

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTO

FANTASY 5

31, 29, 15, 5, 30

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 0, 1, 0

Evening picks: 3, 8, 9

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 3, Hot Shot

2nd Place: 2, Lucky Star

3rd Place: 6, Whirl Win

Race Time: 1:43.05



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

News of the Weird reported in December that Inga Kosak had won the first World Extreme Ironing Championship in Munich in September, based on running a course through several stations (e.g., up in trees, in the middle of streams) and ironing a designated garment. An October Wall Street Journal story shows the "sport" as growing in prominence. South African Anton Van De Venter, 27, broke the high-altitude record in August by ironing his national flag at the 20,000-foot summit of Mount Kilimanjaro, while nude, in freezing temperatures (quote: "I came, I saw, I pressed a crease"), and British diver Ian Mitchell sawed through ice in Wisconsin in March and submitted photos of himself in a wet suit "ironing" (with a Black & Decker Quick 'n' Easy) a shirt that was braced against the underside of the ice.



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"This is the true voice of the gutter"

— Annina Nosei on Jean-Michel Basquiat



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Market crash probe nears completion

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

POLICE DEPT. — After more than four months of investigating, authorities expect to soon complete their report on the farmers' market tragedy that left 10 dead and 80 injured when an elderly man sped through a crowded downtown street.

Officials from the California Highway Patrol and Santa Monica Police Department met last week. Investigators from CHP briefed SMPD Chief James T. Butts Jr. and detectives on the status of the eagerly anticipated report, which they plan to file next month.

See INVESTIGATION, page 4

Suspected murderer busted for firearm

Arthur Archuletta back in jail

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

PICO NEIGHBORHOOD — The man suspected of killing a 19-year-old Santa Monica man in September has been arrested for carrying a concealed weapon.

Arthur Archuletta, 21, was arrested by Santa Monica Police on Nov. 22, after officers found a firearm in the car he was riding in. Archuletta, a convicted felon, was charged with being an ex-felon in possession of a firearm and for a parole violation. He has no bail, SMPD Lt. Frank Fabrega said.

Three others also were arrested in a Ford Taurus stopped by police at

See ARREST, page 4

\$2 million to be spent on construction items

Dump trucks cost \$328,000

(Editor's note: This is part of an ongoing series that tracks the city's expenditures which appear on the upcoming Santa Monica City Council consent agenda. Consent agenda items are routinely passed by the city council with little or no discussion from elected officials or the public. However, many of the items have been part of public discussion in the past).

By Daily Press staff

COUNCIL CHAMBERS — More than \$2 million is expected to be spent tonight by the Santa Monica City Council on items relating to construction projects, which are viewed by many residents as necessary evils.

The most significant expenditure — \$1.77 million — will be used to improve Fourth Street and replace the water main underneath it. The work will be done simultaneously.

See CONSENT, page 8

Digging up the dirt



John Wood/Daily Press

There's nothing left but a bulldozer and dirt in the middle of the Santa Monica Courthouse courtyard. Three modular civil courtrooms were razed to make way for an 11,933-square-foot building. The modular courtrooms, temporarily built for overflow cases more than a decade ago, are being replaced. The project is expected to cost \$4.5 million and take two years to complete.

Jury awards \$1M to mothers of victims

Defendant drove into Q's Billiards in May of 2000, killing two, injuring others

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

SM COURTHOUSE — Jurors here awarded \$1 million Monday to the mothers of two men killed when an out-of-control driver smashed into a popular bar on Wilshire Boulevard.

The jury of seven men and five women deliberated only about an hour before reaching the verdict, which granted \$500,000 each to the mothers of Noah Baum, 34, and David Roos, 26.

Defendant Eric Red, a 42-year-old movie director, reportedly rear-ended another car before smashing into Q's Billiard Club and Restaurant at 11835 Wilshire Blvd. in May of 2000. Earlier this year, Red was found liable by a

Texas court for the crash, which caused several other serious injuries.

His attorney, John Doherty, said Red will appeal the verdict.

See JURY, page 5

Lawyer attempts to stifle media

By Daily Press staff

Nearly 50 copies of the Santa Monica Daily Press were removed Monday from a newsstand in front of the local courthouse because it contained an article about a trial happening inside.

Although no one involved in the case claimed responsibility, it appears one of the plaintiff's attorneys took the papers so jurors wouldn't see it.

See RACK RAID, page 8

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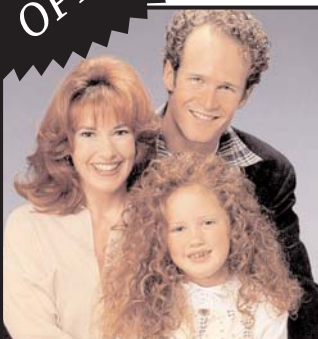
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HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2003

Be forthright about what you want. You have unusual charisma and allure. Others cannot help but respond positively. Your smile melts many people's resistances. You will gain professionally this year if you remain sensitive to those around you. You also will gain financially this year, especially with the quality of work you put out. If you are single, you might find that you have many suitors, but you might not be sure who to choose. You might date several people before meeting your sweetie. The most likely period for this event will be fall 2004. If you are attached, you might not always understand your mate's unpredictability. Express your caring. Be open to more sharing. CAPRICORN helps you make money and can be quite possessive emotionally.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Hop on the computer or call up experts if you have a question or problem. Solutions, as you see, are readily available. Your gentleness and caring come out when buying a special gift or card. Stop and get some travel brochures to flip through with a partner. Trust that your efforts will be appreciated. Tonight: Work only as late as you must.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ A partner or new sweetie might melt your heart by what he or she does or says. You could be surprised and have difficulty focusing. Nevertheless, you pull yourself out of never-never land and plunge into work. You might need to work late as a result, but you might not care, either. Tonight: Think "vacation."

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You might be touched by someone's caring gesture toward you. Clear out additional work by utilizing new techniques. Work independently in the late afternoon, as you will accomplish more. Tonight: How 'bout dinner for two?

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You easily could be distracted by someone in your immediate environment. Share more of your feelings with a loved one or a partner. This afternoon others seek you out. Network, listen and share opinions. Brainstorm away. Tonight: Just don't be alone.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Your imagination takes you in a new direction. Others openly share their feelings. Don't shut out a caring statement because you're shy. Learn to accept compliments, even if they make you uncomfortable. Concentrate on your must-do's in the afternoon. Tonight: Try to get some work done.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Deal with family and loved ones in the morning. In fact, you might only want to take a half-day at work. When you get into work, allow your imagination and creativity to flow. You might be amazed by what comes out. Run with surprises. Tonight: Add more romance to your life.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Use the a.m. to express your deeper feelings verbally or through an action. Someone might delight you with his or her response. Dig into a project in the afternoon. You will be able to accomplish a lot. Tonight: Put your feet up and relax.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Reach out for others. You might see the perfect gift for someone close. Why not? Catch up on calls and messages. You might be taken aback by what you hear. Know that you can find answers where someone else might not. Tonight: At a favorite spot.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You make what looks hard look easy this morning. Share your affection with those who mean a lot to you. You might be delighted by what happens. Balance your check-book, whether at home or at work. Tonight: Order in.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You might need and want some private time with a loved one or a special friend. Instead of thinking about what you would like to do, do it. You beam this afternoon. Whatever you do works. Be more upbeat. Tonight: Enjoy the one you are with.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Make the most out of the early hours, and you'll delight others and yourself. A friend might need some extra attention. Express your feelings. Dig into work in the late afternoon. Close your door if you want to get anything done. Tonight: Curl up with a good book.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You need to stay on your toes, as a boss might want certain things from you. Be willing to skip lunch if need be. Don't think your performance isn't being noticed. A meeting or group happening could be key. Tonight: Just don't be alone.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Police zero in on seat belt violators

By Daily Press staff

Local police are on the lookout for people who aren't wearing their seat belts. Santa Monica Police Chief James T. Butts, Jr. is warning vehicle drivers and passengers that seat belt enforcement will be increased through Nov. 30, which includes the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday. The beefed-up enforcement runs concurrent with the National Buckle Up America Mobilization and is part of the California Seat Belt Compliance Campaign.

"Since most crashes occur within five miles of home, wearing a seat belt and using child safety seats is the most effective action a person can take to protect themselves and their loved ones from injury or death in a traffic collision," Butts said.

The seat belt use rate for 2003 in California is 91.2 percent. However, 8.8 percent of the population who fail to buckle up represents more than 3 million people — the population of 21 states.

Last year in California, 1,268 unbelted vehicle occupants lost their lives in traffic collisions. Of that number, about 45 percent (571) of those lives could have been saved had they remembered to buckle up, police say.

Research reveals that people who fail to buckle up justify their irresponsible behavior with one of the following excuses:

"I forgot."

"I'm only taking a short trip."

"Seat belts are uncomfortable."

A month long public information campaign will use the slogan, "Seat Belts. Remember. Or be remembered." That message will be emphasized by radio and TV ads, and billboards proclaiming, "Seat belts or body bags — One size fits all."

A grant from the Office of Traffic Safety, obtained through the California Business, Transportation & Housing Agency, will fund officer overtime to enforce the seat belt and child passenger safety laws.

Mercedes dealer honored for community service

By Daily Press staff

The owners of Santa Monica-based W.I. Simonson Mercedes-Benz, one of the largest auto dealerships in Southern California, were recently honored for their community service by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Los Angeles and the Inland Empire.

The event, the Rising Stars Gala, was held on Nov. 14 at the Century Plaza Hotel. This year's honorees also included Andy Garcia, Serena Williams, Hillary Duff, Verna Harrah, Jose Navarro and Pam Dawber.

Dealership owners, Judy Rehwald Richards, Francie Rehwald and Bill Rehwald, have been part of a long standing family tradition of supporting a wide range of area organizations.

Some of those organizations include The American Heart Association (for which they received the 2002 Women's Legacy Family of the Year), Project Angel Food, The Venice Family Clinic, Santa Monica/UCLA Hospital, Santa Monica YMCA & YWCA, John Wayne Cancer Institute at St. John's Health Center, Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, Meals on Wheels, Human Rights Campaign, Santa Monica High School, the Santa Monica Symphony and the Santa Monica Historical Society. They also host an annual Red Cross blood drive.

As the grandchildren of founder William I. Simonson, the Rehwalds represent the third generation of same family ownership, one of the few auto dealers with that history. The Rehwalds' mother, Mary Simonson Rehwald, one of the first female Mercedes-Benz dealers in the U.S., served as CEO and president of the company from 1976 until her death in 2002. It was recently named the largest women-owned business in Los Angeles County, ranked by 2002 revenues, by the Los Angeles Business Journal.

