

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

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

NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Actor Robert Blake, testifying in October at the wrongful-death trial against him brought by the family of his ex-wife Bonnie Lee Bakley, said the reason why he had traces of gunshot residue on his hand after the murder was because he regularly plays with cap guns, according to a report in the New York Post. "Without sounding like I'm pretty weird, I missed my childhood. (For me, toy soldiers and) cap guns bring it all back. If (that) makes me nuts, then label me."

■ "Woman Charged \$1,133 to Clip Toenail" (a September Associated Press report on a class-action lawsuit against Virginia Mason Medical Center in Seattle for allegedly excessive fees, including a test-preparatory toenail clipping).

■ "Man Sues Over Leg Amputation After Ingrown Toenail" (a September story on the WOAI-TV-radio Web site in San Antonio, Texas, reporting a farmer's lawsuit against Scott & White Memorial Hospital in Waco, Texas, claiming that he contracted the flesh-eating bacteria after ingrown-toenail surgery).

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 329th day of 2005.
There are 36 days left in the year.

On Nov. 25, 1963, the body of President Kennedy was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery.

In 1758, in the French and Indian War, the British captured Fort Duquesne in present-day Pittsburgh.

In 1783, the British evacuated New York, their last military position in the United States during the Revolutionary War.

In 1903, singer Enrico Caruso made his American debut at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York, appearing in "Rigoletto."

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Self is the only prison
that can ever bind the soul."

HENRY VAN DYKE
AMERICAN CLERGYMAN (1852-1933)

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Housing wish list could be a reality

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

PICO NEIGHBORHOOD — Santa Monicans hopeful to be able to afford a home may soon be living their American dream, if they're willing to go through a few hoops to attain it.

The Santa Monica City Council last month approved the creation of an affordable homeownership development to be located at 1943-1959 High Place.

The program — to be financially-backed by City Hall and organized by the nonprofit Community Corporation of Santa Monica (CCSM) — will be the first local homeownership plan geared toward moderate income-level

See **HIGH PLACE**, page 5

STATE

Turmoil on tarmac: LAX safety is subpar

BY IAN GREGOR

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Los Angeles International Airport and two others nearby have the worst runway safety records among the nation's busiest airports in recent years, a review of federal aviation data shows.

Federal officials are most concerned by the situation at bustling LAX, where commercial jets have come perilously close to crashing at least twice since 1999, the first year of data reviewed by The Associated Press.

The problem persists because, despite millions spent to reduce violations known as runway incursions, LAX's air-

See **ROUGH LANDINGS**, page 8

City keeping closer watch

Surveillance cameras up and running on Promenade

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN — Santa Monica authorities would be quite content to watch another peaceful holiday season pass them by.

Security cameras have been installed along the Third Street Promenade as part of a pilot program launched by City Hall after possible terrorists were spotted scoping out the pier this summer.

Two video cameras were installed within the last week at the corner of the Third Street Promenade and Santa Monica Boulevard by Pasadena-based Hamilton Pacific, one of two firms that may be granted a city-wide contract.

The estimated \$2 million in security upgrades were approved after Santa Monica Police informed the public in August that a citizen on July 3 spotted three men, all of whom were of Middle Eastern decent, suspiciously videotaping specific areas of the pier, including access roads and the SMPD's police substation.

Based on intelligence from other agencies, the same men were seen this summer videotaping bridges and piers along the Southern California coast. Another agency confirmed that the same individuals were seen videotaping at the 2003 Academy Awards.

That prompted officials to make preemptive changes to the city's security systems to further protect the public in the event a terrorist attack does hit Santa Monica.

SMPD has added four overtime police officers and reconfigured the observation posts at the pier. Security has been increased underneath the pier and surrounding the structure's pilings.

Already underway are plans to train and hire additional K-9 officers with bomb-sniffing dogs. The dogs themselves cost \$5,000 a piece and the specially-trained officers command about \$100,000 a year in salary.



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press
(Above) Phillip Aguilar installs a video camera at the corner of Santa Monica Boulevard and the Third Street Promenade. The two newly installed surveillance cameras at the intersection are part of a pilot program that will eventually lead to a city-wide system. (Right) A camera on the northeast corner of the crossroads has been functional for a week.

There also is increased security on the Third Street Promenade, including the installation of security cameras, which will be placed throughout the downtown area and the pier once a company has

See **CAMERAS**, page 6



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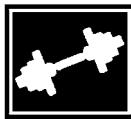
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Santa Monica Daily Press



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

 **ARIES (March 21-April 19)**
★★★★ A change in plans might not make you happy, but is absolutely necessary. On another level, this transformation might not be physical but in your head and how you look at situations. Open your mind. Tonight: Get some R and R.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Use more imagination when dealing with those around you. Your creativity draws out others. Humor and laughter mix well. Don't worry if someone changes his or her mind. Tonight: In full weekend mode.

 **GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**
★★★★ You might feel pressured by a partner or several associates. Remember, you are the one who permits this activity to happen, or at least you are the common denominator. Tonight: You need time for yourself.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 ★★★★★ You say what you mean and mean what you say. Others might be taken aback by your determination. Revamp your daily pattern. Look toward greater efficiency. Be willing to say you were wrong. Tonight: Visit with pals.

 **LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**
★★★ Risking, especially financially, could become a huge problem if you cannot afford to lose. You have good intentions and want to do something special for a co-worker or friend. A key person could act up. Don't fight the inevitable. Tonight: Fun doesn't have to cost.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★★ Although the Moon accents your direction and success, someone still might balk and cause you a problem. Remember, you can only control yourself and your response. Choose not to get triggered. Think about what might be going on with this person. Tonight: As you like.

 **LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**
★★★ You need to be gentle, understanding and kind. Don't think that behaving like you normally do will be a piece of cake. Others might be controlling, and plans might get tossed in the air. Anything can happen. Tonight: Just for you.

 **SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**
 ★★★★★ You have reason to smile ear to ear. What you hear is good news, as long as you don't get your funds involved — OK? Be different; listen to suggestions. Postpone major decisions for now. Meetings and get-togethers with others develop into parties. Tonight: Where the action is.

