

Fixated on the plump fella, I begin to feel a connection, as well as a draft from the frosty winds of my open icebox. It's almost as if he wants to have a chat with me ... to talk turkey, if you will.

Realizing I'm being downright nutty, I give him a quick wave and with a shiver close the door. Before it latches, I swear I hear something. Never one to ignore audio, I open it up again.

"You talkin' to me?" I say.

"I'm talking turkey to you," he says.

"Really?" I say.

"Really," he says.

Whoa. I pause a moment, pondering my next move. To parley or not to parley. That is the question.

"Just go with it," he yelps in perfect turkey vernacular. "Whaddya got to lose?"

He's right. I could take a few minutes to talk to a deceased turkey. Why not? This is Thanksgiving after all, and he's the designated ambassador. The worst that could happen is someone might actually see me. But that's unlikely, because it's dark and the blinds are closed.

"OK, so what's up, my fine feathered friend?"

"Ex-feathered. But that's cool. Let me introduce myself. I'm Tony."

"Tony? Sure it's not Tom?"

"Very funny. No. Tom was just a nickname Benjamin Franklin gave all us male turkeys to spite his pal, Thomas Jefferson. You see, Ben wanted us named the national bird of the United States, and Tom didn't. Truth be told, we did feel a little slighted. Eagles are fabulous, but they simply cannot trot."

"That's an interesting piece of information, Tony."

"Yeah, but that's not what I wanted to talk turkey about. I want you to know I lived a good life. At the top of my game, I could run 20 mph in the woods and fly 55 mph in short spurts. I had the finest feet and the widest wings. There wasn't another Tom that could catch me. And the hens, they went wild over me. I'd gobble, and they'd come clucking."

"Oh, Tony. You're quite a Tom."

"Well, that's history now, too. But there's one more thing I need to tell you. Being in your refrigerator is my destiny."

I couldn't help smiling, because I sure do love turkey.

"Go on," I urge, trying to imagine Tony flirting with a sorority of clucking hens.

"Here's the deal. A turkey's fate pretty much is to be gobbled up. Our philosophy is like our good friends, the Native Americans, who know every animal serves as a message or a healing medicine. Us turkeys simply sacrifice ourselves so you may live and be sustained. Some call us noble, but it's not a martyr thing. Nor do we expect anything back in return. It just makes us feel good to 'give-away.' We totally get an endorphin rush when we help and nourish others."

"Well, thank you, Tony. I'm very grateful for you."

"And I, you."

At that, our conversation comes to an abrupt end. It has to. My fingers are nearly frozen, and it's time to make my pumpkin bread. Gazing at Tony one last time, I humbly nod, shut the fridge and trot off.

Happy Thanksgiving! Lalalala ...

(Susan Ann Connor can be reached at pistachiocolumn@aol.com.)



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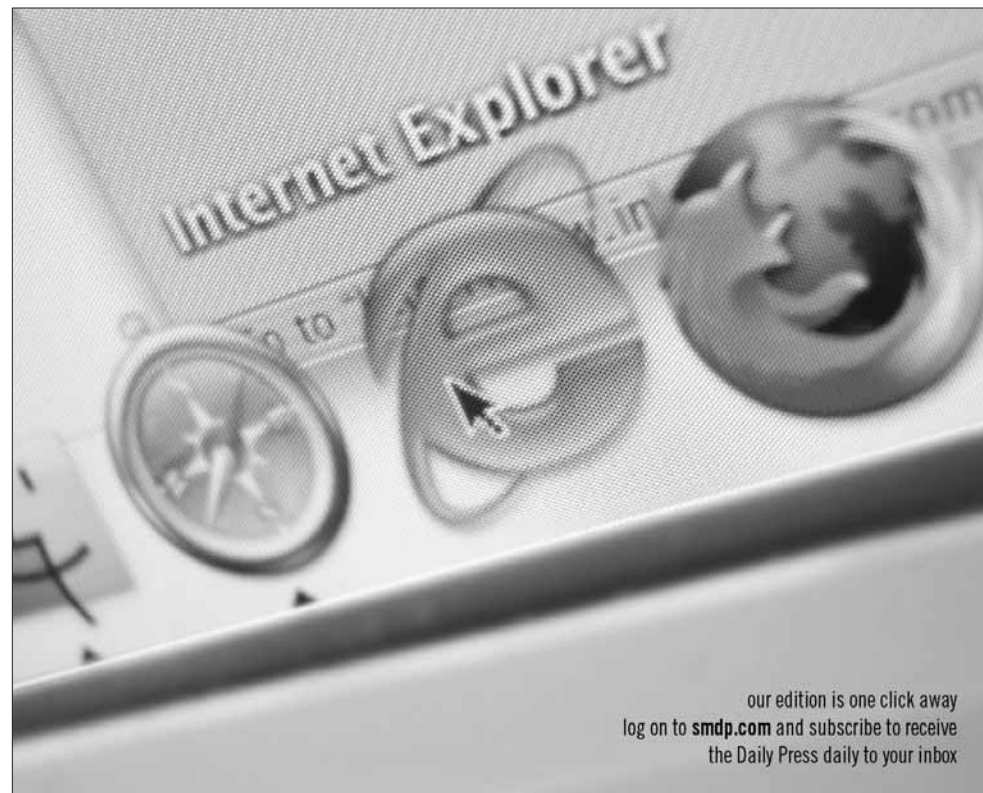
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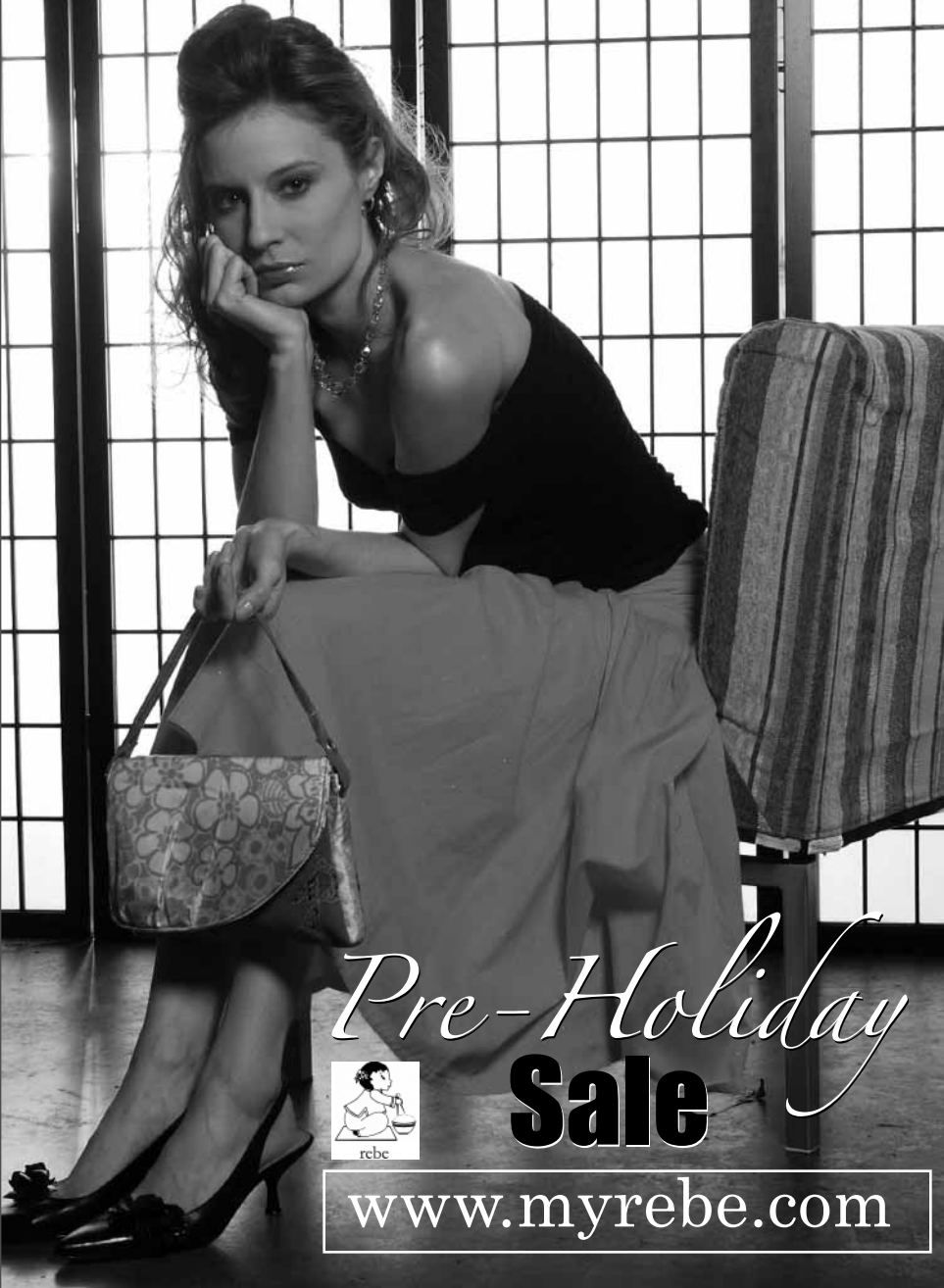
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LOCAL