The annual Rising Stars Gala honors members of the community who, through their energy, courage and spirit, have touched the lives and hearts of many.

surf report

The NW wind swell picks up through today and mixes with small SW swell. Most spots continue to see below waist high surf, while best NW/combo breaks see waist-high and some bigger sets.

OUTLOOK: Look for similar conditions to persist on Wednesday as a new and slightly bigger SW swell builds and the wind swell holds.

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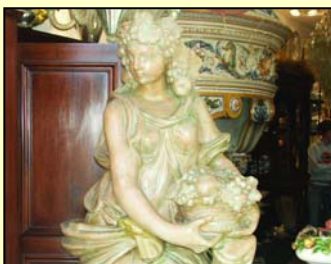
While it may seem that Santa Monicans bicker over plenty of issues, we all have reasons why we have chosen this city by the sea to live, work and play. In the spirit of the Thanksgiving holiday, this week's Q-Line question is not the typical controversial or hot topic of the week.

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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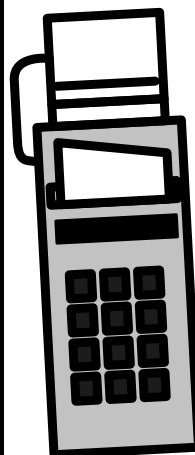
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LOCAL

Santa Monica man still a suspect in murder investigation

ARREST, from page 1

1:50 a.m. — Jesus Martinez, 21 of Santa Clarita, Carlos Godinez, 24, of Santa Monica, and Juan Carlos Bravo, 40, of Santa Monica. Martinez, the driver of the car, was arrested for carrying a concealed weapon in a vehicle and in a public place, as well as for a probation violation. Bravo and Godinez both face the concealed weapon charge. Godinez also had an outstanding arrest warrant, Fabrega said.

Police stopped the vehicle at 23rd Street and Pico Boulevard for an equipment violation. Police learned that Martinez was driving with a suspended

license. Officers searched the car and found a firearm near where Archuleta was allegedly sitting.

Police arrested Archuleta for second-degree murder three days after Jalonnice Carter was gunned down in an alley near 20th Street on Sept. 2. Archuleta and Carter lived near each other in the eastside neighborhood.

Nearly a week after his arrest, the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office didn't file charges against Archuleta due to insufficient evidence that police had. However, he remained in jail for a few more weeks on an unrelated parole violation. He was released within a month of

his arrest and was living with his family's home in Santa Monica.

"Evidence returned from the crime lab didn't provide sufficient proof to proceed with the case," Fabrega said. "There has to be a standard of proof that goes beyond a reasonable doubt."

Fabrega added that while there was enough evidence to make an arrest, the burden of proof has to be higher in criminal court.

The firearm found on Saturday will be taken to the crime lab for analysis. However, police said it's not currently linked to Carter's murder, or any of the shootings that have occurred in the neigh-

borhood recently.

"The crime lab will do ballistic analysis to determine if it was used in any other crime in Santa Monica or the county of Los Angeles," Fabrega said. "That weapon will be sent to the crime lab to see if it's linked to any of the shootings."

Archuleta remains a suspect in the murder investigation, which is ongoing, Fabrega said.

Meanwhile, Terry Archuleta, maintains that her son is innocent. She told the Daily Press last week that her son was falsely arrested and is in constant danger as a result. She couldn't be reached for comment on Monday.

Special accident team brought in to investigate market tragedy

INVESTIGATION, from page 1

"We anticipate the report in its final form within seven to 14 days," said SMPD Lt. Frank Fabrega. "The report will be examined and reviewed by Santa Monica detectives and later, both reports, SMPD's and the CHP's, will be submitted to the DA's office."

Charges have yet to be filed against Russell Weller, in his late 80s, who apparently lost control of his Buick Le Sabre and sped through the crowded farmer's market off of the Promenade on July 16. Just before the incident, Weller, of Santa Monica, reportedly hit a Mercedes at the intersection of Fourth Street and Arizona Avenue.

The DA's office will determine whether to file criminal charges against Weller. Trial attorneys already have been detained by several of the victims and their families, who are considering pursuing Weller for compensation in civil lawsuits. They have been holding off on filing lawsuits until the criminal investigation is complete.

Fabrega said both agencies have worked on their

reports concurrently.

Once the CHP submits its report, the two will be combined and both will be turned over to the DA's office. The report is more than 900 pages and includes hundreds of witness statements and hundreds of pieces of evidence that were analyzed. The report, which has been organized into spreadsheets, contains diagrams and other information relating to the accident scene and investigation, CHP officials have said.

One of Weller's criminal defense attorneys, James Bianco, has declined to comment until charges are filed or the investigation is complete. He has said in the past that Weller is extremely distraught and remorseful over the incident. Weller, whose license was suspended shortly after the accident, has remained silent since the incident occurred.

Because it doesn't appear that he was acting intentionally, Weller probably won't face first- or second-degree murder charges, but he could be charged with vehicular

manslaughter, lawyers say. Prosecutors would have to show that Weller's behavior was aggravated, reckless or flagrant to prove gross negligence. Without gross negligence, vehicular manslaughter is a misdemeanor and carries a maximum sentence of four years in prison.

Some legal experts say it's unlikely that charges won't be brought against Weller since it will be up to the court to decide the punishment, if there is any.

A special unit of the CHP was brought in by the SMPD almost immediately after the incident. The unit, called the "Multi-disciplinary Accident Investigation Team," or MAIT, specializes in in-depth accident investigations. The team was requested by SMPD and is comprised of experts who analyze every inch of the crime scene and then attempt to recreate the incident. The team then presents its findings to the lead investigating agency, which in this case is the SMPD, said CHP officer Richard Wong, who led the team at the farmer's market scene.



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LOCAL



Movie director plans to appeal jury's verdict

JURY, from page 1

Though the two victims didn't know each other, their mothers sat side by side in the courtroom. Neither reacted as the clerk read the jury's verdict. Afterward, they seemed relieved.

"What made me happy is not the money. What made me happy is the opportunity to be heard by the judge," said Nilda Roos, a Chilean immigrant who helped her son battle schizophrenia. "My child was killed in a malicious way — this made me at least release. I can go home and feel a little more comfortable than at least something was done."

At issue in the case was only how much money the mothers of the two victims should receive from Red. During closing arguments, the plaintiffs' attorneys avoided specifying an exact figure but hinted at figures from \$600,000 up to millions of dollars.

"How can somebody value a life? It just seems impossible," said attorney Brandon Baum, the older brother of Noah, who prosecuted the case for his mother, Willa Baum. "No parent should ever be asked to bury a child ... and when something unnatural like that happens in society, it calls out for" the courts to hold someone financially responsible.

Doherty accused the plaintiffs of playing on jurors' sympathies to arrive at an inflated verdict. In his closing argument, he asked jurors to award each of the mothers \$15,000 for the loss of their sons.

"It's human nature to want to punish ... and what you're being asked to do is punish," Doherty said. "(But) there's no compensation for (the two deaths)."

Red, who did not testify in the trial, sat through closing arguments in Santa Monica Superior Court Judge Lorna Parnell's courtroom. He didn't return to hear the jury's verdict.

Foreman Leonard Shapiro said some jurors wanted to award more money while

"Probably the last thing Noah did in his life, he yelled out a warning because he saw the truck coming. Maybe he saved someone's life."

— ERIC BAUM
Brother of victim

others were philosophically opposed to giving any substantial award. After only about an hour of deliberating, the group agreed 10 to 2 to award each mother \$500,000. Several thousand dollars more were awarded for funeral and burial expenses, something Red didn't dispute.

"There really wasn't an issue," said Shapiro, a 49-year-old graphic designer who lives in Woodland Hills, of the deliberations. "With the exception of the two jurors, we all concurred."

Red, who directed the 1991 film "Body Parts," said he passed out because he suffers from Syncope, a fainting syndrome, and didn't wake up until inside the bar. He tried to avoid liability by filing for bankruptcy in Austin, Tex., where Red lived briefly. U.S. Bankruptcy judge Frank Monroe in February sharply rebuffed Red's claims and ruled that Red deliberately rammed into the bar after rear-ending another car in what one witness described as a bout of road rage.

Red said the crash was an accident.

The driver of the car Red rear-ended said he was slumped over his wheel and passed out before he smashed into Q's, Doherty countered.

He said medical experts agreed that

Syncope would lead to muscle contractions that would cause Red to hit the accelerator and drive into the bar.

Neither the experts nor the driver of the other car were able to testify in the trial because Parnell accepted Monroe's ruling rather than having the issue of liability considered by the jury.

"This has never been presented and we are going to appeal what happened, because we think Judge Parnell made an error," Doherty said, adding that a bankruptcy judge shouldn't have the final word on a car-crash liability case.

Eric Baum, another one of Noah's older brothers, said he was content with the amount of the jury's verdict.

"I think that the jury showed respect for the process and came back with an amount that reflected the value of human life," he said.

Baum went on to describe the details of his brother's death, as recounted by a friend who survived the crash but whose leg was shattered from the impact of Red's Jeep Cherokee, which reportedly entered the bar at 35 miles per hour.

"He was just having a beer, relaxing," Baum said, pausing to choke back tears. "Probably the last thing Noah did in his life, he yelled out a warning because he saw the truck coming. Maybe he saved someone's life."



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LETTERS

City's approach to homeless working

Editor:

A year ago, I flew out to Santa Monica from the East Coast. For three weeks, I apartment-hunted between Washington Avenue and Santa Monica Boulevard, from Ocean Avenue down to 20th Street.

Despite having been warned, I was stunned (mostly heartsick, sometimes repulsed, and occasionally amused) by the dozens of homeless people I encountered on the Palisades and on Wilshire Boulevard, between Ocean Avenue and 14th Street.

Five months ago, when I moved here, I was relieved to see a marked reduction in the number of homeless, as well as the number of pretending-to-be-homeless panhandlers on Wilshire Boulevard.

Not to say that the problem is resolved — hardly. But clearly, progress has been made. The appropriate city and social service agencies and their employees in the field should be applauded, encouraged and funded.

Elissa Royal
Santa Monica

Responsibility falls on the press, too

Editor:

In the article "Carter murder still unresolved (SMDP, Nov. 21, page 1) you report on the impact that the violence in the Pico neighborhood has had on two families and the fact that the Santa Monica Police Department has been unable to solve the crime. As board members of the Pico Neighborhood Association we are very concerned with the violence that has plagued our community for many years. We feel it is necessary to implement a new approach that will address the gun violence in our neighborhood without creating a situation where families are put at risk.

