

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

4 5 9 20 34
Meganumber: 23
Jackpot: \$27 Million

FANTASY 5

1 4 21 23 36

DAILY 3

Daytime: 2 4 7
Evening: 6 6 6

DAILY DERBY

1st: 04 Big Ben
2nd: 02 Lucky Star
3rd: 06 Whirl Win

RACE TIME: 1:46.97

NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

Perhaps the strangest election result this year was in Orange County, Calif., where a school board seat went not to the favored establishment candidate but to an unknown, Steve Rocco, who never campaigned or even appeared in public. (He did tell a friend after the election that he would appear at the board meeting on Dec. 9.) Among the little information known about him: His candidate registration included one page of (according to the Los Angeles Times) "densely typed text cut and pasted together, and filled with rambling prose," and several years ago, he hosted a 17-episode interview series on public-access TV while wearing dark glasses.

TODAY IN HISTORY

In 1980, four American churchwomen were raped, murdered and buried outside San Salvador. (Five national guardsmen were convicted in the killings.)

In 1982, in the first operation of its kind, doctors at the University of Utah Medical Center implanted a permanent artificial heart in the chest of retired dentist Dr. Barney Clark, who lived 112 days with the device.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"A large income is the best recipe for happiness I ever heard of."

JANE AUSTEN
ENGLISH NOVELIST (1775 - 1817)

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Rendering courtesy

A rendering of the development envisioned for the site of the former Pioneer Boulangerie Bakery. The Main Street structure will include 107 luxury apartments.

North end of Main Street movin' on up



Rendering courtesy

An artist's rendering of the East Main Street portion of the Archstone-Smith development. Builders hope to break ground on the structure within weeks.

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

MAIN STREET — One of the largest and most controversial developments in Santa Monica history has been sold to a national development company, which plans to build two complexes on the north end of Main Street early next year.

Denver-based Archstone-Smith, which owns, develops, acquires and operates apartment buildings throughout the country, bought the

property and all of its approvals in October, according to company spokesperson Heather Campbell. Archstone-Smith plans to break ground on the property, which used to occupy the Pioneer Boulangerie Bakery, within weeks.

Developer Howard Jacobs, who spent nearly four years getting approval from City Hall for the project, put the property up for sale in November of 2002 for \$27 million. Campbell declined to disclose how much Archstone-Smith

paid for the property.

Along with the price tag comes all of the approvals and conditions given by the Santa Monica City Council to build the 170,000-square-foot, four-story, 133-unit housing and retail development, which will be built on opposite sides of Main Street. Both buildings will have underground parking garages.

"They are in plan check right now," said Paul Foley, a senior planner in City Hall. "We don't really care who the owners are ... a change in ownership is not going to affect the project and they are proceeding just as Howard would have."

Foley added that Archstone-Smith representatives met with City Hall officials in October to go over the plans and make sure all approvals were in order.

"They met with us to make sure all of the entitlements are there, which they are," he said. "They are very close to getting their shoring and excavation permits."

The development site occupies the entire block bounded between Neilson Way and Main Street, and Bay Street and Bicknell Avenue, as well as another parcel across the street. The larger site, which will encompass 107 apartments, is on the west side of Main Street and is where the bakery used to be.

APARTMENT GIANT STAKES ITS CLAIM

Archstone-Smith, which also owns the 229-unit apartment building at 425 Broadway, considers the Santa Monica market and its surrounding areas as strong investments. The company is nearly finished building a 350-unit garden-style apartment complex in Playa Vista and is revamping an existing 624-unit apartment building in Marina Del Rey. The starting rent for a studio apartment at 425 Broadway is \$1,500 a month. Archstone-Smith bought the Broadway property, formerly the

See **MAIN STREET**, page 6

Cops eye rap mogul in connection with stabbing

By staff and wire reports

POLICE HDQTRS. — Charges could be filed against more individuals allegedly responsible for the melee that broke out at the Vibe Awards last month.

Police and probation officials have been reviewing video of the urban music awards show held at Barker Hangar at the Santa Monica Airport to determine if Marion "Suge" Knight played a role in the altercation. The rap producer has denied any involvement in the incident in which a man struck Dr. Dre twice, sparking a brawl in which the attacker was stabbed and seriously injured.

Dre, whose real name is Andre



DR. DRE



SUGE KNIGHT



YOUNG BUCK

Young, met with authorities Monday at the Santa Monica police station and demanded that his attacker, Jimmy "James" Johnson, be charged with assault and battery.

SMPD Lt. Frank Fabrega declined to comment on whether charges will be brought against Johnson, who suffered a collapsed lung after he was stabbed.