Ewell looking forward to tackling city's woes

EWELL, from page 1

O'Connor welcomed Ewell, who was met with applause throughout the packed council chambers on Tuesday.

"His resume is impressive, as are his problem-solving and people skills," she said.

Ewell's career began as a firefighter with the Compton Fire Department in 1975. After serving that department for 19 years in such capacities as deputy fire marshal, deputy fire chief and fire chief, Ewell then served Oakland, Calif., as deputy city manager, assistant city manager and acting city manager. Ewell also served as city manager for Durham, North Carolina, before landing in San Diego.

Ewell has an executive masters degree in general administration from the University of Maryland and a bachelor of science degree in business administration from the University of Phoenix.

Recruited by San Diego in 2001, he was named assistant City Manager, responsible for the day-to-day operations of all city departments.

The 52-year-old Ewell was appointed as San Diego's city manager after Michael Uberuaga was forced out in March 2004. The following November, after voters passed a strong mayor measure, Ewell announced he would quit in June 2005, but then agreed to stay on until the end of the year to provide continuity, according to the San Diego Union Tribune.

"They asked him to stay on and guide them through the trouble," said Santa Monica City Hall spokeswoman Judy Rambeau Franz. "He get high marks for integrity and being highly professional."

The root of the problem in San Diego was that political leaders wanted to spend more than they were taking in, according to the Web site, governing.com. They didn't have the revenue to offer city employees raises. So, instead, they offered increased pension benefits. Now, San Diego's pension system is at least \$1.4 billion short and there are legal questions as to whether there were improper conflicts of interest that led to overly generous payments, according to governing.com.

The city of San Diego's books have been under review by federal and local investigators since February 2004, including the Security and Exchange Commission and the U.S. Attorney's Office. The wrongdoing goes back as far as the mid 1990s, some news reports suggest.

San Diego City Attorney Mike Aguirre had been publicly aggressive in looking at whether Ewell, his predecessors and the City Council broke laws amidst the financial bungling. Aguirre, known for his public grandstanding, had called repeatedly for Ewell to resign, according to news reports.

Former San Diego Mayor Dick Murphy also called for Ewell's resignation. However, it was Murphy who stepped down in July. Then his interim replacement, along with another city councilman, were convicted on unrelated corruption charges.

To deal with a \$50 million deficit in San Diego, Ewell had to make difficult budget decisions, and return the city to core services. Among the cuts were 200 positions, justified by the fact that 78 percent of San Diego's budget was payroll. There are about 11,000 people employed by the city of San Diego, which has a budget of about \$2.4 billion.

"Mr. Ewell was promoted by the San Diego City Council from assistant city manager in 2004 to help the city navigate some very tough issues," Santa Monica Mayor O'Connor said. "The confidence the San Diego Council showed in him, and the experience he's gained throughout his career, give us every confidence that he is the right person at the right time for Santa Monica."

"We welcome him and his family to our community."

On Tuesday, Ewell said he looks forward to putting the San Diego experience behind him and starting fresh in Santa Monica.

"San Diego was a great city to work for but it had its problems with pensions and disclosures that go back for many years," he said. "I look forward to working with an agency that will never have that again."

Ewell added that Santa Monica has proven it can handle its issues effectively, citing traffic congestion, affordable housing and the homeless population.

"Santa Monica is regarded as a city that is willing to look at issues straight on," he said. "I'm elated to help find solutions. I know it will not be an easy task, especially considering that I am following in the footsteps of one of the greatest city managers in the nation."

Santa Monica City Manager Susan McCarthy announced this summer that she will be retiring. Her last City Council meeting was Tuesday night and her last day on the job is Dec. 8.

Ewell and his wife, Mary, have two grown children.



Got News?

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Ships and marine life not on same wavelength

SONAR, from page 1

humans. The leading theory is that sonar either causes whales to panic and surface too quickly or forces them deeper before they can expel nitrogen, leading to nitrogen bubbles in the blood.

