

FREE

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2003

Volume 3, Issue 10

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

SUPER LOTTO PLUS

25-5-28-13-12

Megamember: 15

Jackpot: \$7 million

FANTASY 5

17, 1, 35, 14, 21

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 9, 7, 9

Evening picks: 2, 7, 4

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 12, Lucky Charms

2nd Place: 5, California Classic

3rd Place: 8, Gorgeous George

Race Time: 1:46.22



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

RECENT ALARMING HEADLINES:

■ "Flying Bowling Ball Breaks Bone in Woman's Leg" (a July Greensboro, Ga., Herald-Journal story about a driver running over a bowling ball, pinching it out from under a tire with great force and hitting a woman walking to her mailbox)

■ "Bible Study Group Captures Murder Suspect" (a September Arizona Republic story about six men dropping their Bibles to rush to their host's garage to stop a fugitive trying to steal a car)



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"If I were two-faced, would I be wearing this one?"

— Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865)



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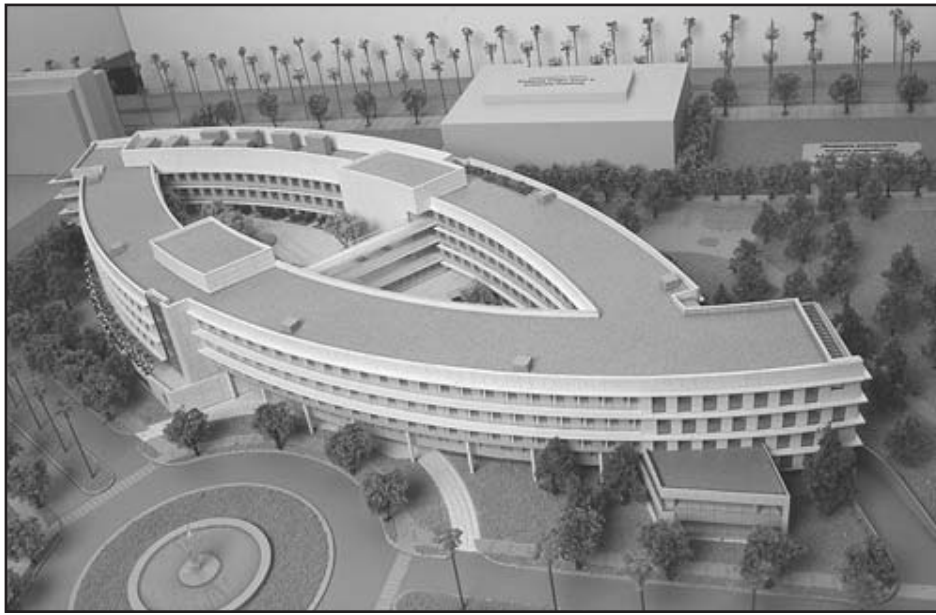


Photo courtesy of RAND Corp.

An architectural model shows what the new RAND Corp. headquarters will look like when the structure is completed next year. The research-based think tank is currently housed next door on Main Street, across from City Hall.

Fleeting thoughts: New RAND site takes shape

Think tank prepares for move to new headquarters

BY JAMIE WETHERBE

Special to the Daily Press

CIVIC CENTER — By the time the RAND Corp.'s new 309,000-square-foot, five-story headquarters is completed next fall, Santa Monica could very well have itself a new landmark.

The research-based, nonprofit organization has been a fixture of Santa Monica's oceanfront since the 1950s. But the current office building, which is 290,000 square feet and houses 1,100 employees, has become outdated. RAND is constructing a new building next door on Main Street, across from City Hall.

With construction underway, the building's design — often described as foot-

"The architects did a wonderful job with the restraints ... I think it's going to look very graceful."

— IAO KATAGIRI
Director

ball- or fish-shaped — has attracted the attention from design professionals and passersby alike. While some deem the design innovative, others find it simply odd.

The unique ellipse design is really the result of the shape of the lot — sandwiched between Main Street's bend and

See RAND, page 5

Ruling provides renters with a new lease on life

Rent board's 3304 struck down

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — A Santa Monica judge has ruled that the local rent control board overstepped its authority when it passed a law that allows landlords to jack up the rent on part-time tenants.

Santa Monica Superior Court Judge James Bascue issued a preliminary injunction last week on the enforcement of regulation 3304, which was adopted by the rent control board in March. The law allows landlords to raise

See RENT, page 5

Police nab suspect in weekend shooting

By Daily Press staff

PICO NEIGHBORHOOD — Police have arrested a Santa Monica man for attempted murder relating to Friday's shooting in this eastside neighborhood.

Samuel Antoine Johnson, 31, was arrested by Santa Monica Police at about 8 p.m. Friday, just hours after he allegedly shot a man in the 1900 block of 17th Street. The victim suffered a minor injury to his right forearm when the bullet grazed his skin. He was treated at the scene by paramedics and released, police said.

SMPD Lt. P.J. Guido said Johnson knew the victim.

Police found Johnson walking in the 1400 block of Euclid Street on Friday. He was taken into custody after police matched him with the description given to detectives from the victim and witnesses of the shooting.

Witnesses said a gold-colored Chevrolet pulled up to the victim, Johnson got out of the car and fired a gun at the victim. A female was driving the car, according to police, when the pair sped off. It is unknown whether or not the female has been identified by police.

Johnson remains in custody and has no bail because of a parole violation. Police are not ruling out the possibility that the shooting may have been gang related. The Pico neighborhood has been known for its gang violence in the past.

Saga continues for director who crashed into Q's

BY DAVE DANFORTH

Daily Press Staff Writer

WEST LOS ANGELES — A movie director who tried to escape liability for killing two people in a May 2000 incident in which he crashed his car into a local sports bar

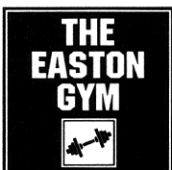
won't testify while a Santa Monica jury decides how much to assess him.

Eric Red, 42, did not face criminal charges after his Jeep Cherokee plowed into Q's Billiard Club and Restaurant on Wilshire Boulevard, killing two patrons. Red claimed he suffered from bouts of Syncope, a fainting

syndrome, and that he had blacked out just before his car rammed into the establishment, stopping only at the bar itself.

But after a Texas judge harshly rebuffed his bid to use a bankruptcy filing to shield himself, Red is now facing the families of the two

See DIRECTOR, page 6



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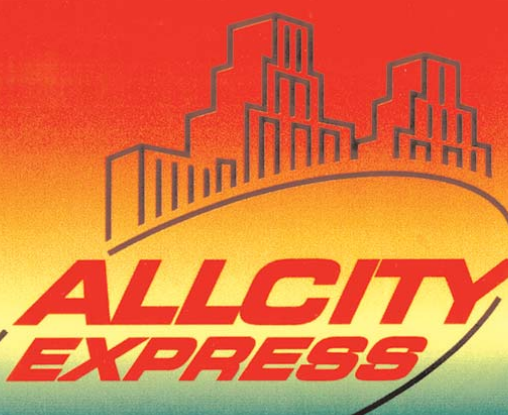
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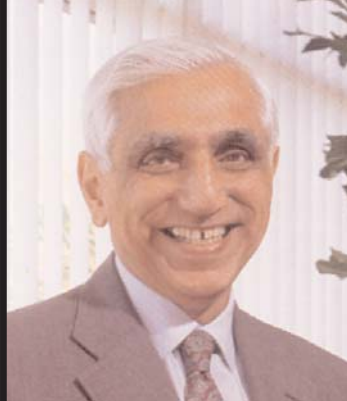





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 ★★-So-so ★-Difficult

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, NOV. 24, 2003:

You head toward an exceptional year, but you do need to take off your rose-colored glasses! It is a generous quality to always see the best in others, but sometimes you should look at what motivates a person, especially someone close to you. You could misread this person. Be realistic about those in your life. Perfection is hard to attain. Your career blooms this year, providing a promotion or pay raise. You also might express more interest in being a leader in your community. Others are drawn to you. If you are single, fall 2004 begins a cycle where you will meet some very special people, one of whom could become very important to you. If you are attached, don't dominate your relationship so much. Give your sweetie more say-so.