 **SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)** ★★★★★ You might find that you have more energy, but with it, you are also more contrary — or you could be. Be aware of being a touch demanding and willful. You might be key in drawing this experience. Tonight: Take a hard look at what is happening.

 **CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**
★★★ Knowing when to stay out of the way of others can save your day. You wake up on the right side of the bed, but others apparently could be testy. Detach and be understanding. You will be OK. Tonight: Opt for a different set of plans.

 **AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**
★★★★★ Dealing with individuals, using eye contact and talking about what is on your mind work well. Others might be upset if you opt not to join the group. Events need to be detoured for now. Tonight: Dinner and a chat with a special friend.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Let others make decisions, especially with an irate boss or a difficult associate. You might feel like you cannot win for losing with this person. The word that works magic today is "yes." Tonight: Get together with friends.



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LOCAL



Site unseen



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

A crew from Bragg Crane and Rigging Co. places a large piece of equipment for use in a cellular site unit atop a three-story building at the corner of Broadway and the Third Street Promenade.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SMC industry speaker series is back

By Daily Press staff

Want to learn more about the entertainment industry? The Santa Monica College Academy of Entertainment and Technology's entertainment industry speaker series presents, "Publicity, Talent & the Media," at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 5.

The free lecture is part of SMC's Mary Pickford Speakers Series, held at SMC's Academy of Entertainment and Technology's screening room, 1660 Stewart St., Santa Monica.

Speaking will be Mitchell Charles Messenger, director of media relations at ABC Daytime Entertainment, who is in charge of the national publicity campaign for the network's No. 1 daytime drama, "General Hospital." He also heads up project development for ABC's annual Super Soap Weekends at Walt Disney World.

Seating is on a first-arrival basis. For more information call (310) 434-3777.

High tea to benefit needy

By Daily Press staff

Have a cup of tea and help those in need.

The Channel Road Inn will host its 16th annual Holiday Open House and Tea to benefit One Voice scholarship program on Sunday, Dec. 4 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Featuring festive faire, music, room tours and a chance to win a complimentary night's stay, the inn's old-fashioned tea will bring holiday cheer along with help for those in need.

Attendees are invited to bring a donation for the One Voice Wish Tree on Sunday or any time during the holiday season. A monetary contribution or gift of school supplies such as new hats, scarves and gloves, phone cards, and Target or J. Crew gift cards are welcome.

See BRIEFS, page 6

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SURF REPORT

Friday is when our next WNW swell is due. The angle should be ideal (280-290). Today's model run shows tighter periods than originally anticipated, with periods running 12-13 seconds. Look for chest- to shoulder-high surf from 285 degrees on Friday, increasing more on Saturday.

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

Today the water is:

64°

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
MONDAY	4:59	3.5	7:57	0.6	3:22	3.5	11:33	4.8
TUESDAY	7:20	3.6	8:58	0.8	4:26	3.7	12:41	4.3
WEDNESDAY	9:37	3.3	9:50	0.9	4:53	4.0	2:15	4.0
THURSDAY	10:52	2.8	10:32	1.1	5:14	4.3	3:45	3.8
FRIDAY	11:39	2.5	11:04	0.7	5:41	3.9	4:17	3.2

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The Q Line

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Some local skaters recently have voiced frustrations over the limited weekday hours of operation at the new \$550,000 skate park, the Cove, located at the corner of Olympic Boulevard and 14th Street. The park, typically open about two hours a day during the week, is not equipped with lighting, meaning skaters have to pack it up once the sun goes down.

City officials say they'd like to be able to give residents more access to the park but the current budget does not provide for the needed staffing.

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

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

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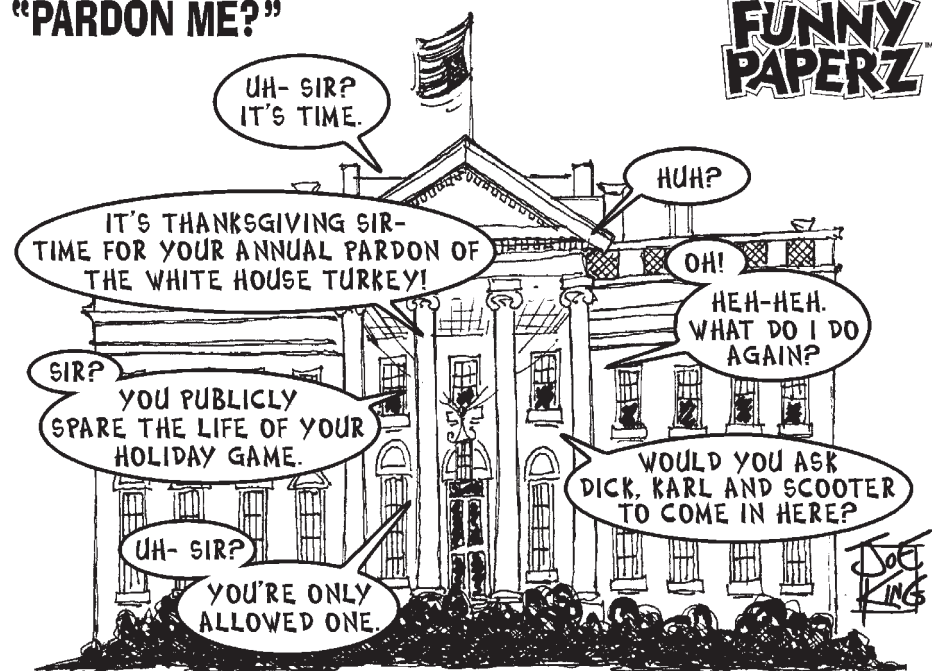
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"Wishing everyone a happy Thanksgiving holiday!"



OPINION

"PARDON ME?"