A federal probe into the mass stranding of 17 whales in the Bahamas in March 2000 cited the Navy's use of mid-frequency sonar as a contributing factor.

The Natural Resources Defense Council sued the Navy last month in federal court in Los Angeles in an attempt to curb its use of mid-frequency sonar, which is the most common method of detecting enemy submarines. The environmental group wants limits on sonar during training exercises, not in war.

In the new report, the NRDC urged the National Marine Fisheries Service to better enforce the federal Marine Mammal Protection Act. The service should also require the Navy to obtain permits for its sonar exercises, according to the report.

A fisheries service spokeswoman said the agency had not seen the report and

could not comment on it.

Jasny said noises from oil and gas exploration have also been linked to lower catch rates of halibut, cod and other species of fish.

"It's been shown that some species of fish suffer severe injury to their inner ears, which can seriously compromise their ability to survive," he said.

The NRDC recommended year-round restrictions of excessive ocean noise in critical habitats and seasonal restrictions on migration routes. For example, the group suggested that oil-and-gas companies avoid seismic surveys in the winter off the west coast of Africa when baleen whales are breeding offshore.

It also called on the fisheries service to increase oversight of oil and gas surveys, which rely on shooting high-intensity air guns at the ocean's floor.

The true impact of ocean noise remains unknown because strandings likely represent just a small portion of marine life effected by excessive noise, Jasny said.

Police keep up appearances

GRAFFITI, from page 1

tinues to maintain a high visibility, violence-prevention presence in the Pico neighborhood and at Edison School."

The SMPD has notified Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Superintendent John Deasy of the alert.

"It's unconfirmed reports, but we need

to take it seriously," Fabrega said. "We want to continue the highest level of law enforcement we can."

To report any suspicious activity, call the SMPD at (310) 458-8491. Callers who wish to remain anonymous also may call the WeTip national hotline at 1-800-78-CRIME (27463).

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 3

Showers Foundation, and the Santa Monica Elk's Emblem Club were the major contributors.

For more Information, call (310) 645-8989

Temporary library ready to shut its doors

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica public library's temporary library, 1324 Fifth St., will close to the public beginning Dec. 5, in order to move materials and staff to the new Main Library.

The temporary library has served the downtown area during the construction of the new 104,000-square-foot main library designed by Moore Ruble Yudell Architects and planners. The new Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., celebrates its grand opening on Jan. 7 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

During the move to the new Main Library, service is available at these branches:

- Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave. (310) 829-7081.
- Fairview Branch Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd. (310) 450-0443.
- Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St. (310) 392-3804.

Branch library hours are: Noon to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and Saturday 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Branch libraries are closed Friday and Sunday.

The Santa Monica Public Library's Web site www.smpl.org offers access to the online catalog, library account information, on-line databases, e-mail reference, and AskNow, an interactive reference service available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. During the move to and opening of the new Main Library, the Santa Monica Public Library will offer the following telephone services, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.: General information (310) 458-8600; telephone reference (310) 451-8859; and telephone renewals (310) 451-1866.

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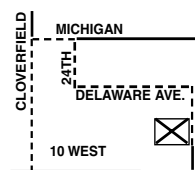
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STATE

Makeup of California taking a dramatic turn

BY JENNIFER COLEMAN
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — By 2020, California will be more crowded, its population older and its racial composition dominated by Hispanics, according to a report released Tuesday. The changes will pose challenges to state lawmakers, who will have to grapple with the additional pressures on already strained schools and health care systems, according to the report by the California Budget Project.

In just 15 years, one in seven Californians will be age 65 or older, the state will add 10 million residents, and Hispanics will account for 43 percent of the population, with whites accounting for about 34 percent. The white and Hispanic populations are expected to become equal in 2010, when each is projected to account for 39 percent of the population, said Barbara Baran, associate director of the organization and the report's author.

The report, "Planning for California's Future," examined Census data and figures from the California Department of Finance. While it doesn't offer recommendations, its intent is to warn lawmakers of the coming shifts.

"The message here is really that this is what's coming. This is what's in front of us," Baran said. "This is the beginning of another budget cycle, and we need to take an approach that is longer term, that doesn't look at isolated issues."

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has suggested a multibillion-dollar bond to rebuild and expand California's freeways, bridges, levees and schools, which Baran said is important in light of the state's projected population growth.

But that proposal should be examined "in the context of other challenges — child care, elder care, health care — that are really emerging," Baran said.

Lawmakers are focusing on infrastructure because it has been long neglected in favor of investments in social programs, said Assemblyman Rick Keene, R-Chico.

Improving roads and levees, which protect homes and the state's water supply, will only help the state as it adds the expected 10 million new residents by 2020, he said.

A 71 percent increase in residents age 65 and older could tax government-funded health care programs, such as Medi-Cal or In-Home Supportive Services, the report said. That age group has traditionally been very politically active, said Keene, who is vice chairman of the Assembly Budget Committee.

"I don't think there's any danger of them being a silent population," he said. "They will make sure their voices are heard" at the state Capitol.

In one respect, Baran said, California is fortunate because its median age is slightly younger than the national average — 34 years, compared to 36 years. That means that as the state's baby boomers retire "we have a young, vibrant workforce coming behind," she said.

But the state needs to ensure that its public schools meet the demands of a changing work environment, she said.

"This question of are we appropriately educating the number of workers we need is a real one," Baran said.

The education system will be affected by changes to both racial and age demo-

White out: Hispanics will represent majority by 2020

By The Associated Press

Highlights of the California Budget Project report "Planning for California's Future:"

AGE:

■ The fastest-growing segment of California's population is residents age 65 and older. That age group is expected to grow by 2.6 million between 2000 and 2020, a 71 percent increase.

■ Older Californians are expected to be healthier than previous generations, but the sheer number of them — about 6.2 million by 2020 — could tax government-funded programs such as Medi-Cal and In-Home Supportive Services.

RACE:

■ The number of Hispanic and white California residents will become equal in 2010, when each group will account for 39 percent of the population. By 2020, 43 percent of the state's residents will be Hispanic and about 34 percent will be white.

■ The white population is projected to fall by about 1 million people between 2000 and 2020, from more than 16 million to fewer than 15 million. About one in four white residents will be age 65 or above in 2020.

■ By 2014, half the children in public schools will be Hispanic. Researchers say a sizable minority will be English-language learners.

■ Asians will make up the second-fastest growing demographic, with a 48 percent increase by 2020. By that time, about 12.7 percent of the population will be of Asian descent, the report said.