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ Let your imagination and intellect wander, whether at work or at home. You will find that a lot comes up for you. Your motivation and strong sense of direction help direct your tension, easing stress. Evaluate information by doing your own research. Tonight: Continue mind-wandering.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Get more in touch with your feelings about a work-related matter, and then you will produce at a higher level. Others will pitch in, equally excited. You accomplish more than you dreamed. Feed a romance carefully. Tonight: Heat up your love life.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Others come toward you with great news. Don't allow someone to interfere with something you are doing that is heartfelt. Network but also do some research involving this personal matter. Let a boss grumble. Tonight: Ask for what you dream.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ To others you look like the never-ending workhorse and nurturer. And you just might be! Still, your mind might be on something other than work involving joint finances or a relationship. You don't have to tell all! Tonight: Nurture yourself.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Allow your more playful nature to emerge. You will find that a loved one goes out of his or her way for you. As a result, you might feel on top of the world. This attitude comes out in your work. In this good frame of mind, be careful with spending. Tonight: Play and have fun.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ A fundamental part of your work is your attitude. You might find others to be rather wifty. Help them focus their energy into their work or a key part of their lives. Be open to revising your patterns, even if it means a time change and/or a home office. Tonight: Discuss options with a roommate.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Reach out for a loved one who means a lot to you. You might be abundantly pleased with his or her reaction. Let your feelings flow, even if they are personal. Don't get unduly nervous about another's financial request. Tonight: Hook up with a friend.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Spending might be a primary concern. You cannot ignore some basic issues. Be careful when dealing with someone very close to you who would like you to take a risk that might involve your wallet. Revise your budget accordingly. Tonight: Pay bills.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ What seems like a dream might be more important than you realize. Work with this idea and test it out on others. You will solidify your thoughts. Be thankful for that person who plays devil's advocate, even if you are annoyed. Tonight: Only what you want.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Knowing when to say little is a fine-tuned art. You might want to talk about your feelings, but for the moment, stay quiet. Experiment with different ideas in your head. Be careful with a quarrelsome person. Tonight: For you and your thoughts.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ You have a way of putting a haze over others, making them unsure of what they think. Don't worry about this too much. You will find that friends pitch in and help you work through a major project. Tonight: Where the crowds are.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ You might be more argumentative than you think. Above all, be careful with bosses and superiors. You might not agree, but you don't have to add chaos to the situation. Cut out any daydreaming. Take precise notes. Tonight: Work as late as you need to.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Published Monday through Saturday
 Phone: 310.458.PRESS(7737) • Fax: 310.576.9913
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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Reaching for the stars

By Daily Press staff

“Star of Wonder,” a look at possible explanations for the Star of Bethlehem will be the feature show Dec. 5, 12 and 19 at Santa Monica College’s Friday night astronomy series.

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

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

Tickets are \$5 each or \$9 for the double bill, with discounts for children and senior citizens. For information, call (310) 434-4223 or (310) 434-3000.

Habla español? County has a web site just for you

By Daily Press staff

Los Angeles County will soon launch a Spanish-language web site and is asking the public to assist by advising what type of information should be included.

Hispanic constituents are being asked to fill out a nine-question survey found on the county’s home page at lacounty.info that is designed to find out what services and information would be useful.

Additionally, focus groups comprised of Hispanic members of the community in each of the five supervisorial districts will be formed to provide input.

Those interested in taking the online survey should click on the “En Espanol” logo at the bottom of the county’s home page.

Some departments presently include information in Spanish on their web sites, but the county wants to make it easier to locate such material by linking it on one site. Efforts will be made to add other material, based on the findings of the surveys.

Among the Spanish-language material that can now be found online is an alphabetical guide to services, an explanation of the 37 departments and their functions, and court information.

Approximately 45 percent of the residents of Los Angeles County are Hispanic, according to the 2000 Census. Of those, an estimated 27 percent use the Internet.

Torah scroll from Holocaust rededicated

By Daily Press staff

Congregation Mishkon Tephilo will rededicate a Torah scroll, saved from destruction in Hungary during World War II, as part of its Shabbat morning worship on Nov. 29.

While many Jewish congregations in metropolitan Los Angeles, including Mishkon Tephilo, display Torah scrolls preserved from the Holocaust, this Torah scroll has a unique connection to Santa Monica resident and Mishkon member Louis Sneh. He was raised in a village called Mezokovachaza in southern Hungary, where it was the Torah scroll of the Jewish community of 420.

In 1944, the German army occupied Hungary and deported the Jews of the village. Most were sent to the concentration camp in Auschwitz, from which only nine returned. The synagogue — used by the local Nazi authorities as a storehouse for all the worldly possessions of the deported Jews — remained standing, with the Torah scroll still intact. In the 1970s, the Communist regime in Hungary destroyed the synagogue. The Torah, spared from destruction once more, fell into other hands.

In the 1990s, Sneh, one of the survivors of the deportation, learned the whereabouts of the Torah scroll and began years of negotiations to reclaim it. In June 2002, Sneh, his wife Dina, and their son and grandsons traveled to Europe and brought the Torah to the United States for restoration and safekeeping.

The mantle covering the Torah is the original one that adorned it in Hungary. It now has the added words, in Hebrew and English, “In memory of the Congregation of Mezokovachaza, Hungary. Destroyed in the Holocaust. This Torah scroll was rescued in the year 2002.”



Look for 1- to 3-foot waves, ankle-to-waist high, and generally poor conditions. There will be mainly a steep NW wind and ground swell, with a couple more small SW pulses.

OUTLOOK: Little change heading into the week. A touch more NW ground swell on Tuesday. Waves will be primarily waist-high and below.

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

Today the water is:

58°

Sunrise: 6:34 a.m.
Sunset: 4:46 p.m.

	LOW TIDE				HIGH TIDE			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	12:57	1.1	2:08	-0.9	7:15	6.7	8:23	4.5
SUNDAY	1:34	1.4	2:55	-1.4	7:51	7.0	9:18	4.4
MONDAY	2:12	1.7	3:44	-1.5	8:30	7.2	10:15	4.1
TUESDAY	2:53	2.1	4:36	-1.5	9:13	7.1	11:17	3.9
WEDNESDAY	3:38	2.4	5:33	-1.2	9:59	6.8	N/A	N/A
THURSDAY	4:31	2.8	6:34	-0.8	12:28	3.8	(10:50	6.2)
FRIDAY	5:43	3.1	7:40	-0.4	1:48	3.8	(11:51	5.6)

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The Q Line

While it may seem that Santa Monicans bicker over plenty of issues, we all have reasons why we have chosen this city by the sea to live, work and play. In the spirit of the Thanksgiving holiday, this week’s Q-Line question is not the typical controversial or hot topic of the week.

Instead, it’s simply, “What are you thankful for?”

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



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OPINION

LETTERS

No more slash and burn

Editor:

Many Santa Monica College faculty were dismayed to learn that SMC President Piedad Robertson was chosen as a special advisor to Richard Riordan, secretary of education in Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's new administration (SMDP, Nov. 19, page 1). Robertson took a slash and burn approach to budget problems at SMC that divided the college community — disproportionately affecting our male Latino students — and dismantled popular and effective programs such as auto tech and architecture. Many faculty are now concerned that she will advise Gov. Schwarzenegger to take a similar approach statewide. Community colleges can not cut their way out of budget problems.

