



FREE

Santa Monica Daily Press

November 27-28, 2004

A newspaper with issues

Volume 4, Issue 13

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

1 3 12 28 47
Meganumber: 9
Jackpot: \$21 Million

FANTASY 5

5 13 21 28 34

DAILY 3

Daytime: 1 6 0

Evening: 1 3 8

DAILY DERBY

1st: 11 Money Bags
2nd: 05 California Classic
3rd: 06 Whirl Win

RACE TIME: 1:49.04

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

Ultra-Orthodox California rabbi Nachum Shifren, 53, cuts a dashing figure on the beach at Malibu, where he is the legendary surfer "Shifty," easily spottable on 20-foot waves by his long beard, according to a September profile in the San Diego Union-Tribune. In his spare time (he says he is ready to ride 24/6, allowing for the Sabbath), he has conducted "Passover surfaris" and beach bar-mitzvahs, and his lectures on Deuteronomy include the observation that "surf punks" paddled out into the Red Sea during the Jews' exodus from Egypt. "(T)he whole religious experience," he told the reporter, "the outer body experience, is encompassed in the act of surfing."

TODAY IN HISTORY

Ten years ago: Defense Secretary William Perry, appearing on NBC's "Meet the Press," suggested the Bosnian government had lost the war in the Balkans, and acknowledged NATO was powerless to stop the Serbs.

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SMPD stands by community coverage

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

POLICE HDQTRS. — In the wake of a recent midday shooting in front of a Santa Monica school, Police Chief James T. Butts Jr. this week reaffirmed his longstanding commitment to fighting crime while strengthening ties to the community.

Butts pointed to his "Neighborhood-Centered Policing" model, which puts each of the city's major neighborhoods

under the personal watch of high-ranking police officers with the knowledge and power to affect change. The officers meet regularly with community members and groups, and return to meet monthly with the police department's command staff, which reassigns resources as needed.

"For 13 years, I have been a leader of action in this community," said Butts, who has been under heightened observation from some residents since the non-fatal school shooting. "For 13 years, this

department has worked on a daily basis at planning, strategizing and engaging the community, and improving public safety — and most importantly, our relationship with the people we serve."

After hearing from a half-dozen frightened and angry mothers earlier this month, the City Council agreed to hold a special meeting or series of meetings to address the ongoing gang-violence problem. Some council members also criticized Butts, saying residents and elected leaders ought to know

more about his neighborhood-based strategy.

Butts this week said his department will press ahead with the work it's doing, pointing out Santa Monica has seen a 62-percent drop in crime over the last 10 years and another 10-percent drop this year alone. Though he hadn't been asked to attend the special meetings on gang violence, Butts said he would if invited.

"It would be incongruent to think that, as a result of the com-

See SMPD, page 5

Back in 'Black'



John Wood/Daily Press

After a full day of shopping Friday, an exhausted Joe Talamo, of Philadelphia, waits for his wife and daughter on the Third Street Promenade. Business was heavy for merchants in Santa Monica on the traditional post-Thanksgiving shopping day known as 'Black Friday.'

For art's sake: Program jams to raise bread

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

A foundation set up specifically to support arts education is jamming along in its effort to raise millions of dollars for local schools.

For The Arts, a campaign launched four years ago as part of the Education Foundation of Santa Monica-Malibu, is gearing up for its next round of fundraising, bringing it closer to its \$15 million endowment goal so programs in music, visual arts, dance and drama are in every school in the district.

Its last fundraising campaign this past spring — highlighted by a concert by local band Venice and legendary singer-songwriter Jackson Browne — raised \$150,000, bringing the total for For The Arts to \$1.6 million. An arts auction last spring also raised \$165,000 for arts programs.

While organizers had to lobby quite heavily to get the exposure it did with the spring fundraiser, this season's effort — which features Usher and Earth, Wind & Fire — came with a bit more ease. The difference this time is the entertainment industry has taken notice of local efforts to bring the arts back into schools.

The Los Angeles Chapter of the Recording Academy & the Entertainment Industry Foundation (EIF), which is presenting "Grammy Jam" on Dec. 11, named For The Arts one of five beneficiaries.

"We've reached a critical mass ... they are coming to us now and people are starting to pay attention," said

See FOR THE ARTS, page 6

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ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ Mix friends and travel. Hop in the car and explore a flea market or favorite spot. Your good humor is enhanced by getting away from the daily grind. Friends join in as you explore a new shopping spot. Tonight: Try a new restaurant.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ You have many great ideas, but making them real is a whole other story. Brainstorm with friends who might be more grounded. Together you'll figure out a way to make a certain dream a reality. Tonight: Your treat.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Seize the moment when your are at your best. If you have a sweetie or special person in your life, take off for a day trip together. Both of you will relax and transform in a different environment. Be more loving and caring with others. Tonight: Anything is possible.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Use your time to get a fun holiday project done, or start organizing your home or garage. Look to the long-term when making a decision on spending. Talk to a loved one about an expenditure. Together you'll come up with great ideas. Tonight: Take it easy.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ You cannot help but say "yes" to a request or invitation. You might be putting a loved one or a new friend on a pedestal. He or she can only tumble off. Careful. Listen during conversations. Chat the day away while doing something you love. Tonight: Dinner with a friend.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Others don't hesitate to ask for more of what they want. You could be tired of being at the center of all the activity. Do something that's important to you. Consider buying a new holiday outfit. Tonight: A must show.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Take an overview with loved ones and children. If you are single, right now you could easily meet someone quite exotic who could show you a different lifestyle. Be open to trying something new. A movie could be appealing as well. Tonight: Escape.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ You find a partner or friend to be very demanding. You might wonder what is best to do. Don't wonder and just follow along. Fun and games happen when you relate closely with this person. Reveal more of yourself. Tonight: Add spice to your love life.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ You don't need to do anything but simply follow the lead of others. You have a good time wherever you are. Treat a friend or your pals to something special. Follow your strong intuition, and you'll gain. Tonight: Find a place with music.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Your mind revolves around the practical. Some might go shopping, while others decide to get a head start on work. A family member or older friend needs your attention. Nurture others more often. Tonight: Just don't do anything you don't want to do.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ It's Saturday — act like it! Be more playful, and allow others to let down their hair as well. Examine your long-term desires later. Your job is to have a good time. Indulge in a favorite sport or pastime. Tonight: You could be quite wild. Why not?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★ Family demands your attention. You might want to start getting ready for the holidays. Not everyone is in the same mood. Make that OK and follow through on your desires. Your instincts are right-on. Take some time alone. Tonight: Order in.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Christmas music rings out on Westside

By Daily Press staff

Angel City Chorale (ACC), a multi-talented, multi-cultural group of 120 men and women will perform two concerts at Wilshire United Methodist Church on Dec. 4 at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 5 at 6 p.m.

ACC's 2004 holiday repertoire includes some favorites, as well as a few surprises from across the ages and around the world. ACC will showcase their signature blend of eclectic musical styles — a mix of pop, rock, folk, gospel, spiritual and classical selections. In keeping with the choir's mission to reach out on an ongoing basis to the greater Los Angeles community through song, featured works include traditional pieces by Handel and Bennett, Christmas gospels, traditional Ukranian carols, modern pieces by composer/cantor Finkelstein and choir member Barbara Miller, as well as the non-denominational, hope-filled original, "One," by composer/conductor Sue Fink.

Founded at McCabe's Guitar Shop in Santa Monica in 1993 by award-winning conductor and artistic director Fink, ACC has grown from just 18 singers into a fully self-supporting community-oriented chorale group of more than 120 men and women. ACC has appeared at the Staples Center, the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, the Kodak Theatre as the featured choir for the nationwide PBS television special, "The American Tenors," and for last year's "A Merry Mancini Christmas" at Walt Disney Concert Hall. ACC also was the featured entertainment at this year's Jewish Artisan's Festival, Temple Isaiah held last week.

Wilshire United Methodist is located at 4350 Wilshire Blvd., between Highland Avenue and Wilton. Tickets are \$17 in advance and \$20 at the door for adults; \$15/\$18 for seniors and \$12/\$15 for children under 12 years old. Group rates also are available. For ticket information, contact Kathy at (310) 785-9591 or visit www.angelcitychorale.com.

ACC has provided outreach services to the greater Los Angeles community via its Tour of Hope for many years. Each holiday season, choir members board buses and visit community sites that specialize in helping members of the community get their lives back on track. Past sites include juvenile detention centers, homes for the blind, senior citizen homes, and various hospital burn units. The ACC prides itself on bringing hope in the form of music and song to the widest Los Angeles audience possible, organizers say. In May, the chorale launched its first annual Spring Tour of Hope, in line with its mission to reach out through music not just at holiday time, but consistently throughout the year as well.

"Our music embraces people of many faiths, ages and interests," Fink said. "We bring an authenticity and integrity to many different styles ... we're a choir committed to community, just as Temple Isaiah is. It's a wonderful match and we are thrilled to be part of the Festival of Jewish Artisans."

Public parking: Input sought for new open space

By Daily Press staff

City officials want the public to give their thoughts on how a new park should be designed.

The city of Santa Monica's Community and Cultural Services Department will host a second community design workshop on Sunday, Dec. 5, from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. — rain or shine — to encourage public input on the design of a small park planned on Euclid Street between Colorado Avenue and Broadway. At the meeting, the design team of Rios Clemente Hale Studios and artist Abbie Morganstein will present three schematic park design options, and will take neighborhood and community comment on the proposed plans. A discussion, and a question-and-answer session is scheduled after the design presentation. The three design schemes build upon the public input received at the first workshop held on Oct. 23, and are also based upon the results of an extensive survey to gauge park user preferences for amenities such as shade, seating, children's playground equipment, security features and landscape planning.

See BRIEFS, page 5



SURF REPORT

On Saturday, expect 2-3 ft. sets, knee- to waist-high sets, occasionally 4 ft. or more, and generally fair conditions overall. On Sunday, look for 3-4 ft., waist- to chest-high, occasionally 6 ft., but poor conditions.

New NW ground and wind swell will fill in through the day on Saturday, with the strongest surf arriving by Sunday, although wind conditions will likely be a problem. Cleaner and smaller surf is expected through the first part of next week.

