

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Carl Hanson of St. Paul, Minn., actually obtained a U.S. patent (No. 6,457,474) in 2002 for what he described as a new method for treating heart-related chest pain (as reported in August 2003 by Scientific American). Hanson's unique invention: He drinks limeade from concentrate. His patent application said that it worked for him, and he wrote out the required details about the structure of the invention, specifically, to purchase cans of concentrate, add water, stir and introduce the juice into the body through the mouth (although Hanson wrote that his patent would also cover intravenous administration).



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Vote early and vote often."

— Al Capone

DID YOU KNOW?:
Prisoners in the Santa Monica Jail are fed T.V. dinners



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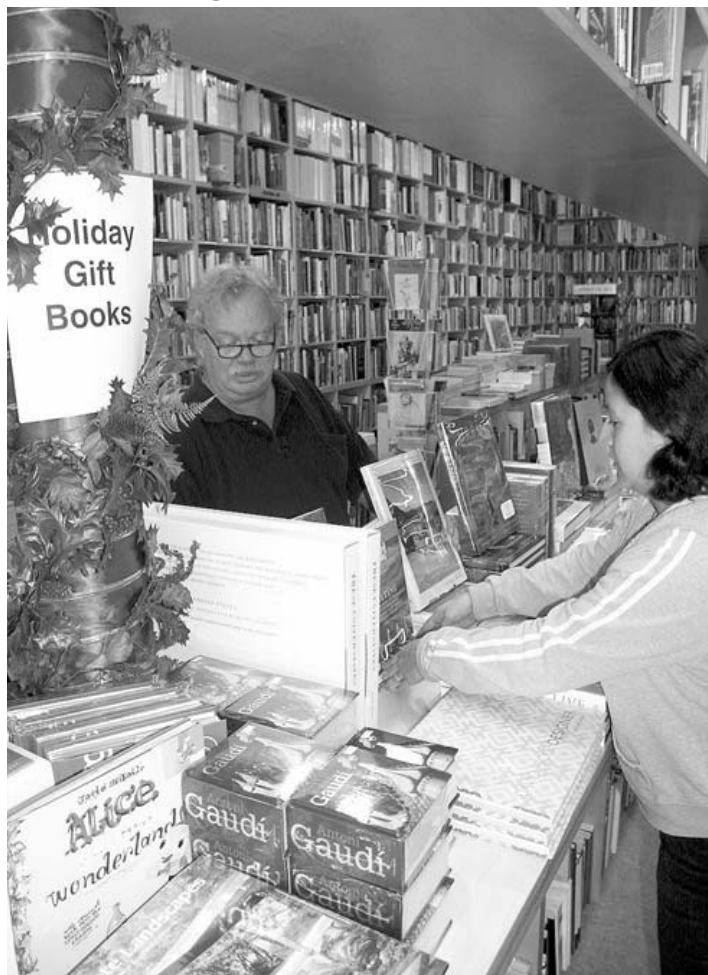
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A novel gift ...



John Wood/Daily Press

Robert Barrett and Hilda Kale set up a Christmas sales display at Hennessey and Ingalls, a popular independent bookstore on Wilshire Boulevard. The day after Thanksgiving is historically the busiest shopping day of the year.

Council rejects noise ordinance

Law is delayed for further research

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — The City Council rejected a controversial new law Tuesday night designed to control noise pollution throughout Santa Monica.

Four years in the making, the provision would have changed the way officials measure noise levels and created a special zone between businesses and residents, in which different noise rules would be applied.

Following three hours of deliberations, council members voted 4-3 against the proposed law, sending it back to City Hall staffers for more research.

The politically charged debate leading up to the vote gave a clear indication of how deeply residents and businesses feel about the racket being made in Santa Monica. More than 3,700 noise complaints were lodged with City

See ORDINANCE, page 7

IRS on prowl for Santa Monicans

By Daily Press staff

The IRS is looking for 69 Santa Monicans.

But it's not because they owe money. Rather, the IRS owes them a little dough.

The IRS wants to return undelivered tax refund and child credit checks to taxpayers whose last address was in the Santa Monica area. The checks total nearly \$60,000 and their amounts range from a low of \$1 to a high of \$12,158. The checks can be reissued after taxpayers update their addresses.

In Los Angeles County, the IRS is looking for 8,782 taxpayers who have \$5.9 million awaiting them in undelivered tax refund and child credit checks.

Taxpayers have until Dec. 5 to claim undelivered checks from this summer's advance child tax credit. After the December cut-off, taxpayers cannot claim the checks

See IRS, page 6

Let the Santa Monica holiday festivities begin

By Daily Press staff

DOWNTOWN — Thousands will see the annual holiday lighting ceremony in downtown Santa Monica tonight, as four-time Emmy award-winning actress Doris Roberts of "Everybody Loves Raymond," and Mark L. Walberg, the host of "Temptation Island," throw the switch on "Winterlit" on the Promenade.

The ceremony follows an afternoon of music and entertainment. At 2 p.m. the Santa Monica High School Orchestra will kick-off the program. Future Hasbeens Comedy Troupe and KOST radio's Mark & Kim will host the day's events. Santa Monica Playhouse will perform, followed by musical group Gwendolyn and the Goodtime Gang.

At 4 p.m., snow begins falling at Santa Monica Place and "Surfing Santa" and his elves arrive in a convertible.

At 5:15 p.m. all of downtown Santa Monica and Santa Monica Place will spring to life as Roberts and Walberg throw the switch and thousands of lights and sculptures begin to sparkle amid music and a snowy confetti, officially beginning

the holiday season.

A party is planned tonight on Main Street as well. At 6 p.m., there will be a tree-lighting ceremony at the California Heritage Museum, 2612 Main St. After the ceremony and some holiday music, everyone will be invited to pick up a judging form and choose their favorite store windows in a decorations contest.



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HOROSCOPE

Easy does it tonight, Virgo



JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

★★★★★-Dynamic ★★★★★-Positive ★★★★★-Average
★★-So-so ★-Difficult

HAPPY BIRTHDAY Friday, November 28, 2003

If you express your thoughts and desires, others will respond to what you feel and what you want. Others are highly responsive. You make friends with ease and bring others out of their shells. As a result, you will be unusually successful no matter where you put your energies. Your career can present many options, as well as a public commitment. Know what you want, and you are likely to get just that. Fall 2004 presents unusual opportunities. Don't think that these options will last forever. If you are single, you are likely to meet someone in the fall who will knock your socks off. If you are attached, your relationship will bloom this year. You add that extra touch of romance. AQUARIUS can be lots of fun.



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ Meetings and gatherings have an impact on you. You discover that someone close shares a dream with you. Together you two can make this a reality, if you so choose. Let your imagination lead, whether making plans or getting together with others. Share a long-term vision or goal. Tonight: Where the gang is.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Though someone might not intend to, he or she makes strong demands on you. Explain to this person what following his or her wishes will take from you. Make a must appearance, but save some special time for a loved one you care about. Tonight: Out and about.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ If you have an inkling that a day trip might be especially meaningful, do it. By gaining another perspective and just being away, you will refresh your mind and energy. If you can, go by water. Tonight: Do something totally different.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ A partner wants all your attention. It's your pleasure! You create a stronger bond because of this special time. Close relationships revive with this kind of attention, even friendships. Take some time to nap or do something for yourself. You will need every ounce of energy possible. Tonight: Be a duo.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Allow someone close to call the shots. In fact, you too often seize the reins of control. Let this person act on his or her imagination. You find that he or she brings out the kid in you. Don't try to be in control; just flow with others' wishes. Tonight: The only answer is "yes."