■ The percentage of black residents is projected to remain stable but will be a relatively young population in 2020, researchers say. About 28 percent will be under 20 years old, with about 12 percent over the age of 65.

Source: California Budget Project, using U.S. Census and California Department of Finance data.

graphics, the report said.

Enrollment in public schools is expected to increase by 7.3 percent, or about 430,000 children by 2020. But that is a slower pace than the previous decade, when it jumped by 21 percent between 1990 and 2000. More than half of California's school-age children will be Hispanic by 2014, with a "significant minority" expected to be English-language learners, researchers found.

Standardized tests have shown a stubborn gap between white and Hispanic students in academic achievement, the researchers noted. The 2005 Standardized Testing and Reporting program found that 25 percent of Hispanic students scored proficient or better in English, while 58 percent of white students hit that mark.

That discrepancy coupled with Hispanics' growing political clout probably will result in calls for greater investment in public education, the report said.

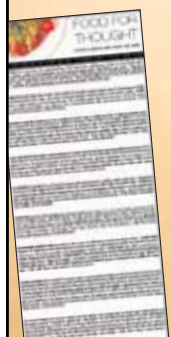


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NATIONAL



Ex-DeLay aide has helped with bribery probe since July

BY PETE YOST
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — A former aide to Rep. Tom DeLay who pleaded guilty in a federal bribery probe involving members of Congress has been cooperating with prosecutors since July.

The disclosure about Michael Scanlon, who also is an ex-partner of lobbyist Jack Abramoff, comes in an investigation of \$80 million that the two men collected from six American Indian tribes.

"There have been a lot of conversations" between Scanlon and federal prosecutors over the past five months, Scanlon attorney Plato Cacheris said Monday night. "He had a lot to say."

Scanlon pleaded guilty Monday to conspiring to bribe public officials. Under the plea before U.S. District Judge Ellen Segal Huvelle, Scanlon will pay restitution totaling more than \$19 million to Indian tribes that he admitted had been defrauded.

Abramoff and Scanlon collected more than \$80 million between 2001 and 2004 from six Indian tribes with casinos.

On Friday, Scanlon was charged with conspiracy. On Monday, the Justice Department's statement of facts which Scanlon signed went beyond the earlier charging document, revealing that by means of trips, tickets to sporting events and campaign contributions Scanlon and Abramoff "provided a stream of things of value to public officials in exchange for a series of official acts."

DeLay, R-Texas, is among those facing scrutiny for his associations with Abramoff, including a trip to Scotland and use of Abramoff's skybox at a Washington sports arena.

DeLay, who relinquished his post as House majority leader after a separate indictment in Texas, is due in court Tuesday in Austin for a hearing seeking dismissal of conspiracy and money laundering charges.

In the Scanlon plea, documents filed with the court say the items to one unidentified congressman or his staff included all-expense-paid trips to the Northern Marianas Islands in 2000, a trip to the Super Bowl in Tampa, Fla., in 2001 and a golf trip to Scotland in 2002.

Based on information already placed on the public record by the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, the congressman is Rep. Bob Ney, R-Ohio.

In a statement, Ney's office said, "All that this plea agreement shows is that Mr. Scanlon had a deliberate, secret, and well-concealed scheme to defraud many people, and it appears, unfortunately, that Rep. Ney was one of the many people defrauded."

Many of the things suggested to have occurred in the plea agreement "did not actually take place," Ney's office said. "Whenever Rep. Ney took official action, actions similar to those taken by elected representatives every day as part of the normal, appropriate government process, he did so based on his best understanding of what was right and not based on any improper influence."

The statement of facts that Scanlon signed said that he and Abramoff — identified in the document as Lobbyist A — provided items to public officials in exchange for "agreements to support and pass legislation, agreements to place statements in the Congressional Record, agreements to contact personnel in the United States Executive Branch agencies and offices to influence decisions of those agencies and offices." A representative of the Inspector General's office in the Interior Department was seated at the table of prosecutors.

The court documents said a senior staffer for "Representative No. 1" and others traveled to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in January 2000 to assist Abramoff and his company in maintaining lobbying clients; Representative No. 1 as the co-chairman of a conference committee of House and Senate members agreed to introduce legislation that would lift existing federal bans against commercial gaming for two Indian tribes in Texas that were Abramoff clients; and that Representative No. 1 met with a California tribe to discuss the congressman's agreement to assist in passing legislation regarding taxation of certain payments received by members of the California tribe.

"Guilty, your honor," Scanlon told the judge when asked how he was pleading.

Scanlon could face up to five years in prison.

The court documents that Scanlon signed say he had a fee-splitting arrangement with Abramoff that was kept secret from the tribes because disclosure likely would have jeopardized the arrangement. Lobbyist A, the court papers said, encouraged his existing clients to hire Scanlon's firm for grass roots and public relations services, while discouraging the clients from seeking competitive pricing and proposals from vendors other than Scanlon's firm.

The prices Scanlon's firm charged for its services "were significantly in excess" of the costs, the statement added.

Outside the courthouse, Scanlon attorney Cacheris said his client regrets what happened to the tribes and "he is trying to do what he thinks is right" by cooperating with the government investigation.

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Putting builder-speak into layman's terms



DAYS ON THE MARKET

BY JODI SUMMERS

Rehabbing a building or doing new construction? Does the contractor sound like he is speaking in Mandarin? Construction, like so many other professions, has its own lingo and its own set of abbreviations. To make your next contracting experience more pleasant, allow us to share with you some of the more common construction abbreviations and their true meanings.

ABS: Acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene, (say that three times fast) the chemical makeup of that black, plastic-composite plumbing pipe most frequently used for drain, waste and vent systems.

AC: The first half of AC/DC means "alternating current," the most common method of delivering electricity in North America.

AWG: "American Wire Gauge," our country's standard for the size of various types of wire, including electrical wire.

bd. ft. (a.k.a. bf): Board foot, the customary wood unit of measure equal to one inch thick, 12 inches wide, and 12 inches long.

Btu: "British thermal unit," a standard unit for the measurement of heat, roughly equivalent to the heat given off by one kitchen match.

CAD: Short for "computer-assisted drafting" or "computer-assisted design." Software that's the architect's friend.

CFM: Cubic feet per minute. This measurement lets you know how fast air moves.

cip: Cast iron pipe.

cmu: Concrete masonry unit, or in layman's terms, a concrete block.

d: Penny, a typical term for the size of nails.

db: Decibel, used to measure sound or noise.

DC: The second half of AC/DC. Known as "direct current," as from a battery, and used throughout much of Europe.