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

Today the water is:

60°

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	2:10	2.3	3:51	-0.5	8:29	6.2	10:27	3.6
SUNDAY	2:36	2.5	4:28	-0.4	8:57	6.0	11:15	3.4
MONDAY	3:01	2.7	5:09	-0.2	9:27	5.8	N/A	N/A
TUESDAY	3:27	3.0	5:54	0.1	12:12	3.3	9:59	5.5
WEDNESDAY	3:57	3.2	6:44	0.3	1:25	3.3	10:36	5.2
THURSDAY	N/A	N/A	7:38	0.5	11:20	4.7	N/A	N/A
FRIDAY	6:57	3.5	8:31	0.7	3:49	3.7	12:22	4.3

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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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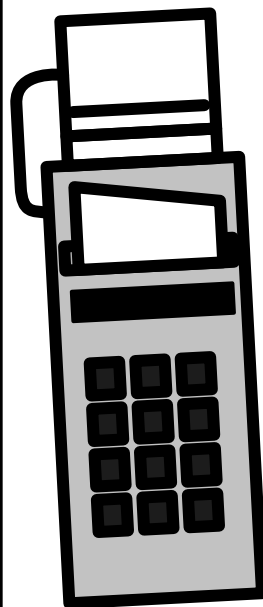
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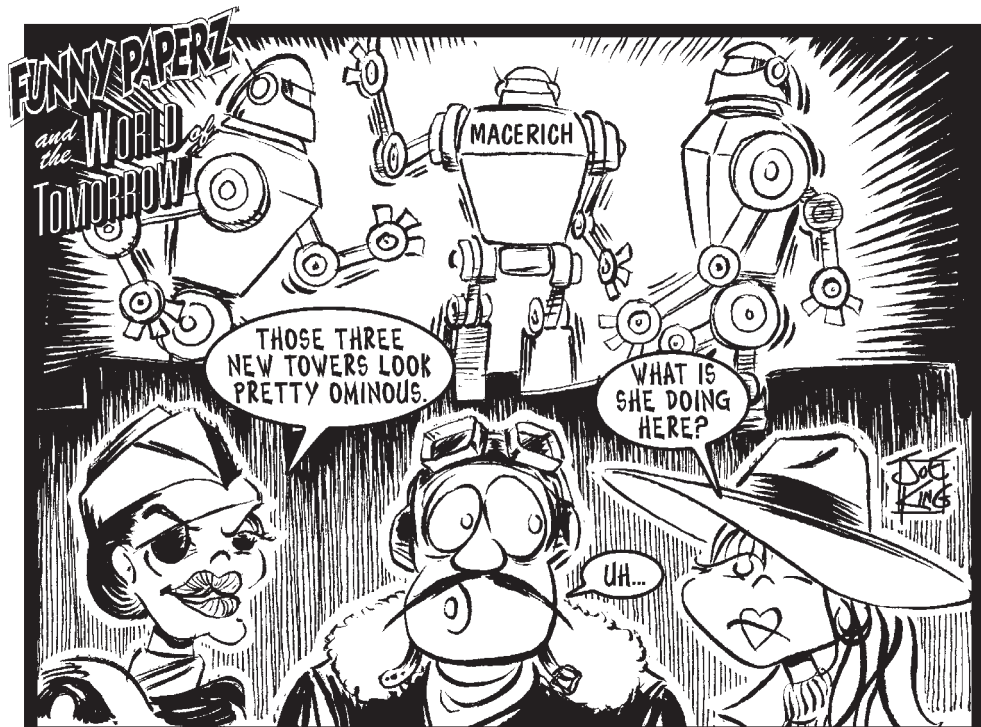
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OPINION



The hero's name is "Joe" -- Honest!

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The QLine

PIERING INTO THE CRYSTAL BALL

This past week, Q-line asked:

How do you envision the Santa Monica Pier in the future?

Here are your responses:

① "I envision a Santa Monica Pier with an expanded parking lot — southwest, over the ocean — to facilitate an additional 100 motor vehicles, and a better access route from Ocean Avenue to the lower parking lot that sits north of the pier. Still, if residents continue to move from the Santa Monica coastal area due to high prices, this expansion may prove to be moot."

② "The pier of the future, like Santa Monica as a whole, will continue to go downhill. There is no one with any real intelligence and insight to stop this downward flow. Good-bye, lovely Santa Monica of yesteryear."

③ "Well, I think that the pier is a wonderful place. It draws a lot of celebrity clients from around the world. I say, 'Go for it.' A lot of entertainment is the happening thing. So I say, 'Let's go for it.'"

④ "Ban the street performers from the Santa Monica Pier — now, and in the future. If the street performers wish a venue, give them the venue of choice — Venice Beach — not the Santa Monica Pier. Also, with regard to the type of pier we should have in the future, I think it should be for enjoyment by all, but at the same time, I strongly feel that you have to remember that a lot of the people who are walking the pier are tourists from all over the globe, whether it be Asia, Europe or wherever. And in consideration of these folks who are paying top dollar, very top dollar at the hotels in Santa Monica, they should be given some 'medium' type of entertainment like that which the restaurants, etc., can provide currently. But again, no street performers — all it does is clog and annoy."

⑤ "I see the pier as pretty much remaining the same. It should have some games and a little bit of fun there and food, for the tourists and the locals, and have some concerts and stuff like it does. I think that it's pretty much topped out as far as what it does and how it provides for the community and the other communities at large. I don't see the sense in having Third Street performers come over on the pier and ruin it for everybody by every four feet having a different kind of beat and jangles and tunes and words going on like crazy. I appreciate that it was not allowed and I don't think it should be. As far as traveling up and down the pier, I do think that an electric elevator taking people who are disabled from the top of the pier to bottom of the pier and back up for a fee of 25 or 50 cents would be a nice addition."

⑥ "About the pier — East Los Angeles, West."

⑦ "Well, with the Santa Monica City Council being the way it is, the pier will probably be crawling with bums in the near future unless the Bush administration trashes the environment and global warming puts it underwater."

⑧ "I think that the pier would be really nice if there were some nice restaurants with really good seafood, and not sort of, as expensive as The Lobster. Something like a fish market with really good fried fish or broiled fish, but not exorbitantly expensive, where everybody can go and take their families, and other nice restaurants, not chain restaurants, but individual seafood restaurants. With less of the circus atmosphere, it'd be something really nice."

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.

It's a similar world after all for Powell and Eisner



MODERN TIMES

BY LLOYD GARVER

The other day, while reading about the big Disney trial, I learned that Michael Eisner had offered the number-two job to Colin Powell before he gave it to Michael Ovitz. So, if Powell had accepted, he never would have become George Bush's Secretary of State. Instead of worrying about Afghanistan and Iraq, he might have been in charge of "Monsters, Inc." and "Extreme Makeover."

I started wondering how different Colin Powell's life would have been if he had gone to Hollywood instead of Washington. But the more I thought about it, the more I realized it wouldn't have been very different at all.

How do the working conditions in the boardroom of Disney compare to those in the war room of the White House? The Eisner-Ovitz trial portrays Disney as a place run by a secretive leader who expects absolute loyalty from those below him, and who bristles at any answers to questions other than "Yes, Sir." It's a place where a bunch of Scrooge McDuck-like rich men work with other rich men who are out of touch with the reality of people not in their financial bracket. Hmmmm...

When Ovitz "resigned" from Disney, he got millions of dollars. Now that Colin Powell has "resigned," he'll give speeches and write a book and get, well, millions of dollars.

The similarities don't stop there. About 50 years ago, every week on TV, Walt Disney would show the audience drawings and models of his dream — Disneyland. With a pointer, he'd indicate on his map where exciting things would eventually be: "Adventureland will be over here. Mark Twain's riverboat will go down this river. Fantasyland will be right here." It was like Colin Powell sitting in the U.N., using his pointer to show us where the Iraqis were hiding their weapons of mass destruction. Both men were pointing to things that didn't exist. The big difference, of course, is that Disneyland eventually became real.

Traditionally, the Disney brand of entertainment celebrated an America that never really existed — an America where every family owns its own house with a picket fence, where everybody has a good

job, where everybody gets along, where there is no war or fear of war, and people's biggest problem is what to name the new puppy. And in those movies, those who tried to point out that not everything was perfect would be ridiculed or cast as villains. It was a lot like Bush's campaign speeches. If Powell could put up with those, he probably could have survived a stint at Disney.

In fact, the Fantasyland of the Bush Administration has not been very different from that of Disneyland: Fun rides, pretty exhibits, and lots of "real Americans" with down-home accents. It's all about pretending that the real world doesn't exist. If you say over and over again that Dumbo can fly, then people will swear they saw that elephant up in the sky. The Administration has taken the country on a fast-spinning "Mr. Toad's Wild Ride," hoping that we'd get so dizzy that we wouldn't notice what's really going on. And it worked for 51 percent of the people.

Of course, not everything in the Administration has been a copy of Disney. Like most political groups, they have, understandably, dropped the tale of Pinocchio and his lie-detector nose from their list of favorite stories. Also, if the Administration remade, "Bambi," there would be significant differences. In this day and age, no Republican would ever consider a hunter a bad guy. And those who cried at Bambi's plight would be characterized as "girly men" who probably also care about other "nonsensical things" like the environment.

So, how comfortable would Colin Powell have been at Disney? He probably wouldn't have been any less comfortable than he's been in the Administration. On those rare occasions when they allowed him to come out of hiding, he revealed that, despite his past as a soldier, he wasn't 100 percent behind Bush's gun-toting vision of Frontierland.

Unfortunately, for Powell — and the rest of the world — there is no Realityland in the White House. And I get the sense that as he walks away from this Administration, like so many others, he'll worry about Tomorrowland.

(Lloyd Garver has written for many television shows, ranging from "Sesame Street" to "Family Ties" to "Frasier." He has also read many books, some of them in hardcover. He writes the "Modern Times" column for CBSnews.com's Opinion page and can be reached at smdp@lloydgarvermodern-times.com)



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LOCAL



Meeting of the minds: Chief wants pubic input

SMPD, from page 1

plaints at one council meeting, that that would evoke a sea change in the operation of the department," Butts said. "The reality is that we continue to plan, strategize and engage the community. We continue to meet with groups large and small, and we continue to forge relationships with all of the stakeholders in the community ...

"We'll meet with anyone, anytime, anyplace about anything that has to do with their personal safety, but that's nothing new," the chief added, during an interview also attended by two SMPD lieutenants. "It serves no purpose whatsoever to take personally discourse of any type. I accept and listen to any criticism, no matter how vociferous it's type, in a constructive manner. A public argument serves no one well."

"Neighborhood-Centered Policing," formally introduced by Butts in November of 2002, is a cooperative style of policing that allows police officers to focus on prevention and intervention before turning to enforcement. The key components of the policing model call for two or three lieutenants to be responsible for each major section of the city. The theory is that high-ranking officials have the knowledge and power to take direct action. The lieutenants meet monthly with Butts to reallocate resources as needed.

"I think that's really the beauty of the neighborhood-centered policing philosophy, is that it's flexible enough that it includes all different homogenous sections of the community," SMPD Lt. Phillip Sanchez said. "In practical form, neighborhood-centered policing is not competitive, it's cooperative."

Also central to community based police work are police substations in particular neighborhoods and bicycle patrols that get officers out on the streets, interacting with residents and merchants. There are currently bike patrols operating out of substations in the Pico neighborhood, downtown and on the Santa Monica Pier.

Butts said the department will continue

to expand its outreach programs and meet with members of the community. Though the council directed the department earlier this month to improve its rapport with residents, the council apparently was acting beyond its power. According to the city charter, only City Manager Susan McCarthy can direct department heads, and she said there was no need to do that.

"I rarely have to direct city department heads," McCarthy wrote in an e-mail this week. "They hold their positions because they are smart, skilled and sensitive. Like his colleagues, the chief wants the best for the community and he heard the council members and residents who spoke ... at the last meeting. We're working as a city team to deliver on the objective we set last year to improve conditions in the Pico neighborhood."

The council next month will discuss when to hold the special meetings or workshops to address gang violence. In the meantime, Butts plans to continue his department's work to address the ongoing gang problems in the Pico neighborhood, which Butts attributed to about 70 gang members, 15 to 20 of which he labeled as "hard-core" gang members who regularly fan violence with neighboring gangs.