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Take some time off and don't get into a touchy situation. You need some time just for yourself. You might feel a bit uncomfortable asking for it, but you need to. You don't want to turn into a class-A grump, do you? Go off and do something you love. Remember, it's Black Friday. Tonight: Easy does it.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Let another lead, and you could be more than delighted by the outcome. Allow more humor into your life and be more playful. Express your wonderful sense of humor, make calls and catch up on others' news. Tonight: Make the most out of the moment.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ You might want to get a head start on your holiday cards and decorating. Some of you will want to go out shopping. Stay close to home, as others really appreciate this special time with you. Touch base with a friend who might be lonely. Tonight: Become a couch potato.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Many of you will head out the door, even with Black Friday impending. Some might sit down and get their Christmas cards started. Others actually might start shopping. Many will visit with loved ones and friends. Do what you want. Tonight: Where the gang is.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Take time with a child or loved one. A child needs to understand the true meaning of Christmas — beyond Santa, presents and trees. Your instincts guide you with a gift choice. Handle your money carefully. Tonight: Your treat.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Your imagination takes you and several friends in a brand-new direction. Get together with friends for perhaps a post-Thanksgiving party to finish the leftovers. Don't hesitate to ask for more of what you want. Tonight: Whatever makes you smile.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Continue a low-key approach. Someone wants to get a lot closer to you than he or she has in a long time. Talks reveal more about a disagreement than you realize. Share more of yourself. Tonight: Get as much sleep as possible.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Santa Monica to host farmer's market cooking show

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica farmer's market and Santa Monica City/TV cable channel 16 have collaborated to produce the first-ever cooking show that features a farmer as both grower and guest in each segment.

The farmers are selected from among the 200 California certified growers who attend one of Santa Monica's four certified farmer's markets. The on-air host is Santa Monica resident Amelia Saltsman, a professional food stylist and food writer who is a long time farmer's market shopper and has hosted numerous prepared food tastings at the Wednesday farmers' market using seasonal market produce.

Each cooking show, entitled "Fresh from the Farmers' Market," is one-half hour in length and features three dishes. The first show, "Festive Autumn Side Dishes" shows Amelia and guest farmer Dede Thogmartin cooking up a winter squash soup, a persimmon, pomegranate and pecan salad and oven roasted sprouting broccoli. Each show includes a market feature on how to shop at the market and useful cooking tips, as well as information on what produce is in season at the farmer's market.

Funding for the program is provided by a "buy California" grant from the Southland Farmers' Market Association to promote California specialty crops in Los Angeles County certified farmers' markets. The Southland Farmers' Market Association is a grower-funded non-profit organization that supports farmers and farmer's markets on a state level, and was one of 50 recipients of "buy California" grant funds distributed by the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

The first episode of "Fresh from the Farmer's Market" will air Dec. 3 at 6:30 p.m.

SMC holds holiday art sale

By Daily Press staff

Finish your holiday gift shopping at Santa Monica College's 26th annual holiday student art sale, featuring a wide range of works in various media.

The sale will include ceramics, blown glass, prints, paintings and drawings. It will be held Dec. 9-10 from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. in SMC's Pete & Susan Barrett Art Gallery, located at the college's Madison campus, 11th Street and Santa Monica Boulevard.

Free parking is available. For information, call (310) 434-3434.

The Nutcracker comes to the westside

By Daily Press staff

For the 30th year, the Westside Ballet stages The Nutcracker for the holiday season. The traditional holiday ballet, featuring many dancers from Santa Monica, will be performed on the following dates and times:

Smothers Theatre, Pepperdine University, 24255 Pacific Coast Hwy., Malibu:

Saturday, Nov. 29 - 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 30 - 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Wadsworth Theatre, Wilshire Blvd. at the 405 Freeway, West LA:

Saturday, Dec. 13 - 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 14 - 1 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Tickets cost \$25 for adults and \$15 for children, ages 12 and under. Tickets are available by phone at (213) 365-3500, online at www.ticketmaster.com or at all Ticketmaster ticket outlets, including The Wherehouse, Tower Records, Robinsons-May and Ritmo-Latino stores.

Holiday spending blunder tips

BY CAROLYN HEMANN

Special tp the Daily Press

The holiday season is filled with giving and celebrating but can also bring unnecessary financial stress that can linger long after the photo album is filled and the decorations are put away. Here are a few simple tips to help you avoid some of the most common holiday spending blunders and put your financial house in order before for the New Year:

1. Set a holiday budget and make a gift list.

2. Start early and bargain shop.

More time to shop means more time to find good deals on merchandise. If you are afraid that you can't resist temptation in the stores, shop online or purchase gift certificates.

3. Be smart with credit cards.

If you're using a charge or credit card for some of your purchases, make smart choices: Stick to your budget, use a card with a rewards program and one that offers retail protections. An easy way to avoid unmanageable credit card payments is by not charging more than you can

See TIPS, page 6



Mediocrity. There is a chance of seeing more W swell as we move through the weekend. Watch the NW wind swell back down over the next couple of days as SW swell offers up minor energy.

OUTLOOK: A small low off of Hawaii could set us up for some waist-high-plus waves over the weekend. And a small SW swell should bring us waist-high bombers as well.

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

Today the water is:

57°

Sunrise: 6:34 a.m.
Sunset: 4:46 p.m.

	LOW TIDE				HIGH TIDE			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	12:57	1.1	2:08	-0.9	7:15	6.7	8:23	4.5
SUNDAY	1:34	1.4	2:55	-1.4	7:51	7.0	9:18	4.4
MONDAY	2:12	1.7	3:44	-1.5	8:30	7.2	10:15	4.1
TUESDAY	2:53	2.1	4:36	-1.5	9:13	7.1	11:17	3.9
WEDNESDAY	3:38	2.4	5:33	-1.2	9:59	6.8	N/A	N/A
THURSDAY	4:31	2.8	6:34	-0.8	12:28	3.8	(10:50)	6.2
FRIDAY	5:43	3.1	7:40	-0.4	1:48	3.8	(11:51)	5.6

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OPINION

LETTERS

School contributions have gone a long way

Editor:

My heartfelt appreciation goes to the voters of Santa Monica and Malibu who passed the district's school funding measure and the cities of Santa Monica and Malibu who raised their level of financial commitment to the school district. These actions provided the means by which we may continue our important work on behalf of all of our youth.

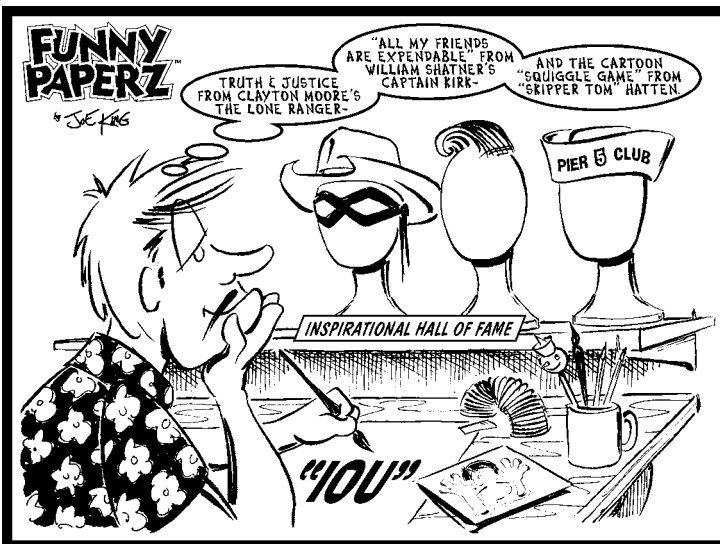
I am encouraged by the progress we have achieved thus far. Test results show that our students' scores have risen and an increased number of students from diverse ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds are enrolled in advanced placement classes. The continuation of these and many more programs that support our children's academic success would not have been possible without the passage of Measure S. Documentation has shown that smaller class sizes have resulted in higher academic achievement. With the passage of Measure S the district was able to maintain a teacher-student ratio of 20 to 1 in grades kindergarten through the third grade, as well as smaller class sizes in targeted middle and high school classes. Accessibility to our school libraries and librarians play a major role in student learning. Because Measure S passed, our students can still utilize these valuable resources. And, it goes without saying, that saving more than 90 teaching positions keeps the core of our educational system intact.