DF-L: Douglas fir. A popular softwood used from framing lumber.

dia. (also diam.): Diameter. Remember this term from math class?

DWV: Drain, waste and vent. Popular in bathrooms. The system of plumbing pipes used in the removal of liquid and solid waste from a building.

FAS: Firsts and seconds, grades of hardwood lumber.

FIP: Female iron pipe. Has a large end to accept a MIP insertion.

galv.: Galvanized, a zinc finish applied to metals such as nails, pipes, fencing, and sheet metal known to provide protection against the elements.

ga: Gauge, the diameter of a wire or the thickness of a piece of sheet metal.

GFI (also GFCI): Ground fault interrupter, or ground fault circuit interrupter. This electrical apparatus is designed to identify a fault in the electrical system and shuts down power.

HC: Hollow core. A type of door that is not solid all the way through.

hp: Horsepower, a way to know the power output of an electric motor.

HVAC: Heating, ventilating and air conditioning.

id: Inside diameter, typically referring to the width of a pipe or duct.

KD: Knocked down — an item which is sold in pieces that need to be assembled, think IKEA furniture or swing sets.

kw: Kilowatt, a unit of electrical measure equal to 1,000 watts.

Kwh: Kilowatt-hour. The equivalent of 1,000 watts of electricity used for one hour. This is the common measurement for how electricity is sold.

MBF: Thousand board feet, a unit of measure used to price many wood building materials.

MDF: Medium density fiberboard. A building material made from wood fiber and resin formed under heat and pressure in sheets, boards, and trim.

MIP: Male iron pipe. Inserts into a FIP.

NC, NF: National Coarse and National Fine, common designations of thread size for nuts, bolts, and other threaded objects.

NPT: National Pipe Taper, a traditional type of threaded plumbing pipe and fittings.

OC: O-center, designating the latitude between the centers of two framing members.

od: Outside diameter, usually referring to the width of a pipe or duct.

OSB: Oriented Strand Board. This building material is made from thin strands of wood and resin, shaped under heat and pressure to form sheets and boards.

PET: Precision end trimmed. Lumber that has been cut to a specific length.

PT: Pressure-treated, a chemical treatment applied to lumber to preservative it.

PVA: Polyvinyl resin adhesive is most often used as a drywall sealer.

PVC: Polyvinyl chloride, a widely used plastic composite material.

RO: Rough opening, a framed opening specifically sized for a housing element such as a door, window, or skylight.

S4S: Surfaced four sides, referring to lumber.

SC: Solid core, a door with a solid inner core.

SF, SY: Square foot and square yard.

T&G: Tongue and groove, a method for milling interlocking lumber.

(Jodi Summers is director of the investment division at Boardwalk Realty Santa Monica. Contact her at jodis@boardwalkrealty.com, or call 310-309-4219. Visit her community history Web site at www.santamonicalandmarks.com.)

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* Indicates space has been removed because of an error or correction.

9 Spaces totaling 18,605 SF Removed from Inventory from 11/15/2005 to 11/22/2005.

California joins Washington, Texas atop visitor shopping lists

By Daily Press staff

Washington, California and Texas are among the top three states for home searches, according to data released Tuesday from HomePages.com, the first national real estate service to integrate detailed home listings, birds-eye views of neighborhoods, and community and local amenity information in one location.

HomePages reports that since launching over a month ago the “Evergreen State,” “Golden State” and the “Lone Star State” have generated the highest number of visitors shopping for homes and neighborhood information. Illinois and Virginia round out the top five states, followed by New York (6); Florida (7); Colorado (8); New Jersey (9); and Georgia (10), respectively.

In addition, HomePages found Seattle to be the top city in terms of consumers shopping for homes, with two of the top five cities hailing from Texas: Fort Worth (2) and Dallas (5). Not to be outdone by Texas, California claims seven of the top 25 cities including: Los Angeles (3); San Francisco (9); Sacramento (13); Sunnyvale (14); San Diego (15); San Jose (17) and Irvine (22).

“California and Texas are two of the largest real estate markets in the United States and also rank high in terms of relocation destinations for companies transferring employees,” said Ian Morris, CEO of HouseValues, Inc., the company that operates HomePages. “It’s no surprise that home hunters are actively searching cities in California and Texas given these states’ strong economies and combined population of more than 59.2 million people.”

Morris added that HomePages is an excellent resource for employers and employees looking to relocate as part of a corporate move. The site features high-resolution aerial imagery for 92 percent of the nation’s metropolitan areas and provides detailed home listings with multiple photos and virtual tours coupled with thousands of data points for each neighborhood including details on communities, crime stats, weather, parks, schools, and school districts, and more than 1.8 million business listings and government services nationwide.



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Real Estate

'Leisure' doesn't suit dissidents out to create waves

BY GILLIAN FLACCUS

Associated Press Writer

SEAL BEACH, Calif. — The weather is lovely and the golf above par — but all is not well at Leisure World, one of the nation's first and largest independent living retirement communities.

For nearly two years now, a handful of self-styled dissidents have hounded the community's management company for details of how it spends millions in resident fees. And not everyone inside this gated slice of coastal Southern California is happy about it.

Angry oldsters openly refer to the dozen or so activists as "crackpots," and say their lawsuits and accompanying campaign have tainted a retirement otherwise blissfully free of politics and the hassles of the outside world.

"These dissidents contend that all the people in Leisure World are poor, downtrodden, sheepish people who can't protect themselves," said Jim Williams, 69, president of one of Leisure World's community associations and a six-year resident. "But the truth of the matter is, a lot of people are just that way because they don't want to get involved. They want to retire in peace."

That's why residents, their average age 78, pay up to \$425,000 for apartments surrounded by a wall that is breached only by two gates, where security guards in white gloves and brimmed hats stand sentinel. Inside this cocoon are amenities including six private clubhouses with shuffleboard and lawn bowling, woodworking and art studios, weekend dances and shows at a 2,500-seat amphitheater.

A peaceful retirement has been harder to find since February 2004, when the activists first tried to examine the financial records of the Golden Rain Foundation, the company that oversees Leisure World.

Along the way, the dissidents have won small court victories — and plenty of blowback for their pickets, letter-writing and hell-raising at community meetings. The mere sight of one walking across campus recently was enough to compel another resident to stop his car and let loose an expletive-laced tirade.

"They consider us troublemakers," said Betty Keatley, 67, who's picketed Golden Rain's on-campus offices. "When we want to talk (at meetings), they slam down the gavel and say, 'Shut up and sit down.'"