Butts pointed to a city sponsored poll that showed support for the police department in recent years has been consistently above 76 percent. He also named several community and religious leaders, saying he and the police department have a strong track record and broad support throughout Santa Monica.

Msgr. Lloyd Torgerson from St. Monica Parish admitted he wasn't familiar with Butts' community based policing strategy, but added he's respected Butts since he first came to town 13 years ago.

"I've known him since he began as the chief of police in Santa Monica, and I've always found him to be a man of integrity and a man who's responded to the needs of this community," Torgerson said. "Whenever I've asked for any kind of support in this community ... he's responded. He's generous and he's very attentive."

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 3

The park project has been in the works since 1998, as part of a combined parks and housing development. Next door to the planned park is the 13-unit Hacienda del Mar, a residence for people with disabilities run by United Cerebral Palsy (UCP). UCP renovated the historic 1928 brick Spanish Colonial Revival building, formerly a Los Angeles County Health Facility, and completed the construction in 2003.

The Euclid Park site is located on the east side of the 1500 block of Euclid Street is part of the city's parks and recreation master plan — a 20-year vision with more than \$142 million worth of improvements to Santa Monica's parks, open spaces and community facilities. Partial funding for the project is coming from the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District.

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LOCAL

Final take from ‘Jam’ has yet to be determined

FOR THE ARTS, from page 1

Richard McKinnon, who sits on the public relations and marketing committee for For The Arts. “They are the on verge of the big time.”

Grammy Jam, which will be held at the Wiltern in Los Angeles, is hosted by EIF and is a collaborative effort by the film, music and television industries on behalf of music and arts education. The night will be filled with entertainment from more than a dozen musicians including Yolanda Adams, Sleepy Brown, George Duke, David Foster, Anthony Hamilton, Van Hunt, Randy Jackson, Boney James, John Legend, Brian McKnight, Billy Preston, Jill Scott, Kanye West, BeBe Winans and Kirk Whalum.

For The Arts organizers don’t know how much Grammy Jam will raise since it’s in its first year. However, it’s expected to generate a significant contribution for Santa Monica and Malibu schools.

The Jackson Browne and Venice concert raised \$150,000 for For The Arts, which earmarked half of that money to go directly into four schools this year specifically for music programs. Jackson Browne and Venice band members stipulated that part of the proceeds go directly to music programs within the district. Third grade general music and fourth choral programs are now in play at Will Rogers, John Muir, Edison and McKinley elementaries — all Title 1 schools, which receive state and federal assistance. Money also was allocated for semi-private lessons in wind instrumentation for

students at Lincoln and John Adams middle schools.

For The Arts focuses on raising money for four disciplines — music, drama, visual arts and dance. It has expanded its strategic plan for those disciplines, creating monetary goals for each of them (See related story).

“We care just as much about literacy and sports as we do about music, drama, art and dance,” said Linda Gross, executive director of the Education Foundation. “We realized the time is right for all the disciplines.”

While Grammy Jam will fund music programs, other upcoming events will raise money for other disciplines. And like Grammy Jam, organizers of the January re-opening of the Aero Theater on Montana Avenue and December’s performance of the Nutcracker came to local school supporters to offer their events as benefits for For The Arts.

When the Aero Theater re-opens in mid-January, a portion of the proceeds from opening night will fund drama programs in local schools. And all of the monies raised by the Dec. 10 performance of Westside Ballet’s Nutcracker at the Wadsworth Theater will support ongoing funding for dance programs in local schools.

“They want to see dance in the schools,” Gross said. “This benefit could get us thousands away from starting this.”

Also part of this season’s campaign, an online art auction was held, featuring 25 signed color lithographs and eight signed

See FOR THE ARTS, page 7

Portrait of a plan

By Daily Press staff

Since its inception four years ago and fundraising efforts which began 2 1/2 years ago, the For the Arts campaign for local schools has amassed more than \$1 million toward its \$15 million endowment goal. Here’s a rundown of what’s been raised and what’s needed:

MUSIC

Annual cost: \$550,000
Total money in endowment: \$347,300.56
Total endowment need: \$11,000,000

■ A music performance and literacy curriculum for all fourth and fifth grade students. Students may choose between wind instrument study, string instrument study and choral music. Classes will be scheduled so that whole classes are engaged in music simultaneously. Existing instrumental music specialists will continue to be paid for by the school district. The For The Arts campaign will provide for three new, credentialed, choral music specialists.
Annual cost: \$190,000
Total endowment need: \$3,800,000

■ Two 30-minute general music classes per week for each third grade classroom. The For the Arts campaign will provide for three new, credentialed, choral music specialists.
Annual cost: \$190,000
Total endowment need: \$3,800,000

■ Grants for materials and equipment for new and existing secondary music programs.
Annual cost: \$170,000
Total endowment need: \$3,400,000

VISUAL ARTS

Annual cost: \$160,000
Total money in endowment: \$346,803.06
Total endowment need: \$3,200,000

■ Eight one-hour classes for each fourth grade classroom taught by credentialed visual arts specialists.
Annual cost: \$60,000
Total endowment need: \$1,200,000

■ Expenses for instructional materials, calculated at a rate of \$7.50 per student.
Annual cost: \$7,500
Total endowment need: \$150,000

■ Eight one-hour classes for each fifth grade classroom taught by credentialed visual arts specialists.
Annual cost: \$60,000
Total endowment need: \$1,200,000

■ Expenses for instructional materials, calculated at a rate of \$7.50 per student
Annual cost: \$7,500
Total endowment need: \$150,000

■ Grant program for secondary visual arts classes, calculated at a per-student allocation of \$15.
Annual cost: \$25,000
Total endowment need: \$500,000

DANCE

Annual cost: \$20,000
Total money in endowment: \$346,171.80
Total endowment need: \$400,000

■ Grant program for existing high school dance programs. Guidelines will be determined in collaboration with the district dance teachers.

DRAMA

Annual cost: \$20,000
Total money in endowment: \$346,121.81
Total endowment need: \$400,000

■ Grant program for existing high school drama programs. Guidelines will be determined in collaboration with the district drama teachers.

LOCAL



Schools' art programs still need more funding

FOR THE ARTS, from page 6

black-and-white lithographs from the Sam Francis collection. The collection was auctioned worldwide on EBay. And holiday gift cards are currently being sold, which are contributions to arts education. For a minimum of \$10, a contribution can be made in a person's name and a holiday card will be given to them signifying the donation.

"Any one of these events is an important happening," Gross said. "But together, they are a spectacular campaign."

Part of the For The Arts' success in garnering attention is a revamped effort of getting experts on various committees. For example, the marketing and public relations committee is made up of local residents and parents who are professional in those fields. There is a vice president from Universal, a noted brand expert and a person who worked on Sen. John Kerry's presidential campaign.

"You put all of the building blocks in place and people are coming to you and all of a sudden you've got a whole different ball game," said McKinnon, a local parent who has built his career as a public relations and marketing consultant. "I think it's significant for this organization's culture."

The endowment campaign was started by two Santa Monica residents. When one of the parents got involved in the PTA at Roosevelt Elementary, she noticed the disparities throughout the district in terms of what schools offered for arts education.

Some schools, which have students and parents who are more affluent, are able to raise more money than those across town. While Santa Monica and

Malibu are cities known for their affluence, there are plenty of poor students throughout the district. According to school officials, 31 percent of all families in Santa Monica have an average income under \$22,500 and one-third of students in the district qualify for free or reduced-fee lunches. What's more, there is no district-funded choral music program at the elementary level, or funding for visual arts, dance, drama and music in the elementary schools.

The Education Foundation was created in 1982 to preserve, support and enhance programs within the school district. The foundation has raised \$1 million for a literacy endowment and raises \$100,000 annually. Every year, the foundation gives \$35,000 in grants to teachers for special projects so they can buy supplies and other tools to educate their students, Gross said.

The Education Foundation was envisioned at a time when the effects of Proposition 13 were being felt — money to local schools was being cut dramatically all over the state. By the 1990s, it was evident that the schools were going to be in a world of hurt for many years to come unless something was done on a local level.

And with a new property tax, an increased financial commitment from City Hall and fundraising from organizations like the Education Foundation and PTAs — which combined will give \$75 million to the school district in the next six years — it's only enough to maintain programs already in place. School supporters say much more is needed to give students even the basics.

"It's nowhere it should be," McKinnon said. "How pathetic is that?"

STATE BRIEFS

Pipe dreams over for injured woman

By The Associated Press

MALIBU — Crews rescued a woman who, while looking for her lost dog, fell down a drainage pipe and was trapped there for nearly 13 hours, fire officials said.

Mika Fukushima, 44, of Malibu was pulled from the ditch around 12:40 a.m. Friday, said Los Angeles County Fire dispatch supervisor Art Marrujo.

She suffered minor injuries and was taken to a hospital, he said.

Marrujo said he didn't know how long she was trapped. Fire captain Bob Goldman told KTLA-TV that Fukushima was trapped for about 13 hours before the sheriff department's mountain rescue team found her at about 11:30 p.m. on Thanksgiving day. Some 30 rescue workers spent an hour pulling her out of the pipe, which Goldman said was 30 inches wide and roughly 40 feet long.

Surf's definitely up for seaside city

By The Associated Press

HUNTINGTON BEACH — It's official: this seaside community now has exclusive rights to the title of "Surf City USA."

After years of feuding with Santa Cruz over the title, Huntington Beach has trademarked the slogan as part of a new marketing campaign.

The battle with its Northern California rival escalated in the 1990s when a state bill was proposed to link the name "Surf City" forever with Huntington Beach. Local officials challenged each other to surfing contests and the bill was dropped.

Now, the Huntington Beach Conference and Visitor's Bureau has trademarked the name "Surf City USA," a move that gives it exclusive merchandising as well as bragging rights.

The bureau has built its Web site around the name: <http://www.surfcityusa.com>.

"Maybe we should sue them or something, taking our colloquial popular name," Santa Cruz City Manager Richard Wilson quipped after hearing the news.

But Dean Torrence of the surf sound duo Jan & Dean says Santa Cruz wouldn't have a leg to stand on.

"Why the hell would we talk about Santa Cruz?" said Torrence, who co-wrote the surfing anthem "Surf City" with the Beach Boys' Brian Wilson. "Santa Cruz is not mentioned in that song."





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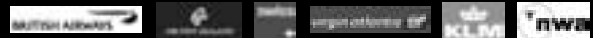



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STATE

Trauma center closure could be life-or-death decision for patients

BY ROBERT JABLON

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — The closure of the trauma center at Martin Luther King Jr./Drew Medical Center will shift hundreds of gunshot and car crash victims to other centers. The question Wednesday was whether a change designed to save lives will wind up taking them.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted Tuesday to begin cutting service at the trauma center on Dec. 1 and close it completely by Feb. 1, with the goal of reopening it later. The county argues that, in addition to having quality problems, the costly, labor-intensive center pulled nurses and other resources away from the rest of the deeply troubled hospital.

Service areas have been redrawn so that the approximately 2,000 patients the center received annually will go to three other facilities: a new trauma center opening Dec. 1 at downtown's California Hospital Medical Center and existing centers at St. Francis Medical Center and Harbor-UCLA Medical Center.