I am enthusiastic and excited by our work in progress aimed at successfully raising the academic achievement of every student in the district. While faced with the funding crisis at the state and federal level, the continued support of the cities of Santa Monica and Malibu, our students, classified and certificated staff, our parents, business community and residents truly means the difference between our success and failure. When considering the future of our children, we must succeed. Thank you again for

passing Measure S and showing our children that we can and will keep our promise to take care of their needs and provide opportunities for an outstanding education.

John E. Deasy

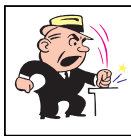
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Santa Monica's ruling party clamps down on its politics

MY WRITE
By Bill Bauer

Santa Monicans for Renter's Rights held its annual convention two weeks ago. They tightened down the hatches to preserve power with their "old guard."

SMR's political strength is attributed to the longevity and consistency of its leadership and philosophy. The 25-year-old organization has been co-chaired for years by one of its founders, former mayor and city councilman, Denny Zane.

A secretive 11-person steering committee guides the organization and sets its priorities and goals. Most of its members also are long-term SMRR members.

Decisions made behind closed doors by the steering committee have ramifications for virtually all aspects of Santa Monica life. The majority of those on City Council, Santa Monica College Board of Trustees and the local school board are SMRR loyalists, along with those they appoint to numerous civic commissions, boards and task forces.

Eight members retained seats on the

steering committee and three new members were elected. Two of the new members held committee seats in past years.

New to the committee is Ana G. Hara, whose City Council quest ended abruptly last year when she failed to obtain enough signatures on her qualifying petition. Hara is a labor supporter and campaigned for the Living Wage ordinance, which was voted down last fall.

She is the only Hispanic and young person on the steering committee. In fact, 10 of its 11 members are white and middle-aged or older. The majority are homeowners. So much for diversity, huh?

By-laws were tightened to make it more difficult for outsiders or "hostiles" to take control of the organization's endorsement process. Now, a voter must be a member for at least 90 days — not 21 days as previously required. To further curb outsider influence, a 55 percent vote is now required for a SMRR endorsement — not the 50 percent-plus-one vote previously required.

And, if a candidate doesn't receive a membership endorsement after three rounds of votes by the membership, the steering committee itself can do it.

Last Friday, the SMDP ran corrections on a Nov. 7 column I wrote about local

activist Kelly Hayes-Raitt, the Santa Monica College Faculty Association and "86 the Trustees," a group of faculty and students unhappy with the way the college handled its budget crisis.

One correction said that Hayes-Raitt was not a "Code Pink activist" as I had stated. She was invited and traveled to Baghdad last February with a contingent from the anti-war organization, Code Pink.

She praised Code Pink and its members in "dispatches from Iraq" printed here and elsewhere. She's been featured in Code Pink press materials and her political activities are closely associated and tied with the leftist organization. While it could be a semantic issue, all this and more makes her an "activist" in my opinion — and this is an opinion column.

Hayes-Raitt informed the SMDP that her fee as a spokesperson for "86 the Trustees" is \$2,000 per month, not the "reported \$3000 per month" that I mentioned.

OK, she got me there, but the point is that she's a paid spokesperson for a group which includes the Faculty Association, Classified Employees Union, dissident students and others opposed to the way SMC is administrated. Two grand or three grand? Who cares? The issue is that she's not volunteering her services. Now,

I wonder — is she's also a paid spokesperson for Code Pink?

I called Lantz Simpson, the president of the SMC Faculty Association, twice to confirm her fee. Nobody returned my calls. Not even the "paid spokesperson."

But it's not unusual for an organization to avoid press inquiries from persons they think might be critical.

The Faculty Association's position on the appointment of Graham Pope to the SMC board of trustees came up. I said they didn't endorse Pope but endorsed all four other candidates running for the vacated seat. In the next line, I wrote that they, along with others, "also" opposed him.

Although the word "also" could have confused the issue, members of the "86 the Trustees," the Faculty Association, students and others spoke and demonstrated against Pope's appointment publicly beforehand and at the board of trustees meeting.

Despite statements to the contrary by those unhappy with SMC President Piedad Robertson and the way SMC is governed, it's obvious they didn't want Pope.

(Bill Bauer is a longtime Santa Monica resident and a freelance writer. He doesn't want to be reached.)

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.



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OPINION



The QLine

Thankful for life, bike path, the Daily Press

This past week, Q-line asked:

"What are you thankful for?"

Here are your responses:

■ "I am thankful for rent control, attorney Andrew Zanger — who represents tenants who are being beaten up by apartment-house owners and management companies — and the Santa Monica bike path."

■ "I, and probably many others, am thankful for radio, television, telephones, rapid transportation and, of course, safe drinking water. Without any of these things, our lives would be different and certainly much less efficient and more difficult. Have a happy Thanksgiving."

■ "First, I am very thankful for the good health of all my family members. Second, I am very thankful for the SMDP, which is a breath of fresh air in a community that was seriously lacking this kind of forthright enterprise. There are others in the community who are publishing newspapers, but no one comes close to the SMDP. Many thanks for your presence and your fantastic coverage of local, regional and global news."

■ "I am extremely thankful that I have the opportunity to live under a free society for all the long years of my life — up until now, when we are apparently living under a dictatorship with an appointed President who has lead us into war where none was necessary. Our men are being killed daily. It's a tragedy. The weapons of mass destruction were a donkey cart."

■ "I am thankful when I read the obituaries and don't find my name in there."

■ "I am thankful for so many things that it would take up the whole Line, but basically I am thankful for my health, thankful that I have a place to live, I'm thankful that I have a job and I'm thankful for my friends. Most of all, I'm thankful for the love and support of my family because without that, I wouldn't have anything. While I'm at it, I'm also thankful for the SMDP. It's a stimulating little newspaper that tells it like it is — keep it up and have a happy Thanksgiving."

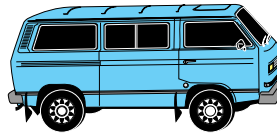
■ "I would like to thank my guardian angel who is with me all-year round. I am very thankful for that."

■ "I'm thankful for the SMDP. Otherwise, I wouldn't have a clue about what is going on in this city. Keep up the good work."

■ "I'm thankful for my lovely wife, the caring people in Santa Monica and the westside, LA and the world. I'm thankful for our powerful creative abilities which allow us to imagine a better world. And I am thankful for having a new spiritual awakening that 'infinite creative intelligence is not only with us, but in fact, in us,' and that creative intelligence didn't author a story that leads us nowhere. I'm also thankful for all the good work that has been done by the SMDP, and all that shall be done in the coming year."

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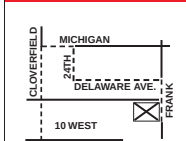


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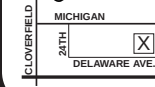


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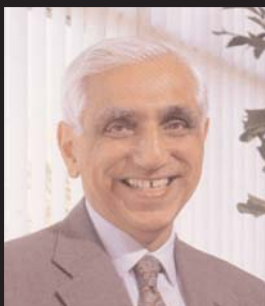
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**CALL TODAY! (310) 559-9990****LOCAL****IRS owes one SM resident more than 12K in refunds**

IRS, from page 1

until they file their returns next year. As for "regular" tax refund checks — those issued to refund tax overpayments — the IRS urges taxpayers to claim those as soon as possible as well.

"Our Web site makes it easy for taxpayers to track undelivered checks," said IRS Commissioner Mark W. Everson. "Our goal is to get this money back in the hands of the people it belongs to, and we want to get the checks out as soon as possible."

IRS.gov, the IRS' Web site, has sections called "Where's My Refund?" that provides information about refunds and "Where's My Advance Child Tax Credit?" that provides information about the tax credit. Both are available on the IRS home page.

"In Los Angeles County, the undelivered checks range from \$1 to \$171,574," said IRS spokesman Victor Omelczenko. "Statewide, we have 30,187 undelivered checks totaling nearly \$19.5 million that we would like to give back to taxpayers."

