

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

Looking to a greener day



Troy Deutch/Special to the Daily Press
Colette Brooks explains Monday why buying environmentally friendly vehicles for her Santa Monica business made sense at a Sierra Club campaign kick-off to encourage Ford to sell "greener" automobiles. (See story page three.)

'Father of the Green Berets' celebrates 100th birthday

By The Associated Press

NEWPORT BEACH — Nearly 200 soldiers and their families celebrated the 100th birthday of the man credited with founding the Army's Green Berets.

Former Col. Aaron Bank, who attended the celebration at American Legion Post 291, was praised by many who attended for his leadership and courage during World War II and later French Indochina.

"He's the one you look up to. He's the icon," said Mike Johnston, a retired Army captain who helped organize Sunday's event. "Any warrior would be proud to do just one of the things he did."

Bank led French resistance units behind German lines during World War II before founding the first U.S. Special Forces Group in 1952. The unit eventually became known as the Green Berets. The group was considered the forerunner of the Navy SEALs, the Marines' Force Recon units and the Army's Delta Force.

"Special Forces, because of their mission, attracts the finest type of young American. ... I adored the men below me. I always tried to be fair to them," Bank told those at the party.

Proclamations, letters from governors and generals and other accolades were presented to Bank at the party. Two cakes were decorated as green berets.

City looks at writing alternative historic districts measure

Proposal would streamline designation process, add homeowner incentives

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER

Daily Press Staff Writer

City officials may be adhering to the saying, "If you can't beat 'em — join 'em."

Acting on orders from the city council, the Landmarks Commission last week began meeting to investigate the possibility of placing a competing measure on the ballot of a probable March special election.

The referendum would likely be designed to counter an initiative that qualified for a special election sponsored by Homeowners for Voluntary Preservation. An election can be avoided if the city council adopts the proposed initiative as law at its Dec. 10 meeting.

The homeowners' initiative proposes making preservation and the creation of historic districts voluntary for owners of single-family homes citywide. Currently,

"If there was an alternative proposal, it's certainly so much in flux right now that it's hard to imagine what form it will take."

— ROGER GENSER
Landmarks Commissioner

homes can be deemed landmarks or structures of merit without the approval of the owner.

Supporters of the initiative believe forceful designation of homes as landmarks is a violation of property rights and erects cumbersome barriers to renovating and altering homes, if not preventing it altogether.

However, local preservationists and

See MEASURE, page 5

From the graveyard to cyberspace: Santa Monica expenditures total \$1M

(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 CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

From a new office at the city's cemetery to an enhanced Web site, the city council is expected to approve about \$1 million in expenditures in one vote on Tuesday.

The largest item on the consent agenda is a \$602,000 expansion project at the Woodlawn Cemetery Mausoleum office, which city staff suggest is inadequate

because it lacks a reception and waiting room, and does not comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The project includes constructing a new second floor office that will have the needed reception area, waiting room, conference room and ADA compliant restrooms and office. Deteriorated wiring and lighting also will be replaced. The project has been designed to include "Green" building that will have energy efficient lightning, motion sensor switches, and building materials that have been recycled.

Another \$90,500 may be approved to pay a web design firm to overhaul the city's Web site, which has not changed since 1998 and is falling behind the current standards of organization, accessibility and navigation, city staff suggest.

See EXPENDITURES, page 5

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HOROSCOPE

Don't push someone too far, Virgo

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)
★★★★★ Indulge a loved one with a breakfast treat before you even start your workday. Still, you might decide to treat the office to doughnuts or other such goodies. A colleague tests your limits simply to find out more about you. Indulge others right now. Tonight: Paint the town red.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Your preoccupation with a family member distracts you from work. You might feel as if someone else needs more attention than you can give him or her. Bring your work home, if possible. Understand how distracted you are. Tonight: As little fuss as possible.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Reach out for someone close. You might not understand what motivates this person or where you are coming from with him or her. Keep conversations moving and worry less about what you expect. Openness will lead to a more exciting path. Tonight: At a favorite spot.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Add to the liveliness of the moment. Others could be contrary and wanting to get more information. Stay centered on your priorities, even if you have a sinking feeling or a bout of insecurity. Ask for what you want. Tonight: Treat yourself.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Your personality melts others' resistance. You might need to take a strong action with someone who could be acting in a most unconventional manner. You could shake this person up, but be careful — he or she might opt to walk away from you. Tonight: Follow your friends.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Take your time with work, bosses and associates. Someone close to you could be pushing you very hard. Know when to say "enough" and head in a new direction. Understand more of what you need to motivate you. Tonight: Don't push someone too far. Use care.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ You might be more touchy than you realize. Deal with others on a basic level, coming to a new understanding about what is needed. News from a distance could stop you in your tracks. You could be pushed beyond your limits. Tonight: Join a trusted friend.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ A boss takes a hard stand. You are unlikely to be able to intervene. Quite clearly your options take you to a place where others don't understand. Be careful manifesting your frustration. Your anger could come out in a most unexpected manner. Tonight: A must appearance.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ You might be taking a walk on the wild side. Certainly you'll have an opportunity to see a situation quite differently. A partner or associate could put down your thinking. You venture alone through a new portal. Tonight: Opt for adventure.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You might not agree with everyone about the pros and cons of a situation, nor do you have to. You will not be making the key decision here; someone else will. Lighten up about the possibilities that surround an emotional issue. Tonight: Go along with someone else's plans.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ What you see as a distinct problem, others don't. Truly, you might not be able to get past someone's interference. Lighten up. Your solid approach can make all the difference elsewhere. Seek out someone at a distance. Tonight: Go along with the crowd or do your own thing.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Your ability to march past a problem or deal with a difficult person certainly amazes a boss, if not associates. Still, dig into a project, and focus on the work. The less aware you are of the politics, the better your results will be. Tonight: As late as necessary.

QUOTE of the DAY

"A committee is a cul-de-sac down which ideas are lured and then quietly strangled."

— Sir Barnett Cocks

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LOCAL



Troy Deutch/Special to the Daily Press
Mayor Pro Tem Kevin McKeown encourages car-buyers Monday in front of Santa Monica Ford to ask the dealership for special features that reduce emissions.

Sierra Club urges dealership to help fight global warming

By Daily Press staff

Environmentalists gathered in front of Santa Monica Ford Monday to send a message to the automobile manufacturer to change its ways.

The Sierra Club kicked off a campaign to encourage local Ford dealers to urge Ford Motor Company to support the state's global warming law and bring low emission cars to dealership floors.

Local civic and social leaders gathered in front of Santa Monica Ford to urge the car dealership to ask for more cars, trucks and SUVs that go farther and pollute less on a gallon of gas.

"Santa Monica residents know the economic and moral value of protecting our environment — especially our beaches and coastline — from damage caused by global warming pollution," said Mayor Pro Tem Kevin McKeown in a prepared statement.

"Ford should take this opportunity to distinguish itself in a crowded field of auto makers and give us the low emission vehicles that we want to buy," he said.

The Sierra Club wants consumers to ask auto dealers for the "Freedom Option Package," a set of low-emission components that can be added to most standard cars, light trucks and SUVs and would enable Ford's fleet to average 40 miles per gallon while reducing pollution.

"American consumers are demanding

more options," said Professor Robert Gottlieb, Director of the Urban and Environmental Policy Institute at Occidental College, in a prepared statement. "They understand they can make real savings by driving cars and SUVs that get more miles to the gallon."

"If American automakers want to keep pace with fast-moving foreign competition, they'll start providing these options," said Gottlieb, a Santa Monica resident. "And as a result, we'll help protect the health of people and the environment."

While Ford CEO Bill Ford Jr. calls himself a "life-long environmentalist" and pledged to lead Ford to sustainability, he also waged an aggressive effort that convinced Congress last spring to reject adopting higher fuel economy standards and he is threatening to sue the state to overturn its global warming laws, according to the Sierra Club.

"Ford should listen to the 81% of Californians who supported the law and demonstrate that they are responsible corporate leaders by making low emission cars," said Colette Brooks, a Santa Monica businesswoman who bought a fleet of low emission cars for her own company. "We all share a common value and have acted on it. When coupled with the money we save on gas, that's an incredible return on the investment."

surf report

Information compiled by Jesse Haley

Today we expect to have leftover swell in the morning, the fading end of both the northwest wind and ground swell we saw over the weekend. Remaining energy should keep wave height around waist level mostly, better occasionally.

Fortunately, new northwest ground is coming.