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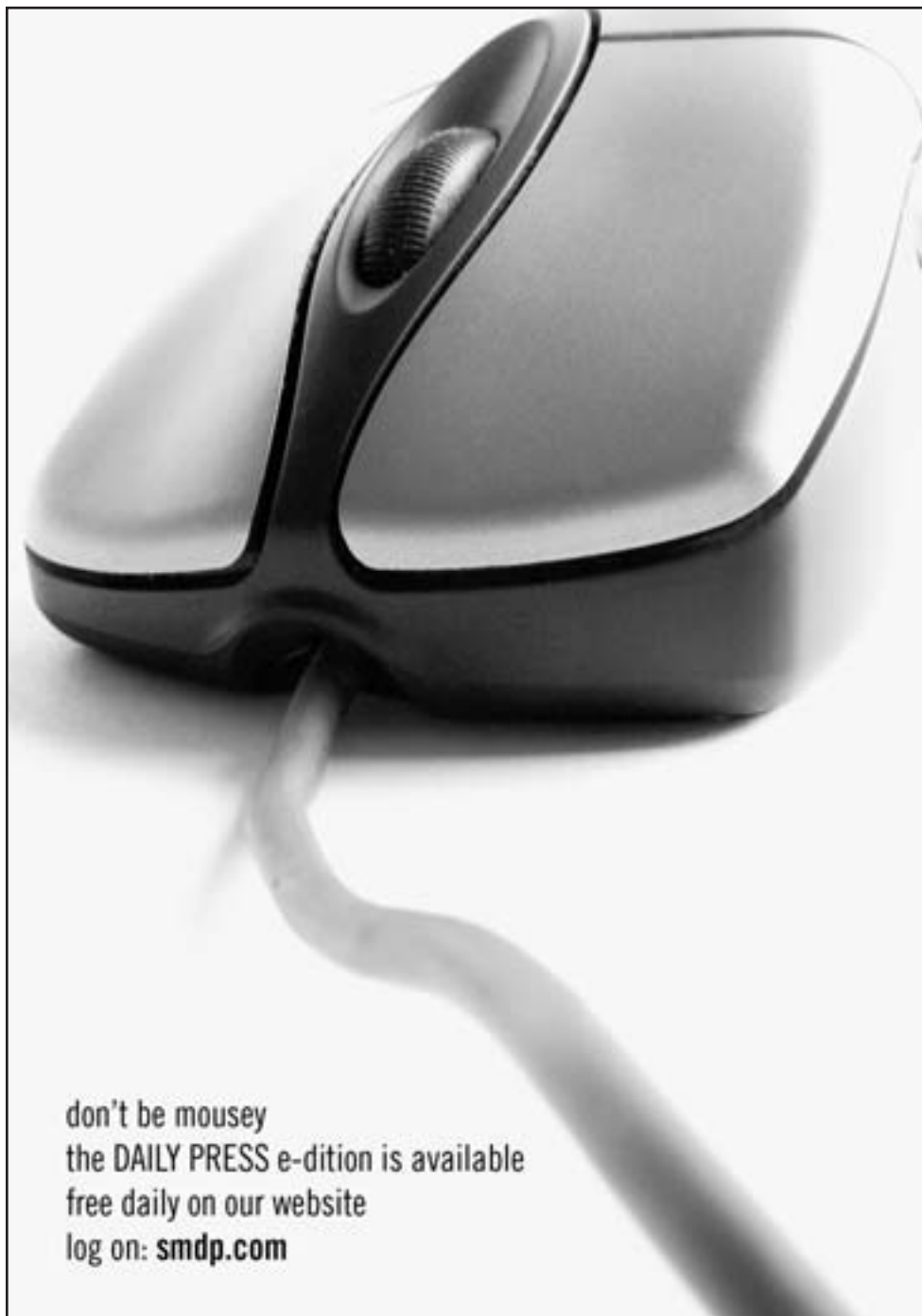
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Cheney should try torture on himself

Editor:

(Vice President Dick) Cheney is so certain that torture will bring out the truth, he should be permitted to prove it by submitting himself to Cheney-recommended torture to see if it will force him to tell the truth about the Cheney-Rove plot to punish the Wilson family.

Cecilia Rosenthal
Santa Monica



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GUEST COMMENTARY BY BENNET KELLY

Special election sheds light on flawed initiative process

While the special election voters were clearly unhappy with Governor Schwarzenegger, there was another election day actor with approval ratings even lower than the governor's — the initiative process itself. The governor can redeem both himself and the initiative process by making initiative reform the first measure submitted for the 2006 ballot. The governor's proposal should be guided by three principles: (1) voters are not legislators, but legislators are; (2) initiatives should have sufficient support; and (3) voters, like politicians, make mistakes.

Voters are not legislators and it is clear that voters are overwhelmed by the number of ballot measures, as nearly 18 percent of those voting in the 2004 general election failed to vote on at least one of the propositions. There needs to be a cap on the number of initiatives on each ballot since it is axiomatic that voters cannot make informed decisions on propositions if there are too many for them to read or follow.

In addition, nearly 80 percent of Californians believe that only some or few of the measures are understandable to most voters. That is why initiatives should be limited to matters which both affect the public as a whole and are readily understandable to the voters such that they could make a reasonably informed decision based on the official voter guide. This second criteria would spare voters from arcane matters and may even limit the trend towards "ballot box budgeting" given the complexities involved.

Teddy Roosevelt explained that the initiative process and representative government are meant to be complimentary not adverse. Initiative proponents should be able to draw on the legislature's expertise through public hearings on all qualifying measures and should be permitted to incorporate any recommended changes. A summary of the legislature's recommendations and findings also should be included in the voter guide.

In calling the special election, the governor hoped to take advantage of lower voter turnout for such elections. Initiatives, however, should pass with the appropriate amount of support, regardless of when the election is held.

The governor's proposal should create a level playing field by requiring the approval of both a majority of the votes cast and a certain percentage of registered voters to ensure that all measures passed have widespread support.

There also should be a higher standard for constitutional amendments since amending the constitution should be harder than electing a dog catcher. Amendments should require at least either a majority of registered voters or approval by a majority of the voters and a super-majority of the legislature.

Finally, voters, like politicians, make mistakes and even change their minds. The initiative process, however, renders ad hoc decisions fixed in time without the checks and balances of representative government that are designed to protect minority interests or any subsequent oversight of measures passed.

Consider Proposition 14, which prohibited state and local governments from restricting housing discrimination and was overwhelmingly approved by California voters only months after Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Prop. 14 is one of many voter initiatives eventually found to be unconstitutional, which is why the governor's proposal should require that the voter guide include an opinion from the Attorney General on the constitutionality of any ballot measure.