To use the resources on IRS.gov, taxpayers enter information including their

Social Security number and their filing status, such as single or married filing jointly. In addition, the refund amount shown on their 2002 tax return is required for refunds. To get information on the advance child tax credit, taxpayers must also enter the number of exemptions shown on their 2002 tax return. When the information is submitted online, taxpayers see Web pages that show the status of their refund or advance child tax credit check. In many cases, they also get instructions they need to resolve problems.

Taxpayers without access to the Internet who think they may be missing a refund or advance child tax credit check should first review their records or contact their tax preparer before calling the IRS toll-free assistance line at 1 800 829-1040 to update their address.

Taxpayers who have moved since filing their last tax return can ensure the IRS has their correct address by filing Form 8822, Change of Address, with the IRS. Download the form or request it by calling 1 800 TAX-FORM (1 800 829-3676).

Here is a list of Santa Monicans owed money by the IRS:

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VENESY, SCOTT T
KHAN ALI, SAIMA
PERAZA, SONIA E.
PEREIRA, MICHELLE A.
ARESCO, JOSEPH F.
COX, O BRIEN E.
DAMIEN, MORGAN D.
HAMMERSCHMIDT, SUSAN L.
JIMENEZ, DOLORES
KASS, ROBERT L. & ANITA
LINDSTROM, LARS & INGER
NEWBRAND, MICHAEL A.
NOVAK, MARY A.
OSTROWSKI, JANET
REANEY, GILBERT
SHORTT, PAUL R & CINDY J.
SPARKS, ROBERT J.
TOMPKINS, KATHLEEN T.
ALEIXO, JEFFREY & MICHELLE
BLAY-HERRERO, JAUME
BROWN, BENITA
BURKE, KIMBERLY L.
CUEVA, FELIPE & MAGDALENA
FELDMAN, NEAL
FRANCO, CELSO
GONZALEZ, VINCENTE & BLANCA A.
HERNANDEZ, IRMA
HUBBARD, EVELYN L.
MILES, JO ANN
PULASKI, MICHAEL
RAHMANIAN, MEHDI

ROMAN, ZOILA I.
THOMAS, RICKY C.
VASQUEZ, JULIAN & EUGENIA ALVARADO
WEERANARAWAT, SUMITRA
WELLS, CATHERINE & BRUCE MARKS
ALEXIS, STEVE & MARDI A. DEVEUVE
BARRY, FRANCES M.
BOWEY, JOHN
BURGER, NICHOLAS P.
DUARTE, ASCENCION P.
DUKOFF, LAUREN A.
FARAONE, DAVID
HANSCOM, LUCAS K.
HENDRIX, MARK L. & LINDA S.
HOPKINS, LILLIAN G.
HUNTER, SHARON S.
JENSEN, MICHAEL F.
KUJAWSKI, JOHN CHARLES
KULKARNI, GIRISH & PRIYA SHAH
LEAL, EDUARDO & YADIRA LEAL AGUILAR
LUM, LESLIE A.
MADDOCK, BRENT R. & PATRICIA WRIGHT
MORA VIERA, ALEX
TEMBERLAKE, RODNEY L.
VIOTTI, VITTORIO
WAGNER, JOHN
WALLACE, BARBARA R.
WEISS, DAVID R.
WILSON, CAMERON J.
WISE, GARY W.
YAGO, GIDEON
CORRALES, NICOLAS A. & LILIANA
LIEBLEIN, RENATE L.
KAPP, SCOTT J.

Shopping tip: Set a budget

TIPS, from page 3

afford to pay off, based on your budget. Generally, the best use of debt is to finance things that will gain in value, such as a home, an education or big-ticket necessities that will still be around when the debt is paid off.

4. Avoid ending the year in bad financial shape.

Make sure your wallet is in shape this year, because price hikes are expected next year in many areas of your life, including home insurance, car insurance, health insurance, heating costs, interest rates, college costs, and state and local taxes. Furthermore, start saving for next year's holiday budget right now by depositing a small amount each month in a separate interest-earning savings account.

5. Do tax planning before the end of the year.

There is still time to shave some dollars off your 2003 tax bill. For example, by deferring income at the end of the year, you may be able to postpone paying taxes until next year. Accelerating interest and tax payments before Dec. 31 also can result in additional deductions for the interest paid this calendar year.

Finally, be sure to consult a qualified financial advisor to help you with your holiday spending and saving strategies, credit card management and tax planning as part of your comprehensive long term financial planning strategy.

(Carolyn Hemann is a senior financial advisor in Santa Monica specializing in investment strategies, asset allocation, and estate preservation. She is a certified financial planner and a business financial advisor. For more information she can be reached at (310) 582-3535).

LOCAL



Noise issue to return to City Council next year

ORDINANCE, from page 1

Hall last year alone.

Council members who opposed the proposal said it was based on too little research, and that the ordinance may not adequately address the concerns of residents while also being fair to businesses. They suggested the proposal be returned to staff for modification and additional study.

"You know, residents are people that have businesses, too, and businesses are not evil," said Councilwoman Pam O'Connor, who was joined by Councilmen Bob Holbrook, Herb Katz and Mike Feinstein in rejecting the law.

The three council members who wanted to push the law forward, however, contended residents have waited too long for protection against the noises of urban life. They accused the other council members of giving businesses a free pass at the expense of local residents.

"I voted 'no' against (sending the law back) because I think it's really government at its worst," said Councilman Ken Genser, who's dissenting vote was accompanied by those from Mayor Richard Bloom and Councilman Kevin McKeown. "It's really just a cynical attempt to appear to be passing an ordinance. But, in fact, the ordinance, as it's written, will not modify the standards that we currently have — which is not enforceable."

At the heart of the dispute, Genser said, was where the sound level readings should be gathered.

"It's meaningless at the source," Genser said. "What's important is the people being affected by it, and sound travels in a whole bunch of different ways."

Under the current noise ordinance adopted in 1992, continuous noises in commercial areas are limited to 65 decibels during the day and 60 decibels at night, while residential zones are limited to 60 decibels during the day and 50 decibels at night.

For reference, zero decibels is the faintest noise the human ear can detect, 60 decibels is the equivalent of normal conversation, 98 decibels is on par with the amount of noise made by a semi-truck, and 120 decibels is equal to the level of an ambulance siren.

Currently, noise level measurements are taken from the source of the noise.

But under the defeated proposal, readings would have been taken from where the nuisance was heard. Additionally, a 100-foot transition zone would have been set up between residents and businesses where allowable levels were averaged.

Councilman Holbrook said the transition zone caused problems because some residential areas abut commercial districts, like on Main Street. Under the proposed law, those businesses would be forced to comply to a 55-decibel requirement at night, which could be difficult, or even impossible, he said.

A dozen people spoke out on the matter Tuesday, expressing a wide variety of concerns. Though they were pushing for different results, both business interests and local residents shared a common concern — that the law be enforced.

"The intractable violators continue to violate because they are confident there are no consequences for their misdeeds," said Anita Holcomb, a resident on Second

Street behind Main Street.

Kathy Dodson, president and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce, agreed.

"The real problem seems to be enforcement," Dodson said. "A change of five or 10 decibels, I'm not sure is going to make a significant effect on anybody's ability to sleep at night."

"The real problem seems to be enforcement."

— KATHY DODSON
President and CEO,
Chamber of Commerce

With the proposal rejected, staffers at City Hall were sent to gather more evidence and return with an ordinance that still measures noise from the source and does not include a transition zone. Additionally, council members asked staff to research the cost of gathering more sound level information in various residential and commercial areas.

Officials said it will probably be about six months before the matter returns to the council for another vote.

Still a part of the proposed noise ordinance is the creation of a compliance officer position, limitations on certain activities like dumping trash and recyclables late at night, and various limitations on construction projects. The recommendations are the result of months of public input and numerous meetings of the Planning Commission and the City Council.

Noise issues have important ramifications in Santa Monica because, at only eight-square miles in size, the city has a daily population that fluctuates between 300,000 during the week to 500,000 on weekends. There are about 90,000 full-time residents in the city.