Some spots with good exposure could be showing occasional chest high sets by late in the day today. Surfers can expect more consistent chest level surf at west and northwest facing breaks.

South bay traditionally has better exposure to the northwest swell, but surf forecast also call for some big sets on the north side of Point Dume, so look for Leo Carrillo and County Line to go off too.



Today's Tides:

High-	2:29 a.m.	3.30'
Low-	5:10 a.m.	3.17'
High-	11:34 a.m.	4.86'
Low-	7:53 p.m.	0.19'

Location	Tuesday	Wednesday	Water Quality
County	2-3'/Fair	2-4'/Fair	A
Zuma	2-3'/Fair	2-4'/Fair	A
Surf	1-2'/Poor	1-2'/Poor	C
Topanga	1-2'/Fair	1-2'/Fair	B
Venice	3-4'/Fair	3-4'/Fair	C
Porto	3-4'/Fair	3-5'/Fair	A

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The Q Line

Over the weekend, a Christmas winterland was unveiled at the Third Street Promenade, with hopes that the decorations would lure gift-seeking consumers into the various shops. Just like everywhere else in this country, merchants are hoping for a big holiday season to top off an unsettling economic year.

So this week, Q-line wants to know: "To give local merchants a much-

needed shot in the arm, will you make a point of shopping in Santa Monica? Why or why not?"

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

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OPINION

LETTERS

Hopefully, OPCO can settle legal matters

Editor:

In the Daily Press article "OPCO chair won't give up financial records," (11/25/02) I am quoted as having encouraged the OPCO board to "get an attorney and get a settlement for Tom (Fuller)." (Mr. Fuller filed a complaint against OPCO demanding its financial and membership records.)

The quote implies that, as an OPCO board member, I was acting on Mr. Fuller's behalf. This is not correct. In fact, what I said was that I, along with other board members, had encouraged the OPCO board to retain an attorney in order to bring about a settlement to Mr. Fuller's complaint. My hope was that the organization could reach a settlement that would be mutually agreeable to both him and to the OPCO board.

I believe that OPCO has done important work in the Ocean Park community and I hope that the organization can soon settle its legal and financial matters and move forward with the issues that face the Ocean Park neighborhood.

Elan Glasser
Santa Monica

'War is a permanent condition now'

Editor:

Re: Story you ran "Ridge talks security in L.A." about Homeland Security honcho Tom Ridge's visit to L.A. County. He also appeared on the Jay Leno program on NBC while here and Tom entertained Jay and his audience with this Orwellian line: "We have to understand ... war is a permanent condition now."

Hank Rosenfeld
Santa Monica



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Look to Pasadena for preservation guidance

On Tuesday, the Santa Monica Landmark Commission held a quasi-secret meeting with city staff to prepare an initiative to thwart the recently qualified homeowner initiative. The unanswered question is: Will the program be voluntary?

Pasadena's successful preservation program proves that VOLUNTARY PROGRAMS DO WORK. Pasadena, like Santa Monica is a mid-size Southern California city. The people of Pasadena deeply care about their rich historic, cultural, architectural, and esthetic values and want to preserve them as part of their heritage.

Pasadena created a design and historic preservation program with cultural heritage review for demolition of structures 50 years or older. The definitions of what constitutes landmarks and historic districts are similar in Pasadena and Santa Monica, but the philosophies and policies of these two cities are worlds apart.

Pasadena's pro-active program relies exclusively on education and incentives. Pasadena will not designate a house as a landmark without the owner's consent nor designate a neighborhood as a historic district without a majority vote of the owners. Pasadena's hard work on public education has produced abundant information, available in several city publications, including some in Spanish, and an excellent preservation Web site with extensive, useful information.

Pasadena's voluntary system works. It has preserved nearly 50 landmarks and created several historic districts.

Santa Monica relies on government controls and penalties. Santa Monica may designate a house as a landmark without the owner's consent and designate historic districts without the consent of the homeowners. It is revealing that Santa Monica does NOT have a strong education program, nor even a preservation Web site, although our government is wealthier per capita than Pasadena and could afford these services.

The Landmarks commission's quasi-secret Tuesday "working meeting" used city resources at taxpayer expense to create a proposal to defeat the homeowners initiative. The commission's decision to reform its byzantine bureaucratic process is welcome but why did it take a homeowners' initiative to correct these well-known defects? Apparently, the commission will recommend a few incentives, which is also welcome. Philosophically, however, the commission appears unprepared to embrace a voluntary program, despite Pasadena's obvious success. What is anathema about a voluntary program?

Santa Monica's collective consciousness has been warped by over two

decades of negative indoctrination. This has created enormous distrust. For a generation, we have been bombarded with a sick, divisive paradigm with messages like these:

Renters = Good/Apartment Owners = Bad
Workers = Good/Business leaders = Bad
Compulsion = Good/Incentives = Won't Work
and the zero-sum classic, "Good for Homeowners = Bad for Santa Monica."

Ironically, Santa Monica's historic districts are voluntary! The homeowners voluntarily asked to become a historic district. Unfortunately, even our own success with voluntary participation cannot overcome two decades of zero-sum indoctrination that "Good for Homeowners = Bad for Santa Monica." Anyone who dares to say that voluntary programs are better, is automatically dismissed as a "selfish homeowner, greedy developer, carpetbagger, or irresponsible real estate interest." Undisputed facts, such as Pasadena's success and the success of our own voluntary historic district, mean nothing to those trapped within the old zero-sum paradigm that "Good for Homeowners = Bad for Santa Monica."

The truth is terribly unsettling: Santa Monica does not know how to design a voluntary program. It takes a very different mind-set to make a voluntary program successful. Our non-consumer-friendly City Hall is enmeshed in the old paradigm of penalties and coercion, which is rooted in fear of the people. City Hall views the call for a paradigm shift to a voluntary approach as an alien, even threatening idea.

Fortunately, Pasadena operates within a positive paradigm. Pasadena has a strong, healthy, democratic government and a "politically legitimate" city council which takes pride in being a consumer-friendly City Hall. Council members are independent thinkers who look for pragmatic solutions, which balance the good a policy will achieve against the harm it will cause to others.

Let us learn from Pasadena's successful voluntary design and historic preservation program. When people trust people and trust in their own ability to work with each other, people can create successful voluntary programs. It is time to take courage and bravely embark on a new, positive paradigm based upon trust and mutual respect, where "Good for Homeowners AND Good for Santa Monica" prevails.

(Paul DeSantis is a Santa Monica resident and a real estate attorney)

Guest Commentary

By Paul DeSantis

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

DID YOU KNOW?: The Santa Monica Mountains NRA is home to some 450 vertebrate species of animals, all within minutes of downtown Los Angeles. Among the larger animals are mountain lion, coyotes, bobcats and deer.

LOCAL



Homeowners' initiative alternatives examined

MEASURE, from page 1

some city officials believe if the initiative is adopted as proposed, it would undermine the city's authority to protect historically and architecturally significant homes from demolition or serious alteration.

Last Tuesday, commission members met at a hastily-called public meeting to discuss a compromise to the homeowners' initiative and to brainstorm ways to streamline the city's process of preserving important and historic properties.

Commission members may propose a measure that would streamline the process for homeowners, add incentives for owners of homes that are bestowed with landmark status, and enhance the power of homeowners in the designation process.

Another consideration would change the requirement for the creation of a historic district from solely requiring city council approval to adding approval of at least 51 percent of the homeowners in a proposed district.

However, commissioners say they are far from reaching consensus on what any possible city landmarks referendum would look like.

"If there was an alternative proposal, it's certainly so much in flux right now that it's hard to imagine what form it will take," said commissioner Roger Genser, a local historian. "There has been no official recommendation or proposal to date."

Landmarks commissioners said any measure they recommend will likely be loosely based on the homeowners' initiative but take a broader view of preservation. While the homeowners' initiative allows owners of single-family homes a choice in participating in historic preservation, any city-sponsored measure would affect every property owner, they said.

"I would characterize it as in response to the initiative we are recommending improvements that would work better for the community without giving up the important properties that convey the city's heritage," said landmarks chair Ruthann Lehrer.

Supporters of the homeowners' initiative called the move by city officials to write

their own measure "trickery" and said the city continues to rely on a preservation "system based on intimidation and force."

"I think we are going to have to work very hard to make sure people know which one is for the public and which one is there to solidify the control of the city," said Greg Poirier, an initiative supporter. "I'm sure it will be worded in such a way that is confusing to people. Personally, I think this is cowardly of them."