California Hospital is located about 10 miles north of MLK. St. Francis is two miles away in Lynwood and Harbor-UCLA is 10 miles to the southwest.

Eventually, the center at California Hospital will get about 1,200 trauma patients a year that previously would have gone to MLK.

Spokeswoman Katreena Salgado said the center will have the capacity, and also the expertise, to handle the load.

"We have one of the busiest ERs in the city. We already employ a lot of those specialists. Being an inner-city hospital, we get sicker patients than most," she said.

"When you look at community need, it's just a logical extension of the mission," she said.

St. Francis will receive 200 to 300 patients that would have gone to MLK annually, and Harbor-UCLA will get 300 to 400 a year, said John Wallace, spokesman for the county Department of Health Services.

The department is looking into amending its contract with St. Francis, a private facility, so it will accept those patients, and also is analyzing how much extra staff to provide county-run Harbor-UCLA, Wallace said.

"They're both very, very busy hospitals but we have been assured that with appropriate resources — and we haven't completely determined what that is yet — they will be able to handle the additional workload," said Carol Meyer, director of the county Emergency Medical Services Agency, which oversees trauma centers.

Others aren't sure.

"They're already overwhelmed. I have no idea how they're going to overwhelm themselves with more trauma patients," said Paul Kivela, president of the California chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians, which has about 2,300 members.

He also questioned whether the other trauma centers, despite being certified to handle the most serious injuries, can deal with MLK's experience, where gunshot wounds was so common that military surgeons trained there.

A main concern of critics is that funneling patients in the MLK area to other local hospitals will take precious minutes from the "golden hour" — the period after a severe accident or onset of illness when patients have the best chance of survival if they receive treatment.

Only a few miles' difference could be crucial because, on a bad Los Angeles traffic day, "they could chew up 20, 30 minutes," Kivela said.

In a report earlier this month, the Department of Health Services looked at hundreds of King/Drew patients and concluded that three to six considered to have a time-critical injury would have to travel farther to reach a trauma center under redrawn service boundaries.

To critics, that is an indication that the county is willing to accept deaths.

"They recognize and foresee that patients' lives are going to be lost," said Dave Martin, an attorney who sued on behalf of some MLK patients and others to keep the trauma center open. "The county apparently believes that that number is low enough that it's acceptable."

Especially at risk are people who will arrive at MLK without realizing there is no trauma center.

"Those people are coming in with gunshot wounds and knife wounds. They're not gonna survive waiting for an ambulance to arrive," he said.

Yet there also is the issue of waiting for care once a patient arrives.

Two outside trauma surgeons who examined patient records earlier this month concluded that King/Drew's trauma care was "poor to marginal," in part because of delays in the time it took to get a patient to an operating room.

"It may take two, five or 10 minutes longer to travel the next hospital," said Meyer, of the county emergency services agency.

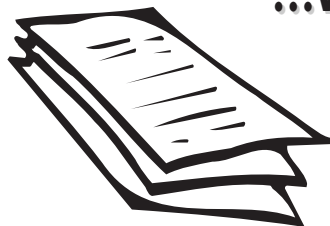
"But when you have significant (operating room) delays like they have at MLK — like, we're talking hours of operating room delays ... I personally would much rather go a little further to a trauma center that can get me into the operating room."

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Santa Monica Daily Press

STATE



Imperial Dunes buggy, but no real big trouble

By The Associated Press

GLAMIS, Calif. — Off-road enthusiasts crowded into California's largest sand dunes area on Friday, but officials reported there had been no repeat of the mayhem of past Thanksgiving weekends.

The throng at Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area was expected to peak at up to 200,000. The annual Thanksgiving ritual more than doubles the population of Imperial County, but in the recent past the mix of fast driving and wild parties has been a recipe for "Mad Max" style chaos.

Things were much quieter this year and officials credited a continuing crackdown with restoring a family environment in the dunes, 160 miles east of San Diego and just a few miles west of the Arizona state line.

"It's busy. There are a lot of people, but by 11 p.m. (Thursday) it was dead quiet," said Greg Gorman of the LaVerne-based American Sand Association, which represents off-roaders.

"That's all you see: kids, quads and minibikes," he said. "It's been wonderful."

By Friday, eight people had been arrested — including three at sobriety checkpoints — and authorities had issued 261 citations, mostly for safety-related issues. About 31 minor injuries were reported, said Stephen Razo of the Bureau of Land Management, which oversees the dunes.

Gone were the wild mobs that once pelted rangers with cans and bottles and strong-arm robberies in broad daylight. A low point was Thanksgiving 2001, when authorities made 70 arrests — including five men involved in a fatal shootout — and issued more than 1,500 citations.

After that, authorities beefed up security, cracked down on drugs, drunk driving, nudity and other problems. Even minor infractions land people in jail.

Things may have become safer for people, but environmentalists say the threat to endangered wildlife from illegal off-roading has not gone away.

Environmentalists say the huge crowds mean protecting wildlife sometimes takes a back seat to keeping the peace. The Center for Biological Diversity deployed its own team of about a dozen monitors to keep watch.

"There's still just too many off-roaders that have a blatant disregard for environmental protection," the center's Daniel Patterson said. "There needs to be more peer pressure from off-roaders to stay out of these closed habitat areas."

The federal Bureau of Land Management agreed to ban vehicles from an area 3 1/2 times the size of Manhattan to protect a rare plant, the Peirson's milkvetch. Traffic was barred in 1972 from a separate section that was later designated a 26,000-acre protected wilderness.

While 68,000 acres, including the most popular off-roading areas, remain open to vehicles, dune riders chafe at the closures and insist they're being kept out for no good reason.

Patterson said the Center for Biological Diversity is in preliminary discussions with the American Sand Association to explore a possible settlement that could leave off-roaders with room to ride and protect enough habitat to ensure the survival of threatened and endangered wildlife.

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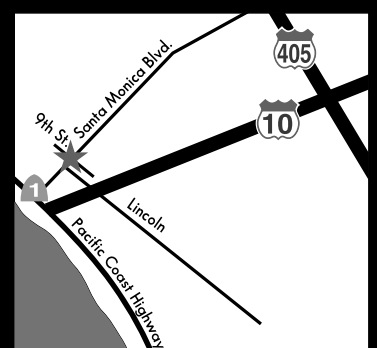
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NATIONAL

Building a better turkey through biotechnology

BY PAUL ELIAS

AP Biotechnology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Most of the turkeys gracing the nation's dinner tables Thursday have been selectively bred for their white meat for so many generations that simply walking can be a problem for many of the big-breasted birds and sex is no longer possible.

A small research team is hoping to come to the rescue, employing the latest in biotechnology to chart the genetic map of America's favorite Thanksgiving meal and eventually alleviate the breeding problems.

The idea is to identify specific genes that produce desirable traits such as salmonella resistance, strong leg muscles and, of course, big breasts. That would do away with much of the guesswork involved in traditional breeding methods as farmers try to match birds that appear to have the sought-after qualities.

"Improved meat quality or disease resistance will probably be the first application resulting from this research," said Kent Reed, a University of Minnesota researcher leading the effort to map the turkey's genome.

Since the human genome was mapped in 2001, the genetic codes of all sorts of creatures have been published in record time and for much less money than the \$3 billion it cost to catalog human genes.

Still, it's slow going for the turkey. With just \$1 million in funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and two commercial poultry interests, Reed hopes to publish by year's end a guide to roughly 300 turkey genes, and have twice that many by next Thanksgiving.

That's far short of the 25,000 genes each gobbler is estimated to possess. The work is moving much slower than with other animal genome efforts, in part because the funding is comparatively paltry and few researchers are giving the turkey much attention.

That's nothing new for the turkey, which sits in the shadow of the chicken in terms of scientific, industrial and government support. It's been all downhill for *Meleagris gallopavo*, the scientific name for the wild turkey, since Ben Franklin failed in his bid to make it the national bird.

Unfortunately, the turkey's genetic sequence isn't particularly useful in the development of human medicines or the furthering of basic science, two big priorities when it comes to getting federal money for a genome project.

Also, the U.S. turkey industry's \$3 billion in annual wholesale revenue can't compare to more popular livestock like the cow, pig and chicken that have had their genetic sequence published with commercial backing.

Still, Reed and a few other scientists labor on, insisting that their work will help an industry solve a health care problem that afflicts many of the 267 million turkeys sold each year. They also hope for breakthroughs for turkeys resulting from the publication of the entire chicken genome earlier this year.

"We are going to make the animals' lives better," said researcher David Harry, a Napa-based poultry industry consultant. Harry helped start the turkey genome project when he was at Nicholas Turkey Breeding Farms in Sonoma, one of the largest U.S. breeders and a co-funder of the project.

Surmounting the sex problem poses a bigger challenge. Because the toms' breasts are so big, female turkeys need to be artificially inseminated. Identifying sex genes vital to reproduction would be a start, researchers say.

Meanwhile, some animal rights activists are decrying the genomic work as furthering what they see as a cruel process.

"That type of research is designed to make a bad situation a little less bad," said Gene Bauston, co-founder of Farm Sanctuary, which aims to prevent what it considers farm animal cruelty and promotes a vegan diet. "It doesn't get to the problem that these animals are being treated as commodities and it's generally done to fit the animal into the machinery of the factory farm."

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NATIONAL



Heavy air tankers reclaim their place in firefighting

BY BECKY BOHRER

Associated Press Writer

BILLINGS, Mont. — Large air tankers will continue to help fight wildfires for the “foreseeable future,” a top U.S. Forest Service official says, but how many will be available for the 2005 fire season remains unclear.

Tom Harbour, the agency’s incoming director of fire and aviation, said some of the aircraft that were cleared to fly for part of the 2004 fire season will be available next year to fight on federal lands.

He said additional aircraft also could be available after “safety-related concerns” are addressed.

In May, the Forest Service and Department of Interior terminated contracts for 33 large air tankers because of concerns with airworthiness and public safety. Three aging tankers crashed between 1994 and 2002, killing seven crew members.

Federal officials later agreed to let some of the tankers return for the 2004 season if their operators could prove the aircraft were safe to fly.

Last summer, seven P3 Orions were returned to service. Officials also allowed two P2V tankers to return, but with limits. The P2Vs were outfitted with data-gathering devices that officials said would aid in

determining airworthiness for the rest of the P2V fleet. That work continues.

Meanwhile, Harbour, who was appointed to lead the Forest Service’s fire and aviation program earlier this month, said he expects there will be at least eight or nine P3s available for the 2005 fire season, and the Forest Service “will have a place for heavy air tankers into the foreseeable future.”

Industry officials contend the aircraft, effective in initial attack on wildfires, are safe and are eager to have them more fully returned to service.

“The bottom line here is protecting people’s property and homes and lives, and the big airplanes do a good, efficient job of that,” said Norman Stubbs, maintenance supervisor for California-based TBM Inc. and Butler Aircraft, in Oregon.

The future for large air tankers and the role they would play in the federal fire-fighting arsenal, in 2006 and beyond, also is being looked at, Harbour said.

Even before the National Transportation Safety Board report that led to the contract cancellations, Harbour said officials were discussing modernizing the fleet, something companies also were interested in pursuing.