Lantz Simpson
President SMC Faculty Association

Keep lines of communication open

Editor:

Your article on the just-ended MTA strike (SMDP, No. 20, page 1) and Pam O'Connor's comments in changing the "culture of striking" is of much interest to this veteran transit rider (over 56 years and counting).

Many of your readers may not know that Pam is the only MTA board member (as far as I know) who uses public transit, and I am pleased that with the recent strike and her busy schedule she was able to participate in all of the many special MTA board meetings pertaining to the strike.

I hope that Pam can find a solution either through her efforts or through the special subcommittee that she and other MTA board members may be serving on so that the citizens of LA County will not have to endure any more hardships and inconveniences of the past month.

By the way, one of the solutions may lie in the comments of Dan Dawson of Big Blue Bus about keeping open communications with employees.

I look forward to offering my ideas to Pam (and the MTA) for their consideration.

Ken Ruben
Culver City

Happy birthday, Daily Press

Editor:

Congratulations on the second anniversary of your paper. Thanks to you and all of your staff, we finally have a newspaper that listens to us and gives a voice to us under-represented people of Santa Monica.

Gen Allen
Santa Monica

'Culture of striking' must not end

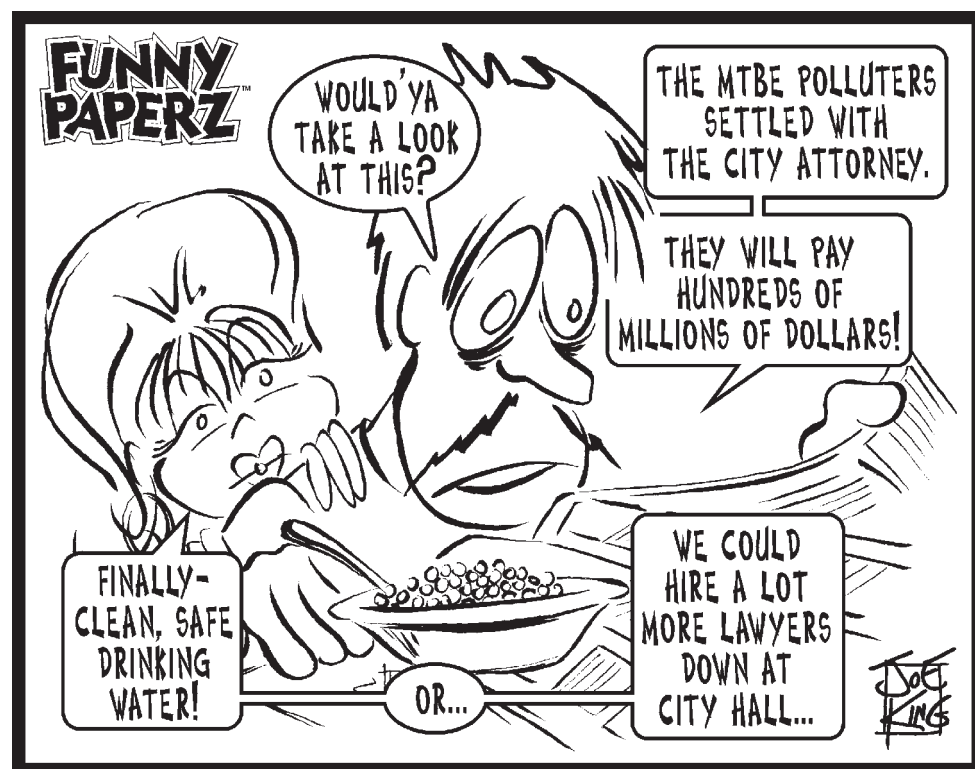
Editor:

What an elitist remark from Santa Monica council member Pam O'Connor (SMDP, Nov. 20, page 1): "Clearly there's a culture of striking and I think that needs to be changed." She goes on, "whether it's through laws or what — I don't think people who provide public services ... should go on strike every three years."

Well, Pam, if the big, corporate greedy guts wouldn't be trying to cut pay and benefits, the rank and file wouldn't have to go on strike. People need to make a living and provide health care for their families. All the breaks, including President George Bush's tax breaks, go to the big guys. And while I agree with Pam that all avenues should be exhausted before going on strike, I have to believe that they do so before risking days, weeks, months of a strike that drastically cuts their pay.

Pam, go rent the Molly Maguires and get a picture of why there is a "culture of striking." People died, put their lives on the line so you and I wouldn't have to be run over by the big boys. Losing your life so others get a break is surely paying a high price for the betterment of the human condition. The petty inconveniences suffered by bus riders (are you one, Pam?) pales into insignificance by comparison.

Marilyn Brennan
Santa Monica



Member: AAEC, NCS, SCCS

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Death is the great equalizer, touching every one of us



What does death mean to you? How does it affect you in your daily life? Last time I heard, the mortality rate among human beings is 100 percent. So what does this have to do with homelessness you ask?

It has very much to do with homelessness, especially when death happens to someone you are close to.

Last week, a homeless man died. He died at the hands of another homeless man and through the ineptness of the hospital, which put him out on the street with a major head injury.

He was my friend, as is his brother. You might know him. He and his brother

used to stand at the corner of Santa Monica Boulevard and Third Street just in front of La Salsa. They used to panhandle with the sign that said "Just a smile."

Just a smile.

Bobby and Albert Capps were my friends. They always had just that for me when I was down — a smile. They always treated me like a little brother. Bobby used to crack jokes sometimes when he saw me in the dumps as he passed by where I work in the morning. Just a Smile.

Some of you might be thinking, "Ah, another homeless person is dead, so what? They're all dirty, mentally ill, lazy criminal dopers anyway. Who cares?" You might be hoping we would all share his fate to get rid of us so you can have your gentrified community and your quality of life is not threatened by seeing us. Then there are some of you who might have shown up for the vigil we had on Friday, supporting us as we grieve the death of one in our own community. Whichever category you fall under, I hope you see this one point — a human being is dead

and his life cannot be replaced.

From what I understand, there was an altercation with the other homeless guy, who I also know, and Bobby's head hit a pole. Albert took Bobby to the hospital and they stitched him up. He had 14 stitches on top of his head to close up the long gash, which was bleeding profusely. With this kind of injury he should have been kept for the customary 24-hour observation period for a major concussion. But he was released after being stitched up and died two days later at their camp along the Santa Monica Freeway.

I have seen and experienced this time and again. This is how these hospitals treat all of the homeless because we have no means to pay when we get sick or injured out here. You would figure that the doctor's oath to save lives would mean something to them, but this incident and many others like it prove that money is more important than a human life. This proves to me beyond a shadow of a doubt the old saying "money is the root of all evil," and many others out here on the streets believe this as well.

Well, you who are so adept at inciting anti-homeless sentiment with your one-dimensional thinking should be happy this happened. You who think that all of us are animals and should, as the hypocrite doper Rush Limbaugh says, be lined up and shot. I would like to see how you would feel if this was a death in your family, a friend's family or in your own community. I wonder if you would feel anything like I do right now, having lost someone who was good to me no matter what circumstances I was in or how he might have felt at the time. Or would you feel like his brother Albert, a 64-year-old man who cried on my shoulder at Starbuck's last week and has to live with the loss of his brother and closest friend. How would you feel if you were in this circumstance?

And all they ever asked for was just a smile.

(Charles Springer is a freelance writer and artist living and working in Santa Monica. He can be reached at Chaz_59@yahoo.com)

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

LOCAL

Plight of tenants forced to relocate still unclear

RENT, from page 1

to market value the price of rent-controlled units used as second homes, offices or for storage.

Robert Bisno, 51, an attorney and prominent local real estate investor, sued the Santa Monica rent control board this year, arguing the law is illegal because it was never put before voters and it goes against the charter that governs rent control.

Bisno lives in an exclusive enclave of Beverly Hills. But since 1996, he has also kept a two-bedroom, two-bathroom penthouse apartment in the Santa Monica Shores apartment buildings overlooking Ocean Park.