Dissidents such as Keatley maintain that Golden Rain

must comply with a recent state law requiring financial transparency from homeowners associations. Golden Rain maintains the rules don't apply because it's a non-profit management consultant — not a homeowners association — hired by the 16 self-governed resident associations that comprise Leisure World.

Golden Rain representatives didn't return calls for comment. Presidents of Leisure World's resident associations insist the money is used appropriately and say members have easy access to an audited annual budget that's projected at nearly \$10 million for 2006.

About 9,000 residents pay Golden Rain a monthly fee of \$105 per unit, as well as a one-time, move-in membership fee of up to \$1,300. It adds up to millions of dollars each year that, among other things, is used for maintenance and landscaping of the 533-acre property.

On the campus, golf carts zip along narrow streets, past postage-stamp lawns filled with American flags and fanciful garden statues. Rows of single-story, cookie-cutter apartments are surrounded by small patios enclosed with white latticework.

"What you see architecturally is what you get with personalities here. It's very much a sense of conformity," said dissident David Lyon, a 60-year-old Vietnam veter-

an. "I became very unpopular because I dared to ask questions."

Small claims judges have consistently ruled in the dissidents' favor, doling out about \$3,000 in fines to Golden Rain and forcing it to open many of its records.

The dissidents said that at first, they just wanted to know how their money was being spent. But Golden Rain is fighting back so hard that they have come to suspect that the foundation is trying to hide financial improprieties of some kind.

The case was recently elevated into Orange County Superior Court, where a judge is expected to rule by January.

Williams, the community association president, said most residents feel Lyon and his cohorts act as if they're "deranged, demented, confused or crazy" — and make Leisure World decidedly unleisurely. He added that the foundation has spent more than \$100,000 in legal bills, money residents won't see in services.

"People are much more suspicious of everybody else and people don't trust anything, because these dissidents throw a crank in everything," he said. "People get very upset. They know these people and they feel that they're dangerous."

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Entertainment

Winter 'Harvest' produces less laughs than were expected

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press



THE MOVIE: The Ice Harvest
THE DIRECTOR: Harold Ramis
THE STARS: John Cusack, Billy Bob Thornton, Oliver Platt, Connie Nielsen

"Grosse Pointe Blank" meets "Trapped in Paradise" in director Harold Ramis' sordid dramedy about a Christmas Eve swindle gone wrong in icy Wichita Falls, Kansas. John Cusack is the sleazy mob lawyer and Billy Bob Thornton the strip club owner who conspire to swipe \$2 million from their boss (Randy Quaid, in a small yet memorable performance), only to be waylaid by inclement weather. The laughs aren't as plentiful as expected considering the key players' track records, with almost all of the yucky-yuks coming courtesy of Oliver Platt's drunken rabble-rouser. But the plot, familiar to anyone who's ever seen a heist movie, contains enough tasty stuffing to satisfy, and the stellar cast certainly deliver the goods. Connie Nielsen is an absolute knock-out as the classic femme fatale.

REVIEW

(RATED R. RUNNING TIME: 90 MINUTES)

'Rent' is tangled up in blue

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press



THE MOVIE: Rent
THE DIRECTOR: Chris Columbus
THE STARS: Taye Diggs, Jesse L. Martin, Rosario Dawson, Anthony Rapp, Idina Menzel

Director Chris Columbus ("Mrs. Doubtfire," the first two "Harry Potter" movies) has faithfully adapted Jonathan Larson's Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winning Broadway musical for the big screen, using all but two of the

REVIEW

principal cast members from the original stage production. The newcomers are Rosario Dawson (as exotic dancer Mimi Marquez) and Tracie Thoms (lesbian lawyer Joanne Jefferson), and neither flubs a note as they and their co-stars belt out power ballads and shoe-shufflers rooted in such provocative subject matter as homelessness, homosexuality, drug addiction and AIDS. Whereas recent adaptations of innocuous stage hits "Chicago" and "The Phantom of the Opera" boasted oodles of heart-swelling Heartland appeal, this polemical song and dance number defiantly wraps itself in its Blue State sensibilities.

The story unfolds in New York's designer-gritty Lower East side, circa 1989-90, which Columbus and his production crew render in muted tones throughout. The main players are avant garde-ists trying to keep their creative juices flowing against a tide of negativity — poverty, intolerance, indifference and, above all, deadly disease. As Trey Parker and Matt Stone indelicately put-it while sending up "Rent" in "Team America: World Police," everyone has AIDS. Well, almost everyone.

Mark (Anthony Rapp) is a filmmaker chronicling a



year in the life of seven young bohemians who, despite relentless hardship, are intent on "measuring their lives in love." Mark's roommate/co-squatter Roger (Adam Pascal) is a frustrated rocker cut from the Bon Jovi mold who falls for Dawson's smack-addicted stripper (making junkiedom look so chic). Minstrel-physicist Tom Collins (Jesse L. Martin) shacks up with heart-of-gold cross-dressing street drummer Angel (Wilson Jermaine Heredia), while Mark's sexpot ex, performance artist Maureen (Tony winner Idina Menzel) tries to convince buttoned-up attorney Joanne she's capable of commitment. Taye Diggs, whose memorable turn in the original stage production helped propel him to movie stardom, reprises his role as Benny, a one-time member of the group who sold out to The Man.

By Broadway musical standards the music in "Rent" can be categorized as edgy, highlighted by Rapp and Thoms' lively performance of "Tango Maureen" and Pascal and Dawson's weepy rendering of "I Should Tell You."

(RATED PG-13. RUNNING TIME: 128 MINUTES)

You keep 'Yours' to yourself

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

THE MOVIE: Yours, Mine and Ours
THE DIRECTOR: Raja Gosnell
THE STARS: Rene Russo, Dennis Quaid



REVIEW

the fanciful, white-washed wholesomeness they're selling. Hey, it worked for George Bush in the last two elections.

Most of what transpires in "YM&O" is so ridiculously farfetched that the whole picture could easily be mistaken for a parody ala "The Brady Bunch" movie.

There's a manifest earnestness to the proceedings, and all but the most unsophisticated filmgoers will find very little to laugh about. Rene Russo and Dennis Quaid play former high school sweethearts, both conveniently widowed, who bump into each other at a 30-year high school reunion and impulsively tie the knot. They've got very little in common, save for unusually large broods — he's got eight kids, she's got ten (four of whom, in the interest of ethnic diversity, are adopted). He's a by-the-book military lifer whose kids have been conditioned to march and salute; she's a post-modern hippie/handbag designer who allows her children to freely express themselves by wearing their hair messy and dangle their modifiers and stuff. The inevitable kid culture clash gives way to a goofball plot to separate the parents. From there, director Raja Gosnell ("Never Been Kissed," "Scooby Doo") futilely tries to generate laughs out of coordinated chaos — paint fights, food fights, mud fights, etc. Tellingly, of the 18 young thespians that form the family not a single performance stands out — and what's a kid movie without memorable kids? As for Russo and Quaid, she at least appears to be enjoying herself; he's never looked more uncomfortable in a role.