Chris Holm, director of aviation safety for Neptune Aviation Services of Missoula, said the company is committed to modernizing the entire tanker fleet.

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Eager shoppers brave long waits for big discounts

BY ANNE D'INNOCENZIO

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — The nation's retailers threw open their doors before the sun rose Friday, tempting early risers on the first shopping day of the holiday season with super specials and free coffee.

The deep discounts and refreshments were a bid by merchants to ring up their holiday sales fast on the day they dub Black Friday. And they're keeping their fingers crossed that, in an improving though still challenging economy, the crowds will keep coming throughout the next month.

At the Orange Park Mall in suburban Jacksonville, Fla., several hundred people cheered outside J.C. Penney as the doors opened at 5:30 a.m. They scurried to get out of the unseasonably cold 40-degree weather.

Phyllis Renninger, 52, waited with her 22-year-old daughter, Katie, for struggling KB Toys to open up at 6 a.m. The women had a piece of notebook paper with a detailed game plan of the stores where they planned to shop.

"Hopefully we'll get some good deals," Renninger said, adding she wanted to spend less this year "but get more."

Eight women in Coleen Baker's family fanned out across the mall with walkie-talkies and cell phones, snapping up a microwave oven, digital camera and CD players. "I've already saved \$70," Baker said around 6:30 a.m.

By the time Wal-Mart's store in

Hamburg, N.Y. opened at 6 a.m., 1,000 people had formed a line that spanned the entire store front, despite temperatures of 31 degrees.

"It's our tradition," said Ruth Pompeo, of Lackawanna, N.Y., who was in line with her 11-year-old niece. "I don't know what I'm here to grab, actually," she said. "Whatever I can."

Many of the particularly big discounts on the day after Thanksgiving are limited, so dedicated bargain hunters come early. At a Wal-Mart in Alpharetta, Ga., a supply of discounted personal video players sold out in just 12 minutes.

Seeking to avoid such a scenario, Uttim Karki drove two hours to be outside a BestBuy in Little Rock, Ark., by 1 a.m. — and found 10 people ahead of him. Store employees there passed out doughnuts and coffee to more than 300 people in line by 5 a.m.

In South Charleston, W.Va., several hundred shoppers braved temperatures in the 20s to stand in line for Kohl's to open its doors at 5:30 a.m.

"We're here for the \$159 (portable) DVD player," Tammy Tucker, visiting from Concord, N.C., said from close to the front of the line. "I'm worried it's going to be a bit of a fight to get one."

At least two chains — J.C. Penney and Sears, Roebuck — opened their doors a half-hour to an hour earlier than a year ago to lure early risers. KB Toys Inc., which sought bankruptcy protection this

year, extended early bird specials all day long instead of having them end at noon.

A cold snap prompted Toys R Us in Columbia, S.C., to let in shivering customers an hour earlier than the advertised 6 a.m.

While Karen Dawkins, 39, was at the Toys R Us, her mother was making the rounds at Circuit City and her sister was at Target — so she planned to wrap up all her holiday shopping Friday.

"I'm almost done now," she said shortly after 6 a.m.

Farther north, in Manchester, Conn., Claude Samson, 35, had lined up at 3 a.m. in front of Wal-Mart. He filled two carts full of toys and cooking supplies after the store opened at 6 a.m.

"I think it's a little crazy and there's probably a simpler way of doing this, but at the same time, you are saving so much," he said. "When you are saving \$30 or \$40 on a gift, you're going to do what you have to do."

Things weren't going as well in the cold and rainy Midwest. In Bismarck, N.D., only about 100 people were in line at Wal-Mart by 4:30 a.m., a half hour before opening, compared with several hundred last year.

"Last year, they broke down a door trying to get in," said Mary Lou Horning, a Wal-Mart employee who has been through a half-dozen Black Fridays.

Most of the nation's retailers are not panicking — they're just trying to drive

up traffic earlier in the season, said John Morris, an analyst at Harris Nesbitt. In fact, discounting for the mall-based apparel retailers he follows is 5 percent below what it was a year ago.

Retailers' spirits have improved in recent weeks as falling fuel prices and job gains revived consumer spending momentum that slowed in the summer. But many shoppers, particularly those with limited disposable income, are saying they will be cautious. Fuel prices remain high, and the job market is still volatile.

The Washington-based National Retail Federation projects total sales, excluding restaurant and auto sales, will increase 4.5 percent for November and December. That would be less than the 5.1 percent gain of a year earlier.

Last year, retailers' efforts to get shoppers to buy early worked. During the 2003 holiday shopping season, the busiest day was the Friday after Thanksgiving, instead of the last Saturday before Christmas, which has been the busiest over the last 10 years, according to the International Council of Shopping Centers.

Whether this year follows that trend remains to be seen, but shoppers were enjoying the early binge.

"To me, shopping is a sport, so this is sort of like the ultimate Olympics," said Katie Dziedzic, 33, who snapped up a \$30 DVD player at 6 a.m. at the Wal-Mart in Manchester, Conn.

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NATIONAL



Dylan exhibit affords songwriter the last laugh

BY GENE JOHNSON

Associated Press Writer

SEATTLE — Among the letters, articles and artifacts at the Experience Music Project's new Bob Dylan exhibit is a September 1967 review in The New York Times. It begins: "It will be a good joke on us if, in 50 years or so, Dylan is regarded as a significant figure in English poetry."

Hah, hah.

The college courses and lectures on his music, the scholarly interpretations of his lyrics, and his repeated Nobel Prize nominations years ago cemented his reputation as more than a song and dance man. Now comes "Bob Dylan's American Journey, 1956-1966," the first major museum exhibit dedicated to his work.

"There's cultural and political significance to Dylan's music of that period," Robert Santelli, EMP's director of programs, says. "It's tied to the greater American story like no other period of his career."

The exhibit, on view through September 2005, nicely complements the first volume of Dylan's memoirs, released last month. In the book, Dylan tells of his days in Minneapolis, when he traded in his electric guitar for an acoustic 1949 double-O Martin, discovered Woody Guthrie and joined the folk scene.

In the museum, visitors can take a good look at the guitar, which Dylan brought with him to New York in 1961, when he went searching for Guthrie. Side-by-side photographs show how much the young Dylan tried to emulate his idol.

Roughly 150 artifacts, gathered by Santelli and curator Jasen Emmons over the past two years from Dylan, other musicians and collectors, are on display. They include concert posters; harmonicas; handwritten lyrics; Dylan's copy of Guthrie's autobiography, "Bound For Glory"; hundreds of pounds of iron ore from Hibbing, Minn., where Dylan grew up; and the tambourine that inspired "Mr. Tambourine Man."

Joan Baez contributed a playful and somewhat lewd letter that Dylan wrote to her mother back when they were dating, the king and queen of folk music. In it, Dylan pretends to be Joan.

The most powerful artifact isn't Dylan's at all. It's Guthrie's yellow-stained T-shirt from Greystone Park State Hospital in Morristown, N.J., where he spent the last years of his life suffering from the nervous system disorder Huntington's chorea. Dylan often visited Guthrie there, and we can picture Guthrie — jerking, increasingly lost — wearing it as he listened to Dylan's renditions of "Dust Bowl Blues" and "Pretty Boy Floyd."

The exhibit, which is being accompanied by panel discussions on Dylan, begins with Robert Allen

Zimmerman's teenage years in Minnesota.

Almost immediately we see the pull of his vague ambition. After writing in Judy Setterstrom's 1959 Hibbing High School yearbook that she has "the most beautiful hair in school," he adds: "Judy, I'm so tired. My head's going round and round. I doubt if I'll ever see you again after school lets out, but it's been awful, awful nice knowing you."

From there, he goes briefly to the University of Minnesota, and from there, to New York. He stepped onto Manhattan's snowpacked streets in the dead winter of early 1961 with his new name, Bob Dylan. The civil rights movement was reaching fever pitch, and the folk revival was boiling in the coffeehouses of Greenwich Village. Dylan would soon find himself leading both.

His songs became piercing anthems for the times, targeting racial injustice ("Blowin' in the Wind," "The Lonesome Death of Hattie Carroll"), war ("Masters of War," "With God on Our Side"), nuclear proliferation ("A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall"), and poverty ("The Ballad of Hollis Brown"). His love songs, such as "Girl of the North Country" and "Boots of Spanish Leather," were heartbreaking. And no song heralded the coming counterculture like "The Times They Are A-Changin'."

At the height of it all, Dylan plugged in. Though his first electric release was "Mixed Up Confusion," in 1962, he stunned his audience by going electric at the Newport Folk Festival in 1965. Dylan was booed. He left the stage, and came back with an acoustic guitar.

As a short film at the exhibit notes, the first song he played on it was "It's All Over Now, Baby Blue."

Indeed it was. That summer, the nation heard a song unlike any other on the radio. "Like a Rolling Stone" was so popular that it forced some stations to abandon their three-minute-song formats. Dylan had turned to rock, where he could begin to explore the "wild mercury sound" he heard in his mind. His introspective, impressionistic lyrics influenced The Beatles, Jimi Hendrix and virtually every other musician in the genre.

And that's pretty much where the exhibit ends, in 1966, with "Blonde on Blonde" — the seventh of Dylan's 40-plus albums — and his mysterious motorcycle accident, after which he canceled all public appearances and retreated to Woodstock, N.Y.

Dylan's American journey continued for another 38 years — and counting — with "All Along the Watchtower," "Knockin' on Heaven's Door," 1975's outstanding "Blood on the Tracks" or 1997's Grammy-winning "Time Out of Mind."

His career saw many reincarnations, from his Christian period in the late 1970s and early 1980s to his

onstage epiphany in Locarno, Switzerland, which inspired him to play more than a hundred shows a year through much of the 1990s — a pace he still keeps. Many of those shows are at college campuses, where Dylan has connected with a generation far removed from the baby boomers who first seized him as a spokesman.

"Bob Dylan's American Journey" will travel after it closes in Seattle.

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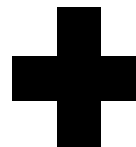
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NATIONAL

On the slow track: Rustlers aim to keep brands

BY SHANNON DININNY

Associated Press Writer

PASCO, Wash. — Can a bar code — say XJZ3472 — replace a hot-iron brand? Rancher Len McIrvin has his doubts.

Twice a year, McIrvin hauls 5,000 cattle between a patchwork of land he leases and owns near the Canadian border and his winter grazing site in southeast Washington state. Each animal wears the brand of his Diamond M Ranch — a diamond with legs to represent the M — on its right side.

It is that brand that enables McIrvin to differentiate his cattle from every other rancher's in the open grazing land he occupies. And it is brands that must play a role in the federal government's efforts to establish a national system for identifying and tracking cattle, McIrvin said.

"People with 10 or 20 or 50 cows don't realize what range country is," McIrvin said. "The only way to track our cattle, the only permanent identification for our cattle, is the brand."

The U.S. Department of Agriculture plans to develop a nationwide system that will allow for all of an animal's movements during its lifetime to be traced within 48 hours. The need for such a system became apparent when the nation's first case of mad-cow disease was discovered in a Washington state dairy cow last year.