The final version of any city-sponsored landmarks measure must be completed at the Landmark Commission's Dec. 2 special meeting and be ready for the city council's consideration by its Dec. 10 meeting — the deadline for calling a March special election.

Homeowners for Voluntary Preservation members continue to ask the council to immediately adopt their measure as an ordinance and forgo a costly special election.

The group submitted a petition containing 12,947 signatures to the Los Angeles County Registrar's office on Sept. 27. The registrar verified approximately 9,800 of the signatures on Oct. 17, surpassing the 9,135 needed to qualify for a special election.

The initiative, formally called the "Homeowners Freedom of Choice Initiative," proposes giving homeowners final say whether the city can bestow their residences with preservation status or as structures of merit. Under current law, such designations may be made over the owner's objections, and the designations can complicate making exterior renovations or obtaining demolition permits.

Councilman Herb Katz said while he doesn't believe it's problematic city officials are investigating alternatives to the proposed initiative, he said it would be wrong for the city to add a competing measure to a special election ballot.

"I do think no matter what, homeowners should have a voice in what is done to their homes," Katz said. "This really comes under a private rights issue."

"Taking of one's home in any form without permission," he added, "is questionable in my mind."

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Sewer project delays will cost city an extra \$91,000

EXPENDITURES, from page 1

The city's web presence has grown considerably in the past four years and as a result, a lot of content has been added, city staff said. But the constant expansion has caused the Web site to become increasingly hard to maintain and difficult to navigate, city staff said.

The council could approve a \$200,000 contract with a company so the city will comply with Clean Water Act storm water permits from the Environmental Protection Agency. The city apparently needs to install trash receptacles at all public transit stops, as well as perform educational and inspection site visits for commercial establishments and require inspections of the city's storm drain system.

To meet the new requirements, the city must consolidate all of its current and future urban runoff related programs into one comprehensive plan.

Because a sewer repair project on Appian Way, between Colorado Avenue and Pico Boulevard, has taken longer than expected, the city council is being asked to extend the contract with the construction company for \$91,080.

In September of 2001, the council awarded the contract to Tetra Tech Inc. for \$573,160 to repair earthquake-damaged sewer mains. The project was supposed to be done by July of 2001, but because of difficulties that arose during construction, the contract time was extended 140 days. The delay will cost \$91,080, bringing the total price of the project to \$664,240.



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STATE

D.A. won't file charges in remaining Rampart cases

BY LINDA DEUTSCH
AP Special Correspondent

LOS ANGELES — The Rampart scandal investigation, which probed a deep vein of corruption in the Los Angeles Police Department, officially ended Monday with the district attorney deciding not to file criminal charges in 82 remaining incidents.

"Rampart showed us that there are some bad law enforcement officers who themselves became the gangsters that they were supposed to be policing," District Attorney Steve Cooley said in a written report closing the probe of the elite anti-gang unit at the Rampart station which brought disgrace on the department as a whole.

The center of the scandal was a renegade officer, Rafael Perez, and his partner, Nino Durden. Perez, caught in the theft of cocaine from an evidence room, spent months talking to investigators and making allegations of vast police wrongdoing including shootings, thefts and planting of weapons on suspects.

About 100 criminal cases were overturned because they were considered tainted by involvement of officers implicated in the investigation.

In the end, Perez himself emerged as the main culprit and many of his accusations against others were undermined by his own lies. His ultimate lack of credibility made him all but useless as a witness against others.

Cooley's report stressed that the early detection of officer misconduct is the key to preventing another scandal.

"Rampart ... showed us that these bad law enforcement officers must be detected early on, investigated thoroughly and prosecuted vigorously when there is sufficient evidence that they have committed

crimes," Cooley said.

Perez and Durden both faced state and federal prosecutions. Both pleaded guilty to charges stemming from the shooting and framing of a man in 1996 that left him paralyzed. Perez is serving a two-year term; Durden is serving five years.

The 82 remaining cases, involving Perez and eight others, had remained under investigation as a group rather than being dropped individually to determine whether some pattern might emerge.

"No clear patterns emerged," Cooley said. "The majority of the declinations involved either Perez or his former partner, Nino Durden, as suspects or essential witnesses. Both have been prosecuted and convicted in state and federal courts. Further prosecution is precluded by terms of their case settlements. And Perez's value as a witness is minimal due to his lack of credibility and insufficient evidence to corroborate his statements."

Cooley's spokeswoman, Sandi Gibbons, said there are still a few cases that have not been formally closed, but "This is the bulk of it."

"This basically completes the work of the division formed to investigate the so-called Rampart scandal," she said. "The division is now shut down."

"The bottom line is that this district attorney inherited these cases and he has issued reforms to prevent this from happening again."

Cooley said the new reforms include mechanisms for early detection of misconduct.

"Reforms instituted by the district attorney will enable the bad officers to be discovered more quickly and prosecuted when the evidence warrants," Cooley said. "It is a work in progress and the district attorney's office remains committed to this important job."

Series of earthquakes hit San Francisco Bay area

By The Associated Press

SAN RAMON — A series of minor earthquakes rattled the San Francisco Bay area, jarring nerves but leaving no reported damage or injuries.

A magnitude 3.5 quake shook the San Ramon area about 26 miles east of San Francisco at 10:22 a.m. Monday, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. It was followed minutes later by two 2.8 quakes.

The tremors followed a magnitude 3.8 quake around 7:58 p.m. Sunday and a magnitude 3.9 shaker at 6:54 a.m. Sunday, the USGS said.

More than 20 aftershocks followed Sunday morning's quake, with more than 10 following Sunday evening's rattler.

The quakes are being considered minor, but Stephanie Hanna, a spokeswoman for the USGS, says the agency will watch the epicenter closely because the recent activity is of the highest magnitude to hit that particular region of the Calaveras fault since the USGS began examining it in 1970.

There were no reports of any damage or injuries in either of the earthquakes, though a handful of residents called the Alameda County sheriff's department, a dispatcher said.

Tokop, Nev., also had a shaky weekend. A magnitude 3.0 quake hit at 11:51 Sunday evening, preceded by a magnitude 3.9 temblor around 4 p.m. that day.

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Santa Monica Daily Press



STATE



Asian shipping lines agree to program to fight smog

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Several of Asia's largest shipping lines have agreed to participate in a city-sponsored program aimed at reducing the amount of smog at the port of Los Angeles.

The "alternative maritime power" program — the first of its kind to target ship-ers — will allow large cargo ships to cut their engines and plug into the city's power system while they are docked at the port, Mayor James Hahn told the Los Angeles Times in an article published Monday.

About 2,200 cargo ships entered the port in 2001 with each staying an average of two days. The typical medium-sized cargo ship burns 7 tons of heavy bunker fuel a day while docked, contributing to poor air quality in the region, city officials said.

Although the U.S. Navy uses a similar model and cruise ships docking in Juneau, Alaska, participate in a similar program, no other city offers electrical power to major shipping lines, the Times said.

"The benefits of this will be huge," Hahn said. "For years, especially in the fall ... you can actually see a brown haze over the port because of the ships running their diesel engines."

Hahn, who is completing a 10-day pro-

motional tour of Asia, has met with officials from Nippon Yusen Kaisha Line and Mitsui O.S.K. Lines Ltd. in Tokyo. He has plans to meet with representatives of China Shipping in Shanghai, Orient Overseas Container Line Ltd. in Hong Kong and Yang Ming Line and Evergreen Marine Corp. in Taipei.

Together, those are some of the world's largest shipping companies, and each has indicated a willingness to participate in the program, the Times said.

As part of the program, the shipping lines will need to retrofit their ships at a cost of about \$500,000 each, but would save money on the fuel the ships now have to carry to run their engines while in port.

The city's Department of Water and Power will need to build an underground substation at the port and make other improvements that are expected to cost \$50 million to \$60 million over the next 10 years, according to DWP Executive Director David Wiggs. Those infrastructure changes could be handled by the municipal utility without increasing rates to customers, he said.

Wiggs, who is traveling with the mayor and other city officials, said the DWP could generate \$25 million to \$30 million a year if the program is successful.

Court says Berkeley may end free berthing for scouts

By The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A group affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America lost its legal bid Monday to continue to get free berthing at Berkeley Marina.

The city of Berkeley halted free berthing for the Sea Scouts in 1998 because of the scout's membership and leadership policies against gays. The scouts sued Berkeley and the San Francisco-based 1st District Court of Appeal said the scouts did not have a case.

Berkeley has provided free berthing for about six decades after the scouts permitted Berkeley to use rocks from a Boy Scout camp for fill in the marina.