Though his rent is set at \$1,064 because of rent control, comparable apartments in the Shores command \$4,895 on the open market.

Douglas Emmett & Co., the company that owns the Shores, challenged Bisno's residency under the new law in a formal complaint to the rent control board earlier this year. On May 28, Bisno and his attorney, Andrew Zanger, sat through a six-hour hearing with rent board and Douglas Emmett officials.

Bisno claimed that his wife Janette, who he has been in divorce proceedings with for the past 18 months, currently resides in the apartment.

To make his case, Bisno presented the hearing officer with mail addressed to Janette Bisno at the Shores, a copy of her registration for art courses at Santa Monica College this summer and pictures that show the apartment has been occupied by her and their 10-year-old child.

Shores officials disagreed, arguing that the property has been mostly vacant since Bisno rented it in 1996.

It's unknown whether a hearing officer made a decision on Bisno's case, but because of Judge Bascue's ruling, all decisions and orders relating to the law are now null and void.

Judge Bascue held that the voters who enacted Santa Monica's rent control law through a city charter amendment in 1979 had not given the rent control board the authority to enact a policy like 3304.

The rent control board's function is not to make housing policy, but to limit rent increases so that landlords receive no more than a fair return, said Allan Abshez, Bisno's attorney.

"Regulation 3304 was a particularly nefarious 'Big Brother' regulation because it encouraged government and landlords to snoop on the private affairs of tenants who were lawfully using their apartments in Santa Monica," Abshez said. "The voters who enacted rent control in Santa Monica never envisioned such a system."

Under the law, tenants were subjected to invasions of their privacy through inspections of their apartments, including photographs of the contents in their closets, personal effects, refrigerators and disclosure of their financial affairs, Abshez claims.

Santa Monica Rent Control officials couldn't be reached for comment.

As a result of the law, many tenants were unable to afford the rent increases, which were doubled and sometimes even quadrupled, and were forced to move out. It's unclear how the rent control board will compensate the tenants who paid increased rents or have been forced to give up their apartments.

About 117 cases have been filed with the rent control board since the law went into effect March 15.

RAND's relocation assists city in bid to revamp area

RAND, from page 1

a storm drain, said Iao Katagiri, RAND's director of community relations.

"The architects did a wonderful job with the restraints ... I think it's going to look very graceful," she added.

After 20 years of nixed plans and land negotiations between RAND and City Hall, the company's move from 1700 to 1776 Main St. has been a long time coming.

RAND, located in its existing building since 1953, has been contemplating a move for more than two decades. The current building suffered millions of dollars in damages during the 1994 Northridge earthquake.

As a research corporation, RAND investigated the cost to restore its headquarters and found it was equivalent to building the brand-new facility, which will cost about \$72 million.

The current project finally got underway three years ago, after RAND sold about 11 of its 14 acres to the Santa Monica Redevelopment Agency for \$53 million. In turn, City Hall approved the project on the remaining three acres. Construction began last year on the project.

The new complex also will change the face of Santa Monica's civic center, which is planned to be overhauled in the next decade.

A curved driveway at the midspan area of Main Street will provide a passenger

drop-off zone away from the roadway and a parking garage with more than 800 parking spaces will be added. A new street — Vicente Terrace — will be developed from the existing alley that connects Main Street to Ocean Avenue to allow entrances to the garage.

Coast redwoods will be planted around the building that could reach up to 70 feet within 15 years. And the building's carpet and furniture are environmentally friendly.

The new headquarters also will contribute to City Hall's plan to revamp the entire Santa Monica Civic Center area, estimated to cost in upwards of \$120 million.

The 11 acres will be turned over to City Hall by the fall of 2005, after RAND's current facility is demolished. And as part of the Civic Center Redevelopment Plan, residential units and a village green will be constructed where the current RAND building now sits.

RAND research areas include education, energy and environment, health care, national security, public safety, science and technology, transportation and substance abuse problems.

Previous board chairmen include Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and the former Treasury secretary, Paul H. O'Neill.

RAND also has offices near Washington, D.C. and countries in Europe, including Germany, England and the Netherlands.



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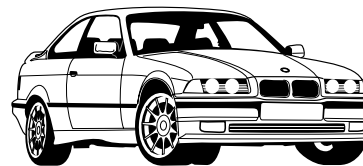
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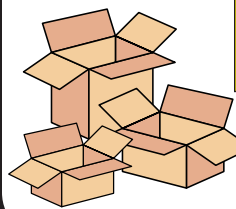
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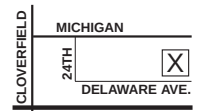
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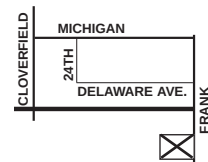
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LOCAL

Director won't testify in wrongful death suits

DIRECTOR, from page 1

men who died in the mishap. Red, who claims director credits for such films as 1991's "Body Parts," is the defendant in wrongful death suits by the families of Noah Baum, 34, and David Roos, 26.

The jury in the case was limited to the job of deciding how to compensate the families after Judge Lorna Parnell last week decided to accept the decision of an Austin U.S. Bankruptcy judge that established Red was liable for the mishap.

The lack of criminal charges in the case has drawn attention.

Prosecutors and West L.A. police "handled him like they had a celebrity in the car," charged Eric Baum, whose brother Noah, an attorney from Berkeley, was killed in the crash.

The precise cause of the bizarre mishap remains unknown. Red claimed that on the afternoon of May 31 he hadn't eaten after working at his apartment, writing. He argued in the Texas case that, after looking for a parking space at a nearby McDonald's restaurant, he was stopped, eastbound on Wilshire at Westgate behind a white Honda. Red said he began seeing yellow spots and next remembers waking up inside the bar.

But Judge Frank R. Monroe ruled in Austin on February 4 of this year that Red's story was fabricated. Noting that if Red had fainted, his foot would have slipped off the brake and his car would have lightly tapped the car in front of him. Monroe ruled that Red, instead, deliberately plowed into the bar after ramming the Honda in what one witness termed a fit of road rage. The witness noted Red's engine had revved after hitting the Honda, and estimated his speed upon entering the sports bar at 35 miles per hour.

The judge's ruling noted that Red had attempted suicide after emerging from his car by cutting his neck with a piece of glass. He also held that Red exhibited no remorse, appearing "defensive, somewhat combative and reticent" under cross examination in the Texas case.

Judge Monroe called a statement by Red's doctor that he'd been under continuous care after fainting in 1990 and 1994 an "outright lie." Monroe noted that Red's former wife said the director was subject to depression, but had never heard about his fainting episodes.

The bankruptcy filing, which Monroe said was likely a charade to escape the California case, could have discharged Red's debts, including a judgment in the

Judge Monroe called a statement by Red's doctor that he'd been under continuous care after fainting in 1990 and 1994 an "outright lie."

Q's Billiards case. But the law holds a bankrupt individual liable for debts resulting from "willful and malicious injury." Monroe ruled that Red acted with "objective substantial certainty" that harm would occur in the crash. He also found "doubtful" Red's insistence that the bankruptcy filing, in October 2001 after a short move to Texas, had nothing to do with the crash.

When Parnell, the Superior Court judge hearing the case in Santa Monica, decided that Red was liable for the deaths, she substantially streamlined the case, but appeared to confuse one of the plaintiff's lawyers, who was preparing to attack Red's character in a bid for damages.

Parnell on Friday repeatedly admonished Carlos Lloreda, the lawyer for David Roos, whose Chilean-born mother Nilda has sued Red for the loss of her son. In one exchange, Lloreda harshly objected after Red's lawyer, John Doherty, told jurors that Red was remorseful. Judge Parnell upheld the objection, which was based on the Texas judge's findings, but reminded Lloreda liability wasn't at issue in the case.