The cow was later traced to Canada, but not before dozens of nations closed their borders to U.S. beef products, striking a blow to America's \$40 billion-a-

year beef industry.

In the months since, industry leaders have discussed everything from electronic and paper ear tags to electronic chips embedded under an animal's skin as potential tracking methods.

But ear tags get lost or fall off and electronics fail, some cattlemen argue, and nothing is more permanent than the hot-iron brand.

"Most cattlemen are pretty good cattlemen and good cowboys, but the computer age hasn't really caught up with the range cow business. And I'm not sure it will," McIrvin said. "The one thing I do know, whatever happens, range country cattlemen will have to keep branding regardless."

The first hot-iron brands were developed in Mexico in the 1500s as a way to mark cattle ownership. The number of registered brands multiplied as the cattle population exploded across the Southwest.

Today, more than 15 states register cattle brands. In New Mexico, all cattle are required to be branded — an identification system the state already has used to quickly trace cattle on its own.

New Mexico has about 30,000 brands registered, and the brand book it publishes every three years is the bible of the state industry, said Daniel Manzanares, executive director of the New Mexico Livestock Board.

Just because brands aren't used in most Eastern states doesn't mean they won't work in the national identification system,

Manzanares said.

"We have a system that goes back 400 years, and it works very, very well. We're not reinventing the wheel, we have it here," he said.

Federal agriculture officials appear to be listening. More than \$11 million has been approved for pilot projects to assist in developing a national program and several of those projects incorporate brands, said Amy Spillman, an agency spokeswoman.

The Agriculture Department has repeatedly said it remains technology-neutral in developing the system.

"We're looking to make this national animal identification system as efficient and as effective as possible. If we can, we want to incorporate existing systems as it is possible," Spillman said.

The biggest requirement is the 48-hour traceback, and the ability to determine what other animals a potentially infected animal may have been exposed to.

"There are questions as to whether you can do all that with a brand," she said. "We're looking to see what they can come up with and what can be incorporated."

One such project is the Northwest Pilot Project, which is drawing volunteers from seven Western states to participate. Among other things, the project is working with a handful of producers to see how brands might play a role in a new national system, said Rick Stott, vice president of business development for Boise, Idaho-based Agri Beef Co.

The reality is that animals are managed

differently in the West than they are in other parts of the country, Stott said. In order for the new system to work, it must be practical, workable and effective — and it must consider everyone, he said.

And it must burden producers as little as possible "or the compliance will be very, very low," Stott said. "We have to find existing practices that you can piggy-back onto, so it's not so difficult to make the first step."

But research for the Northwest Pilot Project is less about the brands themselves than assigning one number to a lot, or group, of cows, instead of numbering them individually. The system could work well for farmers whose large herds rarely co-mingle with other cows prior to sale, Stott said.

In New Mexico, each registered brand is assigned a five-digit master brand number that can't be duplicated and leads back to the owner of the brand.

Valoria Loveland, director of the Washington state Department of Agriculture, said most ranchers accept that there will have to be a numbering system in the future when cattle are sold.

But Loveland also said it's too soon for cattlemen to worry that the national identification network will mean the demise of a Western treasure — the hot-iron brand.

"I believe the West will continue to need and want brands," she said. "There are a number of different ways cattle are raised, and so you have to have more than one way to identify cattle. I think people pretty much recognize that."



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NATIONAL



Rossi wins recount for governor; Gregoire calling for hand count

BY DAVID AMMONS

AP Political Writer

OLYMPIA, Wash. — After a statewide recount, Republican Dino Rossi held onto his lead in the Washington governor's race by a mere 42 votes out of more than 2.8 million cast. His Democratic rival refused to concede and said she wants a hand recount.

Rossi, a 45-year-old businessman who ran as a "conservative with a social conscience," declared victory Wednesday and urged Attorney General Christine Gregoire to concede. "It's time for our state to move forward," he said in a statement.

But Gregoire told reporters and supporters in Seattle, "Every vote should be counted. The race continues. A 42-vote margin, my friends, that is a tied race."

The contest is the nation's last undecided race for governor.

Gregoire wasn't formally asking for a manual recount, saying she has until next week — after the election is certified — to decide whether to seek a full statewide recount or just selected counties or precincts.

"The (Democratic) party has come forward and indicated that it is ready to ensure that this recount happens and to pay for it," she said.

A manual recount probably would take until Dec. 23, the state elections office said.

Gregoire also called on Republican Secretary of State Sam Reed, the state's chief elections officer, to address what she called "anomalies" in the voting procedures. Reed dismissed the idea that he could fix any irregularities administratively, since elections are a county responsibility.

The 42-vote gap after the machine recount is the closest gubernatorial election finish in state history.

Rossi had also won the regular count completed last week, his 261-vote margin just a tiny fraction of 1 percentage point, triggering an automatic recount.

"This process has lasted a lot longer than anyone thought it would, but I'm grateful that the people of Washington have placed their trust in me," Rossi said in a statement released by his office. Rossi and his family were on a Caribbean cruise.

In the final Thanksgiving Eve flurry of vote tallies, Gregoire gained ground on Rossi in Democratic-leaning King County and picked up votes in Kitsap County, completing the 39-county tally in a near tie.

Among the likely recount scenarios is that Democrats would call for a hand recount of King County, Gregoire's bastion.

Bill Huennekens, King County superintendent of elections, said that would be a massive undertaking that would require the county to move the voting operation to

Washington's oh-so-close ... race

By The Associated Press

PHOTOFINISH: After a statewide machine recount, Republican Dino Rossi edged Democrat Christine Gregoire by a mere 42 votes out of more than 2.8 million cast for governor. Both wound up with 48.87 percent of the vote. Both got 1.3724 million votes.

HOLD THE PHONE: Democrats plan to ask for a new hand recount. Secretary of state says that would probably begin Dec. 6.

JINGLE BELLS: It could be Christmas week, or even later, before Washington voters know their governor's identity.

TALLY: Rossi, 1,372,484; Gregoire, 1,372,442. A third party candidate, Libertarian Ruth Bennett, finished with 63,416 votes.

DETAILS: <http://www.vote.wa.gov>

a warehouse or other large space.

"We would have to hire upwards of 300 people," Huennekens said. "It could take up to two weeks."

Gregoire, 57, of Olympia, hoping to become only the state's second woman governor, carried eight of the 39 counties, most notably King, which includes heavily Democratic Seattle. Strongly backed by the women's movement, she is best known for battling America's tobacco industry.

Rossi, a self-made real estate millionaire and former state Senate budget chairman from the Seattle suburb of Sammamish, hopes to become the first Republican since 1980 to win the governor's mansion. He ran on a platform of change and job creation.

The winner succeeds retiring two-term Gov. Gary Locke on Jan. 12. Locke is the country's first Chinese-American governor.

Reed said he plans to certify the machine recount next Tuesday. The campaigns or their parties then have three business days to request a full or partial manual recount at their own expense.

Reed said he'd probably direct that such a recount begin the following Monday, Dec. 6, and that job could take as long as two weeks.

If a partial recount changes the outcome, state law requires a manual recount in the rest of the state. That would extend the uncertainty past Christmas.

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NATIONAL

Arizona apprehensions higher than other states

By The Associated Press

TUCSON, Ariz. — More illegal immigrants were apprehended in Arizona during the fiscal year than were caught in California, New Mexico and Texas combined, according to the latest statistics released by the U.S. Border Patrol.

While that distinction is a first for the state, the Border Patrol's Tucson sector has led the nation in apprehensions for the past seven years.

Since 1994, the share of apprehensions along the Mexican border reported in the Tucson sector has grown from 14 percent to more than 43 percent, garnering national attention for rising death tolls, volunteer civilian border patrols and a recent ballot initiative aimed at illegal immigrants.

Along the entire Arizona border, the share has grown from 16 percent to 52 percent.

While the Border Patrol says it has taken the same approach in Arizona as in California and Texas, the results have been markedly different. In the years since the agency launched operations around San Diego and El Paso and in southern Texas, apprehensions in those sectors have fallen a combined 64 percent.

The agency believes proof of success lies in fewer apprehensions, which indicates fewer people are trying to cross the border.

The newly released figures have

prompted some who worked for a more secure border to ask why strategies that are successful elsewhere have not worked along Arizona's border.

"It's time they got that job done," said Johnny Williams, a longtime Border Patrol agent who oversaw the Western region of the former Immigration and Naturalization Service from 1998 to 2002.

Andy Adame, spokesman for the Border Patrol's Tucson sector, points to several geographical obstacles in Arizona that aren't necessarily found in other places.

Nearly 75 percent of land abutting the border in the Tucson sector has access restrictions. Some areas — the Tohono O'odham Nation, and park and wildlife refuges — can only be reached by foot or horseback.

And an extensive road network in northern Mexico and southern Arizona provide relatively easy paths to and away from the border. Immigration authorities also say Phoenix, Tucson and even Las Vegas serve as convenient transportation hubs for sending migrants around the country.

Adame said the Tucson sector has indefinitely extended an initiative started last June that added Black Hawk helicopters and unmanned aerial vehicles and increased the number of agents to more than 2,000.

"Although we don't have control of it yet," he said, "We're definitely moving toward that goal."



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NATIONAL



Massive spending bills a bad habit for Congress

BY JIM ABRAMS

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Ronald Reagan, in his 1988 State of the Union address to Congress, hefted a 1,000-page, 14-pound spending bill and warned lawmakers against sending him more “behemoths” like this. “And if you do, I will not sign it.”

Last Saturday, Congress passed a spending bill of more than 3,000 pages — what Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., called a “monstrosity” — to fund most federal programs in 2005. President Bush will sign it into law next month, but only after Congress returns to pass a separate bill to nullify a single sentence, discovered on page 1,112 of the spending measure, that could have jeopardized taxpayer privacy rights.

Reagan, in his speech, said the budget process had broken down and “needs a drastic overhaul.” If anything, the process is even more broken today, with Congress inured to voting on huge, largely unread, spending legislation long after the budget year begins on Oct. 1.

“Ineptitude, irresponsibility, lack of leadership: All those words come to mind” in describing how Congress carries out its prime constitutional duty of controlling the public pursestrings, said Tom Schatz, president of Citizens Against Government Waste.

Congress is supposed to pass 13 appropriations bills every year covering defense, education, health, foreign aid and every other aspect of federal spending, excluding entitlement programs such as Medicare and Social Security.

But it rarely meets the Oct. 1 deadline, and in six of the past seven years has had to resort to huge “omnibus” bills that throw all the unfinished bills, as well as some totally unrelated measures, into one package.

This year the \$388 billion omnibus for 2005 combined nine of the 13, just about everything except defense, homeland security and a tiny District of Columbia bill.

The 2004 budget wasn’t concluded until last January, with a seven-bill, \$373 billion package, and the 2003 budget in February with an 11-bill, \$397 billion package.

“It is a terrible way to do business,” said Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, who is stepping down as Senate Appropriations Committee chairman.

“I am sick of this process,” added his Democratic counterpart, Byrd. “I do not know if there will ever be a better example of what can happen, what can go

wrong with this nefarious process of putting off legislation.”