We also strongly believe that the Santa Monica Daily Press must engage in responsible reporting. During the preliminary investigation, the Santa Monica Daily Press did not hesitate to print Arthur's address and even go as far as to give directions on how to get to his house. Later, we find that Mr. Archuleta was released, yet the family still lives in fear and the crime remains unresolved. I hope that your staff will begin to act responsibly in their reporting and be more conscious when it comes to reporting violent crimes.

This year alone our community has had to live through at least seven shootings since June. One of those bullets took the life of 19-year-old Jalonie Carter and another bullet pierced the home where four children lived. It is apparent that the approach the city and the SMPD has used is not working. It is our belief that an essential component to address gun violence is improved collaboration between the SMPD and the Pico Neighborhood Association. We recognize that in order to have a true collaboration, trust, cooperation and respect is necessary on both sides. Only after the community and the city begin to work together can we incorporate a community informed

approach with a focus on community engagement in developing an appropriate response that promotes prevention and does away with indiscriminate incarceration of low-income youth.

The newly elected PNA is committed to working with both the city of Santa Monica and the SMPD to create a new paradigm of community centered policing. We look forward to meeting with SMPD Chief James T. Butts Jr. and City Manager Susan McCarthy to engage in this process. In a city with such abundant resources it is intolerable to allow this problem to persist in the only working-class neighborhood of Santa Monica.

Maria Loya

Pico Neighborhood Association

Making noise over proposed ordinance

Editor:

Tonight the City Council will take up the noise ordinance.

The Main Street Merchants Association (MSMA) supports a strong, enforced noise ordinance, shares many of the concerns voiced by neighbors and individual merchants about noise, has worked with and wants to continue working with the community to strengthen the ordinance where necessary, but has major concerns about and opposes some of what is proposed.

Some sections, if passed, could be very detrimental to Main Street businesses. The negative impact would be felt not only by these merchants but also by their numerous customers, many of whom moved to and live in Ocean Park because they enjoy their proximity to the street, the outdoor dining and the nightlife.

Through the creation of a "transition zone," the proposed ordinance would reduce the allowed volume of activity (conversation, music) and would shift the measurement from the source of the sound, for example, an outdoor patio where people are dining, to an area outside of the complainant's residence.

Conversation at 59 decibels, currently legal, would become illegal as the new allowed volume limit would be 55 decibels.

MSMA opposes the lowering of the allowed volume level (60 decibels after 10 p.m.) through the "transition zone" and related changes in measurement practices.

The ordinance also includes a section giving the noise enforcement officer the power to suspend a business license for 30 days, on the spot. This is a remarkable and disturbing expansion of police power that could, as some merchants fear, play into the hands of a single zealous complainant at the expense of the merchant and the customers, especially when combined with the proposals addressed above. While the MSMA does not oppose tough enforcement and indeed has called for stiffer fines, the MSMA does oppose the inclusion of this section in the noise ordinance.

Of additional concern is that no evidence has been presented that lowering the allowed volume is necessary or would solve most of what are generally lumped together as "noise problems."

See LETTERS, page 7



The Republicans trip over themselves in individual states' rights argument



Evelyn Jerome

So what is it, Republicans? Do you support states' rights or don't you?

When it comes to restricting a woman's right to an abortion, you are happy to allow states to place restrictions on women's access to medical care that are more stringent than federal laws. And so women in South Dakota have to travel a ridiculous distance to see an abortion provider and then wait 24 hours before having the procedure, as if they have not thought about their decision before seeing the doc.

When the question is whether a state can include offensive symbols in their state flags, you are happy to throw up your arms and say, "It's a state issue!" And so African-Americans in South Carolina must stand by, marginalized, while the Confederate flag waves peacefully in the breeze on grounds of their state capitols.

States' rights are a good thing, right? It allows the local community to create and enforce their own societal standards that

may vary from national law.

But recently Republicans in Congress fought to deny California the right to enact tough environmental standards for small gas engines, like those in lawnmowers and leaf blowers. Fought tooth and nail, I should say. Fought despite their favorite doctrine, states' rights.

So I guess Congressional Republicans favor states' rights when it's convenient.

In my quest for consistency, I'm against states' rights pretty much all the time. I think if you live in California or Connecticut, Maine or Florida, or anywhere in between, you should have the same rights as everyone else in the country.

I think the "united" part of "United States of America" is more important than the "states" part.

It's sad that California's representatives had to beg for Washington's blessing for the right to keep our air clean, with Sens. Feinstein and Boxer leading the charge with the complete support of the new governor, in his first week on the job.

How embarrassing — the Republicans, caught in an inconsistency

so fundamental as this — the way the Constitution is interpreted.

Here's what should have happened: There are federal laws about small-engine emissions. California, which has always led the way in environmental protection, has tougher laws about these emissions. Instead of denying California the right to have tougher environmental protections, violating their states' rights dogma, Congress could have adopted California's tougher laws, saved face on the states' rights issue and protected the environment, all at the same time.

Clearly their agenda does not call for true environmental protection. So much so that their interpretation of the Constitution is expendable.

The fact is that we all breathe the same air. And though California leads the way in tough environmental standards, we are really just the non-smoking section of the aircraft we call America. With Nevadans, Arizonans and Oregonians puffing away in row nine.

I wouldn't abolish the individual states' ability to create their own laws, but some things are better regulated in Washington because on some issues, we

should all live under the same rules. Should Kansas students be taught creationism on the same level as evolution? Should Mississippi students have to listen to a Christian prayer read over the public address system in public school? Should women in Oklahoma have to get their husbands' permission before having an abortion?

These are the real-life implications of states' rights, a big Constitutional issue that can be broken down into day-to-day issues that affect all of us.

Last week, the Republicans in Congress tried to have it both ways, but were thwarted. Hopefully next time they'll see the big picture and make good laws for all of us. We're residents of California, but we're citizens of the United States.

(Evelyn Jerome is a communications consultant, a past president of the Los Angeles County Young Democrats and a Santa Monica homeowner. To respond or to reach her, e-mail evelyn_thinktwice@yahoo.com).

OPINION



LETTERS

LETTERS, from page 6

According to Santa Monica Police Department statistics, during a recent 16-month period, only 25 of the 306 complaints about noise were directed at specific businesses, and some of these were multiple calls on the same night: The 25 incidents were not even separate, discreet occurrences. Most of the other 281 complaints had to do with noisy people on the sidewalk, in the street, in the parking lots and alleys, disorderly conduct, anti-social behavior, loud car sound systems and the like. None of the 281 complaints would be addressed by the new ordinance. Should less than 25 incidents in 16 months — that might have already been illegal at 60 decibels — be the basis for lowering the allowed volume and changing measurement practices. Or is this more a matter of the need for increased and consistent enforcement?

When I attended a Towers Residents Association meeting in August, the overwhelming majority of complaints voiced by the residents concerned motorcycles on Neilsen Way, and the back-up beeping noise of delivery and garbage vehicles early in the morning. The general consensus was that Main Street businesses were not the problem: Lack of enforcement was the problem. (One resident did complain about one business. Unbeknownst to the resident, the business owner was sitting there, 10 feet away. He asked, "Did you ever call me about it?" When the resident replied no, the merchant gave the resident his cell number and promised to look into it and take care of it. By all accounts, this has occurred, without additional regulation.)

The statistics regarding complaints, the frequently voiced concerns about lack of enforcement and the proposed lowering of allowed volume and shift of measurement practices, all combined, must lead one to ask: Why is this the solution to a problem that doesn't appear to exist?

Put another way, without evidence that the 60 decibel limit has proven ineffective, why lower it to a limit that might hurt businesses and customers and at the same time fail to address most of the complaints?

An ordinance that poses a financial threat to popular businesses but does not focus on the bulk of the complaints received by the SMPD must, at minimum, be questioned.

Over the last several weeks, many Main Street merchants have asked their customers, especially customers from Ocean Park, to contact City Council members about this.

Generally people get upset about a government action and its consequences when it's too late. This letter is, in part, an effort to educate the public, clarify the MSMA position, and to call upon the public to help preserve the historic commercial neighborhood in Ocean Park known as Main Street.

Please consider attending the meeting tonight at City Hall at 6:45 p.m.

Gary Gordon

Executive director

Main Street Merchants Association

What's all the noise about?

Editor:

Even though there has been no hue and cry from residents or shoppers about excessive noise and even though the current noise ordinance is analogous to that of most other surrounding communities, our city fathers have seen fit to fix the unbroken wheel.

One proposed change would prevent businesses from throwing out trash after 10 p.m. Can you imagine what bars and restaurants would smell like at 1:55 a.m. just before closing with mountains of foul smelling beer bottles and food remains? Can you spell rat and vermin infestation? Another proposed change would add a "transition zone" of 55 decibels to be sandwiched in between the current 60 decibel commercial zone and 50 decibel residential zone. This would add yet another burden on businesses (keep in mind that normal human conversation when measured three feet away is 65 decibels). As Dr. Bill Wood, pastor of First Presbyterian Church so eloquently said at a City Council hearing "Are you going to tell me that we can't play Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D minor fortissimo, or that our children can't play with excitement in the church courtyard? Isn't God's house exempt?" Apparently not. Neither schools nor churches are exempt but surprise, surprise, the city is! Now for a 1984 Orwellian twist: If a neighbor of a nearby business makes a complaint of excessive noise, guess where the responding noise enforcement officer will measure the decibel level? In the complainant's residence. How is a business owner supposed to know what the noise level inside his establishment will translate to in someone's private residence? Not too many of us are clairvoyant. In addition, the enforcement officer would have the ability to shut down the business on the spot.

Perhaps the most egregious aspect of all is a bold-faced attempt to fund the implementation of the proposed ordinance on the backs of business. The city has proposed proactive monitoring of about 500 conditional and development review permitted businesses to the tune of \$500 each inspection, i.e. \$250,000 for the city's coffers. Millions for the homeless but not one penny to help business. The costs for this new inspection regime would be an additional \$260,000 the first year alone in personnel and equipment.

This useless activism must be stopped. As of this writing, the proposed ordinances have yet to be enacted. They will be on tonight's menu at City Hall. Why not tell them "I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take any more." You can still e-mail or call your council member today.

Dr. Michael E. Gruning

Chairman of the board

Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce

Media vultures need to put a break on their Michael Jackson dance

LEGAL
VIEWS AND
NEWS

By David Pizarra

I hope Michael Jackson is guilty.

For his sake.

This manchild has a life far removed from the world the rest of us live in. It is not fair to categorize him as a man, for his is a world that resembles none like any real adults. He has no responsibilities that the rest of society must confront. And frankly, since he was 9 years old, his life has been that way. As a child he was the show stopper, breadwinner, central star, his world revolved around him, and we as society made it that way. He probably has no equals in the world who could even begin to relate to him. He was a child who commanded adults.