"I have 12 people thinking he was remorseful," Lloreda complained.

The attorney for Willa Baum, Noah's mother, is Noah's brother Brandon. He questioned his mother and sister by referring to himself in the third person, avoiding the use of "I" and "me."

Doherty wouldn't comment after noting that Red wouldn't testify. Red's motives and explanation are no longer at issue in the unusual case, in which a Texas judge did most of what would otherwise be decided in a Santa Monica courtroom.

Closing arguments are expected today before the case is sent to the jury.

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STATE



Court puts gun makers back on the defensive

BY DAVID KRAVETS
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — A federal appeals court last week reinstated a wrongful death lawsuit against the gun industry in a decision expected to reignite debate over legislation immunizing gun makers from being sued for crimes committed with their products.

Thirty-three states already have laws exempting gun manufacturers and distributors from such suits. The House in April passed a bill to extend the prohibition on such suits nationwide and President Bush has said he would sign it. Senate Democrats have threatened to filibuster the proposal.

The 2-1 ruling by the San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals reinstates a lawsuit filed against gun manufacturers and distributors whose weapons were used by a white supremacist who shot a Filipino-American postal worker to death and wounded five people at a Jewish day care center in a 1999 Los Angeles-area rampage.

A Los Angeles federal judge in 2001 had thrown out the case, filed by families of the victims against Georgia-based Glock Inc., China North Industries Corp., RSR Management Corp. and RSR Wholesale Guns Seattle Inc. The case was filed under California negligence and wrongful death statutes.

Messages left with attorneys for the companies were not immediately

returned Thursday.

Survivors claimed that several weapons companies produced, distributed and sold more firearms than legal purchasers could buy. In addition, they claimed the industry knowingly participated and facilitated an underground illegal gun market.

"I believe this is the first federal court of appeals decision to sustain a claim like this one," said Peter Nordberg, an attorney for the plaintiffs.

Since 1998, at least 33 municipalities, counties and states have sued gun makers, many claiming that manufacturers, through irresponsible marketing, allowed weapons to reach criminals. None of the suits has resulted in a manufacturer or distributor paying any damages.

Private groups, including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, also have sued, saying guns "led to disproportionate numbers of injuries, deaths and other damages" among minorities. That case was thrown out of federal court in July.

The gunman in the 1999 shootings, Buford Furrow, is serving life in prison without parole.

The Senate probably will consider the immunity bill early next year, said Will Hunt, spokesman for Sen. Larry Craig, R-Idaho, a leading proponent of the legislation. Craig believes he has the votes to force the bill through the Senate despite filibuster threats, Hunt said.

Detecting 'extra virgins' becomes whole lot easier

BY JULIANA BARBASSA
Associated Press Writer

FRESNO — Buyers of California olive oil should soon be able to tell whether they're getting what they're paying for when they buy containers labeled "extra virgin."

Starting with this year's crop, the California Olive Oil Council has made quality testing mandatory for its members. Only oils that pass an acidity test as well as a subjective taste test will be considered real extra virgins.

The classification is reserved for oil that is cold-pressed from freshly harvested olives that gives it a rich and fruity flavor.

An organization in Spain regulates the quality of oils abroad, but the U.S. Food and Drug Administration requires only that domestic producers say where their oil came from. The words extra virgin have often been used on oils of lesser virtue, and since consumers are often asked to plunk down \$10, \$20 or more for a small bottle, they want labels they can trust.

The COOC's seal program would put a small stamp bearing an olive branch and the words "California Olive Council, Certified Extra Virgin," on qualifying oils.

Most producers welcome the requirement, seeing it as a guarantee for consumers and a protection against unscrupulous interlopers.

"The term extra virgin has been abused over the years, and this is a way California can give real meaning to those words," said Bruce Golino, whose olive oil won Best of Show in last year's Los

Angeles County fair.

While foreign oils dominate the U.S. market, almost all of the domestically produced oils come from California.

Connoisseurs today are differentiating between oils produced from Greek Kalamatas, the common Mission or Manzanillo, the Italian Frantoio, or a host of other varieties. Some are even searching for the subtle effects of climate and soil on the flavor of the oil, much as vintners do with premium wine grapes.

And though most agree the industry needs recognizable and enforceable standards, some producers resent the council's requirement, feeling it is limiting and expensive.

"I have 17 different varieties I work with," said Ed Rich, who has been making and selling olive oil in Copperopolis, east of Stockton, for eight years. "I could throw it all in a jug and sell it to you as Eddie's Special, but I don't do that. I want the characteristics of the soil, the climate to stand out. I want to learn from the oil."

But because his specialty shop sells small quantities of several types of olive oils, and the council's certification process costs \$125 on top of the \$125 that a lab will charge to test the oil's acidity, Rich just opted out of the whole process.

"I just got 20 gallons of Lucca. Am I going to pay \$250 to get that certified? Nope," Rich said. He said he applauds the organization's efforts to raise the quality of California olive oils, but just thinks that it is premature.

Other producers say the benefits of giving consumers some assurance about the quality of their oil far outweighs the costs.

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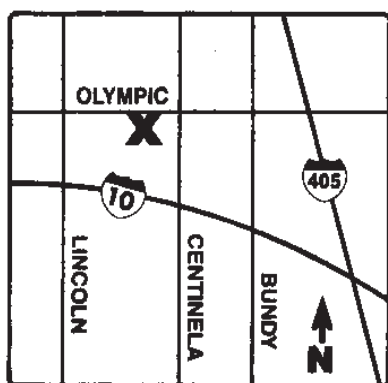


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NATIONAL

Governor says NAFTA hasn't lived up to billing

BY LESLIE HOFFMAN

Associated Press Writer

SANTA FE, N.M. — Nearly a decade after NAFTA opened up trade along the U.S.-Mexico border, the agreement has created jobs and boosted trade but hasn't fulfilled promises of "cleaning up the border," Gov. Bill Richardson said.

"NAFTA has been weak in getting the border sustainable, environmentally sustainable," Richardson said in a recent interview with The Associated Press. "The plus has been the border jobs and the border trade and the border security."

The governor, who serves as chairman of the U.S.-Mexico Border Governors Conference, sat down with the AP in his fourth-floor Capitol office to talk about issues critical to the border region, including trade, immigration policy, U.S.-Mexico relations and water issues.

As a New Mexico congressman more than a decade ago, Richardson helped round up votes on behalf of the Clinton administration for the North American Free Trade Agreement. The agreement went into effect Jan. 1, 1994.

"One of the commitments of NAFTA hasn't been fulfilled ... and that is cleaning up the border," he said. Richardson said the agreement hasn't produced the type of economic development that improves roads, bridges or the environment.

Colonias dotting both sides of the border are examples of the problem, he said. Those unincorporated communities often lack paved roads, street lights, sewer and gas services.

Development under NAFTA has also been hampered by both the economic downturn that took hold in the United States three years ago, and then the fast rise of manufacturing competitor China, which created a slowdown in Mexico's assembly-for-export plants.

Richardson said he is trying to "ramp up" New Mexico's trade with Mexico, which has already grown this year from \$53 million to \$108 million.

Complicating the picture for regional trade and immigration policy is continued U.S. border enforcement following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, which derailed immigration accord negotiations between the two countries.

"I think there will be some immigration advances between now and the (2004) election, but a full accord? Probably not likely until after the election," he said.

One advance, Richardson said, may be one of the guest worker programs pending in Congress. Richardson favors proposed legislation co-sponsored by Reps. Chris Cannon, R-Utah, and Howard Berman, D-Calif., that would let 500,000 undocumented farm workers become legal residents.