Prop. 14 also teaches us that approved initiatives should not be set in stone and rendered untouchable by the legislature. The legislature should have the ability to save the state from bad decisions and the unintended consequences of enacted measures, either by permitting amendment after an initial period of four years (or even earlier with a supra-majority) and/or having all propositions expire unless reenacted after six years or some other period.

These measures would go a long way towards preserving a worthwhile mechanism that simply has grown out of control. Most of these proposals have been discussed in more than 20 major studies since 1990. The time for studies has passed; it is now time for action.

(Bennet Kelley is an attorney in Santa Monica.)

Bitch! Whine! Complain!

Check Out the Question of the Week on Page 3 and let us hear what you have to say

The Q Line™



Condo construction likely to begin in '08

HIGH PLACE, from page 1

households, officials said.

CCSM is proposing to develop 40 affordable condominium units in the Pico neighborhood along the east side of High Place, between Virginia Avenue and the Santa Monica Freeway. The site measures 36,000 square feet and currently includes seven buildings, of which 14 units are rent-controlled, according to city staff.

Each of the two-bedroom condominium units will be built to accommodate four people, said Joan Ling, CCSM director overseeing the project.

Construction will not likely begin for another three years, she said, with buyers to be determined between now and then.

City officials are excited about the program and assume there will be high demand for it. However, City Manager Susan McCarthy recently expressed concerns, shared by others, how such a program would be administered in a way that's fair, especially since obtaining affordable housing is an ongoing challenge in a city where real estate costs continue to escalate.

"We need to be able to provide equitable ways to give people access to the units," McCarthy said at an October City Council meeting, when the program was discussed and approved. "In the past, we've set up lotteries and waiting lists to allow access to affordable units."

Ling said the conditions for the program will ensure that the candidates who qualify are committed community members who will have a lasting impact on the city.

To qualify, Ling will be suggesting to City Hall that applicants be Santa Monica residents with a good credit rating and solid work history. Once they are pre-approved, applicants will be required to take part in 120 hours of community service, which may be broken up into 10 hours of service per month. They will also have to take part in a counseling program that deals with home ownership and managing personal finances.

"Frankly, I don't expect there will be a

substantial list of (qualified) applicants," Ling said. "We want people who are interested in building community and have the financial wherewithal to buy a unit."

The affordable home ownership program for moderate income-level households was conceived in 2003 after CCSM held several public meetings in the Pico neighborhood.

To buy, each unit is expected to cost approximately \$398,000, according to city staff. Of that, households earning \$65,500 per year and whose bread winners have good credit should be able to qualify for a state-backed 30-year, \$200,000 mortgage that has a 5-percent interest rate. The \$200,000 mortgage loan will become the buyer's contribution to secure the affordable unit.

To pay for the remaining \$198,000, City Hall will kick in \$168,000 for each unit. That will be paid for using City Hall housing funds and put toward land acquisition and construction costs.

A state subsidy of \$30,000 per unit will make up the rest of the costs needed to support the program.

Housing costs are expected to account for 30 percent of household income at any point during the mortgage repayment period, based on an assumption bread winners will receive a 3-percent raise annually. The loan repayment will start at \$1,074 per month. Combined with associated homeowner and utility fees and taxes, total housing costs are expected to run \$1,609 per month.

After 10 years of ownership, it's believed buyers in the program will have \$119,212 in equity for their unit, according to the staff report.

Ling said the program will be widely advertised once CCSM is ready to move forward with the application process.

City Councilman Bobby Shriver said he was supportive of the program because it seems to be well-planned.

"I think this is a great concept, in part because of the level of detail with its financial analysis," Shriver said. "I hope it raises the standard for other projects like this."



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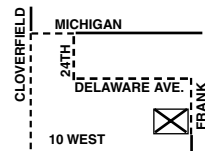
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Police on high alert since terrorist scare

CAMERAS, from page 1

been signed on. Signs will be posted throughout the Bayside District indicating that there are cameras rolling. The cost of the surveillance system is estimated at \$1.1 million.

The cameras at Santa Monica Boulevard and the Promenade will remain there for two weeks as part of the trial period, said Charlie Boone, a sales representative for Hamilton Pacific.

"There is no desire to spy on people, but to spot illegal or erratic behavior," he said. "They are intended to stop something before it becomes a problem."

Police personnel will monitor the cameras in real time from a centralized location. The footage will be stored in digital format on hard drives for up to six months. The surveillance system has its advantages beyond scoping for terrorist activity, and will allow police to detect crimes in progress or look back at the tape.

Police have asked that anyone who sees people suspiciously videotaping or photographing — that which doesn't correspond to typical tourist footage — to write

down license plate numbers, take photographs of the individuals and take in as much detail as possible. Then, call police.

The citizen who spotted the men on the pier this summer thought their behavior odd because they weren't videotaping one another, which is typical of tourists. Rather, the men were seen acting as "lookouts" while another man videotaped. So the citizen photographed the individuals from a distance and held onto the images. Then, when the terrorist attacks happened in London on July 7, the citizen finally contacted the SMPD on July 22.

It wasn't until July 26 that the citizen handed over the photos of the men to the SMPD. The following day, the SMPD shared the photos with state and federal agencies.

When the SMPD distributed a flyer to state and federal authorities about the suspicious activity, two agencies informed Santa Monica police that they had been in contact with the individuals in recent months. Those agencies intercepted video footage from the individuals which contained images from Universal City Walk and the Santa Monica Pier.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 3

Last year's benefit raised more than \$3,000 to help provide students with college essentials.

A Santa Monica-based non profit organization, One Voice's Robert W. Sanderson Scholarship Program, prepares and places low-income, inner-city high school students in top colleges throughout the United States. One Voice's program carefully monitors students' progress and provides ongoing support.

The Channel Road Inn boasts a trio of professional chefs who will be preparing tasty holiday faire from their favorite family recipes, plus the inn's most requested dishes. Innkeeper Christine Marwell, pastry chef Pamela Gartin and catering expert Nora Powers will be on hand with tips and party recipes.

"We love to show off our staff's culinary talents and share the festive beauty of our historic 1910 house," said owner Susan Zolla. "It's wonderful to celebrate the season with our friends and neighbors while giving something back to the community by supporting One Voice."