Even the Royals do not have such a warped sense of the world, for at least they are brought up in a system that is designed to place boundaries on conduct and treatment of others. Not Michael's. His childhood was a world that was manipulated by managers, attorneys, a reportedly horrible father who dominated him and yet was completely dependent on him. How twisted can one life get. We are about to find out.

None of that is to excuse his alleged molestation of a child, and I am not here to be an apologist for him in any way, shape or form should he be guilty. I just want to bring light to a situation that is

shrouded in darkness.

He lives in a world of fantasy where he is the central figure and it is in everyone's interest who serves him to keep him in that fantasy world. He is the living embodiment of the "Emperor's New Clothes."

Alternatively, he is the world's biggest lightning rod, and you need look no further than Beverly Hills to find his second greatest nemesis, attorney Gloria Allred. The first being the Santa Barbara District Attorney.

I think Gloria Allred is contemptible for her rush to judgment. Her personal assault on his parenting is distasteful at best, and an egregious example of publicity hounding in the most horrendous manner possible. She attacks no other parent as she does Michael, mostly because it wouldn't get her the publicity she so desperately craves.

When Michael held his third child over a balcony, she rushed to social services to file a complaint for child endangerment and garnering major headlines about her concern for the children. That's hogwash. What he did was no different than what happens every hour of every day, with likely every child ever born. He held his child in exactly the same manner as most parents hold their children. A quick trip to the children's playground at Ocean Park Boulevard and the boardwalk will reveal that most parents throw an arm around a baby and walk around. How many fathers hold their just learning to stand child in one hand? How many times have I seen a man "fly" a child cradled in the palm of one hand?

Two weeks ago the Santa Monica

Observer had an article entitled, "Homeless, pregnant and happy." The story was about a homeless woman and her "common law husband." They were proud to be pregnant with her second child, the first was already in foster care. Where was Ms. Allred with her haughty self-righteous indignation screeching for social services to take her away for child endangerment? Nowhere, as she so frequently is, unless there is a camera on her.

Her latest foray into the absurd world that is Michael Jackson's life, is her contention that Mr. Jackson's children should be taken away from him. Just to be clear, the man has not been convicted of anything. He is clearly a capable provider of a safe and secure home, with a huge staff to provide for his children and Ms. Allred is demanding that these children be taken into state care, to be provided for on the public's dime. Based solely on an allegation and her good intentions. Good intentions my butt. She has figured out where the parade against Michael is headed and is trying, like all good publicity hounds, to jump in front of the conga line.

If Ms. Allred were really all that concerned about "the children" and other people's parenting skills, why isn't she calling for social services to take away the children from the parents who let their kids play at Michael's? Since she is so convinced that Michael is such a bad parent and a danger to children, why aren't those parents to be punished for their obviously negligent parenting? No publicity on that front either.

Michael's own statement is that he doesn't see anything wrong with sharing his bed

with someone. At its face value, it is hard to argue with that statement. How many refrigerator doors across this country have pictures of a baby asleep on dad on the couch? Isn't that one of the cutest things?

Clearly this man, who is one of the world's most talented individuals, is a decidedly odd duck. He has been described as naive. He is certainly different from the rest of us. But so far, he hasn't been convicted of anything.

I started off by saying that I hope Michael is guilty, and my reasons are numerous but most importantly, if he is wrongly accused, this is a hellish thing for anyone to go through, and more so for someone who values their privacy as much as he does. If he is guilty, at least the publicity comes along with the crime. But if he is innocent, then the vultures who have come out to attack him are even more hateful. The fact that they are already skinning him alive before he has been tried and convicted, shows them for the mean, vindictive and self-aggrandizing personas they are.

This is sure to be another "trial of the century," that seem to be coming with greater frequency these days, but in America we strive to believe that someone is innocent until proven guilty.

We should all remember that, especially the lawyers.

(David Pizarra is a partner in the Santa Monica law firm of Pizarra & Grist, he welcomes questions, and can be reached at (310) 664-9969 or e-mailed at DPISARRA@PISARRA.COM).



Mountain residents struggle after California wildfire

(Editor's note: This is the second in an occasional series looking at the aftermath of the Southern California wildfires in two disparate communities).

BY ANDREW BRIDGES

Associated Press Writer

CEDAR GLEN — When wildfire refugee Terry Barback finally returned to his mountain community, his home was gone, reduced to ashes. But his friends were still there.

As Barback picked his way through the sodden debris of what had been his 800-square-foot home, a half-dozen Steller's jays called out from the blackened branches of the towering trees that had shaded his property, one of the estimated 350 burned in the Old fire that swept the San Bernardino National Forest.

The 55-year-old design engineer paused now and then to offer the birds a peanut from the palm of his outstretched hand. Each time, a jay, its distinctively crested head floppy with rain, would swoop down and snag the peanut.

"These are my babies. I worry about them," said Barback, who has fed the birds since moving to this alpine community 16 years ago. "Where are they going to go?"

That's a question also facing the hundreds of residents of Cedar Glen who were made homeless by one of the most destructive wildfires in California history.

"It's all gone, except the stone steps leading up to the property," Lauren Leon, 39, said of the rented home she had shared with seven members of her extended family.

Cedar Glen boasted pockets of prosperity and poverty alike; the fire hit both and, by most accounts, hit them hard.

"It's affected all income brackets. Disaster discriminates against nobody," said Patti Nippe, 44, an American Red Cross volunteer from St. Louis who's been working in the community.

The median household income for the 92321 ZIP Code was \$70,455, according to the 2000 census. But 22 percent of Cedar Glen's residents lived below the federal poverty line, census data show.

In interviews, many people said they believed Cedar Glen suffered more than

other, wealthier Southern California communities destroyed in the recent fires, including Scripps Ranch.

"It hit here harder because everyone works for a living," said Criss Silvas, 39, operations manager for the Cedar Glen Fire Rescue Fund, set up within a week of the firestorm.

Many of Cedar Glen's residents were service employees, drawn by cheap rents and jobs at the resorts that dot the area. The loss, even temporary, of those jobs as well as their homes has compounded the misery.

"Financially, it's hurting us real hard," said Glendora Johnson, a pregnant, 43-year-old housekeeper who has been living in the motorhome she and her fiancé saved from the flames that claimed their rented home.

Rich or poor, every resident interviewed on a recent day in the community vowed to return to the enclave, 72 miles east of Los Angeles.

Barback said he was underinsured, but that he'll rebuild, probably after the retreat of the winter snows that can blanket the area 5,150 feet above sea level.

Leon said the fire left her family "deserted" and crammed into a summer cabin secured through the help of their church. But she too wants to return.

"We're not going anywhere," Leon said as she and her daughter-in-law, Jessica Champion, 21, stopped by a local charity to rummage for baby clothes in the piles of apparel donated since the fire.

The Old fire, pushed by fierce winds, raced into Cedar Glen on Oct. 29 and quickly burned through the hundreds of homes packed along skinny roads, many of them dirt, leading off Hook Creek.

"We thought we were perfectly OK. And our town was the only one hit," said Kyle Thomson, 20, who like many residents displaced by the fire has found occasional work felling the dead trees that still clog a forest hit by drought, insects and, now, fire.

Eighteen of Allstate insurance agent Allison Banner's clients lost their homes in Cedar Glen. She estimated each would receive about \$130,000.

"There aren't going to be any million-dollar claims," Banner said.

The median home value in Cedar Glen was \$164,500, according to the 2000 census. Most of the community's 590 single-family homes were built before 1960,

many as early as the 1920s. About two-thirds of them were second homes.

Some residents believe firefighters sacrificed the neighborhood to save pricier real estate around Lake Arrowhead to the northwest.

"Certain poverty areas were used as pawns and backfired to save other areas — and it worked," said Robert Blakeman, 56, who in the days after the fire lived with his wife, Lori, in their 1988 Toyota 4Runner before moving in with his daughter. "But you can't backfire people's homes."

But firefighters said it was simply too dangerous to attack the wind-driven fire as it raged through the neighborhood, where curvy, narrow streets wound through dense stands of dead and dying trees.

"It just wasn't an area where firefighters could defend the structures," said Los Angeles County fire Capt. Greg Cleveland, whose department aided neighboring San Bernardino County.

County officials have put together a task force to recommend how Cedar Glen be rebuilt, San Bernardino County Supervisor Dennis Hansberger said.

Banner, the Allstate agent, said it was unclear how many residents would be able to rebuild.

"We have to wait for the decision out of the county on what they can and can't do, so everyone is kind of holding their breath on that one," Banner said. "I hate to be so vague, but no one knows."

Replacement homes will have to be more in line with current building codes, Hansberger said. But little if anything can be done about the tiny clearances between houses, now burned to their foundations, that don't meet modern setback requirements, he added.

"It's still a risky canyon. I am not one to say you can't build in risky places, but I am one to say we need to do it with the maximum protective standards that are available — and then recognize that it is still risky," Hansberger said.

For many residents, what made Cedar Glen so risky — the narrow roads, the dense forest — is what drew them to the neighborhood.

"This is what nature is all about," Barback said as he fed his beloved jays.

"This is what's keeping me going right now," he added. "It's like coming home."

Fourth Street improvements expected to take months

CONSENT, from page 1

The City Council in 2000 approved a traffic improvement plan for the Fourth Street neighborhood, which includes constructing a traffic circle at Strand and Fourth streets; extending the curbs at what are described as "uncontrolled intersections;" as well as the addition of crosswalks and improvements to existing ones.

Also part of the project is two landscaped median islands between Pico Boulevard and Bay Street, as well as lengthened islands that already are there. From the east side of Fourth Street, just south of Marine Street, a new curb extension and a "Welcome to Santa Monica" sign will be installed.

The plan was developed at the request of residents in the neighborhood, city staff said. The project, which was originally scheduled to be completed by the end of this year, will take several months to com-

plete. After the combined project is complete, all of Fourth Street will be resurfaced.

City Hall will pay Majich Bros. Inc. \$1.5 million, with a contingency of \$150,355 for the construction. Another \$110,000 will be paid to DMR Team Inc. with a contingency of \$11,000 to manage the job. The project is 62 percent funded from City Hall's water fund and the remaining 38 percent will come from the general fund.

The second expenditure expected to be approved tonight is \$328,350 for two compressed natural gas powered dump trucks for the water division, and environmental and public works department. The trucks, which carry earth, hot asphalt and pavement debris, will replace a 1983 vehicle and a 1990 model. Both trucks, which run on diesel fuel, were scheduled to be replaced in 1998.