Holbrook argued that resident concerns have less to do with the noise created by local merchants and more to do with other, unrelated distractions.

"Usually, it's about someone who has barking dogs, or somebody's been using a leaf blower, or, right now, there's construction going on by my house," he said. "It almost never is someone saying, 'I live on Montana Avenue and I can't handle the business noise.'"

Say what?

Examples of noises, in decibels:

Faintest audible sound: **0 dB**
Rustling leaves: **20 dB**
Quiet whisper at three feet: **30 dB**
Normal conversation: **60 dB**
Possible ear damage: **85 dB**
Motorcycle from 30 feet: **88 dB**
Blender at three feet: **90 dB**
Power mower at three feet: **107 dB**
Discomfort threshold: **115 dB**
Siren: **120 dB**
Chainsaw at three feet: **117 dB**
Jet plane at 100 feet: **130 dB**
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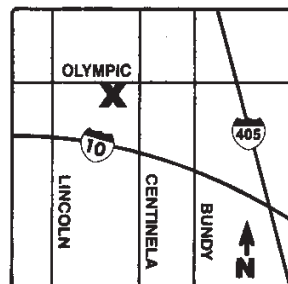
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NATIONAL

Entertainment company expands Hispanic films

BY YVETTE ARMENDARIZ

Associated Press Staff Writer

PHOENIX — A Colorado entertainment company is betting local residents want to see the hottest Hollywood movies in Spanish.

In November, Sonora Entertainment Group opened Cinema Latino, a six-screen theater at Desert Sky Mall in west Phoenix. The company, based in Broomfield, Colo., is among a handful of independent theater chains nationally trying to serve a growing Hispanic population.

The Phoenix Cinema Latino is the fifth theater effort by Sonora Entertainment. Its first, in Aurora, Colo., opened two years ago. Another in Fort Worth opened earlier this year. Efforts in Colorado Springs and Las Vegas failed because of poor locations, company officials said.

"Now we have a much better sense of what data it takes to be successful," President David Mejias said.

Part of Sonora's formula has been working with closely with movie studios.

"The initial challenge with convincing the studios was that there is a same-day-and-date demand for (Spanish-language) Hollywood pictures in the U.S.," Mejias said.

The studios were already dubbing or subtitling movies for release in Latin markets, but sometimes the films wouldn't come out for weeks after the mass-market release. Wait too long, and audiences won't be willing to pay full price for an old movie, even if it is in Spanish.

Sonora also convinced the studios that dubbed films wouldn't pull dollars away from general market cinemas.

"There are customers who don't understand English who wouldn't go to a general market movie," Mejias said.

Then Sonora began focusing on its niche, family and action movies.

"We found in (the Hispanic) market, those two play well," he said.

Dramas with cultural connections to Mexico, such as Frida, attracted customers, too.

The theater also will play foreign films produced in Spanish.

The theater concept is focused on giving Hispanic audiences a moviegoing experience that includes music in Spanish and concession stands featuring Mexican candies and hot sauce for popcorn.

But Cinema Latino isn't intended to look or feel like a discount theater, Mejias said.

The company wouldn't reveal its investment, but it spent a hefty penny renovating an old theater at Desert Sky Mall with new carpeting, concession stands,

seats and soundboards.

Good decor, movie selections and location will be important to the theater's success, said Carlos Santiago, president of multicultural marketing company Santiago Solutions Group in San Francisco.

"Hispanics will not put up with having to drive far away and be in (a theater with) an antiquated sound system to get entertainment value," said Santiago, who is seeing more interest from companies to serve Spanish-dominant Hispanics.

He points out that Hispanics tend to spend more on entertainment than the general market, which may be why a number of entertainment-related companies are looking at the Hispanic market.

Spanish-language cinema is not new for Phoenix. Palace West, run by the Corona family, used to feature Mexican movies and U.S. movies subtitled in Spanish back in the 1970s and 1980s. A Spanish-language moviehouse, Cinema Millennium, opened in Chandler last year, but the company soon closed its doors.

Alex Corona, general manager of Corona Ranch in Laveen, said his family closed Palace West after a successful run bringing in Hispanic singers and movies. But toward the end of the venture, they noticed box office sales declining.

"It was just about the time when the videos (dubbed and subtitled in Spanish) started coming out in large quantities as rentals," Corona said.

Another obstacle was that customers didn't always like subtitles. He attributes that to audiences being bothered by missing out on the movie's action and some customers being unable to read Spanish well.

Today, he sees a more educated Hispanic audience that would appreciate films subtitled in Spanish.

"I always thought of reviving the theater," he said. "I think there is a need."

Phoenix resident Xavier Ortega, 26, looks forward to having a Spanish-language theater. He's primarily interested in Spanish or Mexican films to keep his Spanish fresh, but also thinks dubbed movies would be great for an outing with his mother, who prefers being entertained in Spanish.

Harry Garewal, president of the Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, also is pleased to see the investment in a Spanish-language theater.

"The (Hispanic) market has been starving for different types of entertainment," he said.

Sonora continues to look at other top Hispanic markets to add new Cinema Latino theaters, said Mejias. Some markets under consideration are Houston, Chicago and Los Angeles.



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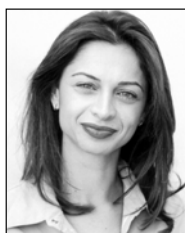
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NATIONAL



Gadfly of food industry continues on his mission

BY TARA GODVIN
Associated Press Writer

OMAHA, Neb. — You may not know his name, but Phil Sokolof has probably changed how you think about what you eat.

He exorcised fatty, highly saturated oils from your breakfast cereal. He prodded you relentlessly to get your cholesterol tested. He was instrumental in getting nutritional labels put on everything edible, including your favorite candy bar.

Over almost two decades, the 81-year-old multimillionaire estimates he has poured about \$15 million of his money into his mission to turn around American eating habits.

Though Sokolof himself may not be a household name, his work has touched nearly every household in the country.

A diminutive, retired businessman who wears simple suits and big glasses, Sokolof rose to prominence in the nation's nutritional field in the late 1980s and early 1990s for his trademark full-page ads placed in newspapers around the country.

One carried the headline, "McDonald's, Your Hamburgers Have Too Much Fat!" Another took a swipe at the dairy industry's labeling of 2 percent milk as "low fat," with a plus-size model donning a milk mustache below the question, "Would you let your child eat 9 strips of bacon a day?"

"I'd still like to reach more people with life-saving messages," Sokolof said, in the office of his Omaha-based foundation, National Heart Savers Association.

Founded in 1985, Sokolof's organization is focused on improving the nation's cardiovascular health. Inspired by his own heart attack 19 years earlier when he was only 43, Sokolof started Heart Savers not just as a means to charitably spend his millions but also a mouthpiece to preach the gospel of good health and exercise.

"We owe him a great debt as a country. He actually stood out and backed things at a time when people were dragging their feet," said Dr. William Castelli, director of the Framingham Cardiovascular Institute and former leader of the landmark heart-health study of residents in Framingham, Mass., that coined the term, "risk factor."

Sokolof entered the business world constructing small homes. He identified a metal construction part he felt he could make more cheaply and started Phillips Manufacturing Co. in 1955.

His heart attack came in 1965. Though he exercised regularly, "before it was fashionable," a diet characterized by greasy foods is what almost ended his life. His cholesterol level was 300 — higher than what the American Heart Association today classifies as high risk.

The experience sparked his interest in cholesterol and the need for the public to know more about the deadly artery-clogging substance.

His wife, Ruthie, who taught blind preschool children and died in 1982, inspired him to take his charitable work directly to the people. "Even though writing checks and giving away money is worthwhile, it doesn't compare with hands on," Sokolof said.

Approaching his new task with the same zeal and innovativeness as his business, Sokolof kicked off his efforts in 1985 by organizing a cholesterol testing campaign in Nebraska. That grew into a

two-year, 16-state campaign that tested 200,000 people. Improvement after the first year in some of the toughest cases, which he personally counseled, showed the project worked.

"You can't count them in numbers, but you know what you're doing is helping people," Sokolof said.

