

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ In September, Floyd Edwards, 78, set out to drive his friend Ruth Stancil, 62, and Edwards' son Clifford from their home near Erwin, Tenn., to nearby North Carolina towns for shopping, as they routinely do once a month. The round trip is usually about 100 miles, but once again, a senior driver became confused, lost track of time and distance, and was fearful of stopping. By the time the three returned, 60 hours later, they had traveled 1,600 miles, as far as an Atlanta suburb, where Edwards accidentally fell at a gas station and hit his head, necessitating a call to police, who were able to help the group turn around.

■ David Roy Truscott, 35, pleaded guilty in Cornwall, England, in September to three arsons and a burglary of a farmhouse near Redruth, but the burglary was less significant than what he did when he got onto the property. Police said Truscott had submerged himself in a manure pit in order to masturbate. (Also, containers of liquid sludge were found at his home.) At the crime scene, two items of Truscott's were picked up, but of questionable usefulness given the severity of his alleged behavior: tissues and rubber gloves.

TODAY IN HISTORY

In 1965, France launched its first satellite, sending a 92-pound capsule into orbit.

In 1986, President Reagan appointed a commission headed by former Sen. John Tower to investigate his National Security Council staff in the wake of the Iran-Contra affair.

Ten years ago: Thirty clergymen were elevated to the rank of cardinal in a Vatican ceremony presided over by Pope John Paul II. Margaret Garrish, a 72-year-old Detroit woman, committed suicide in the presence of Dr. Jack Kevorkian.

Five years ago: Sixteen people were killed when a Norwegian high-speed passenger ferry hit a shoal and sank off Boemla Island, 250 miles west of Oslo.

One year ago: Human rights activist Gao Zhan, who was freed from a Chinese prison after the U.S. government interceded on her behalf, pleaded guilty in Alexandria, Va., to illegally selling American high-tech items with potential military uses to China. (Gao later received a reduced sentence of seven months in prison for her cooperation with authorities.)

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Salvation found on Fourth Street

BY PAM WIGHT

Special to the Daily Press

DOWNTOWN — Many people might only know the Salvation Army as the local thrift store, or the truck service that will pick up used furniture from the curbside.

Or, of course, the bell-ringing kettle people who they hurry past on their way to do their holiday shopping.

But it is also a non-denominational Christian church, which dates back to its founding in 1865 by Englishman William Booth.

"The Salvation Army has been raising money at Christmas time with the kettle people at grocery stores for 115 years," said Captain Brian West, a pastor at the Santa Monica Corps. of the Army on Fourth Street. "We bring out the kettles one week before Thanksgiving and go until Dec. 24 — this year 32 days of collecting."

The Christmas season is the Army's busiest time of year and the most lucrative.

Each kettle makes a minimum of \$200 to \$300 per day, and can make significantly more as Christmas draws closer, West said.

With between 15 to 20 kettles out each day in Santa Monica, the goal is to raise at least \$105,000 this holiday season.

Only three or four kettle people are volunteers. The rest are paid.

"We do have to pay our bell ringers to stand," West said. "So we put them on the payroll because it's for 30 days. Some people ask if we pay them from the kettles, but those days are long gone."

The kettle program to help the poor began with one giant kettle on the docks of San Francisco where people would toss their money.

Money collected goes into the Army's general fund where, after administration costs, it goes

See ARMY, page 4



Photo Courtesy

IN LIVING COLOR: Local artist Stanton Macdonald-Wright's mural, entitled 'Technical and Imaginative Pursuits of Early Man,' hung in the Santa Monica Public Library until 1966, when it was dismantled and donated to the Smithsonian. The city now hopes to bring the piece back to the Santa Monica library.

Massive mural may be headed back to Santa Monica library

BY SUSAN TAM

Special to the Daily Press

SM LIBRARY — Almost seven decades ago, local artist Stanton Macdonald-Wright unveiled a 2,000-foot mural, a project that had dominated his life for 18 months and worked him to the point of exhaustion.

Macdonald-Wright had designed the mural specifically for the reading room in the Santa

Monica Public Library. But when the Main Library was to be rebuilt in 1966, the \$5 million mural could not fit and it was dismantled and donated to the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

Now, the city is working to return the pieces of the enormous mural to their original home — a lengthy process that will cost an estimated \$230,000. If all goes to plan, the mural someday would be on display on the second floor of

the new \$72 million Main Library.

FROM COAST TO COAST

The mural series, called "Technical and Imaginative Pursuits of Early Man," is a chronological sequence designed to flow in a circle, with the streams of history culminating in a panel depicting the filming of a movie. Placed at the entrance of the library, the panel displayed

See MURAL, page 5

Despite new boy toy, Barbie slumps

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Barbie's going through a mid-life crisis.

After splitting with longtime boyfriend Ken this year, she sought refuge in shopping, surfing, bubble baths and partying.

Then there was the makeover and a new man — spiky-haired

Southern California surfer Blaine.

But Barbie's nonetheless going through a crisis, one that started at the cash register. While the Barbie brand as a whole generated \$3.6 billion in global retail sales this year, according to manufacturer Mattel Inc., Barbie has seen sales slide over the past seven quarters. And in the last few years, rivals

including the edgier Bratz have upstaged the iconic doll.

To re-energize its flagship brand, the world's largest toy maker set out to cast Barbie and her pals in a series of books, magazines and animated films, hoping the story lines would drive sales of the doll and her trove of accessories.

Jacquie Banks

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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)

★★★★ You choose a perfect day to overindulge, watch TV and stuff yourself. You might regret some of your impulsiveness later, but right now get into the traditional happening. Take a snooze if you can fit it in. Tonight: In your favorite chair.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ You are all grins and in the mood for Thanksgiving. Whether you go out for your turkey dinner or stay home, it really doesn't matter. Don't be hard on a sibling or loved one. Let go of a grudge. Tonight: Everyone surrounds you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ You have a way of letting others know what you think. However, today you might keep more of your feelings inside. Be careful, as withholding this could impact your mood. Make an extra effort to loosen up. Do something special for a needy person. Tonight: Get some extra sleep.

CANCER (June 21-July22)

★★★★ How you view a situation and see a friend should not impact your mood this Thanksgiving. Let go of what doesn't work for now, and get into the moment. Others need your smile and holiday attitude. Tonight: Where the gang is.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Know that you must be on your best behavior — but aren't you always? Visit with elders and touch base with those at a distance. You could be euphoric, but you need to contain yourself. Hold yourself back a little. Tonight: Keep conversations going.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Reach out for someone at a distance, and wish him or her a special Thanksgiving. In fact, you might be meeting halfway; if not today, make plans for Christmas. You find a friend a bit down. Make sure this person has a place to go for dinner. Tonight: Walk in another's shoes.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Just because an older relative is grumpy isn't a reason to let him or her impact your day. In fact, do your best to relate deeply to a loved one or dear friend. You don't have to be the life of the party. You need to take care of yourself. Tonight: Have a long, intimate chat.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Others know what they want and make requests that might feel like demands. Go with the flow and understand that a friend or relative (especially an in-law) could be very uptight. Socialize, whether cutting the turkey or watching football. Tonight: Could be a late night.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ A loved one or partner could rain on your parade. You don't need to let this person affect your holiday. Get into the true nature of Thanksgiving. Give others a hand, whether it is cooking or changing the TV station! Tonight: Find a lounge chair.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Your playfulness delights your friends and family, but possibly not a key partner. You might want to help draw this person in. Perhaps this person feels overwhelmed by the holiday or by what he or she needs to do. Tonight: Do the traditional holiday thing.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ If you are tired, say so. You don't always have to be everything to everyone. Take your time and ask others to pitch in. You are easily overwhelmed by all that you need to get done. Lie back. Put your feet up. It is your holiday too. Tonight: Stay close to home.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ You have a way of reaching out to everyone and wishing them a special day. If you find that someone doesn't have plans, invite him or her along. Your ability to nurture and empathize peaks. A partner or child could be jealous. Tonight: Catch up on others' news.

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LOCAL

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Samohi soccer season kicks off next week

By Daily Press staff

Coming off last year's successful seasons, the soccer teams at Santa Monica High will begin regular season play next week.

The boys, who won the Bay League crown with a 9-1-2 record (18-2-4 overall), and the girls, who won an Ocean League Championship with a 7-5 record (9-12-1 overall), have been working to prepare for the upcoming season.

With the South Bay Leagues now aligned by region, both teams look to win their respective league championships. Santa Monica, with their strong style of play and impressive skill, will make their impact on westside soccer, coaches say.

The girls will be led by senior captains Payton Raffa (midfielder) and Allison Fields (defender). In goal, time will be shared with two new keepers, freshman Allison Bronstein and junior Nicole Duvardo. Up top, the Vikings will look to returning sophomore Sam Greene, who scored 10 goals last year. Samohi might appear to be young, but they have a strong core of sophomore and junior talent, coaches say. They will open at home against Harvard/Westlake on Nov. 30 at 3 p.m. on the main field located at Samohi.

The Viking boys will be anchored by their defense. Senior goalkeeper Ari Zlotoff (12 shutouts last year) will start between the posts. His defenders, captain Michael Eyler (senior), senior Grant Buckingham and sophomore David Castellanos, are skilled and strong, coaches say. Through the midfield, captain Artur Szczepanek (senior) and senior Ross Cooper will balance the team. Senior forward Omid Shokoufandeh will try to surpass his 18 goals that he scored last year. The boys will host Arcadia on Nov. 29 at 3 p.m. on the main field located at Samohi for their season opener.