The city stopped free access after it passed a 1997 ordinance forbidding the city from subsidizing groups that discriminate.

The scouts maintained that Berkeley's move, among other things, infringed on their free association rights and their rights of speech.

The court said the scouts, regardless of whether they get free berthing, can continue, under the First Amendment, to discriminate against gays. That notion has been upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.

"Berkeley's actions have not required appellants to stop discriminating," the court said.

The appeals panel said Berkeley, in turn, is not

discriminating against the scouts. The court said Berkeley is allowing the scouts to berth at the city marina, but is now charging \$516 per month.

Back to work



Noah Berger/Associated Press

A longshore worker hauls cargo to the Genoa Bridge during loading operations at the TransBay shipping terminal in Oakland on Sunday. West Coast dockworkers and shipping companies reached a tentative six-year contract agreement early Sunday, potentially ending a long, caustic labor dispute that closed the ports and prompted presidential intervention.

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STATE

Vietnam War nurse who inspired "China Beach" dies

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Lynda Van Devanter, an Army nurse during the Vietnam War whose autobiography inspired the popular television series "China Beach," has died. She was 55.

Van Devanter, who highlighted women's struggles with post traumatic stress disorder and chemicals including Agent Orange in her 1983 book "Home Before Morning," died Nov. 15 at her home in Herndon, Va., the Los Angeles Times reported Monday.

The cause was systemic collagen vascular disease, which she had attributed to her exposure to Agent Orange and other chemicals during the war.

A spokesman for the Vietnam Veterans of America said the organization will pursue an Agent Orange claim against the government on behalf of Van Devanter's daughter, Molly.

Van Devanter was the founding executive director of the Women's Project of the Vietnam Veterans of America from 1979 to 1984, testifying before Congress and other government agencies on behalf of the 7,465 women Vietnam veterans.

She joined the 71st Evacuation Hospital in Pleiku, South Vietnam, after telling herself: "If our boys were being blown apart, then somebody better be over there putting them back together again. I started to think that maybe that somebody should be me."

But her idealism disappeared amid the realities of war. Upon her return, she suffered from recurring nightmares of one of her patients, a teenage soldier whose face had been blown away.

The nurse's highly successful book, which described doctors and nurses indulging in drugs, alcohol and sex to

ease the horror of what they experienced during the war, also sparked criticism from a group called Nurses Against Misrepresentation.

Opponents were led by Patricia L. Walsh, a civilian nurse in Vietnam who published a fictional account of her experience, "Forever Sad the Hearts," in 1981. That book was being considered as a motion picture for Cher at the same time actress Sally Field optioned Van Devanter's book for a film. Neither movie materialized, but CBS developed "China Beach" starring Dana Delany, based partly on Van Devanter's book.

Walsh told the Times in 1987 that Van Devanter "portrayed medical teams in an utterly disgusting fashion" and said a number of the events portrayed in the book didn't happen.

Van Devanter responded, "In Vietnam, some of us did things that we were not so proud of at the time. But we were under enormous stress — physically, emotionally and spiritually."

Born in suburban Washington, D.C., Van Devanter earned a bachelor's degree in psychology at Antioch University and a nursing degree at Mercy Hospital School of Nursing in Baltimore.

After the war, she struggled, living on unemployment and welfare while battling her emotional scars.

"You learn pretty early on that if you drink enough, you don't dream and if you don't dream, you don't have nightmares," she said in a CNN interview in 2000. "That's why you have all these people coming back drinking."

After attending a post-traumatic stress therapy program called "walking through Vietnam," she began writing a book as part of her healing process.

Man gets three life terms for L.A. hospital shooting spree

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A former Skid Row resident was sentenced Monday to three consecutive life prison terms for a 1993 shooting rampage at County-USC Medical Center that wounded three doctors.

Damascio Ybarra Torres, 49, was convicted last month of three counts of attempted murder for shooting the doctors, as well as false imprisonment for holding a doctor and receptionist hostage for nearly five hours.

Torres, who is technically eligible for parole, was also sentenced to 25 years and eight months in prison in addition to the life terms.

Torres opened fire in the huge public hospital on Feb. 8, 1993. Prosecutors say he mistakenly believed doctors — not the three he shot — were conducting AIDS research on him.

Superior Court Judge Lance Ito handed down the terms after hearing testimony from one of the doctors who was wounded and receiving letters from the other two.

Dr. Richard May told the judge he suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder and fears he will be shot again. Besides no longer being able to suture a wound because of nerve damage to his fingers, May said he has had difficulty finding work as a "brain-injured physician."

"Before being shot, I was the associate

director of the busiest medical emergency walk-in clinic in the U.S.," May said.

The two other doctors' letters asked the judge to consider the impact of Torres' action when sentencing him.

"By his terrorist act, Mr. Torres not only caused severe and permanent physical and psychological injuries to Dr. May and me, but also has compromised patients' care," wrote Dr. Paul Kaszubowski. "Because of his act, millions of dollars have been diverted from patients toward security."

Dr. Glenn Rogers, who wrote that he has no grudge against Torres, said the convicted gunman should "remain in prison until he is so old that he is unlikely to act on his delusions."

Torres was legally sane but suffered from paranoid delusional disorder and believed doctors at County-USC had knowingly infected him with the AIDS virus, said Deputy District Attorney Karla Kerlin.

"He did think that it was a far-reaching conspiracy that was even in the computer system, so that should (he) seek medical treatment anywhere in L.A. County he believed that if they looked up his name in the computer they would find that he was the research subject," Kerlin said.

Torres was convicted in 1994 of the shooting spree, but a 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals panel later overturned the conviction and he was retried.

NATIONAL



Federal authorities announce bust of identity-theft ring

BY LARRY NEUMEISTER
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — Federal authorities broke up what they called the biggest identity theft case in U.S. history and charged three men Monday with stealing credit information from more than 30,000 people, draining victims' bank accounts and ruining their credit.

U.S. Attorney James Comey said the losses were calculated so far at \$2.7 million but would balloon to many more millions and affect consumers in every state. He called the case "every American's worst financial nightmare multiplied tens of thousands of times."

"With a few keystrokes, these men essentially picked the pockets of tens of thousands of Americans and, in the process, took their identities, stole their money and swiped their security," the prosecutor said.

Authorities said the scheme began about three years ago when Philip Cummings, a help-desk worker at Teledata Communications, a Long Island software company, sold an unidentified person passwords and codes for downloading consumer credit reports.

Cummings was allegedly paid roughly \$30 for each report, and the information was then passed on to at least 20 other people, who set out to make money from the stolen information, prosecutors said.

"The potential windfall was probably far greater than the content of a bank vault, and they didn't even need a getaway car. All they needed was a phone and a computer, or so they thought," said FBI Assistant Director Kevin P. Donovan.

More than 15,000 credit reports were stolen from Experian, a credit history bureau, using passwords belonging to Ford Motor Credit Corp., officials said.

They said thousands of other credit reports were stolen from companies such as Washington Mutual Finance Co. in Crossville, Tenn.; Dollar Bank in Cleveland; Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center in Illinois; the Personal Finance Co. in Frankfort, Ind.; the Medical Bureau in Clearwater, Fla.; Vintage Apartments in Houston;

and Community Bank of Chaska in Chaska, Minn.

Victims have reported losing money from their bank accounts, seeing their credit cards hit with unauthorized charges, and having their identities assumed by strangers.

Comey said one sobbing victim telephoned prosecutors to say someone stole her identity, opened a \$35,000 line of credit and cashed a check for \$34,000.

"So that's now on her back, that \$34,000," he said. "The people that take the hit ultimately will be all of us, although in the

short term it will be the companies that paid on the credit cards, the banks that lent them money."

Comey said many victims may not yet know they were defrauded. He urged consumers to pay closer attention to their financial statements and credit histories and learn how to protect themselves through the Federal Trade Commission's Web site.

Comey said there was no reason to suspect a terrorism connection, with simple greed the apparent motive. He said prosecutors were sending letters to the more than 30,000 victims, offer-

ing help.

He said the investigation was still in its early stages, though prosecutors had "found the guys who opened the fire hydrant of fraud."

Cummings, 33, of Cartersville, Ga., was released on \$500,000 bond after an appearance in Manhattan federal court Monday at which he did not speak. His lawyer declined to comment on the charges. If convicted, Cummings could get up to 30 years in prison for wire fraud and millions in fines.