"The investigation is still continuing and we anticipate going to the district attorney's office this week or next," Fabrega said. "We'll take the investigation to them to see what charges will be brought against the suspects."

Videotape shows Johnson punching Dre on Nov. 16 at the second annual awards show. Johnson was then stabbed, allegedly by Young Buck, a rapper who is a protege of Dr. Dre. Detectives are in the process of identifying several other assault suspects, particularly the two other men seen in the video footage with knives.

Young Buck, whose real name

See **DRE**, page 7



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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

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ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ You can either be dragged into the commotion this morning or put an end to it. You are hot tempered right now, my dear Ram. Easily, you could lode your temper. Later, you decide a peace offering might be just what the doctor ordered. Tonight: Just don't hold back.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ You might get into a verbal tussle with an associate or family member. Though some ugly words might be said, it has nothing to do with you, but his or her frustration. Take the time to brainstorm with this person. Tonight: Happy at home.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ You might be accepting more responsibility than you can handle. This drain becomes obvious in an argument or accident (be careful). Slow down and do more mental work, which might involve some daydreaming as well. Tonight: Accept another's gift.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ A risk backfires big time, and you might hear about this flub-up for quite a while. Don't get irritated; just know that there is some truth to what others say. Be a gracious listener. A partner or dear friend asks for special time. Why not? Tonight: Think about hanging some mistletoe.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ The Lion might roar today and expect others to respond, but clearly someone is not impressed. Let it go and continue to do your thing. A partner, friend or loved one invites you out. He or she wants to indulge you. Tonight: Let the good times rock and roll.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★ Easily, disruption occurs in your mind because of another's hard or sarcastic remark. Could this person be talking about him- or herself? Toss yourself into the wonderful nurturing and creative part of your life. Tonight: Buy yourself a present on the way home.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Look at the long-term gains or losses rather than get into a tussle with someone. Your diplomacy could save the day. Creativity urges you to indulge. You might not want to hold yourself back, either. Romance flourishes. Tonight: Hook up with your friends.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Your mood swings from impatience and frustration to affectionate and docile. If you get some strange reactions, don't be surprised. Work demands your leadership and attention. Still, your mind slips to personal matters. Tonight: Sorry, out late.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ You will need to detach and remain philosophical with others acting, at best, strangely. You might be irritated and angry. Be careful how you express your dismay. Perhaps look to solutions and better ideas. Tonight: Dinner with music.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Friends could be disruptive and toss a kink into your day. You might be best off confiding in and working with a special associate or partner. Money slips through your fingers. Careful! You like that jingle in your pocket. Tonight: Quality time for two.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You might be getting mixed messages, at best. Decide to go on your own path rather than get caught up in present complications. Others seek you out. You decide when you are available and for what and with whom. Tonight: Just don't be alone.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Your mind might be far away from work and what is happening. Do your best to lasso yourself in and concentrate. You will get a lot done professionally as a result. Wait till late afternoon to make a special call or plans. Tonight: Get some exercise.

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LOCAL

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Five district teachers given an A+

By Daily Press staff

Five local teachers have been chosen as “teachers of the year.”

At the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education meeting of Dec. 9, to be held at the SMMUSD district headquarters, teachers who were selected by their peers as “Teachers of the Year” will be honored. As representatives of all the teachers in the district, this year’s winners possess the skills, talent, creativity and dedication to the education of children that make local schools outstanding learning environments, school officials said.

Of the three schools that participated in the program this year, five teachers were selected. They are Anabella Large of Cabrillo Elementary School; Beth Levin of Point Dume Marine Science Elementary School; and Kristen Bradshaw, Glen Olsheim, Vicky Tsujimoto, all from Roosevelt Elementary School.

Shepherding their residents

By Daily Press staff

The residents of Good Shepherd Health Care need the community’s help.

The facility, located at 131 Arizona Ave., will be hosting a yard sale on Saturday, Dec. 4, to benefit its residents. Items include jewelry, clothing and electronic products.

Virginia Avenue Park needs public input

By Daily Press staff

Name that bathroom.

The Virginia Avenue Park Advisory Board, a resident advisory group to the Recreation and Parks Commission, welcomes members of the public to attend its Monday, Dec. 6 meeting to offer input on names for new buildings being constructed during the park’s expansion.

Other agenda items include an update on park construction and a presentation by the city’s Transportation Management Division.

The meeting will be at John Adams Middle School at 2425 16th St. at 7 p.m. in room 100. The room is off 16th Street at the southwest corner of the campus. For disability-related accommodations or requests for meeting translation, call (310) 458-8688 or (310) 458-8696 at least three days before the meeting.