Since last year's unification, the boys' and girls' soccer programs have raised their level of competition. Both varsity squads won their leagues and competed in the second round of CIF playoffs. Both junior varsity teams won their leagues, and the freshmen boys team won their league for the third consecutive year.

The successes could not have been accomplished without the dedication and sacrifice that the coaches have put into the program. Samohi soccer director Frank Gatell — in his eighth year of coaching — says he is very proud and thankful for his staff, and knows that the program's success is based on their hard work. The boys' varsity coach, in his third year, is Manu Appelius, and the girls' varsity coach, in his second year, is Serafin Rodriguez. The junior varsity girls will be led by second-year coach Jarrin Black, and the boys will have Jimmy Chapman, who will move up to JV from the freshmen team. The freshmen teams will have new coaches this year. The freshman boys will have Marco Sumale and Daniel Islas, who are both former students and athletes of Samohi. The freshman girls will be coached by Mike Maggiano.

Organizers ask community members to come out and support the students. Schedules can be found at www.samohisoccer.com.

Alum featured in dance performance

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica College's Synapse Dance Theater — celebrating the college's 75th anniversary and its own 30th anniversary — will present an eclectic program Dec. 4 and 5, featuring alumni from the 1970s, '80s, '90s and the 2000s.

The program of innovative modern dance, jazz, hip-hop, salsa, tap, poetry and dance, video and mixed-media spotlights alumni.

Performances are at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 4, and 8 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 5, at the SMC Concert Hall, 1900 Pico Blvd. Tickets are \$12 general admission and \$10 students and senior citizens. Call (310) 434-3000.

The program will showcase world-premiere choreography by SMC dance professors, guest artists and students, as well as alumni.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase the talents of our alumni, many of whom have gone on to successful dance careers," said SMC dance professor and Synapse artistic director Linda Gold. "It's also been rewarding to have our current

See BRIEFS, page 4



SURF REPORT

A healthy looking low has been crossing over the Bering Sea over the last few days. By Saturday afternoon the long period NW swell (290+300+) generated by that storm will start to move in. The NW'er tops out on Sunday with chest-to shoulder-high waves at well exposed areas and head-high-plus sets at stand-outs. That surf slowly winds down during the first part of next week. Building new NW ground swell due by the middle of the upcoming week.

As to the South Pacific, just minor pulses of S to SW swell scheduled for the rest of this week and first half of next week. The South Pacific has had mainly zonal flow lately with not many waves aimed our way.

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

Today the water is:

61°

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	11:03	2.1	11:02	0.4	5:12	4.9	4:33	4.4
SUNDAY	(12:03	1.4)	11:43	0.7	5:46	5.3	5:42	4.3
MONDAY	N/A	N/A	12:47	0.7	6:16	5.7	6:40	4.3
TUESDAY	12:19	1.1	1:29	0.2	6:44	6.0	7:31	4.1
WEDNESDAY	12:50	1.4	2:06	-0.2	7:11	6.1	8:18	4.0
THURSDAY	1:18	1.8	2:41	-0.4	7:36	6.2	9:01	3.9
FRIDAY	1:45	2.1	3:16	-0.5	8:02	6.2	9:43	3.7

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The QLine

The Santa Monica City Council earlier this month discussed how many street performers should be allowed on the pier at any one time. The discussion turned into a larger debate about the atmosphere on the pier. Some elected officials think the pier should be quieter than it is today, with the idea that it should be a place to reflect and take in the natural beauty surrounding it.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "How do you envision the Santa Monica Pier in the future?"

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

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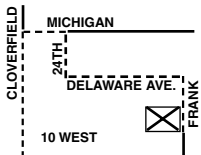
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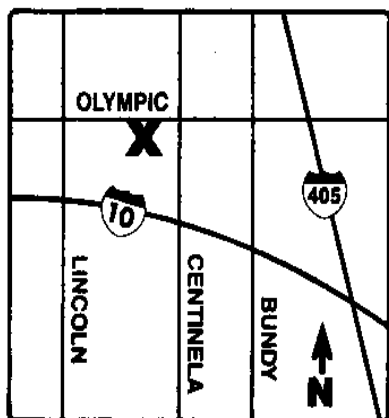
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LOCAL

Local programs funded through kettle donations

ARMY, from page 1

directly to the numerous community programs the organization offers.

But West says the Army is not just about the "kettle people."

"We're in 108 countries around the world doing our ministry, helping people," West said. "We have family programs year-round that can help people make a rent payment or a utility payment. We have shelters, job programs, summer camps, character-building programs, we visit the elderly shut-ins and more."

One such benefactor of West's ministry was Nancy Thies, who said the Army was there to help her through a personal crisis.

"I began helping at the 'Welfare Window,'" Thies said. "That's where people can come up and ask for food, clothing or rental assistance, stuff like that. Most people look right through homeless people instead of at them. Talking to people who came to the window helped me see them."

Robert Torres was mandated to the Adult Rehabilitation Center of the Salvation Army by the courts after being in prison for burglary.

"This place helped me make the decision to change my life," Torres said. "I felt like enough was enough. Now I work here and go to school for chiropractor assistant and massage therapy. I'm almost finished. It beats prison."

The Army has other programs for the holiday season, such as the Salvation

Army Carolers. Although there are no actual singers, people can hire the Salvation Army Band for Christmas parties or other seasonal events.

The Adopt-A-Family program allows people to donate a care package of food and gifts to a needy family through an anonymous exchange.

In addition to the usual canned food drive, the Army sponsors the Christmas Angel Program, through which people can buy a gift for a specific needy child anonymously.

But holidays are not the only time the Army provides help to those in trouble.

It also runs a homeless shelter in Santa Monica called the Samoshel shelter.

For 100 homeless people who are not part of a shelter program, the Army provides showers, lockers and washing machines for their use at a place called Shwashlock, a combination of the three services.

All of the money raised by the Santa Monica Salvation Army is exclusively used on local programs, West said.

No money goes to any international or national program unless it is to help a specific disaster, such as the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks or past earthquakes.

"Without the community we would never be able to help people like we do," said West.

The Salvation Army advisory board includes Jean McNeil Wyner of the Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center, Frank Fabrega of the Santa Monica Police Department and Tony Presby of Santa Monica College, to name a few.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 3

students work with our former students."

Gold is the director of a video in the upcoming program that captures dancers in movement as they are being sketched by SMC figure drawing students in art professor Marc Trujillo's class.

The guest choreographers include six alumni — Jeff Cum, Damien Davis, Ola Hudson, April Love Hughing, Tae Rin Kim, Martha Thomas — and Roberta Wolin-Manker, who is also an adjunct professor, as is guest choreographer Meri Bender.

The alum have gone on to successful careers in dance, teaching and other professions, or are recent transfers to four-year universities, where they are working on their degrees.

In addition, alumnus Jeremy Hale is co-choreographing a piece with current student Chanel Gold. The other student choreographers are Cortney Cantrell, Judith Davies, Sara Guevara, Nguyen Nguyen and Camion Wigfall.

Gold is a dancer/choreographer who has toured throughout the world, consistently winning critical praise from such publications as the New York Times. Her recent performances in Spirit Dances 6 and the World Festival of Sacred Music in Los Angeles were commended by the Los Angeles Times. A member of Dance Films Association, Gold has been part of selection juries for the American Choreography Awards presented by the Academy of Dance on Film.



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LOCAL



Cultural endowment may help fund SM mural

MURAL, from page 1

Macdonald-Wright's belief that movies held the greatest potential for artistic expression.

Part of the challenge of returning the murals is that Macdonald-Wright's piece is not simply resting in storage and awaiting its homecoming. Rather, its pieces were split up and now reside in different locations.

In early 1967, the mural arrived at the Smithsonian, said Laura Baptiste, a spokeswoman for the museum. However, the Smithsonian also is undergoing a renovation expected to be complete in 2006 and it was not able to display the work, she said.

Thirty of the panels were put in storage in Landover, Md., according to Karen Ginsberg, assistant director of the Department of Community and Cultural Services. Seven others were stored in Los Angeles on the city of Santa Monica's dime and one is on display at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Baptiste said.

Over the years, several attempts have been made to return the murals to Santa Monica. One proposed plan would have featured them at the airport.

DIGGING FOR GOLD

This summer, the Smithsonian and the city of Santa Monica agreed on a long-term loan of the mural if the city could pay for its transportation, conservation and installation. The city commissioned an estimate from two local conservators, Dr. Duane Chartier and Susan Fried, as well as Dr. Ilene Susan Fort of LACMA. The three estimated transportation and restoration costs at \$230,000.

The City Council then decided to pay for half the costs and apply for a grant from a state agency to fund the other half. This process got underway on Oct. 26, Ginsberg said.

The Council hopes to obtain the money from the California Cultural and Historical Endowment, a state agency established two years ago. CCHE has pledged to spend \$122 million on projects embracing California culture, but to-date has not decided how to spend the money.

"We are still waiting to hear from them," said Ginsberg. "They have a tentative board meeting scheduled Dec. 13 and 14 in Sacramento, and we should hear from them before then, if recommended," she said.

"This is the first time they have administered it, and it is the first cycle of three rounds of funding. There is up to \$35 million available in the first cycle. It's hard to know how competitive (it is), but my sense is it will be very competitive," Ginsberg said.

The city cannot contact the agency before its decision, and the agency has not yet posted a list of other applicants, she

said.

The city has applied for a grant of \$113,241 that will be used for conservation treatment work, such as cleaning and the removal of over paint. An equal amount paid for by the city will go toward transporting, packing, administration and installation of the panels.