Reporting of SM jury trial results in stolen newspapers

RACK RAID, from page 1

As the verdict was read during a jury trial in Judge Lorna Parnell's courtroom, a woman who described herself as a friend of one of the plaintiffs was spotted clutching a large stack of the Daily Press on her lap. After the verdict, she passed out the papers to jurors.

Asked where she got the papers, the woman said they were given to her by attorney Carlos Lloreda, who represented Nilda Roos. He had earlier asked articles not be run in the Daily Press until the ver-

dict was delivered, for fear that a mistrial may be called.

The woman assured a reporter that Lloreda had paid for all of the papers.

As Daily Press readers know, this paper is free. Taking newspapers is considered a deliberate attempt to stifle the press and limit free speech.

The woman was later overheard telling Lloreda she had "ratted" him out.

Though he didn't deny giving the papers to her, Lloreda said he didn't — and wouldn't — take them. He said he was given the stack of papers

by a family member involved in the case.

Lloreda refused to identify which family member took the papers, but said it was important to do because otherwise jurors may have read the article and Judge Parnell could have declared a mistrial, forcing the case to begin again from scratch.

Jurors are instructed not to discuss cases with any outside sources or consider any outside information. Media outlets regularly report on ongoing trials that are of interest or are important to citizens and the community.

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STATE

Schwarzenegger's 'Collectinator' pledge appears unrealistic

BY ERICA WERNER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — While campaigning for governor, Arnold Schwarzenegger promised to get California more federal money.

"By the time I'm through with this whole thing, I will not be known as the Terminator; I will be known as the Collectinator," the actor-turned-politician said on the stump, complaining that for every \$1 California sends to Washington in taxes, it gets back just 77 cents in federal spending.

Now that he's in office, Schwarzenegger might find the promise tough to keep.

Experts said there are some good reasons behind California's low standing among states in federal dollars received — chief among them the relative youth and wealth of its residents. The population's youth reduces Social Security and Medicare dollars coming into the state — among the largest federal spending pieces — and its wealth increases income tax payments going out.

California ranks 45th among states in terms of dollars received from the federal government compared to dollars sent, according to the Washington, D.C.-based Tax Foundation.

The state that gets the biggest bang for its buck: New Mexico, which got back \$2.37 in federal programs for every dollar sent to Washington in fiscal year 2002. At No. 50 was New Jersey, which got back 62 cents for every tax dollar paid.

"Bottom line on all this: Most of

"The thing about Arnold Schwarzenegger, which is one of the things that drew me to his candidacy, was that he has this amazing charm, star power, whatever you want to call it. And I believe that as far as being the Collectinator, it doesn't simply mean Washington, D.C."

— REP. DAVID DREIER
R-San Dimas

California's shortfall is appropriate and is unlikely to change anytime soon, and in many ways it may not be desirable for it to change," said Tim Ransdell, director of the California Institute for Federal Policy Research. "Retirement communities are terrific, but sometimes it's also nice to have folks in the working world. And certainly on the income side it's better to have more money than less."

But Ransdell added: "While most of the shortfall is understandable, some of it may be correctable, and that's very much a worthy goal."

In the potentially correctable category are grants the federal government makes for items such as highways; transit, education and immigration assistance; nutrition programs and welfare.

California's share of such expenditures dipped just below its share of the popula-

tion between 2001 and 2002 (California has about 12.1 percent of the nation's population and had 11.8 percent of its so-called formula grant funding in 2002, the California Institute found).

States wage fierce battles for federal money and funding patterns can be hard to change but Ransdell said it can happen. One example he cited: California members of Congress pushed through a funding formula change that resulted in more special-education dollars flowing to the state. States can also grab federal dollars by securing federal projects.

A Schwarzenegger spokesman, Vince Sollitto, declined Friday to specify any program areas where the governor wants more federal money but said he is committed to making good on his promise.

"The governor is bound and determined to try and get California's fair share

of funds back from the federal government," Sollitto said.

Supporters said Schwarzenegger's charisma and public support would help him persuade Washington officials to steer funds toward California. With Congress and the White House controlled by the GOP, being a Republican couldn't hurt, either.

"The thing about Arnold Schwarzenegger, which is one of the things that drew me to his candidacy, was that he has this amazing charm, star power, whatever you want to call it," said Rep. David Dreier, R-San Dimas, who headed Schwarzenegger's transition committee. "And I believe that as far as being the Collectinator, it doesn't simply mean Washington, D.C."

"I believe that he's going to be able to collect job-creating contracts with investment from across the country and around the world."

Dreier said that when Schwarzenegger visited Washington late last month, before his inauguration, he talked with officials from Vice President Dick Cheney on down, asking for help with the state's devastating fires but also with issues such as immigration.

Democratic lawmakers said they were glad of Schwarzenegger's assistance in the perennial battle for federal funds.

"We have to work very, very hard as a delegation, whether there's a Democrat in the White House or a Republican, because the competition for these funds is just enormous," said Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif. "I welcome the governor to this battle."

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Santa Monica

A weekly look at events and programs for Santa Monica

Parents must pay attention to their child's toilet training

Guest Commentary

By Margret Altman

(This is the last installment in a three-part series that gives parents information and new tools to use in boosting their children's emotional health and intelligence.)

Your child's attention capacities have a developmental history. We talk about attention as a group of capacities that include the skills of focused attention, sustained attention, divided attention and other skills. As an adult and a parent, you may be aware that you can pay attention to several things at the same time or concentrate on a single thing for long periods. These skills developed over time, as the brain became able to handle more and more information.

In the first article, we guided parents in helping their infants to focus their attention on the most important information of all — the positive emotional expressions from faces, voices, touch and body language. In the second article, we guided parents in

expanding this attention skill to include the "negative" emotional expressions, such as disapproval and the voice and face expressions that signal the child to stop or to be cautious. These expressions are important information for the child to pay attention to, but parents have to be careful how and when they show disapproval and disappointment.

The third phase of your child's attention development is roughly equivalent to the third year of life. It is at this time we find at least two interdependent brain developments that boost the child's attention skills. Research on the brain has demonstrated that in the third year of life, your child's brain waves begin to include the vital p-300 brain wave. The presence of this important brain wave is that the child's brain can process a heavier load of information. And there is a great deal of information around and inside of a child at this age. A child of this age is also able to use more of his or her memory capacity. Youngsters are able to store memories about themselves in past experiences. This is considered to be the birth of autobiographical memory and the beginning of the true emergence of what is called "the self."

With this growth in brain capacity, parents

have to be more aware of what their children are watching, paying attention to and storing away in their little minds. Parents can do a great deal to guide their children's attention capacity and prevent problems in attention development. The following question from a concerned parent shows how the development of the attention capacity is linked with basic behavioral development.

Question: "My 3-year-old is still 'making potty' in her diaper. She sits on her baby toilet seat for long periods of time without any problem but then she still dirties her diaper. I am frustrated and embarrassed by this because she is in pre-school and the teachers have to change her pull-up diaper during the day. I have tried to make her aware of when she has to go to the bathroom but this isn't working. She cries over her mistakes."

Answer: Parents are usually very focused upon certain key "achievements" in their youngster's development and potty training is definitely one of them. Along with first words and first steps, toilet training is a top priority for many parents who feel that this accomplishment is a milestone in the infant's social development. Sometimes parents become too focused upon their young child's toileting behaviors and this can occur because of the following pressures:

- Standards of certain day-care and pre-school programs which demand that the young child be toilet trained in order to be admitted.

- Hectic schedules of parents who have limited time to spend in potty training.

- Social expectations which imply that parents should win the "control" battle of potty training as early as possible.

When parents pay a lot of attention to toilet training, and they demonstrate frustration and disappointment in their emotional expressions, the young child becomes focused on these things too. During the third phase of attention development, parents should be aware that their child is learning what to pay attention to from them and a negative focus on toilet training can lead to real difficulties. One of these difficulties may be that the child who focuses on and remembers himself or herself in nega-

tive toilet training experiences will store this information in memory. The child in phase three is in the process of building a sense of "self" and parents will want to minimize self-images that are not healthy and positive.

This, of course, doesn't mean that parents should encourage the young child to avoid toilet training. Most parents do find, however, that when their own attention shifts to other issues the child becomes potty trained more easily. Parents should remember that in phase three, a child's attention capacities are still limited as compared to older children and adults. Young children continue to be easily distracted, attracted by lots of new stimuli and just beginning to process all of the information. Their little positive "sense of self" may be more important at this age than winning the battle of potty training and a healthy self-image often leads directly to toilet training achievements.

If your child is not responding to this kind of behavioral technique there are other strategies to consider. It is usually helpful to engage another person in the training. Often a grandparent or a baby-sitter can take over the task with less emotional pressure.

Some youngsters take a longer time to become aware of their internal body functions. These children may be very active and forget what is going on inside of them. Parents can spend "special time" with these kids in low-stimulating activities and teach them to pay attention to simple functions such as their breathing and their heartbeats. Children often enjoy counting breaths and learning how it feels to expand their lungs with air and then release it. This is great training for those kids who need to pay more attention to their own bodies.

Remember that if your child has a positive self-image then he or she will do better with all of the developmental tasks that lie ahead.

(Margret Altman, author of "Developing Your Child's Emotional Intelligence" is a specialist in the field of child development and her goal is to make people's knowledge and experience available for parents, teachers and any child-involved individual.)

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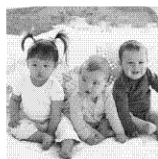
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CALENDAR:

Special Events

WINTERLIT – Friday, November 28; Third St. Promenade & Santa Monica Place. Kick off five weeks of holiday festivities in Downtown Santa Monica and on the Third St. Promenade as “Winterlit” lights up the town with a full day of music, entertainment and celebrity guests. **9:00 a.m.** – “Surfing Santa” and his crew of elves arrive at Santa Monica Place via electric sleigh after a cruise down the Promenade. Photos available with the proceeds benefiting the Westside Food Bank. **2:30 p.m.** – Live entertainment on the Promenade including appearances by Scrooge, choruses, holiday carolers and others. **4:00 p.m.** – “Snow” falls in Santa Monica Place thanks to the magic of a snow machine. **5:15 p.m.** – Lighting ceremony on the Promenade hosted by a celebrity guest. Witness the transformation of Downtown Santa Monica into a Winterlit Wonderland.