(RATED PG)



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Getting the girl with nostalgia

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press



REVIEW

THE MOVIE: Just Friends**THE DIRECTOR:** Roger Kumble**THE STARS:** Anna Faris, Ryan Reynolds, Amy Smart, Chris Klein

If you can get past the glaring lapses in logic, arrant disregard for story development, and a cast comprised of fairly obnoxious characters, there are a good many laughs to be had in this off-color rom-com from director Roger Kumble ("Cruel Intentions") and tyro scribe Adam

"Tex" Davis. A comedy classic this isn't, nor is it the clunker one might deem it'd be from the looks of the woeful trailer. It's a film tailor-made for indiscriminating teen audiences and adults with a hankering for a lightweight date movie laden with 90s nostalgia.

Ryan Reynolds ("Van Wilder") exudes a winning combination of smarm and vulnerability as Chris, an overweight kid who is emotionally scarred from an embarrassing incident in which he reveals his true feelings to his high school crush/best friend Jamie (Amy Smart). Ten years later, Chris has reinvented himself as a lady-killing LA music exec who unexpectedly finds himself home for the holidays with a vacuous Hollywood "It Girl" (a hilarious Anna Faris) in tow. He bumps into Jamie, sparks fly, and Chris sets about trying to finally win her over. Competition for her affections arrives in the form of another former geek turned hunk (Chris Klein).

(RATED PG-13. RUNNING TIME: 96 MINUTES)



THE IMBIBER

BY DAN DUNN

Stuffing stockings with liquid cheer

I've always enjoyed making lists. As a child I'd spend hours alone in my room meticulously recording my preferred bands, movies, and sports stars, just to name a few. As I grew older, lonelier and, shall we say, more lugubrious, I'd often enumerate such things as favorite natural disasters, most despised historic figures, and hideous afflictions matched with people I wished suffered from them. Eventually, my parents got me on medication, and most of the "dark stuff" went away. But my fondness for lists and pills endures to this day, which is why I love being a journalist during this ho, ho, hokiest and list-crazy time of the year! In fact, I just popped a few Xanax and am ready to get this yuletide party started right with some gift ideas for the imbibers in your life:

Mumm Napa Brut Prestige: At \$18 a bottle, this California sparkling wine is a great value that is sure to impress at holiday get-togethers should anyone choose to hang out with you. Mumm Napa's winemaker, Ludovic Dervin, is a rising star in the industry and with good reason: His wines hold their own against many higher-priced competitors.

Crown Royal Personalized Bag: Visit www.crownroyalstore.com to order a bag emblazoned with a message of your choosing (\$9.95). Then head down to your local liquor store, buy a bottle of Canada's best-known blended whisky (\$25) and stick it in the bag. It's the sort of gift that says, "Hey, I give a crap" — in fact, that's precisely what I had written on the bag I ordered for my mother.

A Barrel of Jack Daniel's: If one bottle of whisky just won't cut it, how about 240? That's how much hootch is contained in an entire barrel of Jack Daniel's Single Barrel Tennessee Whiskey, available now for a limited time. For \$9,000, you get the bottled whiskey, the empty barrel in which it was aged, a brass plaque and a framed certificate of ownership. For more information about the barrel offer, call 888-551-5225.

(Thirsty for more Imbiber? Pull up a barstool at www.TheImbiber.com)

ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS

'A Distant Memory' is recalled

By Daily Press staff

A local, one-woman workshop production is being extended into December.



The Ruskin Group Theatre announces that it is extending the production "A Distant Memory," Jennifer Field's one-woman autobiographical account of her intensive recovery from a devastating car accident at 17.

Performances are being added Dec. 4, 11 and 18 at Ruskin Group Theatre, located at 3000 Airport Ave. at Santa Monica Airport.

The great-great-granddaughter of Marshall Field, founder of the Marshall Field department store chain, Jennifer Field was a nationally recognized and award-winning competitive show jumper at the time of the accident. Her piece takes the audience on a journey through her day-to-day fight for physical independence, as she ignored her doctors' prognosis and, with the help of her mother, combed the globe in search of treatments that would help her regain her life.

Field, who graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor's degree in art history from Wheaton College in Massachusetts, is currently a second-year Meisner technique acting student at the Ruskin School of Acting and is also an accomplished painter.

Tickets for "A Distant Memory" are \$10. For more information call (310) 397-3244.

A Fab Four scramble

By Daily Press staff

Music Director Steve Wight will present the second in the 2005-06 "Stevenings" series, "The Music and Recordings of the Beatles, Part II" at the Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Santa Monica, 1260 18th St. Admission is free.

Organizers say this will not be a nostalgic trip down memory lane or a discussion of goofy haircuts. If you don't know what the first violin plays in the last verse of "Scrambled Eggs," what the role of the Fairchild 660 and 770 compressors played in the sound of Beatles' records, how tonic major/minor key changes are used in such songs as "Penny Lane" and "Fool On the Hill," or what a "Clavioline" is, you may get a fresh look at music you've known for 40 years. The series will be held on Saturday, Dec. 3 at 7 p.m. For more information, call (310) 452-8908.

Dance from a fresh work

By Daily Press staff

Synapse Dance Theater, Santa Monica College's contemporary dance ensemble, returns to Highways Performance Space Dec. 2-4 with "Fresh Works," an eclectic program that fuses a wide range of dance styles, theater and media.

Using contemporary styles to reflect on current issues, the program features works by guest artists and Synapse choreographers. Through the dynamics of dance, the original repertory explores the many facets of human nature.

The guest artists, distinguished for their work with professional companies and university departments, include SMC dance professors Meri Bender, Linda Gold, Nguyen Nguyen and Roberta Wolin-Manker, as well as animator Cathy Karol Crowthers from SMC's Academy of Entertainment & Technology.

The choreographers create new fusions as they bring their own movement ideas together with elements of jazz, hip-hop, rhythmic gymnastics and traditional Japanese dance.

Under the artistic direction of Linda Gold, Synapse has been nurturing new talent and reaching new audiences for more than 30 years. It has performed at Highways in Santa Monica, Electric Lodge in Venice, Cast Theater in Hollywood and Getty Center in Los Angeles. The program of new works will be performed at 8:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Dec. 2 and 3, and at 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4 at Highways, 1651 18th St. General admission is \$15. Call (310) 315-1459.