A HISTORICAL WORK

Macdonald-Wright worked for 18 months to produce the murals, an experience that was reportedly physically daunting and emotionally draining. He refused payment so that the city could fund two assistants.

"For weeks, I dragged my legs like a bug that has been stepped on, half-paralyzed through nervousness, at other times influenza made me fall off the scaffolding and pass out of consciousness," he said to a friend.

Macdonald-Wright was a pioneer of Synchronism, an early American avant-garde movement that compared color to sounds. The movement was centered around the belief that the distance between notes in a chord is like the difference between colors on a palette wheel, and a painting could almost be scientifically created.

The work that was created for the Santa Monica Library was done during the Works Project Administration's Federal Art Project, during a time when artists demonstrated how art could be incorporated into everyday lives and public spaces, Ginsberg said. It is the most famous project from the federal program in California, she said.

"We're very excited. They are huge panels. Some are eight feet tall," said Rachel Foyt, an administrative assistant at the Santa Monica Library.

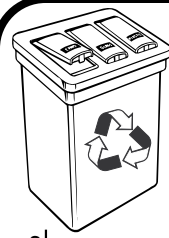
The layout of the new library is different from the original plan, so the murals will have to be displayed differently.

"We've been working with the design team to accommodate the murals. The murals fit on the second floor within the space (there)," Ginsberg said.

Many outstanding Santa Monica personages of the day found their way into portraits in the murals. The sequence features actor Leo Carrillo, director Frank Tuttle, W.H. Carter, who was the mayor at the time, and young starlet, Gloria Stewart, who played the adult character Rose in the movie "Titanic." Macdonald-Wright even includes a self-portrait as a troubadour playing a lyre — à la Hitchcock.

As the library construction creeps toward its completion date in 2006, the city council hopes efforts to return Macdonald-Wright's work to Santa Monica will pay off.

"We hope to have them installed in time for the grand opening for the library, assuming grant funds come through," Ginsberg said.



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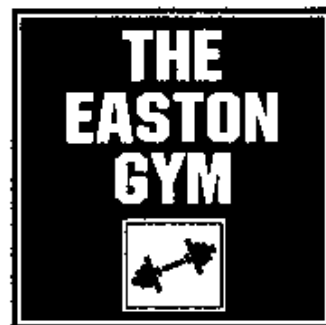
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STATE

Once-cozy company town divided on plan to sell water to Nestle

BY BRIAN MELLEY

Associated Press Writer

McCLOUD, Calif. — The snowcapped crown of Mount Shasta looms over this old lumber town like a promotion for spring water.

That's fitting; the communities that circle the base of the volcano are already home to two major bottling plants, and a third is on the way.

But that third project, planned by Nestle, has roiled McCloud. Elected officials struck a 100-year deal to sell the company more than a half billion gallons of water annually for about \$300,000 a year.

When the contract was signed, it was billed as the way to bring back industry and jobs after the town's sawmill went silent last year. It didn't take long for those who felt left out of the process to raise their voices in protest.

"I've been contracting since 1976 and this is the dumbest deal I've ever seen anybody enter into, period," said Brian Stewart, a home designer and builder. It it had happened a century earlier, he said, "you would be witnessing a tarring and feathering."

Residents of a company town where lumber mill workers fondly referred to their employer as "Mother McCloud" are

divided on the deal, with some insisting they need the economic infusion and others deriding "Mr. Nestle," a Swiss multinational that is the world's largest food and beverage company.

The conflict highlights how large beverage companies, hungry for easy profits in bottled water, have tapped a source in small-town America and how some communities are resisting the temptation to sell their public resources.

Officials at the McCloud Community Services District, which provides water, sewer and garbage service in the unincorporated town of about 1,300, never anticipated such a controversy when they agreed to let Nestle draw from mountain springs that bubble up in the forest above town.

Catherine Young, head of the district's board, said she feels betrayed by townspeople who have snubbed her since the deal was signed in October 2003. She doesn't understand the fuss.

"One side of the street doesn't care for what the other side of the street is doing, so they're battling each other," said the lifelong resident and part-time logging truck driver.

Among concerns of opponents is that they were never asked if McCloud should make the economic transition to water

See NESTLE, page 7



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STATE



Bottled water sales explode, Nestle profits

NESTLE, from page 6

from wood — the industry that gave birth to the town more than a century ago.

At one time, the McCloud River Lumber Co. owned everything from the houses to the hospital to the dance hall. Steam from the mill warmed homes. Groceries and clothing bought at the company store were deducted from wages.

"You name it, we had it," said Alice DeBon, who runs a bed and breakfast in a home that belonged to the mill owner. "We had a roller rink, a theater. They bought a Christmas gift for every kid up through senior year of high school. It was Mother McCloud. They were good for the town."

The population peaked in 1960 at 2,140, according to census figures. Some five years later the homes were sold to residents and the lumber mill changed hands. It was periodically shut down, sold and reopened over the years. It closed for good last year after its final incarnation as California Cedar Products Co., churning out wood for pencils.

Now, McCloud's population is aging and many homeowners are part-timers with a weekend view of 14,162-foot Mount Shasta in the southern Cascades. Tourism has replaced some of timber's dollars, as old dining rail cars converted into a dinner train chugs over the flank of Shasta while a four-course meal is served. The McCloud River is legendary for fly fishing and the mountain is popular with skiers.

Before the lumber business dried up, other bottlers scouted the town. The district even considered going into the water business itself before concluding it would be too risky competing with corporations such as Coke and Pepsi.

Sales of bottled water have exploded in the United States over the past decade, outpacing beer, coffee, milk and trailing only soft drinks in volume, according to the Beverage Marketing Corp. As the fastest growing segment of the drink industry, production grew by 7.5 percent in volume and recorded \$8.3 billion in wholesale sales last year.

Nestle Waters of North America Inc., based in Greenwich, Conn., dominates the market, with a third of all sales in United States last year from its portfolio of regional, national and international brands including Arrowhead, Calistoga, Poland Spring, Perrier and Pellegrino.

Nestle began negotiating with the district soon after the mill closed, eventually agreeing to build a \$120 million Arrowhead plant that is expected to open in 2006 and eventually employ 240 workers.

Once the company starts bottling water, the town will receive about \$300,000 a year for giving Nestle the exclusive rights to 1,600 acre-feet, or about 521 million gallons, from its three mountain springs, said David Palais, a

geologist for Nestle. The figure grows to \$400,000 after 10 years. Struggling Siskiyou County, which borders Oregon, is expected to get \$1 million in property tax revenue.

Pete Kampa, the district's general manager, said the deal is better than what neighboring towns got when Crystal Geyser and Dannon bought private springs for their bottling operations. Until century-old redwood pipes were replaced last year, Nestle's share of water was roughly equivalent to what leaked as the old pipes carried water three miles to town.

Bob Wieder, a resident and Nestle supporter, said the town should capitalize on overflow that would otherwise go downstream, where someone else would have cashed in.

"They're selling our water after it leaves us, so why can't we sell it before it gets there?" Wieder asked.

While the negotiations with Nestle were closed, the district said board meetings on the issue were posted, public comment was taken on the deal, and the local newspaper reported the debate. Still, by the time many people became aware of it or got involved, it was too late.

"People were caught off guard," said Diane Lowe, a part-time resident from the San Francisco Bay area who with three other women formed a protest group called McCloud Water Commons.

Together, they researched the contract and pored over the minutes of the meetings. Heartened by word that activists in Michigan and Wisconsin had successfully challenged Nestle, they organized a forum two weeks ago that drew about 200 people to analyze and criticize the deal.

Some opponents questioned whether a provision letting Nestle drill wells would dry up aquifers. Others voiced concern about the bottom line, the 300 trucks a day that may rumble through town, and whether the new jobs will pay well enough to support a family.

With the project going through state and federal environmental reviews, opponents are trying to figure out if there's anything they can do to stop the project or renegotiate the deal.

Meanwhile, both sides fear the conflict may have permanently disrupted the harmony that once existed here, while others worry that without industry and jobs, McCloud will not support the life it has.

Nestle supporters Penny Heil and Mike Rorke, who run a jewelry store, talk about a simple place where traffic is so tame and courteous that kids can play in the streets and dogs wander undisturbed. They display a card they got through the mail simply addressed to Mike and Penny, McCloud CA. No last names, no address.

"We're in a phenomenally gorgeous spot and we want it to stay that way. But yet we don't want the damn town to die, excuse me," Heil said. "It's going to be a real peaceful town if no one lives in it."



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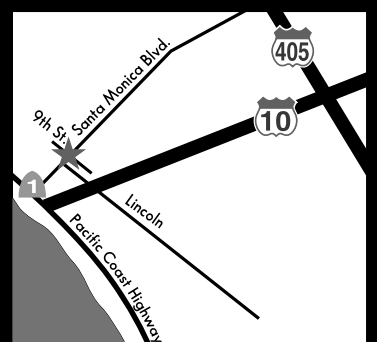
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STATE

Redondo Beach grapples with day laborers

BY BEN FOX

Associated Press Writer

REDONDO BEACH, Calif. — Looking back, the man who drove up and offered Braulio Gonzalez \$10 an hour to break up a concrete driveway did seem suspicious. His truck didn't have license plates and he wouldn't say where the job was, telling the day laborer to follow in his car.

Still, Gonzalez was caught off guard a few minutes later when police from this Los Angeles suburb arrested him and three other laborers as they turned into a dead end street.