The Channel Road Inn is located at 219 West Channel Rd. in Santa Monica. Free parking will be provided by the Golden Bull Restaurant across the street. For additional information, call (310) 459-1920.

Read on a budget

By Daily Press staff

Shopping on a budget this holiday season?

The Venice-Abbot Kinney Memorial Library is hosting a holiday book sale, featuring used books and great bargains to meet any budget.

The sale will be held on Saturday, Dec. 3 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Jon David Waldrom Community Room. The library is located at 501 South Venice Blvd.

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NATIONAL



Malls across country grapple with safety

BY RACHEL LA CORTE
Associated Press Writer

TACOMA, Wash. — In an instant, the controlled chaos of holiday shopping turned bloody when a man strolled into a busy shopping mall and opened fire on shoppers with an assault rifle.

Sunday's shooting rampage at the Tacoma Mall, coming just days before the start of the holiday crush, highlighted the vulnerability of America's shopping centers.

At malls across the country, thousands of people come and go, often carrying bulky packages. No metal detectors check them for weapons. And there is always the possibility that somewhere in the crowd is a disgruntled employee, a jilted lover or a mental patient on the edge.

"If someone is determined, I don't know that you can prevent it," said Capt. Mark Couey, who heads homeland security for the Washington State Patrol.

But Couey noted that violence at malls is extremely rare.

"I don't think it calls for people to be paranoid or install metal detectors," Couey said. "I don't think the public would stand for either."

In the Tacoma case, Dominick Sergio Maldonado, 20, was arrested Sunday after six people were hurt, one critically. Maldonado sent a text message to his ex-girlfriend minutes before the rampage, saying, "Today is the day the world will know my anger," the woman said Monday.

At the SuperMall in Auburn, Wash., a shopping complex a few miles from the Tacoma Mall, security measures include video surveillance, 24-hour patrols, training for security officers and a police sub-

station. But Dennis Nicholson, the mall's general manager, said such precautions cannot necessarily stop something like Sunday's rampage.

"We can't prevent that individual from doing that," Nicholson said. "In this day and age in particular, I think that the American public needs to be ever so more aware of their surroundings. It doesn't matter if they're in a shopping mall or a sports arena."

In the United States, there are about 1,200 enclosed malls and 44,000 shopping centers with a total of 190 million shoppers a month, said Malachy Kavanagh, a spokesman for the International Council of Shopping Centers.

Malls have long been considered vulnerable to terrorist attacks. In the past year, malls in several states have taught security guards how to spot suicide bombers through training offered by the Homeland Security Department.

The risk is not likely to keep shoppers away from the malls.

"It's all about the time and the place," said shopper Deb Kraft, who was walking in the Valley Mall in Union Gap, near Yakima. "I don't think they're going to target a mall any differently than they will target a football game or mini-mart or a liquor store."

Economists say that shootings like the one in Tacoma have no effect on shoppers' behavior.

"Unfortunately, random shootings of this nature are not a unique event," Carl Steidtmann, chief economist at Deloitte Research. "I think until it happens in a material way where there are mass casualties, I just don't think it's something that crosses people's mind."



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

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BIG DEAN'S CAFE-Where the 'locals' meet and the 'fun-loving' tourists always return! Come enjoy our highly acclaimed beach fare, beer, and wine at the best people watching place on the beach. Music, satellite sports, 2 outdoor patios, and smoking allowed. This nostalgic eatery has been here since 1902! The prices are reasonable and children are welcome. Now serving breakfast. Also serving lunch and dinner. 1615 Ocean Front, Santa Monica. (310) 393-2666.

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PANINI GARDEN-This authentic European eatery serves traditional Italian and French style food. Panin style sandwiches grilled on a cast-iron panini grill that seals all the savory flavors inside a bread envelope of your choice, from very soft and thin like the tramezzini, soft and crispy for the al forno and crusty for the rustico. A large selection of meats and cheeses, organic produce, fresh and healthy combinations of menu items to enjoy everyday have made PANINI GARDEN the local's favorite. In addition, delicious crepes are served all day, for breakfast or just dessert, it is always a treat. The setting is quiet in the lavender garden with the bubbling fountain. Hours: 8am-9pm Sunday-Thursday, 8am-10:30pm Friday and Saturday. 2715 Main Street, Santa Monica. (310) 399-9939.

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VIOLET-At Violet restaurant the atmosphere is casual, comfortable, and, like its cuisine, is uncluttered. Chef Jared Simons' flavorful small plate fare has something to suit everyone, from light eaters to those with a taste for a more robust fare. The Braised Short Ribs with Shallot Potatoes (\$14.50) melt apart while the Multi-Colored Beet Salad with Eel delights with Kumquat and Ginger Vinaigrette (\$9) and the favorite among the regulars is the Baked Macaroni and Gruyere Cheese with Serrano Ham (\$7.50). Unique selection of new and old world wines by the bottle, glass or flight as well as an impressive list of domestic & imported artisan beers. Hours: Lunch: Tuesday-Friday, 11:30am-2pm. Dinner: Tuesday-Friday, 6pm-10pm & Saturday and Sunday, 5:30pm-10pm. 3221 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica. www.violetrestaurant.com (310) 453-9113.



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STATE

Rough LAX landings are raising eyebrows

ROUGH LANDINGS, from page 1

field has built-in flaws: It's too tightly packed and arriving aircraft must cross runways used for takeoffs.

Nationwide, the number of incursions has dropped about 20 percent from its 2001 peak. Airports in Boston, Philadelphia and Newark had unusually high numbers of incursions in fiscal year 2005; those in Denver, San Francisco and New York's La Guardia had none, according to federal records.

While other airports periodically make headlines, federal attention has focused on LAX because the incursion rate has remained consistently high. Now, after years of planning, the airport plans a permanent fix: A \$250 million airfield renovation that officials say should eliminate most of the violations.

Federal authorities and LAX officials say that, using interim fixes, they have reduced the severity of the incidents, if not the number.

"I don't feel there's an enormous safety problem there right now (but) the numbers do concern us," said Dave Kurner, the Federal Aviation Administration's regional runway safety program manager.