The flaws in the system were exemplified last weekend when Democrats discovered a single sentence in the bill giving Appropriations chairmen and their agents access to income tax returns. Lawmakers from both parties were outraged by this potential invasion of privacy, and House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi demanded that House members return Dec. 6 to vote on a resolution, already approved by the Senate, making the provision ineffective. Only then will the spending bill be sent to the president.

She said the “assault on taxpayer privacy” was a result of GOP leaders rushing gargantuan bills to a vote before members have a chance to study them.

Another pitfall of omnibus legislation, Schatz said, is that it can’t be amended once the bill emerges from House-Senate negotiations. Members can’t do anything — other than vote against the entire bill — about pet projects or other measures that get attached or dropped in the waning hours of a congressional session, he said.

Byrd noted that a 64-page small business bill somehow made its way into the package the night before it reached the House and Senate floors.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., a strong critic of the system, listed dozens of member projects buried in the package, from \$515,000 for snake control in Guam to \$1 million for the Norwegian American Foundation, to \$350,000 for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland. “Being a fan of rock and roll myself, I guess that is well justified,” he said.

The House this year passed 12 of the 13 spending bills, but only two were debated on the floor of the Senate, where the minority has more power to offer amendments and slow down the process. The Senate and the more conservative House also have trouble agreeing on spending levels.

Difficulties in passing the budget on time are nothing new, Senate historian Donald Ritchie said. He recalled a 19th century Senate doorkeeper whose job on the deadline day was to push the hand of the Senate clock back with a broom handle to give lawmakers a few more hours.

The most dramatic showdown in recent years came in 1995 and 1996 when the Newt Gingrich-led House Republicans refused to accept the Clinton administration’s five-bill omnibus, forcing a 26-day shutdown of some government services.

“The woolly mammoth became extinct ages ago,” Byrd said. “I hope one day the same will be said for such mammoth appropriations bills.”

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NATIONAL

Halliburton lost track of government property

BY JOHN SOLOMON

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — A third or more of the government property Halliburton Co. was paid to manage for the U.S.-led Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq could not be located by auditors, investigative reports to Congress show.

Halliburton's KBR subsidiary "did not effectively manage government property" and auditors could not locate hundreds of CPA items worth millions of dollars in Iraq and Kuwait this summer and fall, Inspector General Stuart W. Bowen reported to Congress in two reports.

Bowen's findings mark the latest bad news for Vice President Dick Cheney's former company, which is the focus of both a criminal investigation into alleged fuel price gouging and an FBI inquiry into possible favoritism from the Bush administration.

The Associated Press reported Wednesday that FBI agents have extensively interviewed an Army contracting officer who last month went public with allegations that the Bush administration was improperly awarding contracts to Halliburton without competitive bidding.

Halliburton and the Pentagon deny wrongdoing, and say they are cooperating in all investigations.

Company spokeswoman Cathy Gist said Friday that

KBR recently conducted a "wall-to-wall" review of all property it is managing for the Pentagon in war zones including Iraq and Afghanistan and produced results far better than Bowen's findings.

"We are pleased to report that this total inventory review confirmed 99.4 percent accountability of all property," she said. "The facts show that KBR has adequately managed property for this mission by aggressively monitoring its property management functions — above and beyond what is required."

The U.S.-backed CPA officially dissolved after a year in power in Baghdad when an interim Iraqi government took control of the country this summer. But Bowen's office continues to review how money was spent and it gave a tough assessment of KBR's performance.

KBR won a key logistics contract to manage everything from trucks and generators to computers.

Bowen reported that an audit earlier this summer found KBR had lost track of more than \$18 million worth of equipment in Iraq. Investigators could not track down 52 of 164 randomly selected items in an inventory of more than 20,000 items overseen by KBR, including two electric generators worth nearly \$1 million, 18 trucks or SUVs and six laptop computers.

Pentagon and Halliburton officials have been searching since the summer for the missing items and have

tracked down many of them. Some were found in the hands of "unauthorized users" and 111 vehicles had not been returned for required check-in, they said.

Bowen's auditors found the problems extended beyond Iraq's borders. More recently, auditors sought to determine how well KBR managed the inventory and supplies of the CPA offices and warehouses in neighboring Kuwait, initially sampling 90 items from an inventory of more than 3,000.

The auditors found 30 of the 90 items could not be accounted for, and then reviewed additional documents and projected a total of 1,297 of the 3,302 property items, or 42.8 percent, could not be accounted for or were missing.

The inspector general said 108 additional items were on hand but not properly recorded in inventory. The audit projected more than 400 required hand receipts for property were not available or weren't filled out.

"This occurred because KBR did not effectively manage government property: specifically, KBR did not properly control CPA property items. Further, the KBR property records were not sufficiently accurate or available to properly account for CPA property items," Bowen reported to Congress.

"As a result, the CPA-IG projected that property valued at more than \$1.1 million was not accurately accounted for or was missing," it added.



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INTERNATIONAL



WTO approves sanctions for U.S. antidumping law

BY JONATHAN FOWLER

Associated Press Writer

GENEVA — The World Trade Organization on Friday approved sanctions on a wide range of American exports intended to punish the United States for failing to repeal what it considers protectionist legislation. The Bush administration indicated it would live with the new duties. “It’s been approved,” said Amina C. Mohamed, Kenyan ambassador to the WTO and chairwoman of the organization’s dispute settlement body.

The European Union and other plaintiffs sought formal WTO authorization to retaliate by imposing new duties against various U.S. products. Among the potential targets are cod, textiles, glassware, mobile homes and apples.

The WTO dispute settlement body had been scheduled to take the action Wednesday, but U.S. trade diplomats held last-minute talks with counterparts from the European Union and countries includ-

ing Canada and India.

The move was believed to have followed wrangling after Washington requested fine-tuning of documents submitted to the WTO.

The 2000 law, named for Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., was written with the steel industry in mind. It was ruled illegal two years ago by the 148-nation WTO — which referees global commerce — following a complaint pressed by the EU.

The contested law allows American companies to receive proceeds from duties levied on foreign rivals for alleged “dumping” — selling goods at below-market prices, making it impossible for American producers to compete.

The WTO backed claims that the amendment breaks trade laws by punishing exporters to the United States twice because they are first fined, and then those fines are passed on to their competitors.

“We are continuing to work with Congress to bring the U.S. into compli-

ance and we are consulting with our trading partners on these efforts,” Richard Mills, spokesman for U.S. Trade Representative Robert Zoellick, said Friday. Officials already notified the WTO that “we intend to comply with our international obligations in this matter.”

“It’s important to remember that these issues do not affect the ability of the United States to continue enforcing our trade laws to make sure Americans are being treated fairly,” Mills said after the new sanctions were approved.

In August, a WTO arbitrator approved penalties of up to 72 percent of the money collected from foreign exporters and handed to American companies and said the winners in the case should submit lists of potential targets. Under WTO rules, however, formal authorization must come from the dispute settlement body.

The EU was joined in its complaint by seven other countries: Brazil, Canada, Mexico, South Korea, Japan, India and Chile.

Only the EU, Japan, South Korea and India have so far submitted lists, but all except Chile requested formal authorization to retaliate — and Canada has said it is pondering which products to target.

On Tuesday, new EU trade chief Peter Mandelson said the sanctions could be applied early next year.

Their value has yet to be determined, but trade officials have said they could amount to more than \$150 million a year — a tiny sum in comparison with the \$2 billion in sanctions the EU threatened in its successful bid to force the United States to lift illegal tariffs on foreign steel last year.

Earlier this month, then-EU trade spokeswoman Arancha Gonzalez said the target list included “vocal U.S. sectors that could help Congress focus its mind on compliance.”

Other products on the EU list include heavy machinery made by companies such as Caterpillar Inc., which is based in Illinois, the home state of House Speaker Dennis Hastert.

Green Zone mortar blast kills four British workers

BY MARIAM FAM

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A mortar attack killed four employees of a British security firm and wounded at least 12 in Baghdad’s Green Zone, a fortified area that houses the U.S. and Iraqi leadership, the company and British officials said Friday. An extremist group that claimed the August killings of 12 Nepalese workers said in a Web posting it was behind the attack.

In Fallujah, insurgents ambushed U.S. troops as they entered a home during house-to-house searches in the former rebel bastion, killing two Marines and wounding three others, the U.S. military said Friday.

Meanwhile, resistance to holding the Jan. 30 elections grew Friday when 17 political parties demanded postponing the vote for at least six months until the government is capable of securing polling places.

Britain’s Foreign Office said the four security workers for London-based Global Risk Strategies killed in Baghdad were former Gurkhas, renowned Nepalese soldiers.

“The mortar landed in their camp,” said a Foreign Office official on condition of anonymity.

In a Web site posting, the extremist Ansar al-Sunnah Army claimed responsibility for the attack. The same group claimed responsibility for killing 12 Nepalese construction workers last August.

Tim J. O’Brien, spokesman for Global Risk Strategies, said the attack was on Thursday, when multiple explosions were heard and black smoke was seen rising from the fortified zone on the western bank of the Tigris River.

“There was an incident yesterday. We lost four people and had 12 to 15 who were injured,” he said. “We can’t confirm what this incident actually was until we go through internal investigations.”

O’Brien declined to identify the victims.

Global Risk Strategies is a London-based firm that provides security in coun-

tries including Iraq and Afghanistan.

In Fallujah, Lt. Gen. John F. Sattler, commanding general of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, said the Marines ambushed Thursday by insurgents when searching a home responded with gunfire, killing three rebels hiding inside.

U.S. troops are conducting clearing operations after a massive weeklong U.S.-led assault that began Nov. 8.

“We will continue to clear out houses till every one is secure. We’ve taken more and more of their safe houses. They’re running out of places to hide,” he said.

Sattler vowed the city 40 miles west of Baghdad will be safe in time for next January’s nationwide elections.

Navy Secretary Gordon R. England warned Friday of more violence ahead of the country’s nationwide elections but said U.S. and Iraqi forces will prevail in securing the vote.

“There will be efforts to disrupt the elections,” England said on a visit to Marines at a camp outside Fallujah. “The insurgents don’t want the elections to be held and certainly not that they be successful. But we will prevail. We will provide the necessary stability.”

But the instability in Iraq has cast doubt on the feasibility of holding elections in January.

The parties demanding that elections be delayed were mostly Sunni Arab, Kurdish and secular groups.

Parties of the majority Shiite community strongly support holding the elections on time but there is widespread doubt within the minority Sunni community because of unrest in Sunni regions of central and northern Iraq.

Sunni clerics from the Association of Muslim Scholars have called on Sunnis to boycott the election to protest the U.S.-led assault Fallujah.

A widespread boycott by the Sunni community could deny the elected parliament and government the legitimacy that U.S. and Iraqi authorities believe is necessary to help bring stability to Iraq and curb the insurgency.

Mohsen Abdul Hamid, leader of the

Iraqi Islamic Party, said that delaying the election was necessary because of “threats facing national unity, and fears of inciting sectarian tensions if a certain sect was excluded from the elections,” referring to the Sunnis.

Other politicians said the government was incapable of protecting voters from terror attacks if they tried to cast ballots.

In the northern city of Mosul, the site of a mass insurgent uprising in apparent support of Fallujah guerrillas following the assault on that rebel stronghold, twenty-one have been found in the past two days in and around the area, the U.S. military said Friday. In all, 41 corpses have been discovered in the past week.