"I've been working on that corner for years. A lot of people know me," says the 48-year-old Guatemala native. "Nothing like this has ever happened."

Gonzalez was caught up in an unusual — and critics say unconstitutional — sting operation that underscores the vastly different responses U.S. cities have offered to the growing number of men, often Hispanic immigrants, who wait on street corners for a day's work.

Cities such as Thousand Oaks, another Los Angeles suburb, and Hoover, Ala., set aside space for workers to gather and even to take English classes. Others, from Prince William County, Va., to Redondo Beach, have decided the best way to handle public complaints about the pick up spots is to move the men along with citations — and arrests.

Conflicts are increasingly common as temporary laborers become a permanent fixture of the U.S. labor market, particularly in construction, landscaping and do-it-yourself home improvement, according to researchers who study the issue.

"The notion of looking for work in this manner annoys a lot of people," said Abel Valenzuela, a University of California Los Angeles sociologist who has surveyed day laborers around the country. "Most cities react negatively."

In Redondo Beach, where undercover police arrested about 60 day laborers in a series of sting operations last month, city officials say they're just doing their job.

"We applaud their desire to work but our job is to maintain order," said City Councilman Gerard Bisignano. "Without order, you have anarchy."

Laborers call it harassment.

"We're not criminals. We go where we have to go to get work," said Gonzalez, a legal U.S. resident and former merchant seaman who supports a wife and young son on trickle-in wages that can be up to \$110 on a good day and nothing at all on a bad one.

Redondo Beach police arrested the laborers for violating an until now rarely enforced ordinance passed in 1987 that prohibits soliciting employment in a public place. Immigrant advocates have challenged that as a First Amendment violation.

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NATIONAL



Grand Canyon flooding experiment wraps up

BY BETH DEFALCO

Associated Press Writer

PHOENIX — Scientists say changes in the Colorado River were already apparent Wednesday as a Grand Canyon flooding experiment began winding down.

A controlled flood aimed at restoring the Grand Canyon's fragile ecosystem started Sunday morning, when the Bureau of Reclamation opened four giant steel tubes at the Glen Canyon Dam, sending a torrent of water into the river. It was scheduled to end at 1 a.m. MST Thursday.

While scientists say experiment results surrounding the simulated flood were too preliminary to be reliable, changes to the river were visible.

Bennett Raley, assistant interior secretary for water and science, was among a small group of researchers rafting down the Colorado River during the test. By satellite phone from the canyon, he described the river as "velvety chocolate and red" with strong currents.

"There's a lot sediment in the river," he said.

The goal of the flood was to redistribute 800,000 metric tons of sediment along the Colorado River to cover archaeological sites, restore beaches and save fish and plants that have been disappearing since sediment-free water began flowing from the man-made dam 40 years ago.

The Interior Department began studying the effects of the Glen Canyon Dam in the early 1980s and discovered that beaches downstream from the dam were washing away. In 1996, officials flooded the canyon with an 18-day water release. Only about five of those days, however, produced high floods.

Scientists overestimated the sediment levels in the beds of the tributary rivers that pour into the river below the dam and sediment that was redeposited by some of the flooding was soon eroded away by slower, more steady flood waters.

The new flood was considered a refinement of the 1996 test.

"The Grand Canyon is terribly important but so is power production," Raley said. "Anytime man shows up, we have an impact on the environment. The challenge is

how we manage that impact."

The latest dam drain is estimated to cost just under \$2 million in potential power generation, according to the Colorado River Storage Project office.

At its peak, the test sent 41,000 cubic feet of water rushing throughout the Glen Canyon Dam every second.

The controlled flood will not change the annual water release from Lake Powell, but it is expected to drain the lake somewhat in the short term. Chip Groat, director of the U.S. Geological Survey, said the Bureau of Reclamation will calculate the flood into the total water allotment for the year and adjust future flows to compensate.

About 50 scientists, including Raley, were on and around the river to study the immediate effects on the canyon.

While test samples were preliminary, Raley said there was some indication that the controlled flood seemed to

help the endangered humpback chub — a native fish that has been overrun by trout.

"We're seeing strong numbers of humpback chub in sampling," he said, but cautioned that they couldn't reach any scientific conclusion from it at this point.

Raley said new whirlpools had formed in several places along the river.

"It's a massive and powerful river at any time," he said. "But there are some places where you go 'Gee, I hope that doesn't suck our boat down.'"

Jeff Cross, director of Grand Canyon National Park's science center, said the flood was expected to cover campgrounds and produce high rapids.

On Monday, a boat with three passengers overturned and a 62-year-old Phoenix man drowned. The man was part of a private group of river-runners. Authorities were investigating whether strong currents from the flood were a factor.

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Entertainment

What's playing ...

NATIONAL TREASURE

This sprawling treasure hunt is cacophonous, eye-popping and unabashedly devoid of nuance. Despite a promising high concept, the best that can be said about it is it could have been worse.
Starring: Nicolas Cage, Diane Kruger

BAD EDUCATION

An uneven stab at film noir in which director Pedro Almodovar indulges cross-dressing fetishes, maligns child-molesting priests and celebrates French New Wave cinema.
Starring: Gael Garcia Bernal, Fela Martinez

BRIDGET JONES: THE EDGE OF REASON

Feels a lot like premeditated cock-up, filled with uneven sitcomish set pieces, credulity-stretching conveniences and humor that is as flat as its buxom, chain-smoking heroine isn't.
Starring: Renee Zellweger, Colin Firth, Hugh Grant

FINDING NEVERLAND

As moving a motion picture as we're likely to see this year, and — as the movie poster contends — one that is sure to unlock even the most immured imagination.
Starring: Johnny Depp, Kate Winslet

KINSEY

Kinsey's history is nimbly recounted, and bristles with fun and, on occasion, arresting poignancy. Captivating cinema that feels particularly relevant in these retrogressive times.
Starring: Liam Neeson, Laura Linney

AFTER THE SUNSET

Surely the world doesn't need another weak Elmore Leonard knock-off populated with one-dimensional characters engaging in humdrum high jinks.
Starring: Pierce Brosnan, Salma Hayek

THE INCREDIBLES

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Starring: Holly Hunter, Craig T. Nelson

ALFIE

Remake is lighter in tone, decidedly more farcical than the original. Law's a movie star who's awfully easy on the eyes and boundlessly talented.
Starring: Jude Law, Susan Sarandon

RAY

An instant inductee into the pantheon of great biographic movies. There isn't a moment in the entire picture in which we're not convinced Foxx IS Ray Charles.
Starring: Jamie Foxx, Regina King, Kerry Washington

BIRTH

Even a mildly disappointing third-act twist cannot mitigate the intensity of "Birth," which ranks among the year's best.
Starring: Nicole Kidman, Lauren Bacall

SAW

Gratuitously violent, unoriginal and entirely too loud. Proof that atmospherics and gore alone do not a compelling serial killer thriller make.
Starring: Cary Elwes, Danny Glover

IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE

As the designated interpreters of the director's scattershot musings, Phoenix and Danes are hopelessly lost.
Starring: Joaquin Phoenix, Clare Danes

THE GRUDGE

Americanized version of a commercially successful, albeit humdrum Japanese horror flick is silly rather than chilling.
Starring: Sarah Michelle Gellar

SURVIVING CHRISTMAS

It's entirely likely star Ben Affleck will come to rue this wreck even more than last year's notorious flop, "Gigli."
Starring: Ben Affleck, James Gandolfini

SIDEWAYS

A fantastic movie from Alexander Payne, who might very well be America's most provocative cinematic storyteller.
Starring: Paul Giamatti, Virginia Madsen

Hollywood breaks out arsenal of year-end films

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

The end is nigh for the year in film that is 2004, and as you might expect, Hollywood's brightest stars are ready to shine in theaters across the land. December brings us several sequels, along with some intriguing original fare.

Brad, George and Julia are back in the much-anticipated follow-up to Steven Soderbergh's crime caper, "Ocean's Eleven," while Wesley Snipes has got himself a new "Blade" and is sharpening his teeth for a box-office battle. Leo and Marty reunite aboard a Spruce Goose; DeNiro has a couple of new Fockers to keep his eye on. The Phantom of the Opera will be haunting movie theaters, and Kevin Bacon is just plain haunting in the chiller "The Woodsman." The year ends with John Travolta, the latest septuagenarian star to be paired with young Scarlett Johansson. Here's a preview of what to expect:

THE MOVIE: Ocean's Twelve (opens Dec. 10).

THE STARS: George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Julia Roberts, Matt Damon, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Bernie Mac, Don Cheadle, Andy Garcia.

THE DRAW: See THE STARS. OK, and the director is pretty good, too. Word around town — Tinseltown, that is — is that Steven Soderbergh has upped the ante with this follow-up to his successful 2001 casino caper. The set was rumored to be party central for Clooney and the boys, and all their mirth-making should translate into some serious onscreen fun.

THE VERDICT: As "can't miss hits" go, this one's the safest bet of

the season. "Ocean's Twelve" boasts an ensemble cast for the ages.

THE MOVIE: Blade: Trinity (opens Dec. 10).

THE STARS: Wesley Snipes, Parker Posey, Kris Kristofferson, Ryan Reynolds, Jessica Biel, HHH.

THE DRAW: The first two "Blade" flicks were big hits, and this one — purportedly Snipes' swan song in the series — ought to draw some box-office blood as well. Director David S. Goyer has surrounded his star with an intriguing cast of supporting players, and sources tell us that Posey and wrestler HHH, in particular, generate plenty of yukks. A chance to see a leather-clad Jessica Biel slay the undead should put plenty of male butts in the seats.