Two broader guest worker programs are also before Congress, one from

**"One of the commitments
of NAFTA hasn't been
fulfilled ... and that is
cleaning up the border."**

— **BILL RICHARDSON**
Governor New Mexico

Arizona Republican Sen. John McCain and two of McCain's Republican House colleagues, Jim Kolbe and Jeff Flake; and a second from Republican Texas Sen. John Cornyn.

Richardson said he likes elements of Cornyn's proposal. That legislation would provide Mexican workers a blue card that would allow them to get jobs in the United States, require they be paid at least minimum wage and provide other protections. Richardson said the card could be a useful immigration tool.

The governor said he is also pushing for government entities nationwide to legally recognize identification cards issued by Mexican consulates, known as a "matricula consular." New Mexico allows immigrants who have no other form of identification, such as visas or residency permits, to use the cards to obtain drivers' licenses.

Richardson said he hopes to rally the border governors to lobby at the national level to expand the matricula consular program and push for an immigration accord.

The governor said he also wants to see the group, which will meet in New Mexico next year, get more involved in water issues.

"I am exasperated by the lack of federal attention to water by the U.S. government and by the Mexican government," he said.

The border governors should form a united front "to see if we can move our federal governments to come up with some water agreements that take care of our water scarcity and conservation and compact problems," he said.

Turning to recent news events, Richardson reacted to comments by Mexico's U.N. Ambassador Adolfo Aguilar Zinser, who stepped down Thursday after sparking a diplomatic flap.

Zinser said last week the United States treats Mexico not as a partner but as its "back yard."

"I think the United States has consciously, in the Clinton and Bush administrations, tried to fight that perception," Richardson said. "Mexicans, however, still have that view that we treat Mexico as a lower priority."

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NATIONAL

Woman credits visit from angels for helping her survive in canyon

BY RICHARD COCKLE
Associated Press Writer

WALLOWA, Ore. — A year after an elk hunting accident left her stranded in a remote canyon for seven nights of subzero temperatures, Mischelle Hileman returned recently to the same pine-covered mountains where she almost died.

Sinking into a folding chair, she stretched her new artificial legs toward a crackling campfire and assured the hunters gathered around that she was doing fine.

"I don't need anything," said the 40-year-old Wallowa woman. "My feet are nice and warm. I'm comfy."

Both of Hileman's frostbitten legs were amputated below the knees a year ago this month. As she continues the long process of adjusting to artificial legs, many locals still struggle to understand how she survived.

"I think we witnessed a true miracle," said Wallowa County Sheriff Fred Steen.

Nighttime temperatures dropped to at least 4 below zero in Alder Creek Canyon where Hileman lay injured for more than a week. She was dressed lightly, without a winter coat or matches to build a fire.

Hileman believes her survival was miraculous. The former home health worker says that during her struggle to survive, two angels appeared and remained with her, radiating warmth and keeping her from dying of hypothermia.

"The best way to describe it was two golden

bright lights, just in the shape of two people," she said. They appeared on the second night after she began to pray for help, they never spoke and disappeared at daylight, but they were with her every night until she was rescued, she said.

Ken Nash, a bishop of the Mormon church in Enterprise that Hileman attends, was among searchers. He thinks the conditions were too terrible for anyone to survive as long as Hileman did without shelter and a fire.

"It was a cold that would just suck through you, pull every bit of strength out of you," he said.

Charles Lyons, 50, professor of psychology at Eastern Oregon University in La Grande, said Hileman's desperate condition and physical suffering—freezing, exhausted, starving and dehydrated—might have left her in a confused dream state. But Lyons suspects the strength of Hileman's religious faith and her single-minded determination were keys to her survival.

Hileman's ordeal began on a sunny 55-degree Sunday morning on Oct. 27, 2002, when her father, Benny Hileman, 62, pulled his pickup off a logging road 12 miles northeast of Wallowa to let her out. It was elk season, and Mischelle planned to hunt on foot along a fence line for 45 minutes, then rendezvous with her father at another road.

Mischelle deviated from the plan by following three elk into Alder Creek Canyon, where she fell. Suffering from a deep puncture wound to her left

leg, she was unable to make it out of the canyon.

Within hours, a winter storm moved in. Four inches of snow obliterated any tracks rescuers might have been able to follow, and the snow soaked her trousers. Then an arctic front slammed the region with the coldest early season temperatures most people can remember.

More than 100 volunteers, friends and family members turned out to search for her. Most quickly became convinced that Hileman, who suffers from diabetes and asthma, had little chance of survival. The search was scaled back on Oct. 31, but many refused to quit, and 27 people turned out the next day, spreading across the forest on horses and ATVs.

Hileman, meanwhile, was foraging for berries, rose hips and moss and used a pocket knife to excavate shelters beneath fir trees where she could cover herself with boughs. After elk broke the 6-inch thick ice in Alder Creek, she was able to get a drink before it froze again.

"They were the same elk I'd been chasing that broke the ice," she said.

She fired all 11 rounds she had for her .30-06 rifle, but nobody heard the shots or her cries for help. At one point she removed her red fleece pullover to wave it at a helicopter passing overhead, but no one spotted her.

She was found Nov. 3, three days after the official search ended.

Friends Bill Lehr, 45, and Marilyn Seifert, 43, both of Wallowa, worked their way into the canyon calling Hileman's name. Near the bottom, they

came upon so many fresh cougar tracks that an alarmed Lehr drew his handgun. Moments later, he heard Hileman's voice float up to him.

"When we got there, she was kind of half on the ice and half on the bank," said Lehr. "She thought that was her last trip to get water. She was about done in."

An Oregon National Guard helicopter flew her to a hospital in Boise, where she began a new ordeal. Her legs were amputated Nov. 26, more than three weeks after her arrival in Boise. She now wears the second of what probably will be six pairs of prosthetic legs before she is properly fitted.

Hileman's determination to survive touched many of those who searched for her.

"Mischelle has given us a motto of 'Never Give Up,'" said Matt Marmor of the Wallowa County sheriff's department search and rescue unit.

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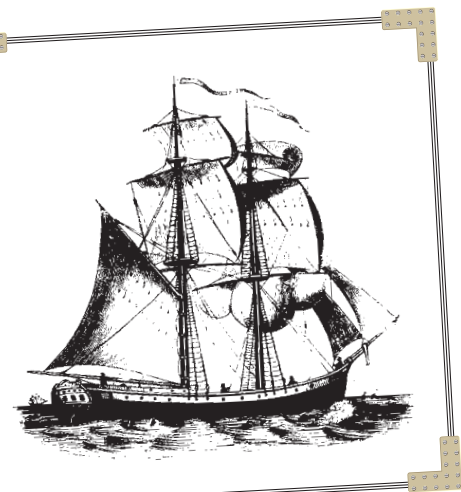
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NATIONAL

Lack of regulation on ATVs leaves land managers reeling

BY COURTNEY LOWERY
Associated Press Writer

HELENA, Mont. — They came on four wheels and on two, hunting or just tooling around. They came to ride on roads and trails through vast swaths of public land in the West. And, unfortunately, some of them rode anywhere they wanted.

The explosive popularity of "off-highway" vehicles — everything from four-wheelers to trail-bikes and souped-up jeeps — has exploded over the past 20 years and left many federal land managers scrambling to put new rules in place to manage them and protect natural resources.

That task is proving more difficult than anyone expected. Officials have found themselves trying to balance the rights of those who want to visit public lands by motor vehicle with those who say it's gotten out of hand.

"They're at total opposite ends of the spectrum," said Steve Christiansen, environmental coordinator for the Gallatin National Forest in Montana. "Right now, it looks like there's no way to find a solution that will make the majority happy."

The Gallatin is one of nine forests in the U.S. Forest Service's Northern Region under orders to update management plans to help reign in motor-vehicle use.