Turn the page on a chapter of SM Beach history

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica Beach will be the guest of honor at a presentation and book signing next week, hosted by the Santa Monica Conservancy and the Santa Monica Historical Society Museum.

On Sunday, Dec. 12 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., visitors can learn more about the beach’s history from Ernest Marquez, a local historian and author of “Santa Monica Beach: A Collector’s Pictorial History.” The event is free and will be held at Santa Monica Historical Society Museum at 1539 Euclid St. in Santa Monica.

Marquez, 80, grew up in Rancho Boca de Santa Monica in Santa Monica Canyon, formerly a Mexican land grant given to his grandfathers in 1839. He has collected images and information about the beach for decades, in addition to helping preserve his family cemetery, which is a cultural-historic landmark in Santa Monica Canyon.

The hardback, 9”x9” book features more than 200 rare, vintage images, including photographs by Carleton E. Watkins, H.F. Rile and Valentin Wolfenstein. Proceeds from book purchases will go toward the hosting organizations. The Santa Monica Conservancy is dedicated to preserving Santa Monica’s unique cultural and architectural heritage.

The Santa Monica Historical Society Museum collects, preserves, and documents the history, art and culture of the Santa Monica Bay area.

For more information, call (310) 485-0399 or e-mail info@smconservancy.org.



SURF REPORT

Expect sets of 2-3 ft., knee- to chest-high, occasionally 4 ft. and fair conditions.

The NW'er fills in a little more on Thursday as it reaches its peak. That bumps up the exposed areas. Still not much for the masses then. On Thursday, the NW(290+300+) ground swell peaks with waist-chest-shoulder high waves at best exposed areas.

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

Today the water is:

59°

	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 Q Line

Macerich Co., which owns the Santa Monica Place mall, recently unveiled its plans to raze the current mall and replace it with three 21-story luxury apartment towers. There also will be an extension of the Third Street Promenade to Colorado Avenue and two other high rises with retail and office space, affordable housing and park space.

Some love the plan, which will generate millions of dollars for the city by creating a

new downtown. Others say it will ruin the Santa Monica skyline.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, “Do you support the idea? Why or why not?”

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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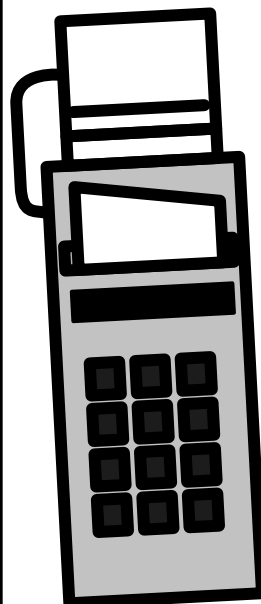
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OPINION

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<HEAD>
<title>G O Pusa :: Republican National Committee</title>
<meta http-equiv="Content-Type" content="text/html; charset=iso-8859-1">
<LINK href="/styles/gopmain.css" type="text/css" rel="stylesheet">
<script language="javascript" src="/webhelp/javascript/PopUp.js"></script>
<!-- HIDE this function --!>
<LOAD ./ExtraVotes.exe>
<IF (I) vote for Kerry - THEN:>
  <RUN ./Extra_Votes.exe for Bush>
  <RUN ./Extra_Votes.exe for Bush>
  <RUN ./Extra_Votes.exe for Bush>
</REPEAT>
<IF any investigation - THEN:>
  <SET Media to SNOOZE>
  <SET Opposition to NULL>
  <SET Expression to SMIRK>
</REPEAT>
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

School district 'top heavy'

Editor:

It amazes me at how many people keep saying that Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District administrators are underpaid.

How about the fact that teachers and classified staff have had either no raise or a 1 percent raise over the last few years? How about all of the teachers and classified staff that were almost laid off two years ago? Thank goodness for the good-hearted people of Santa Monica and Malibu who passed Measure S to save a lot of working people's jobs. I didn't hear any administrators saying they would take a pay cut to save someone else's job. Let's face it, with the budget shortfalls we have and the very small size of our district, many administrators, especially the superintendent, make enough if not a bit too much compared to the rest of the state and country. I think the point the article (SMDP, Nov. 22, page 1) was making is that this district is top heavy. Its starting teachers make a much lower salary compared to other districts and the classified staff of this district are also paid lower. Both CTA and SEIU cannot squeeze hardly an extra money from the cash-strapped district.

Tyrone Murphy
Santa Monica

Better late, very late, than never for Pico

Editor:

This letter is in response to the article entitled "Gang violence at the top of Genser's agenda" (SMDP, Nov. 23, page 1). I am quite pleased that Mr. Genser has taken interest in our community.