THE VERDICT: Don't always bet on black. Even with the super-cool Snipes on board, it's doubtful this warmed-over fare is really worth sinking your teeth into.

THE MOVIE: The Aviator (opens Dec. 17).

THE STARS: Leonardo DiCaprio, Cate Blanchett, Kate Beckinsale, Adam Scott, Alec Baldwin, Gwen Stefani.

THE DRAW: No doubt there's plenty to like about this cast, and kudos to director Martin Scorsese for casting eye-pleasing crooner Gwen Stefani as Jean Harlow. In a year heavy on biopics, it'll be interesting to see whether audiences are up for a lengthy recap of the life and times of Howard Hughes — after all, the material has already been covered extensively in the cinema. Both star and director are looking to rebound

after their rather shaky collaboration in "Gangs of New York."

THE VERDICT: How can you not give Scorsese the benefit of the doubt? This Christmas, Howard Hughes will fly high again.

THE MOVIE: Meet the Fockers (opens Dec. 22).

THE STARS: Ben Stiller, Robbert DeNiro, Terri Polo, Blythe Danner, Dustin Hoffman, Barbra Streisand.

THE DRAW: Much ado is being made about Streisand's return to the screen after an eight-year sabbatical seemingly spent irking conservatives. She and Hoffman make for a powerhouse duo with the potential to steal the show. Despite some recent flops, Stiller remains one of the funniest guys in show business.

THE VERDICT: "Meet the Parents" was a hoot, though Stiller and DeNiro's incessant head-butting got dull by the end. Expect more of the same here.

THE MOVIE: The Phantom of the Opera (opens Dec. 22)

THE STARS: Gerard Butler, Emmy Rossum, Patrick Wilson, Miranda Richardson, Minnie Driver.

THE DRAW: The trailer looks great, and director Joel Shumacher has made some pretty good films in the past ("A Time to Kill," "Tigerland"). Though not a household name (yet), Gerard Butler reportedly does a fantastic job with the lead role.

THE VERDICT: Shumacher also helmed the bombs "Batman Returns," "Bad Company" and "D.C. Cab" with Mr.T. And it's not a good sign when Minnie Driver is the most recognizable name on the marquee (Mr. T was

busy, perhaps?) There is a built-in audience for "Phantom" but, really, how many Andrew Lloyd Webber fans can reasonably be expected to show up at the multiplex?

THE MOVIE: The Woodsman (opens Dec. 24).

THE STARS: Kevin Bacon, Kyra Sedgwick, Mos Def, Benjamin Bratt, David Alan Grier.

THE DRAW: Bacon is generating Oscar buzz for his fearless performance as a paroled pedophile who returns home and tries to rebuild his life. The film drew rave reviews from critics and audiences at Sundance this year. On the strength of this stellar debut, writer-director Nicole Kassell is currently one of Hollywood's most sought-after filmmakers.

THE VERDICT: The film's unsettling subject matter will scare off some, but this is a movie destined to make some noise at the box office and at the big award ceremonies.

THE MOVIE: A Love Song for Bobby Long (opens Dec. 29).

THE STARS: Scarlett Johansson, John Travolta, Gabriel Macht.

THE DRAW: Most everyone who's seen the film compares it to a Steinbeck novel, and most of those are pretty darn good. Macht showed promise in a supporting role in "The Recruit," and he gets a chance here to match skills with the talented Johansson and legendary Travolta.

THE VERDICT: Johnny T has been known to mail it in those cheesy action flicks he does for the big paydays, but when called upon to work-out with weighty material, he usually steps up his game.

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Colin Farrell: A mortal man just like his role in 'Alexander'

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

Colin Farrell stars as one of history's most celebrated figures in director Oliver Stone's epic drama, "Alexander." The Irish actor, whose well-publicized shenanigans have at times overshadowed his stellar work on screen, chatted up a roomful of reporters about everything from being Alexander to the pleasures of fatherhood.

QUESTION: How much did you about Alexander the Great prior to your involvement in this project?

COLIN FARRELL: I knew very little. When I was a kid I knew that there was somebody called Alexander the Great, but I didn't know if he was Russian or Greek or Macedonian or what he was.

Q: Can you tell us a little bit about the boot camp you went through to prepare for the film?

CF: There ended up being 170 men in boot camp. For three weeks we lived pretty stringently out in the desert. The food rations were very, very small. There were seriously high levels of frustration. All the boys were missing their families. It was tough but important, because it brought us together on a number of different levels.

Q: What's Oliver Stone like?

CF: What do you want to know, man? He's a (expletive). He's unpatriotic. He's an obnoxious animal who loses his mind seven times a day ... all of which are untrue.

Q: What is true then?

CF: He's an incredibly strong man. He's highly intelligent. He is just an absolute animal on the set — just a bull of a man — and I mean that in the good sense. From

sun up 'til sun down and beyond both, he never stops. His brain never stops, and he never stops asking questions.

Q: How does one imbue the greatest conqueror the world has ever known with qualities ordinary folks can relate to?

CF: Alexander was a mortal man. No matter how he at times perceived himself, or whether he was told he was the son of Zeus, at the end of the day you cut him and he bled, you betrayed him and broke his heart. These were things he feared. He didn't fear his own mortality, and he certainly didn't fear death — if anything he rushed towards it with a head of steam. But he feared being alone. He feared not having an heir to his throne. He feared failure.

Q: History tells us that Alexander and his best friend and battle commander Hephaistion (Jared Leto) were lovers. Why isn't this shown in the film?

CF: Whether they lay together or not, their relationship was built on pure and absolute friendship from a very young age until their final breath. People make such

a big deal about sex that if they see that it was sexual, they'll just judge it as that. We wanted the relationship to be more beautiful than that — something purer. (A sexual relationship) is hinted at in the film, but we didn't want to hit the nail on the head and have people squirming in their seats.

Q: Pierce Brosnan recently mentioned you as a possible replacement as James Bond. Is there any truth to that report?

CF: Pierce has (expletive) hung me, man. Pierce is telling everyone I'm going to be saying "Shaken, not stirred." The other day I was with some friends, and they wouldn't stop with the (hums "Bond" theme music). I was, like, (expletive) off! But, really, I never heard a thing about (playing Bond).

Q: You recently became a dad for the first time. How's it going so far?

CF: I don't know. I'm a dad, and it's an amazing feeling. For once, I've fallen in love, and I know it's not going to end.

She's home for the holidays.



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21 AND OVER



Retired fishing boats getting new lives in Oregon

BY JOE ROJAS-BURKE
 The Associated Press

COOS BAY, Ore. — To put the value of his fishing boat into words, Scott Hockema speaks of hard years — years spent at sea hauling fish from the depths to support a wife and two sons, years spent repairing engines and gear and building a trustworthy crew, years fighting to make a living while the larger fishery faltered.

“I gave up quite a bit, when I gave up that thing,” the Coos Bay fisherman says. “My life’s work for 12 years.”

Hockema’s boat, the 84-foot Pacific Storm, is one of 91 vessels retired last year from fishing ever again in a federal buyout meant to prop up the overfished, struggling trawl fishery.

Now the Pacific Storm and two other retired fishing boats are getting a second life worthy of their hardwork-

ing past: Henceforth they will travel the Pacific Ocean on voyages of scientific exploration and marine conservation.

Hockema and two other owners have donated or pledged their vessels to Oregon State University, a gift that has stunned and energized researchers.

“It allows us to consider things we’d never thought possible,” says Bruce Mate, a professor and director of the marine mammal research program at Oregon State.

The other boats are the Olympic, a 78-footer donated by Terry Thompson, a Lincoln County commissioner, and a third for which the ownership transfer has not closed.

Already, Mate’s group has taken the Pacific Storm on a voyage off California to track endangered blue whales — the planet’s largest animals. The researchers tagged 29 of the leviathans in a four-week period, double the efficiency of previous trips, Mate says.

In the past, the group had to commute back and forth every day between Half Moon Bay and distant waters traversed by whales. Now they can use the big, seaworthy boat as a mother ship for their smaller, whale-chasing boats, staying at sea for weeks.

With the new fleet, Oregon State University scientists are talking about research voyages north to Arctic waters challenged by global warming, to poorly understood whale hot spots hundreds of miles off the coast of Mexico, and south to a zone of rich upwelling off Costa Rica.

These are vessels hardened for fierce weather, powered by giant diesel engines and generators, and able to carry 10,000 gallons of fuel and nearly as much water. With that kind of capability, Mate has floated the idea of research voyages that will last two or three years, with rotating crews of scientists.

Hockema — who learned the fishing trade as a boy aboard his grandfather’s boat and who served as captain on his first boat at age 17 — hates to think of his trustworthy Pacific Storm stripped of its fishing identity.

“I caught as much fish as anyone on the coast,” says the 39-year-old. “Everybody knew what that boat was.”

He retired a second boat in the buyout and sold it to someone who is converting it into a pleasure yacht.

“They cut all the masts off. It doesn’t even look like a fishing boat anymore,” he says.

As for himself, Hockema used the proceeds from the

buyout, after paying off boat loans and taxes, to start a new business: excavating foundations for construction.

Mate, the Oregon State University whale researcher, approached Hockema and other fishermen to ask about donating. Mate got the names of all the retiring vessels in the buyout and drew up a short list of the most capable by talking to university marine extension agents and ship surveyors.