He took the campaign to Washington in 1987, testing an estimated 10,000 people on Capitol Hill over five days and establishing April as National Know Your Cholesterol Month.

In an effort to persuade food makers to remove highly saturated tropical oils, like coconut and palm oil, from their products, Sokolof mailed thousands of letters to industry officials, receiving only a few replies. Calls to the companies weren't much more successful.

Deciding that targeting the company's reputations may be a more effective tactic, Sokolof sunk about \$500,000 into his first full-page ad titled, "THE POISONING OF AMERICA," which pointed out the dangers of tropical oils and pictured the products that used them.

When he called up the companies after the ads started running, "they would put me through to the vice president," he said.

One by one, food giants like General Mills and Procter & Gable capitulated, pulling the oils from their products.

"His ads were so strong, so candid, that they helped move the issue," said Michael Jacobsen, executive director of the Center for Science in the Public Interest, a consumer advocacy group.

A series of ads followed, culminating in a 1990 campaign to bolster federal legislation, requiring nutritional labels.

The tactic worked, which Sokolof calls his greatest triumph.

"That is an oddity or that is a fluke, because you just can't move Congress ... I didn't have the power to do that, but I had the power of the ads and the interest of the people," Sokolof said.

Surprisingly, the bill's sponsor, Rep. Henry Waxman, of California, said Sokolof never contacted him to let him know the ads were in the works. The congressman said the ads were essential in gaining public support for the successful legislation.

"He was a one-man show. He cared, and he was willing to fight for what he believed in," Waxman said.

Two years later Sokolof sold his company.

"I decided I made enough money," said Sokolof, who then dedicated himself to Heart Savers.

Despite his successes, Sokolof acknowledges that his message has yet to be reflected in Americans' health.

Nearly a third of all adults — almost 59 million people — were rated obese in the 1999-2000 National Health and Nutrition Examination surveys based on body measurements. Nearly one-fourth of Americans live with cardiovascular disease, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Though Sokolof sees hope in the recent efforts of restaurant chains to introduce more healthy menu items, he said that groups like his are partially to blame for America's weight problem.

Health-focused groups and diet doctors have created an "overkill" of directives on what the public should or should not do, he said.

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NATIONAL

Hydrologists behind controversial cloud-seeding effort

BY REBECCA BOONE

Associated Press Writer

BOISE, Idaho — Idaho Power hydrologists are trying to offset a four-year drought and force the clouds to make snow under a controversial cloud-seeding program.

The utility is using two generators in western Idaho south of Cascade to send small amounts of silver iodide into clouds containing supercooled water vapor. The silver iodide is meant to help the vapor in the clouds freeze and form snow.

Idaho Power began its cloud seeding program late last winter, and started this year's effort last month.

"We wanted to enhance the snowfall from a front that was passing through," said Roger Fuhrman, Idaho Power's director of water management. "Our goal is to get as much from each storm system as possible."

The company relies on snowfall for enough water to generate electricity at its Hells Canyon dams.

But a recent report by the National Research Council, an arm of the National Academy of Sciences, warns that there is no scientifically credible proof that cloud-seeding and other weather modification programs work.

Even if cloud-seeding does work, there is still debate over whether it should be used and when, said Julie Demuth, a research associate with the National Research Council's Board on Atmospheric Sciences and Climate.

"There are some socioeconomic implications," Demuth said. "The idea that this is tampering with nature, for instance, or liability issues over whether rain or snow should be made to fall in a certain spot. Another issue that has been brought up is a basic environmental

issue, on putting a product into the environment that naturally doesn't belong."

Some groups believe that that cloud seeding denies some regions of rain or snow by forcing the precipitation to fall earlier than it normally would have, Demuth noted.

The so-called "robbing Peter to pay Paul" theory may apply to rain-making, but not winter cloud seeding, Idaho Power spokesman Dennis Lopez said.

"This is water that wouldn't have fallen anyway because it's supercold," Lopez said. "Basically, you look for a front that you can introduce this agent into to enhance the snow fall."

MADD launches two new campaigns targeting American Indians

By The Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Mothers Against Drunk Driving is launching two new campaigns aimed at American Indians, timing them to coincide with National American Indian Heritage Month.

One campaign features a video titled "Path of Hope" to educate Indian communities about free services and support available to victims and survivors of drunken driving accidents. The Navajo Nation, Mdekwakanton Sioux Tribe, Red Lake Band of Chippewa, Seneca Tribe and Tohono O'odham Tribe are featured in the video.

Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley Jr. and his wife Vikki Shirley participated in the "Path of Hope" campaign, telling the story of their daughter, Tona Vee, who was killed by a drunken driver in November 2001 near Tuba City, Ariz.

"It's important that all Native Americans know about the devastation that drunk driving and underage drinking causes and that they are not alone when dealing with these tragedies," Shirley said.

He also said he hopes the formation of two MADD chapters on the Navajo Nation, continued education on drinking and driving and talking about his daughter's death will help save lives.

MADD also is offering information packets, called heritage kits, aimed at preventing drunken driving and

Besides research into whether cloud-seeding is effective, the National Research Council would like to review the risk of cloud-seeding compared to its possible benefits, Demuth said. That is unlikely, however.

Support for weather modification research in the United States has dropped from a peak of \$20 million a year during the 1970s to less than \$500,000 now being spent yearly, according to the report.

Idaho Power is spending about \$700,000 a year on the pilot program, Lopez said.

"We'll continue to use this as a long-range weather management tool," Lopez said.

underage drinking on reservations. The kits include prevention posters, statistics on alcohol and American Indians and a community guide brochure.

Other awareness materials include public service announcements, posters and brochures. The video and kits are free to Indian communities and MADD affiliates.

The information campaigns were funded by the Office for Victims of Crime of the U.S. Department of Justice. The money also was used to create a Native American Advisory Committee to oversee and provide guidance during the development of the information campaigns.

Terry Huertaz, a spokeswoman for MADD New Mexico, said Monday the project was a result of the high number of Indians affected by drunken driving and underage drinking.

According to MADD statistics, Indians have the highest percentage of driver, passenger and pedestrian fatalities involving alcohol of any ethnic group. Wendy J. Hamilton, MADD's national president, said more than 70 percent of all highway fatalities involving American Indians are alcohol-related.

"As a result of these tragedies, countless families whose loved ones have been killed or injured don't know where to turn for comfort or how to take action," Hamilton said. "Through our awareness efforts, MADD is working to change that."

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NATIONAL



Oregonians may veto state tax surcharge despite cuts

BY BRAD CAIN

Associated Press Writer

SALEM, Ore. — Times are still tough in Oregon — and a tax increase will make them even tougher, says Dana Tokarski, a 33-year-old mother of four.

"In our family, we have a budget to keep. We would definitely feel any kind of increase in our taxes. It would make a difference," she says.

A movement is under way among Oregon voters to repeal a tax surcharge that is set to take effect in the spring. The movement began a few months ago, when the Legislature passed the increase, but it may have gained momentum in recent weeks because of signs that Oregon's economy is improving.

Tax opponents have until Tuesday to gather 50,000 signatures to put the repeal measure on the ballot for Feb. 3, and say they will have no trouble surpassing that number. Polls suggest a majority of voters are against the tax surcharge.

Because of a slide in tax revenue caused in large part by the bursting of the high-tech bubble, the Legislature has spent the past two years cutting spending by \$1 billion, resulting in shortened school years, teacher and state trooper layoffs, and cuts in benefits for the poor and the elderly.

In addition, in August, the Legislature approved an \$800 million tax package intended to protect schools, social services, the state police and others from another round of cuts. Under the package, signed by Democratic Gov. Ted Kulongoski, a household with the median Oregon income of \$41,000 would pay about \$36 a year more.

Since then, revenue has begun to climb again, and unemployment dropped from 8 percent in September to 7.6 percent last month. That should be good news. But it is raising questions about whether the tax

increase is still needed.

"Why take a chance by doing something irresponsible like raising taxes when things are improving?" said Russ Walker of Citizens for a Sound Economy.