MAIN STREET gets into the Holiday Spirit **Friday, November 28** – Tree lighting and live music in the evening. Help pick the winners of the Main Street Window Decorations Contest! Sidewalk and special store sales all weekend long. **Saturday, November 29** – Pancake Breakfast with Santa! **9:00 – 11:00 a.m.** at the Victorian. **Sunday, November 30 – 9:30 a.m.** – 1:00 p.m. Visit with Santa at the Main Street Farmer’s Market. (He will also be there Dec. 7, 14 and 21)

SANTA MONICA PIER Celebrates the **Holiday Open House** – Sunday, November 30, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. Bring the family to the Carousel and enjoy performances by local singing groups, holiday-themed arts and crafts (for sale), and chat with Santa! Santa can also be found at the Pier on Saturday & Sunday, December 20 & 21 from noon – 4:00 p.m.

Coming next week...

MERRIMENT ON MONTANA

Holiday Walk Montana – Friday, December 5th, 5:00 – 9:00 p.m., 7th to 17th Streets Enjoy twinkling lights, music and unique holiday décor as merchants provide a tasty bounty for you to enjoy. From stocking stuffers to designer clothing, jewelry and furniture, find a gift for everyone on your list.

TUESDAY

Movies for Moms
Movies for Moms – “Out of Time”

showing November 25
11:00 a.m., Loews Broadway, 1441 3rd St. Promenade – for Moms and babies newborn – 1 year old. Doors open early for socializing and getting comfortable. Denzel Washington, Sanaa Lathan and Dean Cain star in this week’s film “Out of Time.” Washington plays a small town chief of police respected by his peers and loved by his community. But when the town is shocked by a double homicide, everything he knew starts to unravel, and he finds himself in a race against time to solve the murders before he himself falls under suspicion. The chief has to stay a few steps ahead of his own police force and everyone he’s trusted in order to find out the truth.

Coming Attractions: December 2nd – “The Magdalene Sisters”; December 9th – “Casa de los Babys”

Storytelling

Main Library – Toddler Story Time at 10:00 and 10:30 a.m., at Reed Park, 7th and Wilshire – 2 year olds with parents, 310-458-8600.

Fairview Branch – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443. Lap Time – 11:00 a.m., New series begins Nov. 4, a six-week series for babies 0-24 months.

Cuentos Para Pequeños – 10:00 a.m., New series begins Nov. 4, a six-week series in Spanish for children 24-36 months with adult.

Twilight Story Time – 7pm – an ongoing program for 3-5 year olds.

Montana Avenue Branch – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081. Family Story Time – 7:00 p.m., all ages.

Ocean Park Branch – 2601 Main St. – 310-392-3804. Toddler Story Time – 10 and 10:30 a.m. New series begins Nov. 11 – Dec. 16. Registration required. Music, rhymes and stories for 24 – 36 months with adult.

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Baby (Venice) – 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga – 7:00-8:15pm, \$13, Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) – 10-11am, \$9

Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:40 p.m., \$15. Mommy and Me – 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.

Mommy Care – 11870 Santa Monica Blvd., at the Dance Factory, West LA, 310-394-6711. Pregnancy Exercise – 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.; Post Partum Exercise – 10:15 – 11:15 a.m. (babies welcome, includes baby massage and

workout at the end)

Santa Monica YMCA – 1332 6th St., 310-393-2721

Pre-natal Water Work – 10 – 11 a.m. and 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. Free for members. Non-members pay \$15.00 regular YMCA day fee or buy a ten-class card for \$70 (\$7 per class)

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, \$10 per class, first class free. Moms/babies 0-4months, 1:00 – 2:30pm

Other

Magickopolis – 8 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$20 Call 310-451-2241 for info.

School Age Stories and Crafts – Montana Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave. 3:30 p.m. every other Tuesday, Nov. 11 and 25. A combination of stories and crafts for 5-9 year olds.

WEDNESDAY

Storytelling

Ocean Park Branch – 2601 Main St. – 310-392-3804. Twilight Story Time – 7:00 to 7:30pm – for parents with 3-5 year olds.

Montana Avenue Branch – 1704 Montana Avenue – 310-829-7081. Lap Time – 10:00 and 10:30 a.m. – New series begins Nov. 12-Dec. 17 for 0-24 months old, no registration required.

Toddler Story Time – 11:15 am – New series begins Nov. 12-Dec. 17 for two year olds with adult, no registration required.

Fairview Branch – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443. Preschool Story Time – 10:30 a.m., New series begins Nov. 5-Dec. 18, a six-week series for 3-5 year olds.

Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion – 2 pm – ages 2-5 – 310-475-4144

Border’s, Westwood – 11am – 310-475-3444.

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Baby (Venice) – 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga – 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. \$13, Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) – 10-11am, \$9, Mommy and Me (infants) 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45 p.m., \$15.

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, Pump Station – no class this week

THURSDAY

Happy Thanksgiving! Be thankful!

SATURDAY

Holiday Pancake Breakfast at the Victorian – see Special Events Section for details.

Storytelling

Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade – Kid’s Story Time – 10am – 310-260-9110

Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion – 10:30am – ages 2-5 – 310-475-4144.

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Baby (Venice) – Closed for Thanksgiving

Mommy Care – Call for holiday hours and info – 394-6711

Other

Puppetolio – 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested

Magickopolis – 2 and 8 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$20 for evening, \$15 for matinee. Call 310-451-2241 for info.

Alice and the Wonderful Tea Party

Saturdays and Sundays, Nov. 8 – Dec. 28 at 12:30 and 3:00 p.m. Santa Monica Playhouse’s Family Theatre presents this musical matinee based on Lewis Carroll’s delightful and zany characters. Ages 2 and up; \$9 and \$10. 1211 Fourth St., 394-9779, ext. 2, www.santamonicaplayhouse.com

Nature Walk (Children’s Nature Institute) – November 22 – Topanga State Park (Topanga) – 10:00am. Reservations required – 310-998-1151 or www.childrensnatureinstitute.org

SUNDAY

Main Street Farmer’s Market – 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., corner of Main St. and Ocean Park Blvd. Pony rides, live music, lots of vendors and great family socializing. Visit with Santa Nov. 30 and Dec. 7, 14 and 21.

Santa Monica Pier Holiday Celebration – see Special Events section for details.

Puppetolio – 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested

Magickopolis – 2 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$15. Call 310-451-2241 for info.

Alice and the Wonderful Tea Party – Saturdays and Sundays, Nov. 8 – Dec. 28 at 12:30 and 3:00 p.m. Santa Monica Playhouse’s Family Theatre presents this musical matinee based on Lewis Carroll’s delightful and zany characters. Ages 2 and up; \$9 and \$10. 1211 Fourth St., 394-9779, ext. 2, www.santamonicaplayhouse.com

house.com

MONDAY

Storytelling

Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade – Toddler Story Time – 10am – 310-260-9110

Main Library – Lap Time at Joslyn Park – 9:30 a.m., September 8 – December 15 (no program Oct. 6), a series for children 0-24 months old with adult.

Ocean Park Branch – 2601 Main Street, 310-392-3804. Spanish for Little Ones – 11:15 a.m., September 22 – December 15 (no class Nov. 3). Rhymes, songs and very simple stories in Spanish for ages 2-5 with adult.

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station – 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, \$10 per class, first class free. Moms/babies 8-12 months, 10:30 a.m. - noon; Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45pm, \$15

Yoga Garden, – Restorative yoga for pre/postnatal – 6:30 p.m., 310-450-0133. www.yogagardenstudios.com

Yoga Baby (Venice) – 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga – 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. \$13, Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) – 10-11am, \$9, Mommy and Me (infants) 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

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STATE

Outrage over murders of Mexican women spreading

BY DEBORAH KONG

AP Minority Issues Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — A pink blouse, a frilly yellow child's frock and other pastel-colored clothing dangle from the ceiling. Beneath the dresses, shoes lie haphazardly among dead flower petals.

In artist Adrian Arias' homage to the women of Juarez, Mexico, the hanging clothes are a reminder of hundreds of missing or murdered girls. The scattered shoes recall those found in the desert where their raped, mutilated and beaten bodies were often abandoned.

The slayings of more than 250 women in the city just across the border from El Paso, Texas, began a decade ago. But recently, growing outrage over the killings has spread to places far from Juarez, including the San Francisco cultural center where Arias' haunting tableau is on display through Wednesday.

"There's a lot of silence around this problem," said Arias, a 42-year-old videographer, artist and poet.

"This has been going on for the past 10 years and there hasn't been anything done to resolve the problem. As an artist, I feel I need to do something to be near the families who miss their sisters, their daughters, their friends."

In recent months, protesters have called attention to the murders by carrying signs that read "Not one more" and "Justice for our daughters" outside Mexican consulates in Washington, D.C., Minneapolis, Austin, El Paso and other cities around the world.

Last month, a congressional delegation led by U.S. Rep. Hilda Solis, D-Calif., visited sites where the victims' bodies were found and spoke with their families.

And in February and March, benefit performances of "The Vagina Monologues" around the world will each donate up to 10 percent of proceeds to help families of Juarez victims. The shows, coordinated by nonprofit V-Day, will feature a new monologue about the killings by playwright Eve Ensler and provide information about them to audience members.

"I feel really, really compelled now to do everything I can to stop what's happening there, and to get America to stop it," Ensler said, adding that she's had trouble sleeping since returning from a recent trip to Juarez to research a magazine story.

"If this were happening to men, it would have stopped a long time ago. Because it's poor women, they're completely invisible and nonexistent on anybody's radar."

The Juarez victims are mostly slender, long-haired and pretty, between the ages of 14 and 20. Mexican authorities estimate that 258 women have been killed; nearly 100 were sexually motivated and the victims were raped, strangled and had their necks broken. Human rights groups, however, place the number of victims at more than 350.

Police have arrested more than a dozen people, including an Egyptian chemist who is the only one convicted in the crimes. Officials say the chemist, Abdel Latif Sharif, paid others to continue the killings while he was in jail.

But some don't believe the official version, and theories abound that the women were killed by organ traffickers, a street

"This has been going on for the past 10 years and there hasn't been anything done to resolve the problem. As an artist, I feel I need to do something to be near the families who miss their sisters, their daughters, their friends."

— ADRIAN ARIAS
Videographer

gang or Satanic cult. There is fear the killings have spread to the state capital of Chihuahua.

Some victims' families have complained of sloppy police work, corruption and government apathy. Others blame American companies, pointing out that many of the women worked in assembly plants that produce electronics, toys and other items for U.S. consumers.

Alicia Gaspar de Alba, a UCLA professor who organized a conference this month on the murders, said concern has been growing in the United States since eight bodies were found together in a former cotton field in Juarez about two years ago.

She also credits filmmaker Lourdes Portillo's "Senorita Extraviada, Missing Young Woman" documentary, which has been shown around the world since late 2001, with increasing awareness of the problem.