As fishing vessels, such boats would be worth \$500,000 or more. But after the buyout put 91 retired vessels on the market, boats have sold for as little as \$10,000, says Pete Leipzig, executive director of Fishermen’s Marketing Association in Eureka, Calif.

In a single meeting, Mate persuaded Hockema to donate the Storm. Keeping the boat working meant a lot to him. So did the prospect of having it stay put on the Oregon coast, where he could still see it once in a while.

Not to mention, he says, “just the fact that it still kind of looks like a fishing boat.”

Thompson, former owner of the fishing vessel Olympic, handed the boat over to the university fully equipped down to the last wrench. He did it, he says, in part for the tax deduction and to support the university — his alma mater. But he also sees an urgent need for more and better research on marine resources.

“The only way they are going to do that is to get the right equipment,” he says.

The expense of chartering large vessels has stood in the way of ocean studies all along the West Coast. Mate says it costs about \$3,000 a day to charter something comparable to the Pacific Storm. As the owner, daily operating costs run about \$900.

Mate says the generosity of the gifts is overwhelming and even a little intimidating. He and others at the university now must come up with the money to equip and maintain the three vessels, hire crews, secure research grants and organize voyages.

“It involves raising more money than we had planned,” Mate says.

No state tax dollars are available. But the boats could act as magnets for support. Mate says his group has already submitted two grant proposals that use the value of the boats to solicit matching funds.

One anonymous donor has given more than \$80,000 to outfit the Pacific Storm. The boats are likely to be renamed in honor of the biggest donors.

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Whistleblower fuels fears at polluted Nevada mine

BY SCOTT SONNER

Associated Press Writer

YERINGTON, Nev. — Peggy Pauly remembers when she was diagnosed with thyroid cancer four years ago.

“My doctor asked if I’d ever been exposed to radiation and I said, ‘No,’” she said.

Now, she isn’t so sure.

Up until a month ago, Pauly never worried much about the abandoned Anaconda copper mine next to her family’s home of 10 years in the high desert’s irrigated oasis of the Mason Valley, 55 miles southeast of Reno.

“The north end of the mine is my backyard, basically. We built our home here because this was the land we could afford,” said Pauly, 55, the wife of a Baptist pastor and mother of daughters ages 8 and 9.

She knew of tests for arsenic, mercury and heavy metal contaminants in the groundwater at the mine covering nearly six square miles. And she noticed last spring when Atlantic Richfield Co., which is primarily responsible for cleanup, started providing free bottled water to neighbors as a precautionary measure.

But she had no reason to doubt Bureau of Land Management officials who said there was no evidence any toxins had gravitated off the mine site itself, or Nevada Division of Environmental Protection officials who said the high levels of uranium in nearby domestic wells most likely were naturally occurring.

Both agencies have resisted calls to make the mine a federal Superfund site.

“I’m a housewife, not a geologist,” Pauly said. “My husband and I have never been pro-Superfund. In my naivete, I thought we were being pretty well informed.”

That started to change last month when she was mailed a newsletter from the BLM, NDEP and Environmental Protection Agency describing the “radiological hazards that warrant protection of workers in certain areas of the site” and the need to conduct an aerial survey “to determine where radiation may be both on and off site.”

“That was scary to me,” Pauly said.

Then she learned of a whistleblower complaint filed by the BLM’s former project manager at the mine, Earle Dixon, who claims he was fired in October because he drew attention to alleged attempts by state and federal regulators to suppress information about health and safety risks.

She started asking questions, writing letters and making calls. And the more she learned, the madder she got.

“I’m finding that Arco and the state have known for a very long time that there is radiation there,” Pauly said. “The monitoring well samples showed it was there in 1984 and they just sort of shrugged it off. Why didn’t they follow up back then?”

“We used to drive through the pink dust and I wonder how much did my kids get exposed to that? Maybe we were stupid, I don’t know. But we never even thought about maybe there was some sort of a danger.”

Local suspicions have abounded for years that Arco and state regulators weren’t leveling with residents about potential risks at the mine. Anaconda produced an estimated 1.7 billion pounds of copper there from 1953-78, before selling the property to Arimetco International Inc. of Tucson, Ariz., which went bankrupt and abandoned the site in 2000.

Officials for Arco — now responsible for cleanup as past owner of the site — BLM and NDEP all deny there’s been any attempt to hide potential dangers at the mine.

“We would never suppress data,” NDEP spokeswoman Cindy Petterson said. “Maybe we haven’t been as good about getting information out as people would have liked.”

Environmentalists and neighboring tribes have expressed concerns repeatedly about delays in addressing contaminated dust and the possibility that uranium-laced water leaked through the oldest, unlined, evaporation ponds where copper was processed in sulfuric acid.

The concerns took on new significance a year ago with the discovery of decades-old Anaconda documents in archives at the University of Wyoming, including one that showed Anaconda was working on a deal in 1976 to produce yellowcake uranium at the site based on samples taken from evaporation ponds that showed high radiation levels.

Another Anaconda document made public last fall

showed tests of monitoring wells at the mine in 1984 with uranium at up to 40 times the legal limits for public drinking water.

A third dated July 1979 surfaced three months ago. It said: “It now appears that the residue in the evaporation ponds is a problem because of radiological contamination.”

New tests the past six months found soil samples at the mine with unusually high levels of radioactivity and concentrations of uranium in mine wells at up to 200 times drinking water standards.

Fears were fueled again last month when the Washington, D.C.-based Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility filed the whistleblower complaint on Dixon’s behalf with the Labor Department, which is investigating.

Dixon reported in meticulous notes of more than 80 meetings and phone conversations the past year that BLM health and safety policies were not being followed

and that workers at the site had been exposed to low levels of radioactivity.

He said BLM administrators eventually forbade him from talking to the media, and censored and edited his technical communications and memos.

Mick Harrison, one of Dixon’s lawyers, sees many similarities between the Yerington mine and other Superfund sites where he’s been involved in lawsuits across the country.

“What seems to be more blatant in this case is that they are trying to sweep it under the rug,” Harrison said.

BLM officials dispute Dixon’s claims.

“He was fired because he was not performing his duties appropriately,” BLM spokeswoman Jo Simpson said. “Little progress was being made cleaning up the site.”

Dan Cummings, a spokesman for Arco’s parent company, British Petroleum, said government regulators are mostly to blame for cleanup delays.





NATIONAL

Rural Utah bank felled by bad loans, embezzlement

BY PAUL FOY

AP Business Writer

EPHRAIM, Utah — The math was simple: Bad loans plus embezzlement brought down a small-town bank.

The loans were made for hasty business ventures in a 9,000-strong polygamist enclave that believed the world was about to end.

The insider's fraud was 24 years in the making and involved cash-filled suitcases and Las Vegas gambling sprees.

But in this farming community in one of Utah poorest counties, where many are struggling to hold their own, resentment runs deep against regulators who shut down the 99-year-old Bank of Ephraim.

They complain government examiners, fooled by phony bank statements, never detected the fraud. They accuse state regulators of tolerating risky loans to the

Mormon fundamentalist sect halfway down the state — until the buildup to the Salt Lake 2002 Winter Olympics ushered a renewed war on the polygamists.

One of the loans was made for a watermelon farm that never planted a single watermelon. The bank foreclosed on the farm. Another was made to an outfit that salvaged military barracks for motel conversions; that venture went bankrupt when the barracks turned out to have lead paint, asbestos and other hazards.

The loans reached \$18 million, 90 percent of the Bank of Ephraim's portfolio, said former bank President Keith Church.

Regulators "allowed it to happen and then closed it when we were trying to fix it," said Church, who took over in 2000. "They were like stink on poop on us."

Afterward, Church learned from business owners that they had been instructed by Rulon Jeffs, former leader of the

Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, to "go out and borrow as much money as they could" because civilization was about to collapse.

State Banking Supervisor Jim Thomas said the Bank of Ephraim was cleaning its balance sheet of the bad loans when embezzlement delivered the knockout punch. He said the bank was irredeemable.

Federal officials say it underscores a shift to outright fraud for bank failures, which used to fail more often because of economic downturns.

A handful of banks still fail each year. "A lot of them, which tend to be small, don't make a big splash until they happen in your backyard. That's the hard way to find out about it," said David Barr, a spokesman for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. in Washington, D.C.

Last June's closing of the Bank of Ephraim made instant losers of 50 people and groups ranging from turkey farmers to the local Chevrolet dealer and state college. Together they had \$3.6 million in uninsured deposits.

Stockholders who lost millions more insisted they had investors lined up to rescue the bank, but were rebuffed by regulators, who sold the deposits to a bank unwittingly instrumental in its looting, the Far West Bank of Provo, Utah.

Now, attorneys are fighting the federal agency charged with salvaging failed banks over restitution for losers. Many of the losers are small-business owners who learned too late that deposits in any single bank over \$100,000 were uninsured, an amount unchanged since 1952.

A bank failure was "the last thing in my mind," said Chevy dealer Ron Greene, who sometimes kept millions at the Bank of Ephraim but through the luck of timing lost only about \$100,000 in uninsured deposits. "I thought of it as the rock of Gibraltar."

The FDIC is taking the position that it alone is the victim of the failed bank and responsible for distributing the banks' remaining assets, infuriating townsfolk. In court papers the FDIC says it has sole authority over depleted bank assets, including any restitution recovered from former head cashier Randy K. McArthur and Dean Johnson, an outsider who drew up counterfeit bank statements. Both pleaded guilty in September to looting the bank for two dozen years.

By the time they were done, authorities say, they drained the bank's earnings of nearly \$5 million.