Homeland gets security



Kenneth Lambert/Associated Press

President Bush signs the Homeland Security Act on Monday in the East Room at the White House. The Department of Homeland Security, the newest Cabinet level department, will be composed of 22 existing agencies with combined budgets of about \$40 billion and employee 170,000 workers.

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NATIONAL

Court delays murder trial over whether to allow filming

BY PAM EASTON
Associated Press Writer

HOUSTON — The highest court in Texas delayed a murder trial Monday and ordered the judge to explain why he has decided to allow a TV documentary to videotape jury deliberations in the death penalty case.

The order from the Court of Criminal Appeals came a few hours after District Judge Ted Poe rejected prosecutors' objections to his decision. The court said Poe must address those concerns by next Monday.

"In unusual situations, the court will become involved in an ongoing trial. This is an unusual case," said Richard Wetzel, general counsel for the appeals court.

Legal experts say there has never been a TV film of jury deliberations in a U.S. death penalty case. Poe has said the film would be educational and that there is no state law prohibiting it.

The case involves 17-year-old Cedric Harrison, who is charged with fatally shooting a man during a carjacking last June. Jury selection has begun.

Earlier this month, Poe approved a request from the PBS program "Frontline" to film the deliberations. Producers say they want their documentary to promote understanding of capital justice.

The plan called for an unobtrusive ceiling camera, with videotapes kept sealed by the court until after the verdict.

PBS has the approval of Harrison and his attorneys.

"We're doing it because this is a 17-year-old man that the state of Texas is attempting to kill," defense attorney Ricardo Rodriguez said during Monday's hearing in which Poe declined to reconsider his Nov. 11 decision. "We're going to make sure everything is done correctly."

Prosecutor Warren Diepraam said filming deliberations would cause "great harm" and could endanger the panel later.

"The process is supposed to be secret," he said. "The defendant or his family could use the deliberation process (for retaliation) after it is published."

Prosecutors also asked the Court of Criminal Appeals to step in.

Henry Schleiff, chairman and chief executive officer of Court TV, which has broadcast about 800 trials in the last 11 years, said the network has never asked to film jury deliberations.

"It's something we have not tried to do and we are actually against," Schleiff said.

Richard Dieter, director of the Death Penalty Information Center, said it is the first time he has ever heard of a camera being allowed in a deliberation room during a capital case.

"The precedent is almost always jury deliberations are private," he said. "You put them in a private room and even the judge doesn't know what is going on unless they come out with questions. It doesn't sound like a good thing."

Poe, a former prosecutor who was appointed to the bench in 1981, is well known in Houston. He has forced convicts to carry signs outside the courthouse proclaiming their crime and earlier this year

said a teacher convicted of having sex with a student was "a bigger threat to our culture and our students than Osama bin Laden and his cave dwellers."

In the Harrison case, the judge said only 14 of the 110 jurors who filled out jury questionnaires voiced a concern about the filming.

"If I thought (cameras in the courtroom) would affect anybody's decision, I wouldn't do it," Poe told the Houston Chronicle last week. "I would never do anything in a trial to jeopardize justice. I

believe we have the best system there ever has been. We shouldn't be ashamed of how it works. Let's show it off."

University of Texas law professor George Dix said Poe's decision is contrary to the tradition of protecting deliberations.

"Juries need to be free to do what they see as best without fearing repercussions from the community and this seems to fly in the face of that," Dix said.

Still, if deliberations are filmed, Dix said: "I would like to get a copy for my class."

Post office closed by anthrax could reopen by this summer

By The Associated Press

HAMILTON, N.J. — A New Jersey mail facility closed for more than a year because of anthrax contamination could be cleaned up in the spring and reopened by summer, a U.S. Postal Service official said Monday.

The timetable was the first given by postal officials for cleanup of the Hamilton building, which was contaminated last October when anthrax leaked from letters that were being processed there.

The cleaning in Hamilton will begin after anthrax is cleared from a contaminated facility in Washington, D.C., said Thomas Day, a vice president of engineering for the postal service.

During the decontamination, the buildings will be sealed and then fumigated

with chlorine dioxide to kill any spores that remain inside, Day said in testimony before a state Assembly committee. The cost of cleaning the two buildings is expected to be more than \$100 million.

More than 1,000 employees were relocated when the Hamilton office closed. Local officials have been frustrated by the delay in cleaning up and reopening the building.

Five people died and 13 others were sickened last fall when anthrax-laden letters were mailed to NBC news anchor Tom Brokaw, the New York Post and the Washington, D.C., offices of Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle and Sen. Patrick Leahy. All bore Trenton postmarks.

The FBI has yet to name a suspect, though officials say there are about 30 "persons of interest."



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INTERNATIONAL



Weapons inspectors arrive to begin historic mission

BY BASSEM MROUE

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A working team of U.N. weapons inspectors returned to Iraq on Monday for the first time in four years to begin searching for chemical, biological and nuclear weapons. Iraq says it does not possess such arms, but the United States alleges it retains some and may be producing others.

With the threat of war hanging over the mission, a spokeswoman for the inspectors urged both cooperation from the Iraqis and patience from other countries — an apparent reference to the United States, which has threatened military action if President Saddam Hussein's government tries to obstruct the inspections.

"We have a huge mandate," spokeswoman Melissa Fleming told reporters. "It's going to take time, and we require a lot of patience from our member states as well as transparency and cooperation from the Iraqis."

The contingent of 17 inspectors arrived aboard a white C-130 transport plane from Cyprus along with their cargo of high-tech sensors, computers and other gear.

They will begin inspections Wednesday, starting with sites that had been visited before the program was suspended in December 1998. U.N. officials said the inspectors will, among other things, check on cameras and other surveillance equipment left by earlier inspectors.

Later, the team will branch out to new or rebuilt sites — including suspected storage places for chemical weapons which U.S. intelligence alleges are still held by Iraq. Fleming said about 35 additional inspectors will come to Baghdad on Dec. 8 — the deadline for Iraq to submit a report on all its nuclear, chemical and biological programs, including those said to be for peaceful purposes.

"We come here with, let's say, hope that things will go well this time, and we will get what is required of Iraq," Fleming said. "We're aware that we will be watched, every move. I think the Iraqis are also aware that the entire world is watching."

The roster of U.N. inspectors includes some 300 chemists, biologists, missile and ordnance experts and other specialists of UNMOVIC, and a few dozen engineers and physicists of the U.N. nuclear agency. Between 80 and 100 will be working in Iraq at any one time.

Despite Iraqi denials, the United States is convinced



Jassim Mohammed/Associated Press

U.N. weapons inspectors sit in a bus after arriving at Saddam Airport in Baghdad, Iraq on Monday. The first team of U.N. inspectors landed in Iraq on Monday afternoon to take up the hunt for chemical, biological or nuclear arms programs.

Saddam still retains some weapons of mass destruction and is committed to building more. The United States has urged the inspectors to pursue their search vigorously and intrusively since the new Security Council resolution grants them sweeping powers to go anywhere at any time in search of banned weapons.

"We have no doubt he does have weapons of mass destruction," British Prime Minister Tony Blair said of Saddam at a news conference in London. "So let's wait and see what he actually says" in the Dec. 8 report.

Shortly after Blair spoke, the British Parliament voted to support the U.N. resolution on Iraq, while denying a motion to require legislative approval to deploy British troops.

At a U.N. briefing Monday in New York, chief weapons inspector Hans Blix said that he warned Iraq that it must provide convincing evidence if it maintains that it has no illegal weapons programs.

He said the inspectors would begin their work as expected on Wednesday and that he urged Iraq during in a meeting there last week to make a complete declaration and "to look into stores and stocks" to ensure that everything is reported.

In Paris, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan and French President Jacques Chirac urged Iraq to cooperate fully with the inspectors. "It's the only way to avoid a military conflict in the region," Annan said.

Chirac said Iraq has agreed to recognize the validity of the inspections. If the Iraqis fail to live up to their obligations, Chirac added, "all outcomes are possible."

On Monday, Iraqi Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan said Iraq would cooperate with the inspectors "to prove to the whole world the evil American plan that aims to dominate the region and serve the Zionist interests, not search for the so-called weapons of mass destruction."

The Iraqi government released a letter Sunday from Foreign Minister Naji Sabri to Annan protesting that parts of the U.N. resolution mandating the inspection mission could give Washington a pretext to attack his country.

Sabri complained in particular that the resolution could turn "inaccurate statements (among) thousands of pages" of mandatory Iraqi reports into a supposed justification for military action.

The United Nations established the inspection program in 1991 after a U.S.-led coalition drove Iraqi forces out of Kuwait. The inspectors were to verify that Iraq had lived up to commitments to disarm contained in the cease-fire declaration that ended the Gulf War.