In a 2001 decision, Dale Bosworth, at the time head of the Northern Region, put strict limits on motor-vehicle use in the forests, ordering vehicles to stick to designated roads and trails. He also ordered forest supervisors in the region, covering Montana, North Dakota and parts of South Dakota, to review all of their existing trails and roads and determine which ones — on about 10 million acres in all — should be closed and which should be open.

Bosworth, now chief of the U.S. Forest Service, noted at the time that it was clear the general policy of "open unless closed" had led to thousands of miles of unauthorized roads, damaged natural resources and growing conflicts among users.

Forest supervisors in the region are still struggling to meet Bosworth's orders, and are running into even more conflicts as they try to decide which roads and trails to close.

"It's just gotten more complicated, more controversial," said Dick Schweke, travel planner for Montana's Lewis and Clark National Forest. "We seem to bog down with public controversy."

The Lewis and Clark forest estimated last spring that more than 1,000 unplanned trails have been carved on the forest's 1.8 million acres.

Mike Jongeling, owner of Mike's Off-Road in Bozeman, Mont., has been an off-road enthusiast most of his life. Many of the trails he and his family have ridden on in national forest land outside of Bozeman have been closed in recent years, often to his dismay.

Attempts to negotiate ways to keep some of the trails open to motor vehicles have not worked, he said.

Critics say the problem is that many of the trails Jongeling and others use were never meant to be there.

Forests across the West often are crisscrossed with old logging and mining roads and two-track trails, a lot of them considered part of a forest's official "trail

system." Others were cut by horse packers or even homesteaders and existed for decades, although never officially recognized as designated routes.

Critics say many more, however, were carved out by off-road enthusiasts without permission. And once one ATV or jeep made a path, others followed, often not even aware the trail was never supposed to be there.

"Any responsible private landowner wouldn't say, 'sure, drive wherever you want,' so why should a land manager? Why is this happening?" said John Gatchell of the Montana Wilderness Association. "There is this whole misplaced discussion of access."

"Legally, (off-road enthusiasts) have been pioneering," Schweke said. "And that's what we don't want."

When Bosworth became Forest Service chief, he said unregulated recreation, specifically off-highway vehicle use or "OHV" use, was as a major threat to national forests.

In the Forest Service's Southwest Region, which includes five forests in Arizona and New Mexico, supervisors also are trying to develop new rules for managing OHVs. A draft decision is expected in January, and it is almost certain to include off-road restrictions similar to those in Montana and the Dakotas, officials say.

OHV use "grew so fast that it caught us off guard," said Raquel Poturalski, public affairs officer on the Coconino National Forest near Flagstaff, Ariz.

From 1995 to 2000, the sales of off-road vehicles in Arizona alone grew nearly 300 percent, Poturalski said.

In 1983, the Forest Service estimated there were about 19.4 million OHVs in the country. By 2000, that number had grown to 35.9 million.

But it hasn't just been the explosive growth in the popularity of the machines that has led to problems. Land managers, off-road enthusiasts and conservationists agree the problem has been made worse by lax regulations and little enforcement.

Before Bosworth's 2001 decision, forest managers tried regulate OHVs under two rather vague presidential orders from the 1970s. The orders said only that it was illegal to ride in a manner that would cause "resource damage."

"The federal law has always said you can't ride somewhere that will do resource damage. But the issue always was, and is, what is resource damage?" said Dave Payne, recreation manager for the Helena National Forest. "Is it the first person who drives across some land and makes a little rut or is it the second, or the third? Who really knows?"

Land managers simply haven't had the time or manpower to patrol the millions of acres.

Groups such as the national nonprofit Tread Lightly! encourage responsible vehicle use on public lands and often are the ones patrolling and even rebuilding damaged trails.

"We police abusers because (their activity) just makes us look bad," Jongeling said.

In the Helena National Forest, Payne shows a trail specifically built for motorized use. It is posted with signs and is engineered to leave little impact on the land, with strategically placed water ditches.



NATIONAL □ INTERNATIONAL



WORLD BRIEFLY

Georgian president chased out of office

By The Associated Press

TBILISI, Georgia — The opposition seized Georgia's parliament over the weekend, chasing out President Eduard Shevardnadze and declaring an interim government as tens of thousands of supporters thronged the streets of the capital. Shevardnadze, backed by his head of police, declared a state of emergency.

Shevardnadze has long claimed that he is key to maintaining stability in the Caucasus region, located on strategically vital oil routes. Georgia's rugged mountains have provided shelter for insurgents fighting in neighboring Chechnya, and the United States has helped train Georgian military forces to try to uproot them.

Facing a possible confrontation with the army and security forces, the opposition appealed to its supporters in the streets to defend the parliament building.

Opposition leader Nino Burdzhanadze, the speaker of the outgoing parliament, proclaimed herself acting president until early elections that the opposition called to take place in 45 days. She warned Shevardnadze's government to avoid bloodshed.

"The fate of our country is being decided now," said protest leader Mikhail Saakashvili. "We give guarantees to Shevardnadze that he will not be harmed, but let him know that if there is at least one shot fired at people, he will face justice."

The parliament takeover was an exuberant moment for protesters who for days have been demanding the president's removal over elections that the opposition says were rigged. The United States and other foreign observers also considered the elections fraudulent.

Republicans slap themselves on back

By The Associated Press

BOCA RATON, Fla. — Republican governors, relishing their dominance from the White House to state legislatures, discussed strategy over the weekend for expanding their power in next year's state and national elections.

They celebrated demographics showing more voters identifying themselves as Republican, agreed the economy is gathering strength and debated whether the turmoil in Iraq could damage President Bush's re-election bid. But few at the Republican Governors Association gathering wanted to dwell on a less comforting fact, that in every big election this year, voters have ousted the party in power.

"America's still a closely divided country," Colorado Gov. Bill Owens acknowledged. "But it's starting to look more Republican than Democrat."

Republicans won three of the four elections for governor this fall — Arnold Schwarzenegger in California's recall, Haley Barbour in Mississippi and Ernie Fletcher in Kentucky.

In Louisiana, however, Democrat Kathleen Blanco won an open GOP governor's seat. But Blanco ran more like a Republican than a Democrat, said Ken Mehlman, the campaign manager for Bush-Cheney 2004, who gave the governors a preaching-to-the-choir speech about Bush's accomplishments. He scoffed at any notion that these elections showed an anti-incumbent mood.

The RGA will work closely with the presidential campaign in the 11 states where governors' seats are being contested next year, Owens said.

Double-dip: Chi-Chi's insists it's clean

By The Associated Press

IMPERIAL, Pa. — A Chi-Chi's executive said this weekend that the chain's Mexican restaurants are safe and will rebound from a widespread outbreak of hepatitis A that federal officials have linked to green onions shipped from Mexico.

Three people have died and nearly 600 have been sickened in the outbreak, traced to green onions in salsa and a cheese dip at a Chi-Chi's restaurant at the Beaver Valley Mall, about 25 miles northwest of Pittsburgh. It is the nation's biggest known outbreak of hepatitis A.

"I want to assure the public that we've taken every possible action to ensure the public health and safety," Chief Operating Officer Bill Zavertnik said Saturday in a brief statement near the Pittsburgh airport.

He said an investigation by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Pennsylvania Department of Health found no wrongdoing by the company.

"There is currently no industry-accepted means of testing produce for the hepatitis A virus, and beyond that, there is no possible way to wash hepatitis A off contaminated green onions," Zavertnik told reporters. Devon Zagory, senior vice president of the food safety firm Davis Fresh Technologies LLC of Redding, Calif., agreed there is no accepted way to test or clean green onions to prevent hepatitis A.

"You can do absolutely everything right and still suffer contamination and hurt people," Zagory said. "There's no such thing as zero risk."

However, Zagory said, the Food and Drug Administration established voluntary guidelines for growers to reduce risk by making sure that water used to grow or wash the vegetables is clean; requiring farms to supply field toilets and make workers wash their hands; and tracking the use of pesticides and fertilizers.