Runway incursions occur when a plane or vehicle on the ground gets too close to a plane that is landing or taking off. The worst aviation accident in history occurred on a runway in 1977 when two jumbo jets collided in the Atlantic Ocean's Canary Islands, killing 582 people. At LAX, 35 people died in 1991 when an air traffic controller cleared a jet to land on the same runway where she had positioned a commuter plane for takeoff.

Nationally, incursions spiked at 407 in fiscal 2001, FAA reports show, before dropping to 326 in fiscal 2004 — about the same level as in 1999. Boston's Logan International bucked the trend in spectacular fashion by recording 15 incursions last year after experiencing just four from 2002 through 2004. The number of incursions that resulted in near crashes also dropped.

Southern California has long been the nation's runway incursion epicenter. Among the country's 25 busiest commercial airports, John Wayne Airport in Orange County, Long Beach Airport and LAX ranked one, two and three in runway incursion rates — measured by incidents per 100,000 flights — since 1999. The three airports also topped the list for the total number of incidents, regardless of size.

Aviation officials call the geographic clustering a coincidence.

"There's no common theme or thread, nothing unique to Southern California," said FAA spokesman Donn Walker.

Spokeswomen at Long Beach and John Wayne airports said most runway incursions at their facilities involved small, private planes.

The problem at LAX has commanded the most attention: It mostly serves commercial aircraft, giving it the greatest potential for a catastrophic accident.

LAX has seen between six and 10 incursions annually since 1999, though FAA officials caution those numbers can be misleading. None of LAX's eight incursions in 2005 posed an imminent col-

lision risk, Walker said.

Airports in Chicago, Newark, New York and Kentucky had fewer incursions, he said, but experienced more serious individual events.

Not that LAX has been problem free.

In November 1999, the pilot of a departing United Airlines Boeing 757 pulled up early to avoid barreling into an Aeromexico MD80 that had mistakenly taxied into its path. The United plane — which counted among its passengers then-U.S. Sen. Bob Dole and his wife, Elizabeth Dole — skimmed an estimated 200 feet over the smaller jet, according to an LAX report.

In an August 2004 incident that chillingly echoed the 1991 crash, the pilot of an arriving Asiana Boeing 747 swooped about 200 feet over a Southwest jetliner that an air traffic controller had positioned on the runway where the jumbo jet had been cleared to land.

Authorities blame the airfield's layout for most of LAX's runway incursions — including six in just two months last year.

LAX has two sets of parallel runways. Planes land on the outer runways and, while taxiing to their gates, cross the inner runways, which are used for takeoffs.

While other airports have similar configurations, LAX is the nation's fourth-busiest airport in terms of flights and has a relatively small, congested airfield.

Looking down from the cab of the LAX control tower, the potential for problems is obvious as a succession of arriving jets nose up to a stop line before reaching the inner runway as other planes roar down it.

"I always equate it to the same act of faith as pulling up to a traffic signal and you've got a green light and you see somebody pulling up in the other direction," said Mike Foote, the air traffic controllers union representative at LAX. In other words, you assume — and hope — they'll stop.

The FAA attributes most of LAX's incursions to pilot error, but pilots and air traffic controllers say the causes are more complex.

"It's just like an accident — it's never one item, it's a series of things," said Jon Russell, a United Airlines captain based at LAX. For example, pilots may miss instructions because they're preoccupied with landing or digesting last-minute runway assignments, he said.

Authorities have tried to address LAX's problem by installing new technology in the control tower, stressing vigilance to airline pilots and placing "hot spot" warning signs on the LAX charts pilots use. Additionally, LAX has spent \$8 million on better airfield signs, lighting and markings, said airport spokesman Paul Haney. And, next year, the airport is scheduled to get a new ground radar system that will give air traffic controllers precise information about the locations of planes on the airfield.

It all comes against a backdrop of a major airfield rejiggering that should give air traffic controllers greater control over the planes they guide. The project faces environmental lawsuits, but the airport hopes to settle those and begin construction early next year.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

NATIONAL



Pssst: New generation of horse 'whisperers' hails from Dillon

BY PERRY BACKUS
Associated Press Writer

DILLON, Mont. — Famed horse trainer Ronnie Willis used to say a horse's basic motivation is a simple thing: All it truly wants is to be without fear.

"He'll do anything to be free of fear," Willis once said. "If he gets scared, he becomes a throttle-aholic. He's a gone unit. That's what kept him alive for 50 million years."

Willis died in his sleep last spring on the ranch just outside of Dillon that is quietly becoming the place where men and women from around the globe gather to learn from the masters of natural horsemanship.

Willis was one of the pioneers of the techniques made famous by Robert Redford's film, "The Horse Whisperer." Willis worked alongside the likes of Ray Hunt and Pat Parelli, who continue to spread the word of a gentler way of training horses.

Guided by the dream of a Frenchman who'd made his millions building power plants around the world, Willis, Parelli and others helped build a program to train both horses and people about natural horsemanship at La Cense Montana ranch near Dillon.

In its fifth year, La Cense has teamed with the University of Montana-Western in Dillon to offer a four-year degree in natural horsemanship. The program already is attracting students from all over the country.

The ranch also draws students from a number of European countries who spend a year learning horse training techniques that date back centuries. The horses they help train are bought up quickly, to the tune of \$16,000 to \$18,000.

On this recent Saturday morning, a young Australian named Nathan Day is quietly giving tips to the European students gathered in the relative warmth of the sprawling ranch arena. Scattered about, the students are working through a variety of techniques with the young quarter horses under their charge.

Day wanders over to talk about La Cense Montana and

the vision of its owner, William Kriegel of France. La Cense is the name of Kriegel's farm in France.

Day, 27, started riding horses when he was 14 in his native Australia. At the time, he couldn't have guessed where that first step up into the saddle would lead.

Since then, Day has trained Olympics-bound dressage horses in France, fought bulls as a rodeo clown in North America and worked side by side with the visionaries who started the program at La Cense.

"I was here with Ronnie Willis as part of the first crew in Montana," Day said. "Natural horsemanship has always made sense to me."

"After I first started to rodeo, I decided I wanted to train my own horses," he said. "I was looking for something, but most of what I saw back then didn't really make that much sense."

One day, he happened upon a clinic being taught by a disciple of Parelli. Day was hooked.

"It made a lot of sense to me," he said. "Natural horsemanship's a way of communicating with a horse that they understand, rather than resorting to force, fear and intimidation. Instead we use communication, understanding and psychology."