U.S. and U.N. officials maintained for years that Iraq sought to block inspectors and prevent them from carrying out their duties. Iraq accused the inspectors of misrepresenting their findings and of being little more than a cover for U.S. espionage. The inspections were suspended amid disputes over U.N. access to sensitive Iraqi sites and Iraqi complaints of American spying.

Spain steps up cleanup efforts along Galicia coastline

BY MAR ROMAN

Associated Press Writer

MADRID, Spain — Storms abated along the northwest coast of Spain, enabling ships on Monday to vacuum some of the oil that spilled from the tanker Prestige before it sank.

One anti-pollution ship, the French vessel Ailette, had already sucked more than 90,000 gallons from the sea since it began work Sunday, a government statement said. The oil was deposited at a refinery in the northwestern port of A Coruna.

The Ailette and two other ships were focusing on the main slick more than 60 miles off northwest Spain. Four more anti-pollution ships from Belgium, Britain, Germany and the Netherlands are set to join the cleanup effort later this week.

Gale-force winds and rains have whipped through the region for the past two weeks, but the storms gradually diminished over the weekend.

The statement said some 900 workers and volunteers have shoveled up 1,470 tons of oil waste from 141 beaches affected since the Prestige nearly ran aground on Nov. 13.

The Bahamas-flagged Prestige was towed out to sea and sank after breaking in two last Tuesday, taking most of its 20 million gallons of fuel oil to the ocean floor.

The disaster has led to a precautionary ban on fishing over 300 miles of coastline, affecting some 7,000 workers.

Spain estimates 2.9 million gallons spilled from the tanker before it sank. Environmental groups claim it lost twice

that much.

Portuguese authorities insisted Monday that the Prestige was still leaking small amounts of fuel oil. Spain disputes the claim, saying its experts believe the oil inside the ship probably solidified on the cold Atlantic floor.

"In the area where the ship sank there are still some traces of pollution which suggests that, though the quantities are quite small, there is some small leakage," said Portuguese Navy official Augusto Ezequiel, spokesman for the country's crisis committee.

Based on observations from a Portuguese patrol plane that flew over the region where the tanker sank, Ezequiel said there was one main slick measuring nine miles by three miles some 70 miles west of Cape Finisterre in Spain.

Two smaller ones, measuring about 200 yards by 300 yards, were about 150 miles from land. He predicted the slicks would continue to head northeast over the next 48 hours.

Spanish fishery workers said small

Legislation restricting media access vetoed

BY ERIC ENGLEMAN

Associated Press Writer

MOSCOW — Russian President Vladimir Putin vetoed legislation Monday that would have sharply reduced the news media's ability to report on counterterrorism operations and rebel activities.

The legislation have prohibited the media from reporting any information seen as hindering anti-terrorist operations, including description of tactics. It also would have banned the broadcast or publication of rebel statements and any propaganda perceived as justifying extremist activity.

During a meeting with senior Russian media leaders, Putin said he asked leaders of both houses of parliament to form a conciliation commission to work on new legislation governing terrorism coverage. Major Russian media had vigorously

protested the measures, which both houses of parliament overwhelmingly approved in the wake of the hostage-taking by Chechen rebels in a Moscow theater last month. Thirty organizations, including Russia's two main state-controlled television channels and their independent rivals, signed a letter last week urging the president to reject the measure.

Many journalists said the restrictions could be used to shut down any news organization that irks authorities. They also complained that the restrictions could be used to further restrict coverage of the war in Chechnya — which Russian officials routinely refer to as a "counter-terrorist operation."

The Kremlin had bitterly criticized reporting by some Russian news media of the Moscow theater siege, believing it had been favorable to the rebel cause and threatened rescue operations. During Monday's

meeting with journalists, Putin reiterated his displeasure with the hostage coverage. "Television pictures from one channel a few minutes before the storming, when the movement of special forces was shown, could have led to an enormous tragedy," Putin said in televised comments.

He accused some media of acting irresponsibly to "boost their ratings" and make more money during the theater siege. "The main weapon of terrorists is not grenades and bullets, but blackmail, and the best means of such blackmail is to turn a terrorist act into a public show," Putin said, according to ITAR-Tass.

Chechen rebels seized the theater on Oct. 23, and Russian special forces stormed the building three days later, killing 41 militants. At least 129 hostages have also died from the effects of a narcotic gas used to knock out the rebels.



SPORTS

Teeing off in Taiwan



Wally Santana/Associated Press

Andrew Pitts of the United States watches the flight of his tee-shot on the 18th hole during the BMW Asian Open golf tournament Sunday at the Ta Shue Golf and Country Club in Taoyuan, Taiwan. Pitts finished third with two others, carding 12-under par, 276, in the 1.5 million dollar event.

Red Sox hire youngest G.M. in major league history

BY JIMMY GOLEN

AP Sports Writer

BOSTON — It's no wonder the Boston Red Sox are so comfortable putting the team in the hands of 28-year-old Theo Epstein. After all, the New York Yankees won three World Series after they hired the youngest general manager in the major leagues.

The Red Sox made Epstein the youngest GM in big league history on Monday, giving the local boy wonder a promotion and hoping he can lead the team to its first World Series title since 1918.

"We're going to become a championship organization," he said at a news conference at Fenway Park, about a mile from where he was raised. "We're going to win a World Series."

Much has been made of Epstein's age — the joke on talk radio is that he can be a San Francisco Giants bat boy when he grows up — but the only difference between him and previous Boston GMs is the era in which the Red Sox first broke their hearts.

It's now 84 seasons since the Red Sox last won it all, a fact not lost on Epstein. He moved to the area at the age of 4 1/2 in 1978 — "the Bucky Dent year," he noted, though no one around here really needs reminding.

"I was a Red Sox fan from Day 1," said Epstein, who is the 11th GM since the club's first was hired in 1933. "Growing up in New England, you never lose the Red Sox from your blood. Being here, being general manager of this club, it just feels right."

The Red Sox had been without a permanent general manager since Florida financier John W. Henry bought the team in spring training and fired Dan Duquette. Mike Port was the interim GM during the season and a candidate for the long-term job; he has been invited to remain as vice president of baseball operations but has not decided whether to accept.

Former Philadelphia Phillies general manager Lee Thomas, who had been a special assistant under Port, has also been asked to stay on, with expanded duties. Former Detroit Tigers GM Bill Lajoie

could also be asked aboard as the Red Sox try to supplement Epstein's brains and exuberance with more experienced hands — an organizational structure the Yankees used to ease Brian Cashman into the top job there.

"I definitely see a similarity," said Red Sox president Larry Lucchino, who has nurtured Epstein at three major league organizations. "But it's not just a Yankees model, it's the kind of baseball braintrust they're using in Oakland and other places."

Lucchino was running the show in Baltimore when Epstein came on as an intern, and he followed Lucchino to the San Diego Padres. Epstein spent two years in San Diego's media relations department, two as a baseball operations assistant and became the Padres' director of baseball operations after his graduation in 2000.

Still, his heart was with the Red Sox. And when the group headed by Henry and TV producer Tom Werner bought the team in February and put Lucchino in charge, Epstein came in as assistant GM.

He toiled at Port's side this year, representing the club at the general managers' meetings and even negotiating with Oakland over compensation when it appeared that Athletics GM Billy Beane would take the Boston job. Beane backed out, citing family reasons, and joined in the chorus of those recommending Epstein for the job.

Last week, without ever interviewing Epstein or even acknowledging he was being considered, Lucchino began to focus on the candidate right in front of him.

"We're aware that as a public relations matter there are safer choices. But Theo is someone who is ready for this job," Lucchino said. "Theo is young, but he's older than he was when the process started."

With that, Epstein became the newest of baseball's new breed. Epstein is 34 days shy of his 29th birthday; Randy Smith was 29, six days short of his 30th birthday, when he was hired by the San Diego Padres in 1993.

"Irrespective of his age, we are confident Theo is among the best and the brightest in baseball," Werner said. "We believe that the team he'll assemble will achieve results for which we so yearn."

Sudden death falls upon Texas A&M football player

BY MICHAEL A. LUTZ

AP Sports Writer

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — A Texas A&M freshman football player died Monday morning after complaining to his roommate he was having trouble breathing.

Brandon Fails, 18, died at St. Joseph Regional Health Center, school officials said. An autopsy will be performed to determine the cause of death.

The 6-foot-1, 307-pound defensive lineman appeared in four games for the Aggies before undergoing knee surgery on Oct. 22.