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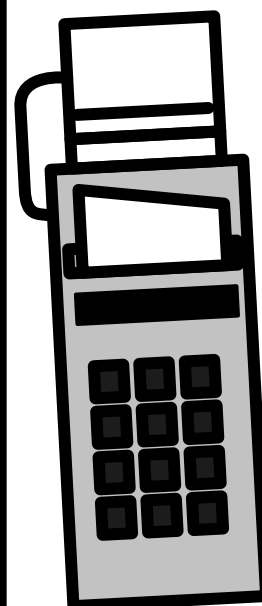
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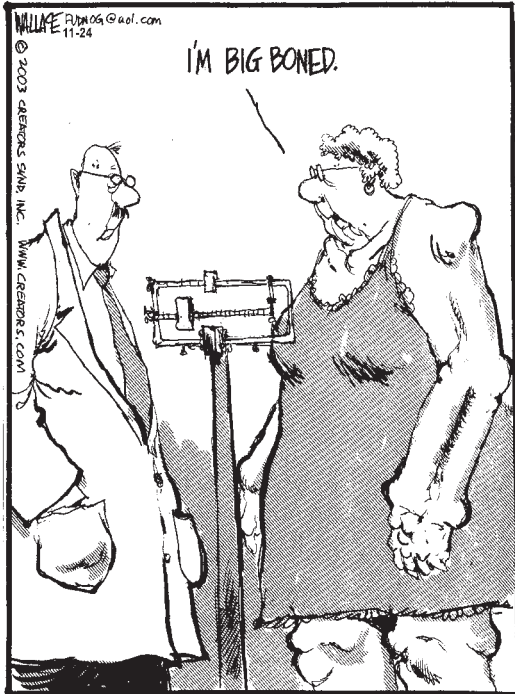


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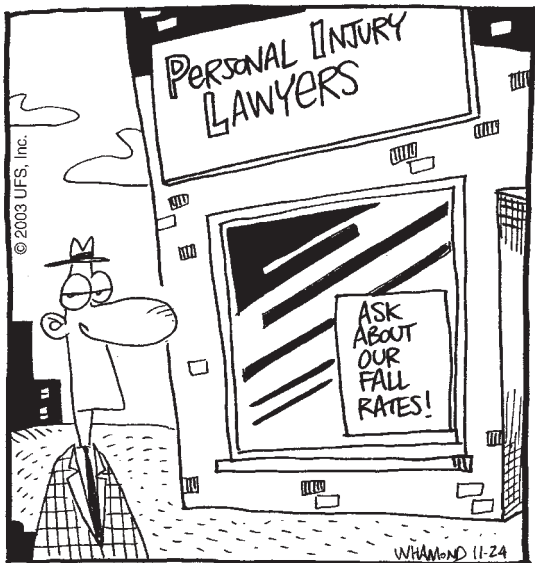
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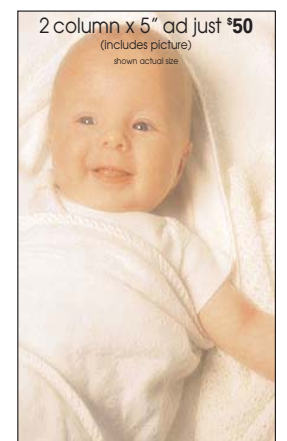


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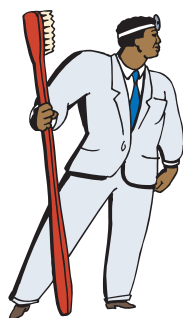
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

'Cooler' star Macy longing to be an action hero

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Actor William H. Macy is known for his spineless characters, but there's another role he's dying to play — action hero.

Asked if he wants to star in a big-ticket action film, the 53-year-old actor is quick to respond.

"Yeah. Desperately," Macy said. "For the money, for the security of a franchise like that. And I love big action-adventure movies. They're way cool."

His new movie, "The Cooler," finds Macy as a Vegas loser so down on his luck he's hired to rub shoulders with hot gamblers to cool off their winning streaks.

Macy's other credits include "Seabiscuit," "Magnolia" and "Fargo."

RALEIGH, N.C. — An estimated 50,000 people lined up to watch this year's Christmas parade, mostly to catch a glimpse of American Idol runner-up Clay Aiken. The Raleigh native was the parade's grand marshal.

"This is so very exciting," Aiken said. "I am so glad I could be here."

Fans greeted Aiken Saturday with cheers and screams as he waved to the crowd from the back of a red convertible Mustang he shared with his mother and 14-year-old brother.

The crooner finished second this year in television's "American Idol" singing competition. Since then, he has released a No. 1 album.

AVON, Conn. — More than 100 paintings, doodles, caricatures and drawings by slain Beatle John Lennon were on display for a three-day show over the weekend.

Lennon's artwork explores the joys of fatherhood, sex, aging and life.

"It's an intimate look at John's love for life," organizer Larry Schwartz said. "It's music for the eyes."

The display, titled "Come Together," included children's illustrations such as cartoonish animals that Lennon drew for his son, Sean. Also on display were handwritten lyrics and framed words to songs such as "Imagine," which is listed at \$2,350, and "Grow Old With Me," with an asking price of \$2,900.

The bleeding continues for Bledsoe and his Bills

SPORTS

BY STEPHEN SAUX

Special to the Daily Press

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — The Buffalo Bills and quarterback Drew Bledsoe must have thought they were targets of a bad joke on Sunday. There was some good news and some bad news. The good news is the Bills scored their first touchdown in three games. The bad news: It didn't matter because they dropped their fourth straight.

It was Peyton Manning who played the role of hero, bringing his Colts back from a 14-3 fourth-quarter deficit. On the winning drive, Manning hit receivers Aaron Moorehead and Marvin Harrison for 18-

and 8-yard gains, respectively, giving the Colts a first-and-goal from the Bills' 3-yard line. It took Edgerrin James four tries to break the goal line, finally putting Indianapolis ahead for good with 1:38 remaining in the game.

The Bills dropped to 4-7 and are 2-5 over their last seven games. In each of their last four games, Bledsoe has passed for 184 yards or less, finishing Sunday's setback 15-of-28 for just 135 yards. On the flip side, Manning was 26-of-42 for 229 yards, and now has 15 career fourth-quarter comebacks. Manning has now thrown for more than 3,000 yards in each of his six seasons under center for Indianapolis. His 3,105 yards this season ties him with Len Dawson for third place all-time for the number of consecutive 3,000-yard seasons.

The only two quarterbacks ahead of him are Dan Marino (10) and Brett Favre (9).

Sunday's loss at home may have dashed any hopes the Bills had for a wild-card playoff spot. With no lack of talent on the playing field and high expectations at the beginning of the season, the pressure is coming down squarely on head coach Gregg Williams.

The Colts again showed they are one of the most dominant teams in the league this season. Manning continues to orchestrate his injury-riddled offense with the perfect blend of air and land strikes. With his fourth 100-yard rushing game, James has shown that his back injury won't slow him down this season. James' performance is critical to opening up the passing game and letting Manning continue to do what he does best. If this con-

tinues, this Colts team should be able to make a strong push in the postseason.

In Sunday's other games:

Chicago 19, Denver 10
Cincinnati 34, San Diego 27
St. Louis 30, Arizona 27 (OT)
Tennessee 38, Atlanta 31
Kansas City 27, Oakland 24
Philadelphia 33, New Orleans 20
NY Jets 13, Jacksonville 10
Green Bay 20, San Francisco 10
Minnesota 24, Detroit 14
Dallas 24, Carolina 20
New England 23, Houston 20 (OT)
Pittsburgh 13, Cleveland 6
Baltimore 44, Seattle 41 (OT)
Miami 24, Washington 23
N.Y. Giants at Tampa Bay (6 p.m. Monday)

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