"I've never seen an embezzlement gone on like this for so long. This is an aberration. Most embezzlers are caught quickly," said FBI agent Todd Argyle.

"It's gone," McArthur told a Salt Lake television station outside the federal courthouse last summer.

McArthur, 50, whose sentencing has been put off until Jan. 14 pending the fight over restitution, refused to be interviewed for this story. Church said McArthur told him he drafted Bank of Ephraim cashier's checks and drove them to a nearby Far West Bank branch in Mount Pleasant, claiming he needed cash "for the vault."

Church said the bank's cash flow was strong, and he was stunned Far West Bank never was suspicious. It never called to inquire about McArthur's withdrawals. Far West Bank officials insist rural banks borrow cash from each other routinely to avoid the expense of armored-car deliveries.

Nearly every month for 24 years McArthur took out sums exceeding \$20,000, keeping bills from \$5 to \$100 stuffed in suitcases and buying a house and expensive cars and leading a double life in St. George, Utah, his gateway to Las Vegas casinos. "This is directly from him to me," Church said. In his plea deal, McArthur said he divided the loot with Johnson.

For a small town, the bank's failure dealt a staggering toll. Bank of Ephraim employees lost jobs and pensions and some are selling their houses.

Church was hired by Zion's Bank but took a \$60,000 pay cut. He lost \$200,000 he rolled from a 401k retirement account into bank stock, "which would have been a good investment if Randy hadn't been stealing it." Church, 52, also lost an annuity that promised \$4,000 a month after age 62.

At Moroni Feed Co., which sells the Norbest brand of turkey, a \$250,000 loss "comes right out of the pocket" of 65 family farms already struggling under depressed prices, cooperative President David P. Bailey said.

Small-business owners mourn the passing of a friendly bank that gave them easy terms. Ernest "Gus" Augustus, who opened a new restaurant on Main Street here, said "you can't get a dime" out of other Utah banks. He said his income can fluctuate like a farmer's, but he no longer has a \$15,000 line of credit to tide him over.

"It's gone — our retirement," said Terrie Green, co-owner with her husband of Central Utah Title, which held sometimes astronomical sums at the Bank of Ephraim for real-estate deals. Green and her husband, Glen, count themselves somewhat lucky they lost only \$84,000 in uninsured deposits. They had to take out a loan to pay employees and leases on business machines.

The Bank of Ephraim's chairman said the bank got caught in Utah's battle against polygamists straddling the Utah-Arizona border. The community, wholly owned and controlled by a church run by autocrat Warren Jeffs, is buying ranches in Colorado and west Texas for what authorities believe may be an exodus.

Jeffs, whose Hildale compound was surrounded by a 10-foot wall, is a recluse who doesn't give interviews. He presides over Hildale-Colorado City astride the Utah-Arizona border, a jumble of unfinished houses on dirt streets, where men have multiple wives and dozens of children, who supply cheap labor for business.

For years, the Bank of Ephraim made money off higher-interest business loans using leaseholds on church-owned land as collateral, opening a branch in Hildale that was recently shut down. They were "not your vanilla loans" but generated healthy bank returns, said Carl Barton, the Bank of Ephraim's chairman.

Eventually the Bank of Ephraim "got in too deep," and while the community was paying back some loans, the bank ended up invested heavily in too many speculative deals with polygamists who "didn't have much to lose," said Thomas, the banking supervisor.

"They were locked into a community that is — not normal," Thomas said.

The Bank of Ephraim underwrote one construction company that so underbid municipal sewer and street contracts it couldn't pay for materials or supplies, let alone labor, he said.

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NATIONAL



Study: Dangerous military waste near reservations

BY NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS

Associated Press Writer

SPOKANE, Wash. — The last major campaigns by the U.S. Army against Indian tribes took place in the late 1800s. But the military is still dangerous to Indians in the West today, a new report found.

The study contends the dramatic expansion of U.S. military bases during the 20th century was largely concentrated in the same remote, arid places where Indian reservations were located.

That means Indians could be disproportionately exposed to toxic chemicals and unexploded bombs, compared to non-Indians, according to the report by Gregory Hooks of Washington State University and a former graduate student, Chad Smith, now of Texas State University-San Marcos.

Two world wars and the Cold War “pushed the United States to produce, test and deploy weapons of unprecedented toxicity,” the study said. “Native Americans have been left exposed to the dangers of this toxic legacy.”

The study, just published in *American Sociological Review*, is based on geography, not on actual data showing whether Indians are more often injured by unexploded bombs, Hooks said. Such studies remain to be conducted, he said.

Using Defense Department data on closed military bases in the Lower 48 states — including bombing ranges, weapons testing and storage sites — researchers discovered the locations

deemed most hazardous “lay within close proximity to Indian reservations,” the report said.

Numerous past studies have shown that minority groups often face so-called “environmental racism” from dangerous factories and other commercial facilities because poverty limits the places where they can afford to live.

But in Indian country, Indians typically did not choose the sites of their reservations, and the toxic wastes were created not by private industry but by the military.

This study is the first to show that Indian tribes in remote areas have faced the same sort of environmental discrimination as people in urban areas, Hooks said.

The study only considered closed military bases because security concerns make it impossible to learn of environmental hazards at functioning military bases, Hooks said.

As a result, military facilities like the Yakima Training Center, Whidbey Island Naval Air Station and Fort Lewis, Wash., all of which are located near Indian reservations, were not considered in the study, Hooks said.

That raises the possibility that dangers to Indians are even greater than what was found in the report, he said.

The study noted the U.S. military expanded dramatically into Indian country for much of the 20th century. That’s because they were looking for areas that were remote, unpopulated and already owned by the federal government.

Many Indian reservations are also

located on some of the most undesirable land in the West, the study found.

The Department of Defense has acknowledged the problems, the report said, quoting a 2001 department report that said Indian lands have “hazardous materials, unexploded ordnance (UXO), abandoned equipment, unsafe buildings, and debris.”

The government estimates that unexploded ordnance, which can include mines, nerve gases and explosive shells, probably contaminates 20 million to 50 million acres of land in the United States and would take centuries to clean up at current rates.

The Army Corps of Engineers has a branch specifically dedicated to dealing with such dangers at closed bases.

Jerry Vincent, who oversees cleanup of formerly used military sites in California for the Army Corps in Sacramento, said most of the bombing ranges in his region are littered with dummy bombs that do not contain high explosives.

But he agreed that remote military sites that might be near Indian reservations get a low priority for limited cleanup funds because of the low population.

“We focus on areas with the greatest risk for the largest population,” Vincent said, naming sites near Los Angeles, San Diego and Palm Springs.

The counties of Imperial, Los Angeles, San Bernardino and San Diego in California and Chaves and Luna in New Mexico were singled out in the new report for having large amounts of unexploded ordnance.

The report found that those six counties

averaged 10.5 dangerous sites each, compared with 0.12 dangerous sites for each of the other 3,130 counties in the lower 48 states.

Jonathan Maas of the Army Corps in Seattle said they have been searching for a cache of chemical weapons that might have been stored at a facility on the Tulalip Reservation near Marysville in the 1940s, but have not found the weapons.

The report by Hooks and Smith found that in 1916, the U.S. Army owned about 1.5 million acres of land, and expanded dramatically during World War I. By 1940, the Army owned about 2 million acres of land.

The huge buildup to World War II saw the Army acquire another 8 million acres. Most of those lands were in the vicinity or contiguous to Indian reservations, the report said.

Conventional weapons in World War II were far more lethal than weapons from previous wars, and the United States has led the world in the production of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear, biological and chemical weapons, the report said.

For instance, the huge Nellis Range near Las Vegas was absorbed into the nuclear weapons complex. The Dugway Proving Grounds in Utah saw tests of chemical warfare weapons, the report said.

The military also seized about 342,000 acres of land on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota for a bombing range to train pilots. That left many unexploded bombs on the landscape, the report said.

‘Designer’ Christmas tree growers target national holiday market

WILLIAM MCCALL

AP Business Writer

AURORA, Ore. — Joe Sharp has traveled the world but says he has never found a more perfect Christmas tree than in Oregon, the nation’s largest producer in a \$791 million industry and a leader in the effort to revive the holiday market for live trees facing tough competition from artificial versions.

Sharp, a former airline executive turned tree grower, has created a “designer tree” out of the noble fir, a fragrant and sturdy evergreen that only the climate and soil in Oregon can produce in abundance.

Sharp and his Yule Tree Farms are shipping noble firs across the country to test the demand for a higher-priced tree that is carefully managed from seedling to shipping, resulting in a lush, symmetric shape that resists drying.

He is betting that consumers will justify the extra cost in exchange for the guarantee of a classic appearance and durability, along with the reassurance his operation is friendly to the environment.

Tree farms turn idle acreage into pro-

ductive farmland, protect against erosion, provide jobs and their products can be recycled and regenerated — unlike the petroleum-based plastic used to make artificial trees, Sharp said.

“It’s just part of the whole industry that has been developing to bring the farm experience back to urban Americans,” Sharp said.

So far, the reception to the Oregon noble firs has been positive in test markets around the country, despite a \$70 to \$80 price tag in some areas.

“I don’t think we’ll have any problem selling them,” said Tom Anrico, a veteran buyer for Stew Leonard’s, a tree and gift retailer based in Norwalk, Conn.

The designer tree is part of a larger marketing effort by the National Christmas Tree Association to renew consumer demand for live trees.

“Our market has shifted on us and we just didn’t pay attention,” said Irwin Loiterstein, director of the association’s national marketing campaign.