Day spent a year touring with Parelli. He's trained horses and people on the 800-acre horse farm that Kriegel owns just outside of Paris. And now, he's leading up the La Cense partnership with UM-Western to create the world's first accredited four-year degree in natural horsemanship.

"I think this is going to end up being a very valuable degree in America," Day said. "At the moment, to be a horse trainer in America or Australia, all you have to do is go out and buy a pack of business cards and you're a professional. No one knows the difference."

It's not that way in other parts of the world. For instance in France, Day said, horse trainers have to be certified.

Graduates from the four-year program at Western should have plenty of opportunity to find work.

See WHISPERERS, page 11

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NATIONAL

‘Great Crew Change’ attracts students

BY MEAD GRUVER

Associated Press Writer

LARAMIE, Wyo. — Ashley Lantz had no idea what her major would be back when she was a freshman at Colorado School of Mines, but she liked the idea of living in exotic places.

Lantz, 23, decided on petroleum engineering. Now she’s on the vanguard of the “Great Crew Change” as companies seek to replace an entire generation that entered the industry during the last oil boom.

With pay starting at \$50,000 to \$60,000 and a healthy supply of jobs — a result of booming natural gas drilling in Wyoming and other states, and to a wave of retirements in the profession — enrollment in undergraduate petroleum engineering is up 46 percent nationwide since 2002.

“Every company that I’ve talked to says they simply can’t get enough petroleum engineering staff for their projects. They’re just crying out for people,” said Brian Towler, head of the Department of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering at the University of Wyoming.

The University of Wyoming is getting on board by bringing back the undergraduate petroleum engineering major after a four-year hiatus. Towler hopes eventually to have 100 undergrads, a figure not seen at UW since 1987.

Similarly, the 2,347 undergraduates majoring in petroleum engineering this school year is the highest figure since 1987 — though that’s still well below the

peak of 11,014 in 1983, according to figures that Texas Tech professor Lloyd Heinze has compiled for the Society of Petroleum Engineers.

It was Lantz’s adviser who looked at her good math and science grades and suggested petroleum engineering. “Four years ago, they knew there was a huge age gap and that we would need people,” Lantz said.

Though the profession offers plenty of opportunities for far-flung travel — with lots of oil and gas drilling in the former Soviet republics, west Africa and South America — Lantz said that heading overseas is no longer a priority for her.

Between her junior and senior years, she interned with Calgary-based EnCana. And last fall, months before her May graduation, the company offered her a job.

“Senior year was pretty nice knowing that I had a job,” she said.

She is based in Denver, but does get out of the office one week a month to the Parachute, Colo., area on Colorado’s Western Slope, where gas drilling is booming.

So far she has focused on the production side — working on existing wells — but she also plans to get to know the profession’s other specialties, such as exploration and transforming newly drilled wells into producing wells.

“Every person you meet has a different story,” she said. “It’s pretty neat that with one degree you can do so many different things.”

Even more opportunities will be avail-

Undergrads know the drill

By The Associated Press

CHEYENNE, Wyo. — Enrollment in the nation’s 15 undergraduate petroleum engineering programs has risen 46 percent since 2002.

Although the number is still far below what it was during the early 1980s oil boom, more undergrads are majoring in petroleum engineering than at any time since 1987.

Here is a look at the trend:

2001-2002:

1,603

2002-2003:

1,673

2003-2004:

1,858

2004-2005:

2,102

2005-2006:

2,347

Highest enrollment: 11,014 (1983)

Lowest enrollment (since 1972): 1,342 (1996)

Source: Lloyd Heinze, Texas Tech University; Society of Petroleum Engineers

Salaries for petroleum engineers on rise

By The Associated Press

CHEYENNE, Wyo. — Petroleum engineering is the highest-paying engineering field, with recent graduates earning upward of \$60,000, according to the Society of Petroleum Engineers.

Salaries for all petroleum engineers are up 5.5 percent in just the past year.

Here is a breakdown of salaries by years of experience:

0-10 years:

\$75,168

11-15 years:

\$98,225

16-20 years:

\$111,902

21-25 years:

\$119,998

26-plus years:

\$121,201

Average:

\$109,014

Source: The Gallup Organization, for the Society of Petroleum Engineers

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able for the next generation of petroleum engineers, said to Margaret Watson, spokeswoman for the Society of Petroleum Engineers in Richardson, Texas. The average age of SPE members is approaching 50, she said, and that means not only more openings, but more opportunities to advance.

“These people are going to have to become up-to-speed very quickly and have to move into management positions more quickly than in the past because those vacancies are going to exist,” she said.

A growing number of students seem to be aware of these developments.

Petroleum engineering enrollment is up virtually everywhere such a degree is offered. Only the University of Southern California, with the nation’s smallest undergraduate program, hasn’t added students this year.

Texas Tech’s program has grown by 53 students from last year, an increase of 22.4 percent; followed by Colorado School of Mines (51 students; up 23.9 percent), Oklahoma (50 students; up 31 percent) and Texas A&M (45 students; up 15.4 percent).

The largest programs are still in Texas: University of Texas-Austin (409), Texas A&M (338) and Texas Tech (290 students).

UT’s program nearly doubled from

2002-2004, but it may have topped out. Mukul Sharma, a petroleum engineering professor at Texas-Austin, said the entrance requirements had been raised. “We have 17 faculty here, so our student-faculty ratios go completely out of whack if our student numbers go beyond 400 students,” he said.

Another reason for being conservative with enrollment — if the job market cools, students enrolled today might find fewer prospects when they graduate. “If we try to match the industry’s ups and downs, we will always be four years out of phase,” Sharma said.

And more and more, this field is for the mathematically inclined. Towler said students should expect to take three semesters of calculus and one of differential equations. There are also courses in engineering science — statics, dynamics, fluids and thermodynamics — as well as in drilling, production, oil and gas reservoirs, and measuring the properties of rock.

“It’s a lot more of a high-tech field — a lot more exotic materials being used — and it’s a lot more math-intensive than it was previously,” he said.

Even though undergraduate petroleum engineering won’t be offered at UW until next fall, students are already asking to transfer into it. “The program looks to have a fairly bright future,” Towler said.