In the political arena, Solis has pressured Mexican authorities to further investigate the crimes. On Friday, she and other legislators introduced a House resolution outlining their concerns and suggesting solutions.

"There's just a clear negligence on the part of the authorities in really, truly coming to grips with who is actually involved with the murders and then finding some resolution and conclusion for the families," Solis said.

The killings have also provoked an artistic outpouring. In Los Angeles, "The Women of Juarez" play tells the story of a family grieving over the disappearance of a young factory worker.

New Mexico songwriter Bugs Salcido plans to donate a portion of proceeds from his new CD, "The Juarez Murders," to Amigos de las Mujeres de Juarez, a Las Cruces, N.M., group working to end the killings and support victims' families.

In San Francisco, Day of the Dead installations by Arias and by Mexican artist and activist Silvia Parra, have been on display since the beginning of the month. In Parra's exhibit, slips of paper list the dead women's names; many say "Desconocido," unknown. The names are surrounded by pink candles painted with a black crosses, a symbol for the dead Juarez women.

"They're my sisters. They're my daughters," Parra said. "The crimes are of such hatred that it's just unbearable to my soul as an artist, as a mother and as a woman. I cannot just stand by."

NATIONAL



Jurors decide sniper should die for role in D.C. shootings

BY MATTHEW BARAKAT
Associated Press Writer

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. — A jury decided Monday that John Allen Muhammad should be executed for masterminding the sniper attacks that terrorized the Washington area for three weeks last fall.

As the verdict was read, Muhammad maintained the same unflinching demeanor he has shown through most of the trial.

Jurors sent word they had reached a decision after deliberating five hours over two days. Jurors convicted the 42-year-old Army veteran of murder a week ago and then heard testimony in the sentencing phase.

The jury's recommendation is not final. Circuit Judge LeRoy F. Millette Jr. can reduce the punishment to life in prison without parole when Muhammad is formally sentenced, but Virginia judges rarely take such action.

The jury concluded that prosecutors proved at least one of two aggravating factors allowing the death penalty: that Muhammad would pose a danger in the future or that his crimes were wantonly vile. He was sentenced to death on both counts he was convicted of last Monday, multiple murders within three years and murder as part of a terrorist plot.

When Muhammad and his teenage co-defendant, Lee Boyd Malvo, were arrested on Oct. 24, 2002, various jurisdictions scrambled to prosecute them. Ultimately, Attorney General John Ashcroft sent the two to Virginia to stand trial, citing the state's ability to impose "the ultimate sanction."

Only Texas has executed more people than Virginia since the death penalty was reinstated in 1976 — 310 to 89. Virginia is one of 21 states that allow the execution of inmates who committed capital crimes as 16- and 17-year-olds. Malvo was 17 at the time of the shootings.

During the sentencing phase of the trial, defense lawyers sought to portray Muhammad as a caring family man, showing jurors a home movie in which he plays with his children and encourages them to take their first steps. Several witnesses also testified he had a loving relationship with his kids.

Prosecutor James Willett said "that person no longer exists."

"He doesn't care about children, human life or anything else God put on this earth except himself," Willett said Thursday as

he urged jurors to give Muhammad a death sentence.

Willett said Muhammad may have been a good father once, but "that person no longer exists. ... That person was murdered by this individual just as viciously and just as completely as everybody else."

The defense was barred from presenting any mental health evidence on Muhammad's behalf, because Muhammad refused to be interviewed by the prosecutors' psychiatrist. The defense had previously suggested Muhammad may have suffered from Gulf War syndrome, and his ex-wife said that Muhammad's behavior was much different after he returned from Operation Desert Storm.

In a court in nearby Chesapeake, a judge ruled Monday that jurors in Malvo's trial will be allowed to hear the remainder of a recorded interview with police in which the teenager bragged about his marksmanship.

Jurors on Friday had heard four audiotapes of the interview, conducted by a Fairfax homicide detective, but defense attorneys objected to a fifth tape of the end of the interview, contending the sound quality was so poor that the transcript was inaccurate.

Circuit Judge Jane Marum Roush said Monday she listened to the tape "many, many times" during the weekend and was satisfied that the transcript is accurate. She said prosecutors could play the tape and let the jury read the transcript.

In the interviews, Malvo admitted pulling the trigger in all the shootings, bragged about his shooting prowess and explained the sniper plan by weaving together the philosophical, logistical and nonsensical.

In the tapes played for Malvo's jury Friday, he at times sounded childlike and vulnerable, as when he asks police about the whereabouts of his "father," Muhammad, and if he could have raisins. At other times he sounded maniacal and savvy, as when he imitated a lawnmower noise while describing the deadly shooting of a landscaper, and later chided detectives for asking him a "leading question."

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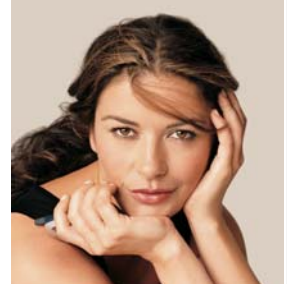
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Roadside bomb injures one American soldier, fears of insurgency spread in Iraq

BY MARIAM FAM
 Associated Press Writer

MOSUL, Iraq — U.S. troops opened fire after an explosion near a military convoy Monday in Mosul, as fears grew that the anti-coalition insurgency was spreading north a day after two American soldiers were savagely beaten and killed in the same city.

Near the northern city of Kirkuk, an oil pipeline was on fire Monday. Adel al-Qazzaz, manager of the Northern Oil Company, said he believed sabotage was to blame. Insurgents have repeatedly targeted pipelines, and sabotage of oil infrastructure has become a major problem for the U.S.-run coalition.

In the Mosul attack, gunmen activated a roadside bomb and opened fire on the convoy, injuring a soldier, the military said.

Local residents said U.S. troops immediately cordoned the area in Hay al-Dobat neighborhood. "I heard a strong explosion saw the Americans randomly shooting in all directions," said Omar Hamed, a witness.

Also Monday, an Iraqi Sunni Muslim religious leader called on U.S. forces and resistance groups to observe a one-week cease-fire to allow the Iraqis to celebrate Eid al-Fitr, which marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan, media reports said.

Adnan al-Duleimi, the head of Iraq's Sunni endowments, appealed to guerrillas to cease operations for a week and also called coalition troops to stop raiding houses and chasing locals. His comments were broadcast by Arab satellite channels.

But there were fears that the insurgency was spreading northward from its original stronghold in the so-called Sunni Triangle.

On Sunday, gunmen in Mosul shot two American soldiers driving through the city center, sending their vehicle crashing into a wall. About a dozen swarming teenagers dragged the men out of the wreckage and beat them with concrete blocks, the witnesses said.

"One of the soldiers was shot under the chin and the bullet came out of his head. I saw the hole in his helmet. The other was shot in the throat," said Bahaa Jassim, a witness.

The city is 250 miles north of Baghdad.

Some people looted the vehicle of weapons, CDs and a backpack, Jassim said.

The frenzy recalled the October 1993 scene in Somalia, when locals dragged the bodies of U.S. Marines killed in fighting with warlords through the streets.

The savagery of the attack was unusual for Mosul, once touted as a success story in sharp contrast to the anti-American violence seen in Sunni Muslim areas just north and west of Baghdad.

In recent weeks, attacks against U.S. troops and their Iraqi allies — such as policemen and politicians working for the interim Iraqi administration — have increased in the region surrounding Mosul.

In Kirkuk, 150 miles north of Baghdad, three American civilian contractors from the U.S. firm Kellogg Brown & Root were injured Sunday when a bomb exploded at an oil compound.

KBR, a subsidiary of Halliburton, also has a significant presence at Baghdad's Palestine Hotel, which was rocketed by insurgents Friday, wounding one civilian.

In Baqouba, just north of Baghdad, insurgents detonated a roadside bomb as a 4th Infantry Division convoy passed, killing one soldier and wounding two others, the military said Sunday.

And gunmen killed the Iraqi police chief of Latifiyah, 20 miles south of Baghdad, and his bodyguard and driver, American and Iraqi officials said.

Meanwhile, the U.S.-led coalition said it had grounded commercial flights after the military confirmed that a missile struck a DHL cargo plane that landed Saturday at Baghdad International Airport with its wing aflame.

The plane was the first civilian airliner hit by insurgents, who have shot down several military helicopters with shoulder-fired rockets. DHL and Royal Jordanian, the only commercial passenger airline flying into Baghdad, immediately suspended flights.

In Canberra, the Care Australia aid agency said Monday it was considering its future in Iraq following a weekend attack on its Baghdad office. Chief executive Robert Glasser said three rocket-propelled grenades were fired at the office, causing minor damage but no injuries.

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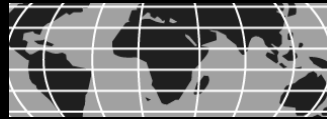
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WORLD BRIEFLY

Helicopter crash kills U.S. soldiers

By The Associated Press

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — A transport helicopter packed with American soldiers crashed near the main U.S. base in Afghanistan, killing at least five of them and wounding seven others, the military said.

The cause of Sunday's crash about seven miles east of Bagram Air Base north of Kabul was not known. The U.S. military said it was investigating.

The MH-53 transport helicopter was involved in an ongoing military operation dubbed Mountain Resolve, which is taking place in the east of the country, spokesman Maj. Richard Sater said at the air base.

Bagram Air Base is home to most of the 11,600 coalition forces in Afghanistan. An additional 5,500 international peacekeepers patrol Kabul, the capital.

Mountain Resolve has run since Nov. 7 in eastern Nuristan and Kunar provinces, but so far no major skirmishes with suspected Taliban and al-Qaida holdouts have taken place.

Also Sunday, a coalition vehicle struck a land mine while patrolling an area of Afghanistan near the Pakistani border, seriously wounding two American soldiers from the Army's 10th Mountain Division. One of the soldiers lost a leg.

Ga.'s temp leader seeks order

By The Associated Press

TBILISI, Georgia — Georgia's interim leader, in her first speech to the nation, pledged Monday to hold elections in 45 days and called on police and security services to restore order after a wave of protest swept President Eduard Shevardnadze from power.

Nino Burdzhanadze, who had been an important member of the opposition, appealed to Georgia's people to cooperate and reaffirmed her country's pro-western stance.

"Order must be restored immediately not only in Tbilisi but also in all the regions of the country," she said in a nationally televised speech.

Shevardnadze resigned Sunday after a decade of mounting discontent and three weeks of protests over Nov. 2 parliamentary elections his critics said exemplified the corruption that has plagued the former Soviet republic during his reign. The transition was peaceful so far.