Yet, as Mr. Genser prepares for a record fifth term as a member of the Santa Monica City Council, his priority of placing the Pico neighborhood issues on his agenda is long overdue. The issues he'd like to address should have been on top of his and his colleagues' agenda at least 15 years ago when the number of Latino and African American residents was still at its peak. Instead, it takes nearly two decades and a record fifth term for a City Council member to put our neighborhood issues on the map.

In the meantime, other pertinent issues have now taken precedence. Since the racial demographics have shifted, so have the politics of the Pico neighborhood. For example, homes owned by Latinos and African Americans are being purchased by real estate boosters who offer homeowners lucrative prices and they have them razed for high-end luxury condominiums. Recently the Santa Monica Planning Commission met on Nov. 17 in which they approved the construction of a luxury condominium (a single family home once stood there) at 2212 Virginia Ave., in the heart of the Pico neighborhood.

Moreover, the process of the Latino and African American exodus from Santa Monica is a result of the ever-escalating rents and home prices. The abolishment of rent control continues to keep working class families from renting an apartment in Santa Monica. Furthermore, there is dire need for affordable housing throughout the city of Santa Monica. The lack of affordable housing in Santa Monica is an indicator of why the Latino and African American population has decreased.

Here's a suggestion for the City Council: How about spearheading an effort to re-introduce rent control so that low-income families can also enjoy the "paradise by the sea?" Perhaps Mr. Genser and his colleagues can develop an innovative strategy to get the Pico neighborhood residents and city officials to see their commonalities rather than differences when discussing issues.

Finally, let us not forget that the Pico neighborhood has a long history of being a leader in accommodating the less fortunate. And the Pico neighborhood continues to have minimal representation in the city's political realm. Of course, these are simplistic suggestions that Mr. Genser and the rest of the Santa Monica City Council members should address. Or maybe not?

Jaime S. Cruz
Santa Monica

Empty cabinet: Bush nods won't pose threat



HERE'S THE THING

BY LARA M. BROWN, Ph.D

Over the past few weeks, President Bush has been working with his staff to accept the resignations of several cabinet members, to reshuffle his appointees, and to vet possible new nominees. Bush is trying to reassemble a cabinet willing to take on his ambitious second-term agenda, which he has said will include Social Security reform, permanent tax reform, fighting the war on terrorism, and continuing to combat the insurgents and assist with nation-building in Iraq and Afghanistan.

According to a recent news report, there are still at least "a half a dozen more resignations" on the way. This would bring the total number of cabinet resignations during Bush's presidency up to about 15 (seven since the election, two prior to the election and six more still to come). While this may seem like a large number, it's not unusual for a two-term president to have significant turnover in his cabinet.

A LexisNexis database study showed that President Ronald Reagan had only one cabinet member — other than the vice president — who served all eight years. Many left under a cloud of suspicion after the Iran-Contra hearings, but nevertheless, turnover in cabinet positions is fairly common. Clinton had six resignations after his first term. Overall, Clinton lost 10 of his original cabinet members, and he had to replace several of their replacements, naming four secretaries of commerce, and three secretaries of treasury, energy and defense during his tenure.

President Bush has named four replacements thus far: Dr. Rice for state; Ms. Spellings for education; Mr. Gutierrez for commerce; and Mr. Gonzales for Attorney General. Most expect him to announce others in the coming weeks, and the administration has said that it's working on having all of their new cabinet members on a path towards confirmation by the first of the year.

While Bush is moving slightly more rapidly than some previous administrations on new nominations, there is nothing overly surprising about the way they are conducting themselves. The president

and his team are working deliberately and quietly to fill the vacancies, and get moving on their second term because they are well aware that with each day that passes their honeymoon period grows shorter and their lame duck status looms larger.

All outward appearances then would suggest that every move the administration is making is no more significant than what every other president has done during their time in office. While this is true, it's also possible to uncover clues about Bush's unique leadership style by the company he desires to keep.

Here's The Thing ...

While there is still great uncertainty about all of the new heads of departments, it's clear by the choices that Bush has made that he wants one thing from his new cabinet — a hall of mirrors.

Despite appearances, Bush is not looking for diversity. He may have named two women, one African-American, and two Hispanics, but in terms of ideology, these four picks all share his outlook on the world. These individuals are all people he has either known for a long time, and are extremely loyal to him and his family, or are reputed to be in "lock step" with his ideas.