NATIONAL



Word of mouth aids 'whisperer' program

WHISPERERS, from page 9

According to a 2005 study by the American Horse Council, over 2 million people own more than nine million horses in the United States. The equine industry has a direct economic impact of \$39 billion annually and creates some 460,000 full-time jobs.

In its first year, Western's program has already attracted the numbers the university thought it could handle.

"It's all basically been word of mouth so far," said Charlotte Quist, the head of the school's equine studies program. "I'm not sure where all of these people are hearing about our program, but they're coming from all over the country to give it a try."

Right now, the school has 32 students in the equine program. Not all are after the four-year degree. Some are pre-vet or business majors.

Quist is among the recently converted to natural horsemanship.

A veterinarian by training, she grew up around horses. Like Day, it was a Parelli clinic that opened the door to a new way of thinking about the possibilities of training horses a new way.

"It just blew me away," Quist said. "It's not so much showmanship, but his ability to work with a problem horse that really impressed me."

The methods aren't new — in fact, many date back as far as ancient Greece. In this age, when horses are no longer a vital part of everyone's life, this gentler form of training has great appeal.

"The majority of the people involved in natural horsemanship are women," Quist said. "They don't tend to approach horses with the kind of bravado that men sometimes do. They like the softer means of working with a horse."

Kriegel's horse operation focuses on the recreational rider — the fastest growing segment of the national equine industry.

The men and women who buy the expensive, well-trained quarter horses from La Cense come from all walks of life and all parts of the country, said Beth Stefani, the ranch's marketing sales manager. Some don't flinch at spending that kind of money, while others look at their new horse as long-term investment in their recreation.

But what attracts most buyers is the quality of training put into each and every horse.

"They know that horses may sniff a bit when they come up against something new, but they're not going to fly sideways or run off," she said.

"Safety is what it's all about," Day said. "It's our aim to get a horse to the point that it's safe and will fill in for a rider who might make mistakes."

La Cense aims to sell its horses at the age of 4 or 5 — an age that many inexperienced horse riders tend to shy away from.

"Most times you'll get people advising you to buy a 14- or 15-year-old broke horse if you're considering just getting into riding horses," Day said.

The key for La Cense trainers is to start with foals that have been completely untouched and therefore haven't developed any bad habits.

"Everything a horse does is with him for the rest of his life," said Day. "They have an excellent memory. They depend on that for their survival. If a piece of grass shakes and a lion jumps out from behind it, they have to remember that. It's a matter of life and death."

La Cense, though, isn't just about horses.

A Japanese company called Zenchiku owned the 88,000-acre ranch before Kriegel. They'd put together a top-notch herd of Angus and for a time exported those back to Japan.

"These cattle have a very good reputation for performance," said La Cense's cow boss, Bud Griffith. He's now looking for ways to cut out the middle man and market his boss' beef direct to the consumer.

"William's always trying to step up and be the leader," he said. "Our grass-fed, natural cattle are what the consumer wants. We just have to find a way to get it to them."

A typical ranch operation isn't nearly this diverse, said Stefani.

"William's really a vision guy," Stefani said. "He's always looking for different ways to expand this ranch isn't a toy for him. He's always said this will be a working cattle ranch and that's what it's been."

"He's also been a horseman almost all of his life," she said. "It's where his heart is."

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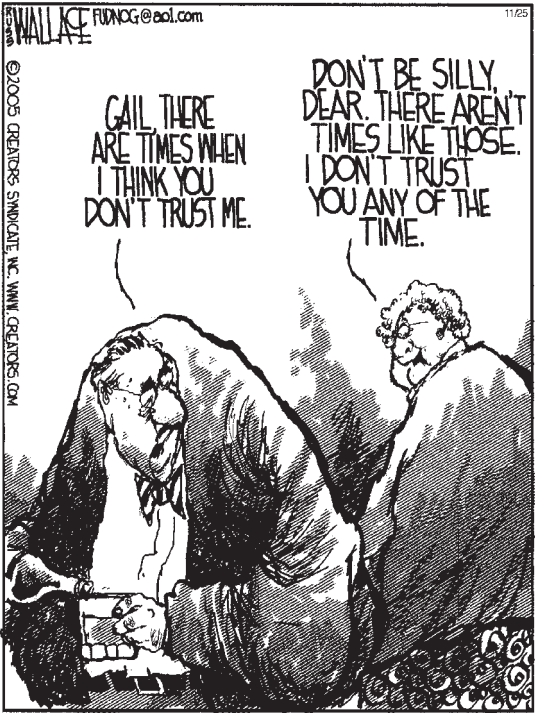
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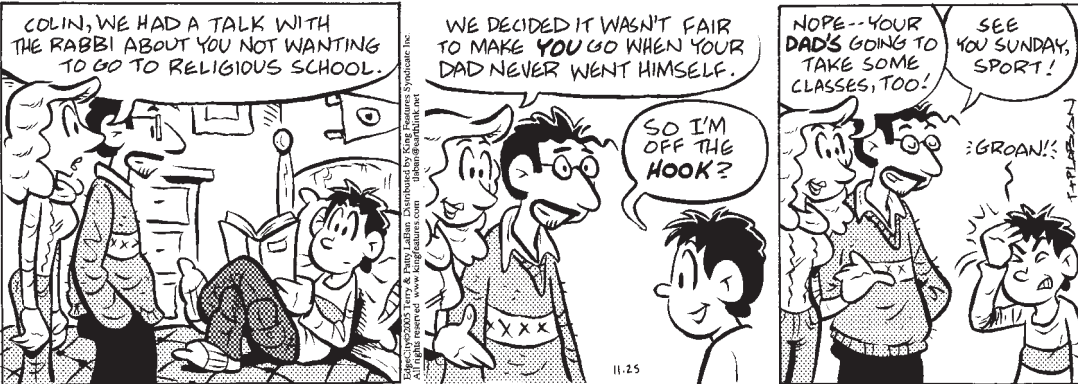


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Notice of Hearing on Petition Notice is given that on November 29, 2005 at 8:30 a.m. or as soon after that time as the matter may be heard, petitioner Ross Furukawa, will move for an order pursuant to Government Code §6008 adjudicating The Santa Monica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

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