But others say the upturn is not big enough to make up for the tax revenue that will be lost if the surcharge is repealed.

"It's like finding a \$10 bank error in your favor when you are trying to put together the money to buy a new car," said Republican state Rep. Lane Shetterly.

In a poll conducted for Portland's KGW-TV, 56 percent said they would oppose the surcharge if it made it onto the ballot. The statewide telephone survey of 464 adults was conducted Nov. 10-17 and has a margin of error of plus or minus 4.5 percentage points.

Oregon has no sales tax. The downturn

has led to talk of instituting such a tax, but the idea has not gotten very far. In fact, Oregonians have shown little inclination to raise any taxes over the years, which analysts have attributed to a belief that government wastes money.

So surcharge supporters will have to convince voters that vital services are at stake, said political analyst Len Bergstein.

If the tax hike is repealed by voters, automatic spending cuts in such areas as education and social services will be triggered to keep the 2003-05 budget balanced.

Over the past two years, nearly 3,000 elderly and disabled Oregonians lost nutrition, transportation and home care services. About 50,000 poor people on the state insurance plan lost coverage for such things as drug and alcohol treatment. And the State Police laid off 129 troopers, although

45 of those positions were later restored.

Elizabeth Wrosch, a 40-year-old homemaker with two children in public school, said she would vote for the tax surcharge because schools are already hurting. She said her district has had to cut languages and other course offerings because of the budget squeeze.

"There are services that we expect to have, and those things don't come for free," she said.

But David Swartwout, a 44-year-old who recently took medical retirement from the Army because of a broken hip, said this is a bad time to raise taxes.

"If the economy were better and there were more jobs, I wouldn't mind it so much. Raising taxes when people can't afford it would just drive people out of the state," he said.

Beetles attack Santa Fe pine forests

By The Associated Press

SANTA FE, N.M. — A cousin of the bark beetles that are attacking pinon trees in northern New Mexico is feasting on ponderosa pines in the Santa Fe National Forest.

The forest has hired a logging company — Jemez Mountain Forest Products — to thin about 100 acres in the Redondo campground in the Jemez Mountains west of Santa Fe this winter to fight the problem.

"We're hoping to stop it here so it doesn't take hold and take off up the mountain," said Tom Malecek, timber staff officer of the forest.

Bark beetles killed more than 300 large ponderosa pine trees last year at the Paliza campground on the southwest side of the Jemez Mountains, and foresters are beginning to see more sick and dying pine trees in other areas of the Jemez.

The federal government is paying Jemez Mountain Forest Products about \$550 per acre to thin the campground.

The company's owner, Larry Garcia of Jemez Springs, also will be able to sell wood products from about 250,000 board-feet of saw timber from cutting from campground trees 9 inches

in diameter or larger.

He said he expects to complete the project in February.

The thinning project is the first so-called "stewardship contract" in the U.S. Forest Service's New Mexico-Arizona region under President Bush's Healthy Forests Initiative, which lets loggers take some larger trees to offset costs they incur thinning smaller, unwanted trees to reduce fire danger and improve forest health.

Environmentalists say, however, that removing larger trees increases fire danger.

Trees that the Jemez loggers can cut down have been sprayed with blue paint. Many of those trees are sick from bark beetle infestation or from overcrowding from other trees.

"Generally, we mark the suppressed, dead or dying trees," Malecek said. "You don't want to take the big, healthy trees. We're not taking the big yellow-bellied trees that are growing good."

After the logging, the campground's trees should grow large and healthy because they will have less competition for water, sunlight and space, said Ronnie Herrera, timber staff officer for the Jemez district.

SANTA MONICA SCENE °CALENDAR EDITION

WEEKEND, NOVEMBER 29, 2003

EVENTS

Holiday open house on Santa Monica Pier

The holiday open house on the Santa Monica Pier at the Carousel will be held from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. There will be visits from Santa Clause, crafts, games for children, and choral performances. The open house is free to the public. For more information, call (310) 458-8901.

CULTURE

Snowwhite

The Santa Monica Playhouse presents the musical, *Snowwhite*, based on the classic European fairytale. Written and directed by Chris DeCarlo & Evelyn Rudie. There are Saturday and Sunday showings at 12:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. through Feb. 29. Tickets cost \$10 for kids 12 and under, and \$12 for adults. Santa Monica Playhouse 1211 Fourth St.

A Winter's Tale

The Morgan-Wixson Theatre presents a musical based on Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Tale*. Directed by Anne Gesling. There will be a showing on Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m. For reservations or more information, call (310) 828-7519. Morgan-Wixson Theatre 2627 Pico Blvd

Because of You

The Life and Loves of Sholom Aleichem

Evelyn Rudie and Chris DeCarlo created 'Because of You' a musical based on the letters and stories of Sholom Aleichem, the creator of the characters in "Fidler on the Roof." Aleichem wrote about the Russian-Jewish experience, including works in Yiddish at a time when there was no literature in the language. (310) 394-9779 Santa Monica Playhouse 1211 Fourth St.

Puppetolio!

Watch a puppet show at the Santa Monica Puppet and Magic Center. This is a great place to take the kids and to unwind after a long day. Saturday and Sunday at 1 p.m. 1255 2nd St. (310) 656-0483

A Cabaret and "Out Loud"

David Rasche performs a cabaret and "Out Loud," a Comedic Piece at the Edgemark Center for the Arts. Tickets cost \$20 and the performance will begin Saturday at 9 p.m. For more information, call (310) 392-7327. Edgemark Center for the Arts, 2437 Main Street Admission: \$20

ENTERTAINMENT

Harvelle's

Established in 1931, Harvelle's is the oldest blues club on the west side. This is the kind of blues joint

you'd expect to find in a dark Chicago alley; yet even if it's your first visit, it feels familiar. Tonight Harvelle's features Hodges.

1432 4th St.
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Temple Bar

Here visitors can enjoy concoctions like White Chocolate Martinis, a Gingirtini or a Razzmatazz. Those who are really hungry can enjoy a Chicken Tamale Plate with Fried Plantains. Temple Bar even offers vegetarian options like veggie eggrolls and burgers. But no good bar would be complete without live music. This weekend the Temple Bar features the following: Sat., DJ Anthony Valadez, 9 p.m. K'Alvin of M'Chell Ndegeocello, 10:30 p.m. Latanya Lockett, and 11:30 p.m. Kill Him. \$10. Sun. House of Vibe with DJ Anthony Valadez and special guests. \$7. 1026 Wilshire Blvd. Santa Monica (310) 393-6611

14 Below

An intimate and well-equipped club that is leading the Westside music scene with live performances seven nights a week. This weekend 14 Below features the following: Sat., 8:30 Nivola, 9:30 Ronny Noth, 10:30 Hot Potty featuring Brooks Wackerman from Bad Religion, 11:30 Flipper Babies; Sun., Cubensis, a tribute to the Grateful Dead 1348 14th St. Santa Monica (310) 451-5040

MOVIE °GUIDE

LAEMMLE'S MONICA 4-PLEX

1332 2nd Street

Lost in Translation R — 12, 2:30, 5, 7:30, 10 p.m.
Shattered Glass R — 12:15, 2:40, 3:40, 5:05, 7:30, 9:55 p.m.
The Street Sweeper — 12, 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:55 p.m.
The Station Agent R — 1, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10 p.m.

LANDMARK NU-WILSHIRE

1314 Wilshire Blvd

21 Grams R — 1, 4, 7, 10 p.m.
Pieces of April PG-13 — 2:45, 4:45, 7:30, 10 p.m.

LOEWS CINEPLEX BROADWAY CINEMAS

1441 Third Street Promenade

Lupac: Resurrection R — 11:15 a.m., 1:40, 4:10, 6:40, 9:15 p.m.
Love Actually R — 11:30 a.m., 12:30, 2:45, 3:45, 6:15, 7, 9:30, 10:15 p.m.
Mystic River R — 12:45 p.m., 3:50, 7:15, 10:20 p.m.