"Brandon was a bright-eyed young man with an engaging personality," Texas A&M coach R.C. Slocum said. "You couldn't be around Brandon for very long without smiling. He was an outstanding football player but an even better person."

"He was the kind of guy you wanted to hug when you got near him," Slocum said. "He was a touchy kind of guy, just a lovable kid."

Slocum said Fails' roommate, tight end Patrick Fleming, told him Fails collapsed as they prepared to leave their room for breakfast in the dorm cafeteria.

"It would be only speculation at this point as to the cause of his death," Slocum said. "He was fine. He was at practice yesterday afternoon. He did not practice. He was recuperating from knee surgery early in the year."

Fleming told Slocum he and Fails went out to dinner with a friend Sunday evening without any problems.

Slocum informed Fails' parents of their son's death.

"Any time you get in a situation like this it dramatically points out what is really important," Slocum said. "You are sitting in a room with a mother and father and telling them their son is dead. Everything else pales by comparison."

Slocum said the team would not practice on Monday but would resume workouts Tuesday to prepare for Friday's regular-season finale against the Texas Longhorns in Austin. There were no plans to attempt to postpone the game.

"I don't think you could do that," Slocum said. "I don't think Brandon or his family would want that. We have an obligation to Brandon and his legacy to practice tomorrow and to be ready to play."

Defensive line coach Buddy Wyatt said Fails had a promising future and was popular among his teammates.

"It's hard for a kid that's college age and thinks he's invincible and see one of his friends not here with us," Wyatt said. "Some of the younger guys that came in with him are having a tougher time than the older guys."

"But they all spend a lot of time together in meetings and lifting weight. Not having Brandon a part of them is tearing them up," he said.

Fails' parents rushed to College Station from their home near Fort Worth early Monday.

Fails is the third player to die during Slocum's 14 seasons as Aggies coach.

Defensive lineman Terry Nichols was killed in a car accident on May 27, 2000. In November 1991, kicker James Glenn collapsed before practice and died. An autopsy revealed he had an enlarged heart.

Eagles soar over S.F. 49ers

BY GREG BEACHAM

AP Sports Writer

San Francisco — When the game of Koy Detmer's life abruptly ended with a scary elbow injury, A.J. Feeley capably backed up the backup — and the Philadelphia Eagles rolled on to an impressive win.

Filling in tremendously for Donovan McNabb, Detmer passed for 227 yards and two touchdowns and rushed for another score before leaving with a dislocated left elbow late in the Eagles' 38-17 win over San Francisco on Monday night.

McNabb is expected to miss the rest of the regular season with a broken ankle, but in Detmer's first start since 1999, he was outstanding for nearly three quarters. Using all of his receivers in coach Andy Reid's unpredictable game plan, Detmer carved up the 49ers' confused secondary and staked the Eagles (8-3) to a big lead in a one-sided meeting of division leaders.

Detmer, a career backup who had thrown just 17 passes since 1999 completed 18 of his 26 throws — until he landed heavily on his left arm as Chike Okefor knocked him to the ground after completing a 24-yard pass to Jeff Thomason.

Detmer flailed his legs in pain on the ground as team doctors rushed to him. When he was loaded onto a cart with tears in his eyes, the Eagles' entire roster and the Niners' defense wished him well at midfield.

Feeley, the third-stringer who hadn't

thrown a pass all season, hit Chad Lewis for a 1-yard TD moments later — and the Eagles were all but assured of a conference victory that might turn out to be very important when playoff seedings are determined in five weeks.

Team doctors popped Detmer's elbow back into place, and he wore a grin on his unshaven face while watching from the sideline as Feeley finished off the rout. It wasn't immediately clear when Detmer might be able to return to action.

Brian Mitchell returned a punt 76 yards for a touchdown, while Todd Pinkston and Antonio Freeman caught TD passes from Detmer as the Eagles mowed down the 49ers' defense even without McNabb or a consistent running game.

Terrell Owens had 13 catches for 166 yards and two TDs, but in spite of a warm night on Candlestick Point and the Eagles' desperate quarterback situation, the 49ers were terrible on both sides of the ball while losing at home for just the third time in two seasons.

The Niners (7-4) still lead the NFC West by two games, but they've lost consecutive games for the first time since midway through the 2000 season.

The night went nowhere but up from the Eagles' first play from scrimmage, when Detmer stumbled to one knee untouched on a routine dropback, then got sacked by Andre Carter at the 1. While the Eagles' powerful defense held San Francisco in check, however, Detmer got his bearings and led a 90-yard scoring drive.

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 - 40 Mexican sendoff
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 - 22 Contented sound
 - 23 Capital of Venezuela
 - 24 Green hue
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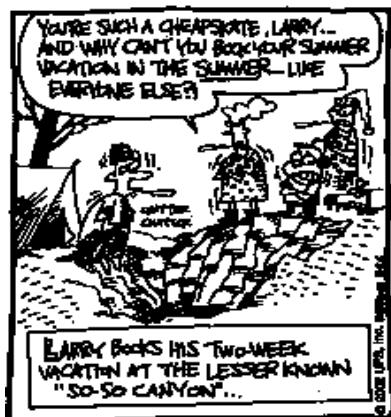
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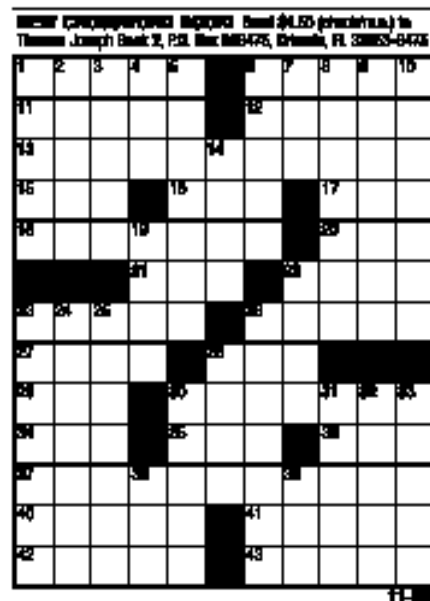
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NEWS OF THE WEIRD by Chuck Shepard

Controversial N.J. poet asked to resign

A state humanities and arts panel named Amiri Baraka the poet laureate of New Jersey earlier this year, several months after he had written a poem suggesting that Jews, and President Bush, had advance knowledge of the Sept. 11 attacks. Gov. James McGreevey, who announced the appointment in August 2002, now wants Baraka to resign, but Baraka has refused. In addition to the \$10,000 the poet laureate receives from the state, Baraka has gotten several five-figure taxpayer grants for his poetry, favorite themes of which are attacks on religion, whites and Jews.

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Call (310) 458-7737 ext. 104

Calendar

Tuesday, November 26, 2002

movies

Loews Broadway Cinema

1441 Third St. at Broadway
Femme Fatale (R) 12:40, 3:40, 6:40, 9:40. Half Past Dead (PG-13) 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10. The Emperor's Club (PG-13) 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:20. Ararat (R) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00.

Mann Criterion

1313 Third St.
The Ring (PG-13) 12:45, 4:00, 7:30, 10:40. My Big Fat Greek Wedding (PG 7:40, 9:55. Punch-Drunk Love (R) 11:45, 2:30, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15. Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets (PG) 9:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 3:30, 4:00, 4:30, 7:00, 8:00, 10:30, 11:45.

AMC Theatre SM 7

1310 3rd Street
Santa Clause 2 (G) 11:20, 1:40, 4:25, 7:10, 9:40. I Spy (PG-13) 11:15, 1:30, 7:05, 9:30. The Sweet Home Alabama (PG-13) 10:30, 4:00, 8 Mile (R) 12:30, 1:20, 3:45, 4:35, 6:45, 7:45, 9:50, 10:45. Die Another Day (PG-13) 11:00, 1:10, 1:55, 4:15, 5:00, 7:25, 8:10, 10:30, 11:10. I Spy (PG-13) 11:15, 1:30, 7:05, 9:30. Jackass: The Movie (R) 12:15, 2:45, 5:10, 7:55, 10:35.

Landmark Nu-Wilshire

1314 Wilshire Blvd.
Bowling for Columbine (R) 1:30, 4:15, 7:30, 10:15. Far From Heaven (PG-13) 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30.

Laemmle Monica

1332 2nd St.
Real Women Have Curves (PG-13) 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00. The Fourth Tenor 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:15. The Quiet American (R) 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40. El Crimen del Padre Amaro (R) 1:30, 4:20, 7:15, 10:05.