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Dash Through Holiday Traffic

Here's a bright idea for getting through a hectic holiday season: Let Metro shuttle out-of-town guests, be your designated driver or ease your daily commute. Try the affordable Metro Day Pass and ride all day for only \$3. For happier holidays, Go Metro.

Experts Find Wilshire Tunneling Safe

A report by an independent panel of experts shows current technology and construction practices will ensure the safety of tunneling under Wilshire Boulevard to extend the Metro Red Line subway beyond Western Avenue. Find out more at metro.net.

Metro Liners Go Metro Rapid

It's 60 feet long, bends in the middle to easily maneuver through city streets and carries a seated load of 58 passengers in comfort. The new larger articulated buses will begin Metro Rapid service on the Vermont Avenue Line 754 and the new Western Avenue Line 757 next month.

Western Avenue, Rail Connections Get Rapid

The fast and frequent Metro Rapid will soon be running on Western Avenue between Hollywood and the Metro Green Line. Beginning next month, new Metro Rapid Line 757 will operate between the Hollywood/Western Station and the Crenshaw Station. See metro.net for details.

Help Plan Your Metro Service

Get involved in improving transit service in your community. Attend Metro Westside/Central's governance council meeting December 6 at 6:30 pm at the La Cienega Tennis Center, 325 S. La Cienega Boulevard, Beverly Hills. For information, search for "Metro Westside/Central" at metro.net.



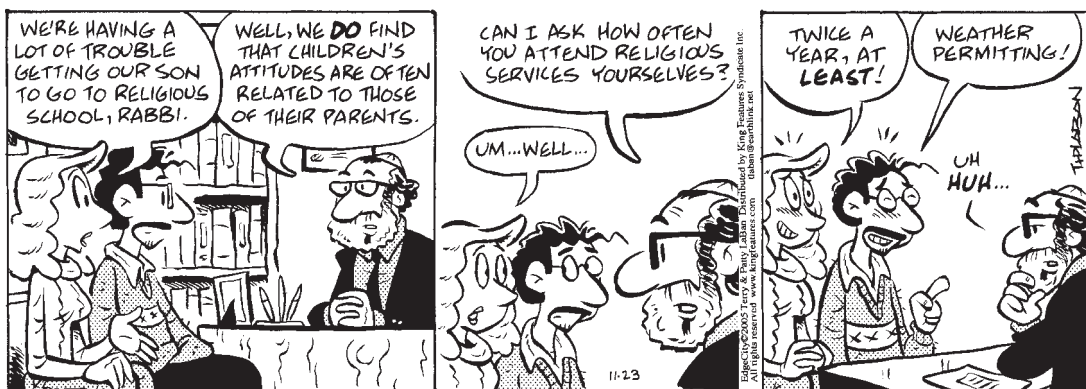
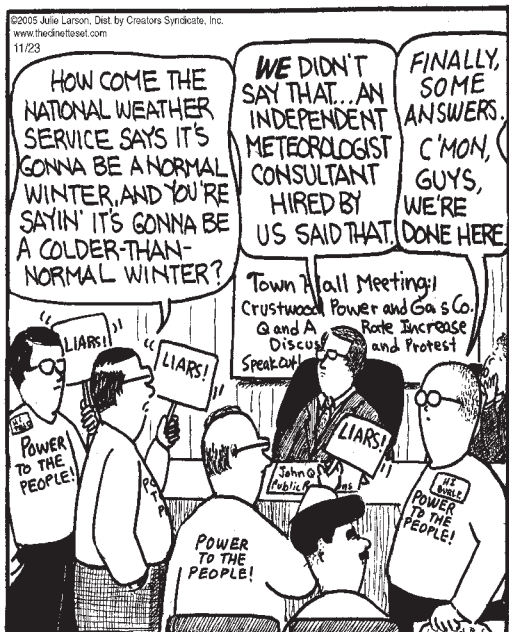
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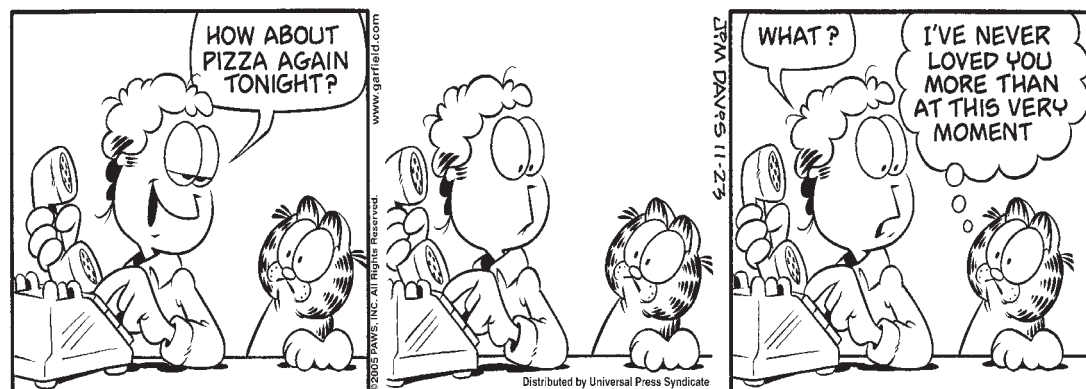
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DOWN

- 1 Shake
need
6 It may be
bored
10 "Cinder-
ella Man"
star
11 Moved a
raft
12 Tore down
13 In debt
14 Bad time
for Caesar
15 Wonder of
music
16 Tillis or
Tormé
17 Brit's bar
18 Lineman
19 Trooper's
order
22 Small
sound
23 Teller of
tales
26 Consider
29 Gifted
32 Salary
33 Drink
cooler
34 High point
36 Fancy
bash
37 Like some
athletes'
ankles
38 Funny
fellow
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fathoms
40 Got up
41 Stock
holders
42 Less
polluted

- 1** Be thrifty
- 2** Switch
for some-
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better
- 3** Former
NFL
commis-
sioner
- 4** Dazzles
- 5** Tie the
knot
- 6** Hockey
great
Gordie
- 7** Uniform
color
- 8** Bolshevik
leader
- 9** Did yard
work
- 11** Ample
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21 Carnival city
24 Ace, for one
25 Solitary sort
27 Indulgent
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29 Malfunction
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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 adjudication 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-Kelloog Attorney for Petitioner

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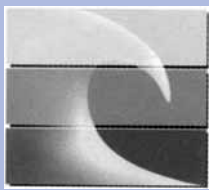


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