AMC SANTA MONICA 7

1310 Third Street Promenade

Brother Bear PG — 11:15 a.m., 2:20, 4:55, 7:15, 9:25 p.m.
Elf PG — 11:10 a.m., 1:45, 4:30, 7:10, 9:45 p.m.
The Cat in the Hat — 10:45 a.m., 1, 3:20, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10 p.m.
Master and Commander R — 11:45 a.m., 3, 7, 10:15 p.m.
School of Rock PG-13 — 11:20, 3, 7, 10:05 p.m.

MANN CRITERION 6 THEATERS

1313 Third Street Promenade

Kill Bill Volume 1 R — Sat., 11 a.m., 1:40, 4:20, 7, 9:50 p.m., 12:25 a.m.; Sun., 11 a.m., 1:40, 4:20, 7, 9:50 p.m.
Looney Tunes: Back in Action — 11:30 a.m., 2, 4:40, 7:10, 9:45 p.m.
The Human Stain — Sat., 10:40 a.m., 1:10, 3:50, 6:40, 9:20, 11:50 p.m.; Sun., 11:20 a.m., 2:10, 4:50, 7:40, 10:20 p.m.
The Matrix Revolutions — Sat., 10:30 a.m., 1:20, 4, 4:30, 7:30, 9:30, 10:30 p.m.
Radio — 1:30, 6:50 p.m.
Runaway Jury — Sat., 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:40 p.m., 12:30 a.m.; Sun., 10:20 a.m., 1:10, 4:10, 7:20, 10:10 p.m.

If you know of an upcoming event which may be included in the calendar please send the information to calendar@smdp.com or fax it to (310) 576 9913

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Natural Selection® By Russ Wallace



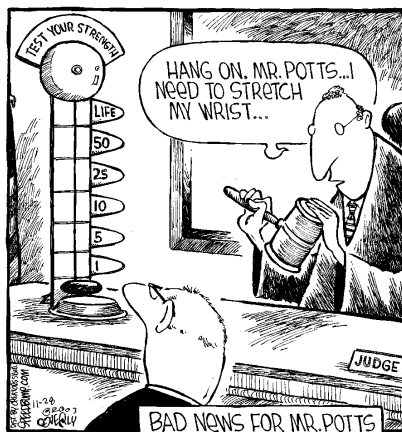
edge city by TERRY & PATTY LABAN



Reality Check® By Dave Whammond



Speed Bump® By Dave Coverly



CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

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Yesterday's answer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Thin cookie
6 River sights
11 Expiate
12 German sub
13 Tatter
14 Singer Haggard
15 Stolen
16 "The Sopranos" carrier
18 Golf need
19 Flightless bird
20 Corn spike
21 German link
22 Suspect's answer, usually
24 Crumb carriers
25 Back
27 Uses the sofa
29 Snacks
32 Single
33 Vitality
34 Fancy planter
35 Greedy desire
36 Pro vote
37 Gun grp.
- DOWN**
- 38 Bear variety
40 Indian instrument
42 Turn aside
43 Dunne of films
44 Bowler's cousin
45 Geeks
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2 Relaxed
3 Carnival attraction
4 Compass pt.
5 Lucy, for one
6 Gossip's offering
7 Homer's dad
8 Gold digger
9 Natural gift
10 Horses
17 Nonsense
23 Ones with power
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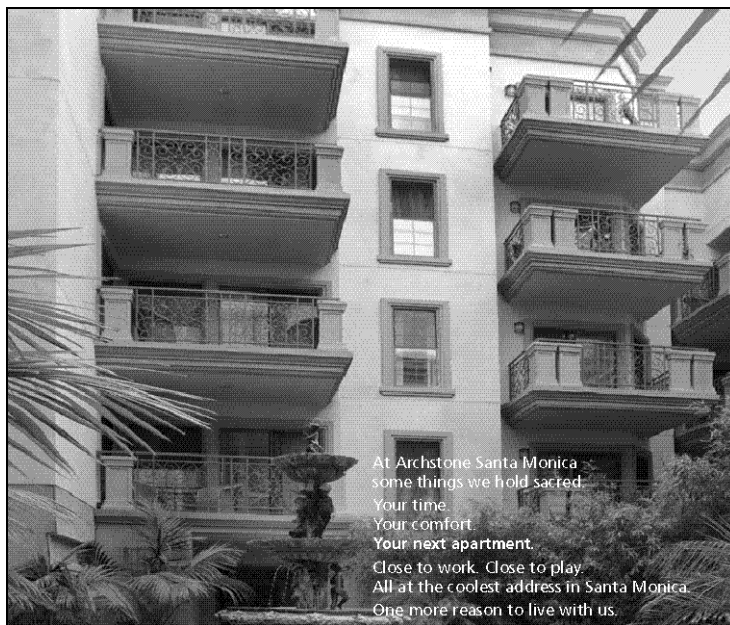


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BACK PAGE

State Farm Bureau urges reform of immigration laws

BY SHANNON DININNY

Associated Press Writer

YAKIMA, Wash. — If retail giant Wal-Mart can be the target of a federal investigation into the hiring of alleged illegal immigrants, can the family farm be next?

Jon Warling, an apple grower and labor contractor in Othello, who provides hundreds of farm workers for growers in the Columbia Basin, doesn't like the uncertainty the question raises.

"I have a crop that needs to be picked. It can't be done mechanically, so I need workers," he said. "Agriculture needs a work force. If we're going to be scrutinized by the federal government, then we need a work force that's dependable."

The Washington Farm Bureau says the solution is sweeping immigration reform. The bureau is backing two bills currently before Congress.

One would make changes to the guest worker program, which farmers have complained is too expensive and bureaucratic, for workers already in the country. The other would allow immigrant workers a special visa and the opportunity to eventually apply for legal permanent resident status.

The advantage of the second bill is that

**"I have a crop that needs to be picked.
It can't be done mechanically, so I need workers.
Agriculture needs a work force. If we're going to be
scrutinized by the federal government, then we need
a work force that's dependable."**

— JON WARLING
Apple grower

it provides a steady supply of farm workers, said Dan Fazio, labor attorney for the Washington Farm Bureau.

"Some people tell us that if you would just pay \$20 to \$30 an hour you could get workers. That's not our experience," he said. "Our experience is that this work is really hard and it takes skill to do it. These are people coming here and they've got the skill and the willingness."

According to some estimates, there are as many as 10 million undocumented workers in the United States. In Washington, that number has been estimated at about 100,000.

The state offers a higher minimum wage and a bounty of crops that must be hand-picked — work only immigrants are

willing to tackle, Fazio said.

Employers make every effort to ensure their workers are legal immigrants, he said, but said recent federal raids of Wal-Mart stores raise concerns that agriculture could be next.

"What we're concerned about now is, what's the next step," Fazio said. "We have a desperate problem in this country, and that is we have a critical shortage of farm skill workers, people who are willing to do the work."

Last month, federal agents arrested about 250 alleged illegal workers in a 21-state sweep of Wal-Mart stores. The raids keyed on floor cleaners employed by companies Wal-Mart hired for the work.

Earlier this month, Little Rock, Ark.-

based Wal-Mart said it had received a "target letter" from the U.S. attorney's office alleging it had violated federal immigration laws. A corporate spokeswoman said the retailer pledged its cooperation in the probe.

An employer can face civil and criminal penalties for knowingly hiring illegal immigrants or failing to comply with certain employee record-keeping regulations.

The Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement has focused its investigations on industries tied to national security since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

"That doesn't mean that work force enforcement, including enforcement in the farming community, has fallen off our radar altogether. But our focus has shifted," said Aaron Wilson, assistant special agent in charge at the Seattle office. "We have limited resources, and we have to look at the industries that are vulnerable to terrorism or sabotage."

Wilson said authorities also are more likely to focus on businesses that knowingly sidestep immigration laws or exploit undocumented workers.

"From our experience, most employers are doing their best to follow the law in good faith, and offer cooperation with us and our investigations," Wilson said.



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