Aero Theatre

1328 Montana Ave.
Secretary 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

Today

Ongoing support groups for people 55 and older. Current openings in, So, What Are You Going to Do With the Rest of your Life? Tuesdays, 10:00 to 11:30am. Center for Healthy Aging, 2125 Arizona Avenue. Sliding scale fee. Not drop-in groups. Phone interview required. Call Information and Referral. (310)576-2550.

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BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUPS AT SMC'S EMERITUS COLLEGE. Santa Monica College offers free bereavement support groups in the summer session through it's Emeritus College, a widely praised program designed for older adults. Two support groups will meet Tuesdays on an ongoing basis. One group will meet from noon to 1:50 p.m.

and the other from 7 p.m. to 8:50 p.m. For information and registration, call Emeritus College at (310) 434-4306.

Crossroads Schools in Santa Monica invites local musicians (grades 3-7) to join orchestra rehearsals. Rehearsals are ongoing and are held each Tuesday of the school year, from 3:15 to 4:15. Students may join at anytime. Cost is free, students must bring their own instruments. 1714 21st Street, SM. For more information please call (310)829-7391

Senior Suppers - Discounted meals for people AGE 55 or older are served daily, from 3:30 p.m. To 7 p.m., in the cafeteria at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center, 1250 16th Street in Santa Monica. \$3.69 Info only: (310)319-4837.

Unurban Coffee House presents Stitch 'n' Bitch every Tuesday evening. Chicks, yarn, coffee & chat. 7:30pm to 9:30pm. 3301 Pico Blvd. (310)315-0056

Wednesday

Farmer's Market every Wednesday and

Saturday, 9am to 2pm, Arizona between Second and Fourth Streets. Come and enjoy one of the largest and best farmer's markets in California!

Puppetolio! presented by the Santa Monica Puppet & Magic Center. All ages, 3 and up. This musical revue features marionettes, ventriloquism, magic and more. Shows are always followed by a demonstration, Q & A, and a tour of the Puppet workshop and Museum. Saturdays and Sundays at 1pm and 3pm. Wednesdays and Holidays at 1pm. Seats are \$6.50. 1255 2nd Street in Santa Monica. Reservations/Information (310)656-0483. www.puppetmagic.com Santa Monica Public Library presents Preschool Story Time, every Wednesday at 11:15am, 1343 Sixth Street. Stories for children between the ages of three and five who are ready to participate on their own. (310)458-8600

Dodd Art Gallery showing Dafne Nesti "Paintings" and Dodd Jolsapple "New Works". Nov. 17th through Dec. 16th, 5pm to 8pm, 1650 20th Street, Santa Monica. For more information please call (310) 828-5825.

Santa Monica Strutters, a FREE program sponsored by UCLA Healthcare's 50-Plus Program! Walking programs for adults 50 or older looking for safe, low-impact exercise in a comfortable environment. The Santa Monica Strutters meet Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 8 a.m. To 10 a.m., at Santa Monica Place, Fourth St. and Broadway Ave. in Santa Monica.

Ongoing support groups for people 55 and older. Current openings in Parents of Adult Children. Wednesdays 2:00 to 3:30. Center for Healthy Aging, 2125 Arizona Avenue. Sliding scale fee. Not drop-in groups. Phone interview required. Call Information and Referral. (310)576-2550.

Senior Suppers - Discounted meals for people AGE 55 or older are served daily, from 3:30 p.m. To 7 p.m., in the cafeteria at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center, 1250 16th Street in Santa Monica. \$3.69 Info only: (310)319-4837.

Unurban Coffee House presents Poetry and Spoken Word every Wednesday evening. Hosted by Tony Perez. 8pm, 3301 Pico Blvd. (310)315-0056

Calendar items are printed free of charge as a service to our readers. Please submit your items to todaypaper@smdp.com for consideration. Calendar events are limited by space, and will be run at the discretion of the Calendar Editor.

KEEP YOUR DATE STRAIGHT

Promote your event in the Santa Monica Daily Press Calendar section.
Fax all information to our Calendar Editor: Attention Angela @ 310.576.9913



BACK PAGE

Financially strapped parents dip into their kids' credit

BY MARTHA IRVINE

AP National Writer

CHICAGO — It was her first credit card application, or so she thought, prompted by an offer on her Ohio college campus for a free T-shirt.

But a rejection letter uncovered troubling news — someone had already opened four credit cards in her name and racked up \$50,000 in debt.

That someone, it turns out, was her father.

"I couldn't believe it," says the young woman, who asked not to be named for fear of humiliating her father, who was never charged criminally.

Now 25 and living in Chicago, she says she knew her father was struggling financially after his divorce from her mother and the failure of his restaurant. But she never imagined he'd fill out credit card applications sent to his home in her name. "He completely violated my trust and my privacy and my future," she says.

With the proliferation of credit cards, experts say parents who've botched their own finances are increasingly tempted to dip into their children's credit. As co-signers, all they need is a birth date and Social Security number.

"I've seen it happen a lot — and the damage it takes to correct it is tremendous," says Howard Dvorkin, president of Florida-based Consolidated Credit Counseling Services. "These people don't go in with the intention of screwing up their kids' credit. The problem is, old habits are hard to break."

In some cases, law enforcement is step-

ping in. Last month, a father from Billings, Mont., was sentenced to five years in prison for charging \$12,000 to credit cards in his daughter's name.

Some parents put bills — cable TV, utilities — in their kids' names.

That's what Teena Touch, a 28-year-old Los Angeles resident, says her father did.

"It started with my summer jobs — checks my dad was supposed to deposit but never did," says Touch, whose father was convicted of embezzlement in 1993.

Dionicio Campos, a 29-year-old Chicagoan, says he's been stuck untangling the trouble caused by his mother's ex-boyfriend and others using his Social Security number.

"I'm sure a 17-year-old kid isn't worrying about his mom taking his stuff from him — but maybe he should," Campos says.

Overall, identity theft and credit card fraud have reached an "epidemic level," says Carl Pergola, national director of fraud investigations for accounting firm BDO Seidman.

Vital information, he says, is stolen by everyone from parents to co-workers to hucksters who post fake job listings or run other schemes.

He says young people whose parents have money problems should consider running regular credit reports — and request that the three major credit agencies notify them when new accounts are opened in their name.

Last year, the Federal Trade Commission says, 6 percent of the 86,168 people who reported identity theft to the agency said a family member was responsible. Joanna Crane, an attorney who

manages the FTC's identity theft program, says those figures are "only the tip of the iceberg," since many cases go unreported or are reported directly to credit providers.

Even if parents aren't stealing credit, experts say young people whose parents are bad money managers should still seek help with their finances — even for simple matters like creating a monthly budget.

"Parents don't realize that their bad financial habits are being passed on to their kids," says Michelle Hoesly, a member of the Million Dollar Round Table, an organization of finance professionals.

For children whose parents have abused their credit, the options include paying off the debt in big chunks or filing a complaint that could send the parent to jail. "Those choices are not very good," Dvorkin says.

Not wanting to file a complaint against her dad, the 25-year-old woman from Chicago persuaded him to consolidate the \$50,000 credit-card debt and pay it off by having his wages garnished.

Meanwhile, she had \$30,000 in students loans of her own.

"I worried about everything — 'Am I going to be able to get a car when I graduate?' 'Am I going to be able to get an apartment?' 'Am I going to find someone who's going to want to marry someone with \$80,000 debt?'" she says.

Her father, now a city bus driver, declined to comment. But five years later, the debt is finally gone.

Now married and working in marketing for a health care company, the young woman says she learned a valuable lesson: "Now I pay off my credit card every month."

Ex-mayor in Kentucky pleads guilty to child porn charges

By The Associated Press

ASHLAND, Ky. — The former mayor pleaded guilty Monday to child-pornography charges that prompted his resignation earlier this year.

Paul R. Reeves, 57, admitted receiving and possessing two videos that contained child pornography. Under the plea agreement, he faces 27 to 33 months in prison and a fine of \$6,000 to \$60,000 at sentencing April 22.

The FBI said Reeves ordered the tapes from an undercover company run by postal inspectors. Postal inspectors said they entered Reeves' home in May and found him watching a child-porn videotape. He resigned days later.

U.S. Attorney Mark Wohlander said the probe began two years ago when Reeves' credit card number was found on a child-porn Web server in Dallas.

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Served 7:00pm - 10:00pm. Includes coffee or tea. Tax & tip extra. Expires 11/30/02

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Santa Monica Daily Press