Some 50,000 demonstrators sang, swung flags and literally jumped for joy outside the parliament building, the focal point of the cascade of events that culminated in Shevardnadze's sudden exit after protesters threatened to storm his residence. He said he was stepping

down to avoid a bloodbath in a region steeped in violence.

Sen. Lieberman cries DNC foul

By The Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — Sen. Joe Lieberman wants to debate after all. And he's crying foul at the Democratic National Committee for excluding him from a presidential faceoff Monday.

The Connecticut senator, who is not competing in Iowa's caucuses, had rejected an invitation to attend the Des Moines debate sponsored by the DNC. Eight other candidates had agreed to attend.

Later, Sens. John Edwards of North Carolina and John Kerry of Massachusetts said they could not be here because the Senate is debating a GOP-backed Medicare bill they both oppose. The DNC agreed to allow them to participate by satellite from a Washington studio. Two television screens will show Edwards and Kerry on stage, alongside six rivals who will be there in person.

Lieberman, who also opposes the Medicare bill, asked to participate by satellite as well. The DNC consulted with the other campaigns, at least two of which said he should not be allowed to take part.

Lieberman's spokesman, Jano Cabrera, said, "We think this is unfair."

DNC spokesman Jim Mulhall said: "When we heard the request of the Lieberman campaign, we made every effort to figure it out. But based on technological concerns and based on issues of fairness, we could not work it out. We canvassed and discussed the issues involved with all of the campaigns."

Pres. Bush defends Iraq involvement

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush is defending U.S. involvement in Iraq and consoling relatives of fallen troops at a Colorado Army post grieving the deaths of 27 of its soldiers.

On Monday, Bush visits Fort Carson, home to four of the 16 soldiers killed Nov. 2 when a helicopter was shot down in the dangerous Sunni Triangle near Fallujah, Iraq. Fort Carson has sent 12,000 troops to Iraq, its largest deployment since World War II.

Before heading west, the president signs a \$401.3 billion defense authorization bill at the Pentagon.

The president ends the day at his ranch in Crawford, Texas, where he will observe Thanksgiving with family members.

On Tuesday, he makes a day trip to Las Vegas for a campaign fund-raiser and a speech on Medicare at

Spring Valley Hospital, followed by similar appearances in Phoenix.

More Democrats support Medicare bill

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The roster of Democrats supporting a Medicare prescription drug bill is growing in the Republican-controlled Senate, despite a defiant, last-minute bid to block passage by opponents who argue the measure poses a threat to older Americans.

"It's not gold. It's something we call fool's gold," Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., said as the bill's opponents put the Senate through an unusual Sunday session that served as the prelude to a series of showdown votes Monday. Proponents of the legislation dismissed such claims.

The bill would provide a prescription drug benefit for Medicare beneficiaries, with subsidies to help lower-income seniors pay the premiums and other costs. It also would provide subsidies to insurance companies in hopes they would offer private coverage to seniors.

The bill's supporters claimed they would gain the 60 votes they needed to prevail on the first in a series of test votes expected during the day. Opponents did not challenge that, but said they hoped to erect more challenging hurdles.

The bill cleared the House in a 220-215 vote Saturday. Senate passage would send it to President Bush, who is eager to sign it into law.

Officials predict 'vigorous' economic growth

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. economy, primed by tax cuts and low interest rates, should grow next year at the fastest pace in two decades, but that will do little to decrease unemployment, top economic forecasters predicted Monday.

The National Association for Business Economics said the vigorous economic growth will continue to be accompanied by continued strong increases in productivity, as corporations under competitive pressures find more ways to expand output without hiring new workers.

That could present a political headache for President Bush.

But unemployment is seen headed in the right direction, at least, with a NABE forecasting panel predicting the jobless rate will average 5.8 percent in 2004, down from 6 percent currently.

The forecasting panel saw payroll employment rising by 1.1 percent, or about 1.3 million workers, not enough to replace the 2.3 million jobs that have been lost since Bush took office in January 2001.

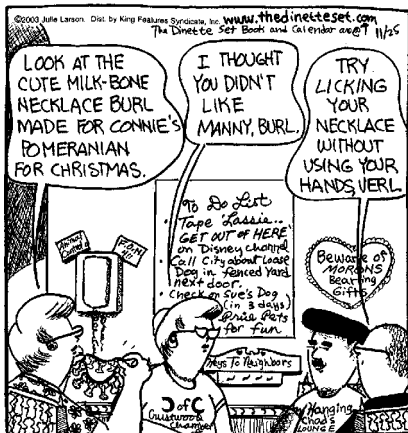
The NABE outlook, assembled by a panel of 28 forecasters from various industries, predicted that the overall economy, as measured by the gross domestic product, or GDP, will grow by 4.5 percent in 2004.

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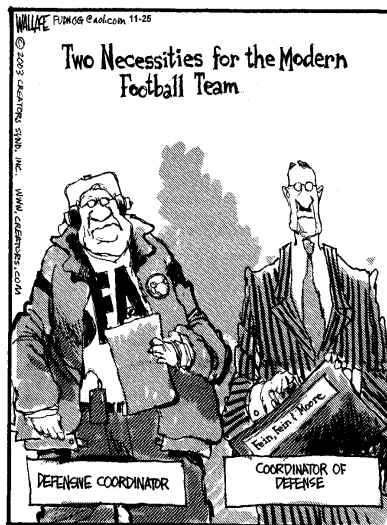
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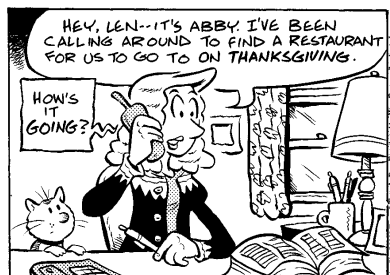
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Rave reviews not missing from Cate Blanchett's upcoming role

By The Associated Press

BOSTON — Cate Blanchett is getting reviews for "The Missing" that match the raves she received for "Veronica Guerin," though the back-to-back releases couldn't be more different.

"The Missing," opening Friday, stars Blanchett as Maggie, a frontierswoman who reunites with her long estranged father to rescue her kidnapped daughter. In "Veronica Guerin," the Australian actress played the real-life Irish journalist killed for her reporting about drug dealers.

"What I found remarkable about Veronica Guerin was her incredible positivity," Blanchett told the Boston Herald for a story published Sunday. "I think that she's much more open and fluid than Maggie is. Maggie is much more shut down and also, I think, much more damaged."

Blanchett's performances have started talk of Oscar. The betting for many Hollywood insiders is on which role will earn her a Best Actress nomination.

When asked which one she'd like to be honored for, Blanchett just laughed.

"That would be incredibly presumptuous of me. If you think that you have any control over any of that stuff, you must be completely insane!"

SANTA BARBARA — Boston Red Sox shortstop Nomar Garciaparra and soccer star Mia Hamm were married in a private ceremony.

"It was a really nice wedding, on a hill with an ocean view," said Garciaparra's aunt, Lulu Garciaparra, of Fontana, Calif. "It was a very beautiful day."

She said a few hundred guests attended the wedding Saturday in this coastal California community.

The wedding came a year after Garciaparra, a two-time American League batting champion, proposed to Hamm, the top scorer in the history of the U.S. women's national team.

The two met at charity event in 1998 and started dating last Thanksgiving, shortly after Hamm divorced her husband of six years.

SAN FRANCISCO — Opus is back waddling across the comics pages — not because funnies fans need him but because his creator, Berkeley Breathed, thinks the penguin needs "finishing."

"Unfinished characters make me as unsettled as a messy hallway will keep my wife from sleeping soundly," Breathed wrote in an e-mail interview with cartoonist Phil Frank published Sunday in The San Francisco Chronicle.

Breathed resurrected Opus from the daily strip "Bloom County," which he stopped drawing in 1989 when it was running in nearly 1,300 papers. He began a Sunday strip, "Outland," with many of the same characters — including the aquatic bird's hairball-hacking sidekick, Bill the cat — but quit that in 1995.

The new weekly strip, named for its character, debuted Sunday in large format. A Pulitzer Prize winner for editorial cartooning, Breathed insisted on the larger style.

"I'll get bored drawing talking heads, which is pretty much all that registers in today's nano-scale strips. Boring is bad. Small is bad. Big, good."

He also refused to let the newspapers see the strip weeks before it is to appear because of "the snarky little office imps — especially ones around newsrooms — who feel they need to upload everything they can get their sticky little digital digits on."

NEW YORK — Jeffrey Tambor, star of Fox's new breakout sitcom "Arrested Development," has a face that people recognize — if only they could remember from where.

"Hey Now! Hey There! Hey Who!" are among the greetings that Tambor, 59, told The New York Times are shouted his way by passers-by.

When admiring fans stop him, it's because they either think he's Dr. Phil (when he had a mustache) or remember him as Hank "Hey Now!" Kingsley, Garry Shandling's sidekick on "The Larry Sanders" show.

"The only thing I don't like — and this is going to sound disingenuous — is that sometimes people get stuck and do the Jeffrey Tambor rundown," he said.

When they ask him what he's been in, he runs down the list — "And Justice For All," "Meet Joe Black," "Tales from the Crypt," "Never Again" — and say "No, no...."

"That's when you walk away with your knuckles grazing the concrete."

"Arrested Development" is about an offbeat, rich family that hits the skids after its patriarch, played by Tambor, is arrested for corporate wrongdoing. It airs on Sundays.

DELRAY BEACH, Fla. — Actress Yancy Butler, who starred in the canceled TNT series "Witchblade," was ordered Monday to enter a substance-abuse treatment program after her weekend arrest for disorderly intoxication.

Butler was taken to jail Saturday after cars had to swerve to avoid hitting her as she wandered in and out of traffic, police said.

A Palm Beach County judge ordered that Butler be sent to The Renaissance Institute in Boca Raton while she awaits a Dec. 18 court appearance. It could not be determined Monday whether she had an attorney.

Butler told police Saturday that she was an alcoholic who was on medication, according to a Delray Beach Police report. At first, she said she'd been kicked out of a halfway house, but later said she was still in one, the report said.

Officers took the 33-year-old actress to the Drug Abuse Foundation of Palm Beach County, a substance abuse center. When she became hostile and struggled with police, the foundation declined to admit her, the report said.

Butler was handcuffed, jailed and charged with disorderly intoxication and resisting an officer without violence.

She previously was arrested Jan. 2 after a fight at her uncle's Hauppauge, N.Y., home. The fight allegedly involved Butler's father, Joe, the former drummer for the '60s folk-rock band The Lovin' Spoonful. She was charged with criminal contempt for violating an order of protection, and two counts of harassment.

In 2002, filming on "Witchblade" was postponed for nearly three weeks to await Butler's release from alcohol rehabilitation.

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