U.S. and Iraqi forces were sent in to retake parts of Mosul but insurgents have managed to hit back.

“It’s a continued campaign of threats, intimidation and murder by insurgents to spread fear into the public. Their campaign has been directed at what appears to be Iraqi security forces,” said Lt. Col. Paul Hastings, a spokesman with Task Force Olympia.

Eleven of the 41 bodies found around Mosul have been identified as members of the Iraqi security forces. The others have not been identified. Six were found Friday and 15 were discovered the day before, U.S. officials said.

Twenty other bodies have been found in Mosul since Nov. 18. At least 10 of the bodies — nine of them shot execution-style — belonged to the Iraqi regular army, based at the al-Kisik military base about 31 miles west of Mosul, near Tal Afar. Four of the bodies were decapitated.

“I cannot speak to the motive or the level of detail and planning. I just know that since the uprising, ... there’s been accelerated and very deliberate attacks on Iraqi security forces,” Hastings said.

U.S. and Iraqi troops were hit by mortars, rocket-propelled grenades and small arms fire as they were retrieving two of the bodies found Thursday, according to Lt. Col. Eric Kurilla of the Army’s 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment.

The U.S. military spotted at least one

team of insurgents firing at them. One Iraqi National Guardsman suffered minor injuries, according to Kurilla.

Iraqi security forces in Mosul arrested four people Thursday night accused of providing money and information to insurgents, officials said Friday.

One of the four is “organizationally close to (Jordanian terrorist Abu Musab) al-Zarqawi’s elements and has contacts with elements in areas near Fallujah,” said Maj. Gen. Rashid Feleih, commander of a special Interior Ministry force sent from Baghdad.

On Thursday, National Security Adviser Qassem Dawoud said a key lieutenant to al-Zarqawi had been captured a few days ago in Mosul, identifying him only as Abu Saeed.

Iraqi officials have said that al-Zarqawi, along with other insurgent leaders, had escaped from Fallujah during the U.S.-led assault earlier in the month. Al-Zarqawi heads an al-Qaida linked terror group believed responsible for numerous car bombings and beheadings of foreign hostages.

In the southern city of Basra, Iraqi forces arrested four insurgents after a gunfight in a hotel. The four men told Iraqi officials they were planning attacks in southern Basra, which is the headquarters for some 8,500 British troops, in an attempt to relieve the U.S. military pressure on Fallujah.

Near the northern city of Kirkuk, gunmen attacked a police station in Rashad Thursday night, killing one policeman and injuring three, police said Friday.

Gunmen manning a fake checkpoint on a road south of Baghdad kidnapped an Iraqi journalist working for a local paper, his editor in chief said.

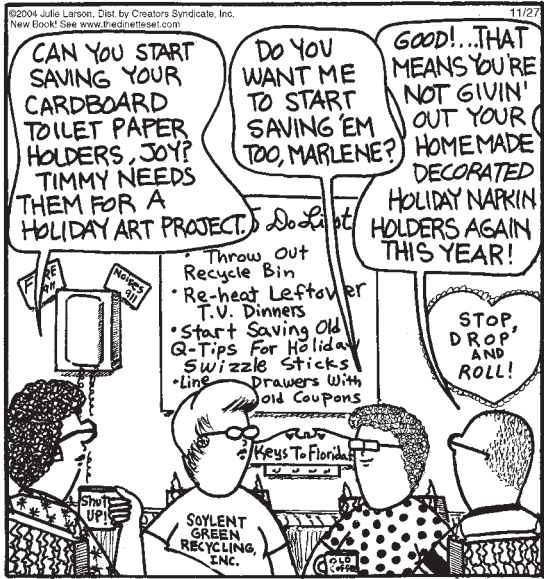
Raad Beraiej al-Azzawi, the No. 3 man at Sada Wasit newspaper was abducted as he was traveling on a road south of Baghdad about 25 miles west of Kut, said editor Ayad al-Tamimi. Kut is about 100 miles southeast of Baghdad.

Al-Azzawi was a critic of the former Saddam Hussein regime and was imprisoned when Saddam was in power.

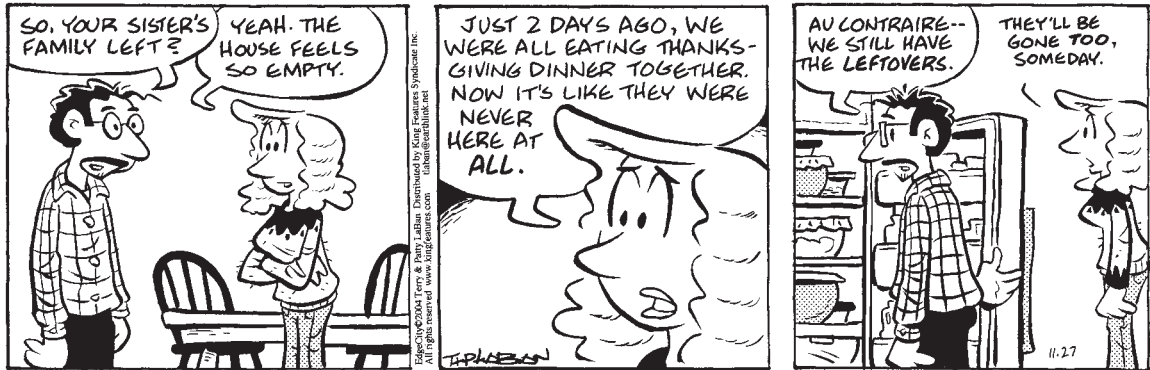


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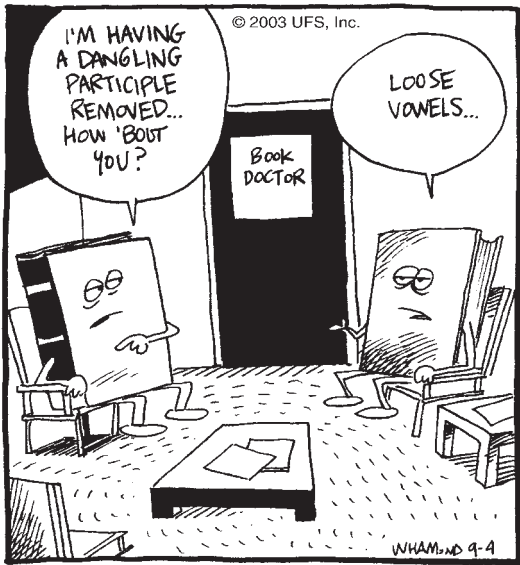
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

A case of Wham! bam, no thank you, ma'am

By The Associated Press

LONDON — British police were searching for a woman suspected of breaking into the home of pop star George Michael.

Police said this week they were called to the 41-year-old singer's house in London's tony Hampstead neighborhood on Nov. 4 after reports of a break-in. The intruder had gone by the time they arrived.

In a similar incident on Oct. 27, a 28-year-old woman was found inside the mansion in possession of a book from the house, the Metropolitan Police said.

Police said Michael "did not wish to pursue the burglary matter, but reported harassment from the same woman."

The suspect was given a warning and released, police said. She was arrested again near the house later the same day, given an official warning for harassment and released.

Former Wham! star Michael recently claimed a female fan had hidden under the floorboards of his house for four days last year.

TORONTO — A pregnant Julia Roberts was confined to bed last month after experiencing a series of early contractions.

So with two films coming out in early December — Mike Nichols' "Closer" and "Ocean's Twelve," the Steven Soderbergh-directed sequel to 2001's star-studded heist caper — Roberts is conducting phone interviews while contemplating her pregnancy.

The 37-year-old actress is expecting twins — a boy and a girl — in early January. Her doctors advised bed rest until her due date.

"I'm enormous," she says. "Let me tell you something, my babies weigh 6 pounds each. That's 12 pounds of just baby in me right now and I still have miles to go before I sleep with them. They're bionic. It's

pretty amazing."

"Closer" is a romantic drama about two couples played by Roberts, Clive Owen, Jude Law and Natalie Portman. The movie contains some explicit sexual language.

"It becomes about the emotion and not about bad words or hard words to say or raunchiness or shock value or anything else," Roberts said. "It becomes about two people in this house whose lives are kind of falling apart. Then it's like afterward when you're able to have a coherent thought that you go, 'I can't believe that I just said all of those bad words.'"

As to the pregnancy — "I feel great," she said.

Roberts married cinematographer Danny Moder in July 2002 at her home in Taos, N.M. The twins would be the first children for Roberts, who won the best actress Oscar in 2001 for "Erin Brockovich."

"Closer" is set for release in the United States Dec. 3. "Ocean's Twelve," also starring George Clooney and Brad Pitt, will be in U.S. theaters Dec. 10.

ROME — Franco Zeffirelli, who has often worked with British actors, received an honorary knighthood from Britain.

The 81-year-old Italian director, who is a known anglophile, cannot call himself "sir," a distinction reserved for citizens of Britain and its former colonies. But he can use the initials "KBE" after his name. The initials stand for Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

"It's the greatest conquest, recognition, I have received in my life, practically," Zeffirelli The Associated Press on the sidelines of the ceremony Wednesday at the residence of the British ambassador to Italy. "I can't believe it."

The honor was given "in recognition of the valuable services you rendered to British performing arts," the British ambassador, Ivor Roberts, told Zeffirelli during the ceremony.

Zeffirelli's films include "The Taming of the Shrew," "Romeo and Juliet," "Otello," "Hamlet" and "Tea With Mussolini."

PORTAGE, Ind. — A custom-made guitar owned by former Poison lead singer Bret Michaels resurfaced a week after it was stolen during an Indiana concert.

The guitar, worth about \$3,000, was returned to staff at WLUP 97.9 FM in Chicago late last week, the Post-Tribune of Merrillville reported Tuesday.

The red-and-white Holden six-string electric guitar with a picture of a skull wearing a top hat was taken Nov. 12 after a concert at a bar in South Haven.

Someone anonymously delivered the guitar to a Chicago nightclub where the radio station was to host a promotional event last Thursday, according to WLUP's Web site. The guitar was taken to the station's studios, where managers were arranging its return to Michaels.

After the Indiana concert, a photo of Michaels with the guitar was posted on the 41-year-old singer's Web site with the message: "We are asking anyone and everyone who may know where it is to please return it to us. This guitar has a lot of sentimental value to Bret and we just want to get it back."

SAN ANDREAS, Calif. — Robert Conrad will have to spend six months under house arrest and complete alcohol counseling for his role in a drunk-driving accident that left another man seriously injured, a Calaveras County judge decided.

After Tuesday's decision, the 69-year-old actor said, "The only thing I'm happy about is that the young man who was a part of this has had a complete recovery."

Kevin Burnett was injured when Conrad's car crashed head on into his car after crossing the center divide on a highway near Arnold in March 2003.

Conrad's blood-alcohol level was 0.22 percent, nearly three times the 0.08 percent limit, officers said.



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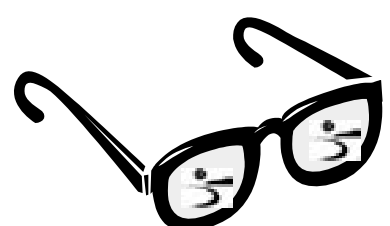
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