He notes that annual sales of live trees dropped from about 32 million in 2000 to 23.4 million in 2003, while the number of

artificial trees displayed each year has grown from an estimated 50.6 million in 2000 to 62.9 million in 2003.

The shift shows that consumer trends have become more complex and tree growers need more sophisticated techniques to reach buyers, Loiterstein said.

For example, he said the trade group has noticed what appears to be a move back to traditional holiday values by the so-called “Generation Y” — an age group from 14-28 that has seen a steady increase in divorce and single-parent homes and views the holiday as a way to reunite families, if only temporarily.

“They are very family oriented,” Loiterstein said.

“Half the fun of the holidays is picking out a tree on a lot or a farm,” he said. “You don’t get that experience with going to Wal-Mart and lugging a plastic tree home in box, so we have to remind them of that.”

Ron Hudler, who operates the Hudler Carolina Tree Farm Inc. in North Carolina, the nation’s No. 2 producer, says growers are working to adapt to changing tastes and offer more alterna-

tives. But given the lead time required, it is difficult.

“The decisions we made six to seven years ago are the ones we have to live with in today’s market,” Hudler said.

Shipping has become a factor with the increase in fuel costs and busy trucking companies unable or unwilling to shoulder the extra burden.

“The unique thing about Christmas trees that a lot of people forget when comparing them to other agricultural products is that Christmas is such a compressed harvest season — it’s just a crazy time of year,” said Brian Ostlund, executive secretary of the Pacific Northwest Tree Association.

“If growers don’t have to reach too far outside the traditional boundaries of putting them on trucks to Los Angeles or Dallas-Fort Worth, they can handle it,” Ostlund said.

But the industry must move to expand markets, he said, including efforts to sell trees in Mexico, Japan and China.

“You have to pay attention to where the customers are at. You can’t just wait for the phone to ring,” Ostlund said.



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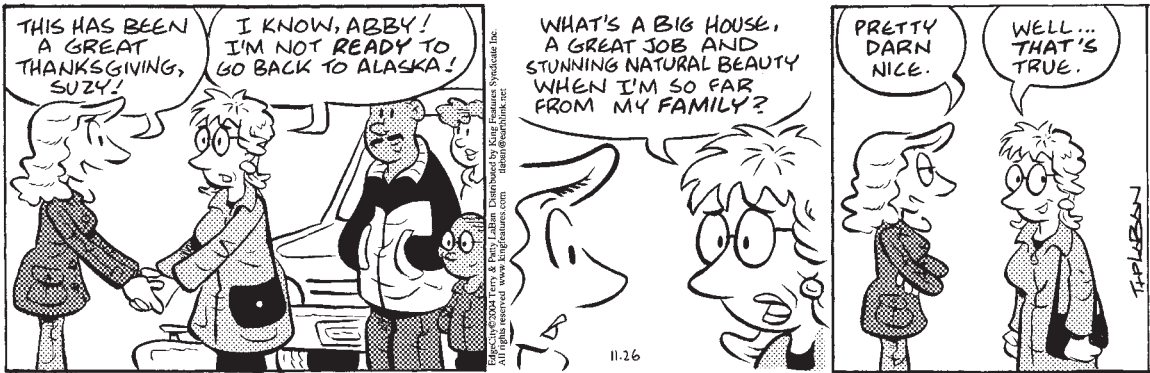


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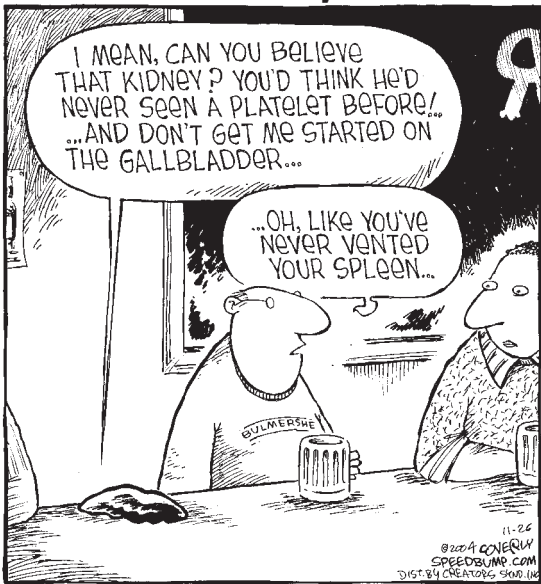
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ACROSS

- 1 Did something
- 6 More frightened, perhaps
- 11 Hercules portrayer Kevin
- 12 Solitary
- 13 Thick cuts
- 14 Snare
- 15 Pole worker
- 16 Used a chair
- 18 Low digit
- 19 Brit. fliers
- 20 Conditions
- 21 Pitching no.
- 22 More hackneyed
- 24 Worry
- 25 Seed for rye
- 27 Alliance since 1949
- 29 Devilfish
- 32 Yale student
- 33 Chess pieces
- 34 Rascal
- 35 "Nightline" network
- 36 Believer (Suff.)

- 37 Tax-time helper, for short
- 38 Compare
- 40 Invited
- 42 Without break
- 43 Plow pioneer
- 44 Margin jottings
- 45 Fills

DOWN

- 1 Be forceful
- 2 Shirt part
- 3 Speeder's reward
- 4 Go out
- 5 File
- 6 Agree-ments
- 9 Concert bonus
- 10 Make left-overs
- 17 Sloped houses
- 23 — Te Ching
- 24 Rooter

S	E	R	I	F		S	Q	U	A	D
E	R	O	D	E		H	U	R	R	Y
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D	E	E	M	S		B	I	S	O	N

Yesterday's answer

- 7 In the style of
- 8 Dreamer's buy
- 9 Concert bonus
- 10 Make left-overs
- 17 Sloped houses
- 23 — Te Ching
- 24 Rooter
- 26 Paper listings
- 27 Comic Kevin
- 28 White rat, e.g.
- 30 Current unit
- 31 Black suit
- 33 Looks after
- 39 Compass dir.
- 41 Briny

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Tom Waits returns to the stage after 17 years

By The Associated Press

LONDON —Offbeat rocker-actor Tom Waits returned to the British stage Tuesday for the first time since 1987.

The 3,000-capacity Carling Hammersmith Apollo sold out in 20 minutes when tickets went on sale for the only British date on his European tour promoting the "cubist funk" album "Blood Rain."

Music stars including Thom Yorke, Beth Orton and Jamie Cullum were in the crowd to see Waits perform new material, as well as old favorites from his 30-year career. The audience seemed to relish Waits' unique gravelly singing voice.

Making fun of his long absence from London and his own age, the 54-year-old singer said: "It's good to see you."

"OK, all right, yeah, 17 years ... but you look good. The three ages of man: youth, middle age and 'you look good.'"

LOS ANGELES —Bruce Willis filed a negligence lawsuit against Revolution Studios for pyrotechnic injuries allegedly suffered during filming of the action film "Tears of the Sun."

The Superior Court lawsuit claims the actor suffered substantial mental and physical injuries during the October 2002 movie set accident in which he was struck in the forehead by a "projectile" after the movie's special effects personnel detonated pyrotechnic devices.

The explosions, known as squibs, were intended to

"simulate the appearance of bullets striking the ground," according to the Oct. 20 lawsuit claiming Willis has endured "extreme mental, physical and emotional pain and suffering."

There were no details on the injuries.

Revolution Studios spokesman Sean Dudas said Tuesday, "We are not able to comment on pending litigation."

The complaint doesn't seek specific monetary damages, but it noted Willis "was required to and did employ physicians and other medical personnel" and will incur future medical expenses.

The lawsuit said defendants Revolution Studios and special effects foreman Joe Pancake "had a duty to Willis to ensure that the squibs were inspected, set up, placed and detonated in a safe manner, and to employ technicians who were trained and competent in their use."

PHILADELPHIA —Marilyn Manson: shock rocker. Self-proclaimed "Antichrist Superstar." Philosophy professor?

With an MTV film crew in tow, Manson surprised students in a Temple University Art and Society class Monday with an hourlong guest lecture.

He opened the class with a question: Could he share a bottle of red absinthe with the students?

The liqueur stayed on the desk as Manson — wearing an all-black suit with chrome-tipped platform shoes, dark lipstick and sunglasses — responded to questions

about art, politics and religion.

"I'm not someone who doesn't respect religion, but I don't care for the way religion is used to manipulate people," the 35-year-old singer said. "We create our own gods. We create our own devils."

MTV's college network, mtvU, filmed Manson's classroom appearance for a segment of the "Stand In" series scheduled to air Dec. 6.

DETROIT —A grim, crime-ridden city co-stars with Laurence Fishburne and Ethan Hawke in a thriller movie set for release in January.

"Assault on Precinct 13" is a remake of the 1976 cult classic directed by John Carpenter, which was set in Los Angeles. The 2005 version, set in Detroit, is directed by Jean-Francois Richet ("All About Love"), and also features Drea de Matteo, Maria Bello, Gabriel Byrne and Brian Dennehy.

The movie tells the story of a stormy New Year's Eve at a police precinct that is set to be shut down in a few days. Crime lord Marion Bishop, played by Fishburne, sits in Precinct 13 for the night. When a gang attempts to break in to free him, the prisoners and a skeletal crew of police officers realize they must band together if they want to make it out alive.

"Assault on Precinct 13" was shot almost entirely in Toronto. A skyline shot is the only glimpse of the real Motor City, the Detroit Free Press said Tuesday.

The film is set to open Jan. 21.

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