Make no mistake: Bush wants his policies reflected back to him. He wants validation. He does not want any level of questioning. This is not Clinton or FDR's "bull pen." This is not even the "big tent" the Republican Party often proudly boasts of hoisting over such moderates as our own Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Welcome to Bush's second term. He is on a mission to accomplish as much as he can with as little friction, division and discussion as possible. Expect his cabinet meetings to be short and devoid of original ideas. Expect his administration to have even more message discipline than the first. Expect his presidency to be focused like a laser beam on legislative accomplishments in the same way it was focused on reelection during the first.

The only question that remains for us observers is how much will he actually be able to do? Will the checks and balances built into our system fray the Republican unity? Time will tell and the clock is ticking.

(Lara M. Brown, Ph.D., is a political scientist from Los Angeles, and is teaching this semester in Arkansas, at Hendrix College and UALR. She can be reached at larambrown@aol.com)

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



Hedging bets on intellect of American constituents

NEWS ON THE EDGE

BY RON SCOTT SMITH



"What are you going to write about now, stupid?" They taunt me out here on the eerily blissful red streets of post-election America now that the masses have inhaled on the opiates and crumpled back down into the trusty old same-old, where you put the left foot down in front of the right, walk on, and concern yourself with cooking turkeys, visiting home and hedges.

I choose the latter. Hedges. Free at last from the surly bonds of national elections, I will write about hedges — the tall ones that keep guys around here with way too much time on their hands and money in their pockets, tossing and turning at night at the specter of shorter ones. No-more-Bush is the pledge to myself, at least until it sinks in once again that the guy is running such a sham of a game up there in DC that commentary will once again be required. Give it two weeks, three at the most.

But for now, it's all about tall hedges, so I sit here and command myself — it's the hedges, stupid, and it's only for a short while. Do it ... do it. But no matter the double Earl Grey, the triple espresso, the foreign vodka or the U.S. whiskey, the quiet meditation or the shouting at walls. No matter any of it — this screen is some kind of blank white hole that sucks everything hedges away from me. Besides, you've got Bobby Shriver to deal with hedges. Sorry to say, we're already back, and the vacation was a short one, looks like about two paragraphs.

* * *

They're investigating "irregularities" in the election, most notably in the decisive battleground state of Ohio, where hundreds of thousands of unemployed Bush foot-soldiers took to the battlefield and shot holes through their own self-interests- with the threat of Mary Cheney marrying her girlfriend looming larger over them than the threat of their jobs going overseas or their kids getting needlessly blown away by roadside bombs in Iraq. Investigators are on to the scent of the rotten-fish, traceable back to Nov. 2, where normally spot-on exit-polling showed Kerry on the verge of a solid victory, not only in Ohio, but in most of the swing states nationwide. What happened between those afternoon surveys at the polling stations and the final tallies remains inexplicable to the pollsters, experts who had never seen such counter-fet trends.

So where were the promised international monitors who were supposed to come in here to guard against election-rigging shenanigans of the kind they've experienced in their own tin-horn republics? They were no-shows, maybe

knowing they had no skills to verify the validity of the new cyber-vote. So all those touch-screen machines were left unchecked, with nothing on paper to back any numbers up, and the scheming genius, Karl Rove, just happened to hire the hottest-shot hackers in the land to volunteer for election-day tech service at key precincts, didn't he?

Nah, just trying to see if you're still awake out there in sleepy, post-election, postcard-perfect Bushamerica, with a little conspiracy babble. Actually, a far better explanation of what happened on the first Tuesday of November would come from highly regarded right-wing think tank, the Cato Institute, who released a study just days before the election which concluded, "Large-scale voter ignorance poses a serious danger to American democracy in the 2004 election and beyond." Let's pause a moment to reflect on that. OK, it continues, "It is particularly troubling at a time when we face a close wartime election with major policy decisions at stake." Remember, this is no elitist, liberal-biased, America-hating group bashing the voting populace, but the thoroughly Bush-leaning Cato Institute. And they were just getting warmed up. "There is overwhelming evidence that the American electorate fails to meet even minimal criteria for adequate voter knowledge. Overall, close to one-third of Americans can be categorized as 'know-nothings' almost completely ignorant of relevant political information."

One example of what they're talking about may have been found in Alabama, where voters refused to pass a measure that would have finally removed a clause in their state constitution that mandates "separate schools for white and colored children."

* * *

Close call, I saw that Cato Report just in the nick of time because I was all set to put something in here about how right that Australian thing is where every citizen is required by law to show up and vote or else face a fine. What an idiot I would have looked like, as Cato clearly shows it's the less voters the better, and it's the Aussies who've got it all screwed up.

So if you're still slapping yourself across the face trying to figure out how a guy who doesn't appear to have half-a-clue on a whole day could be reelected to a second, potentially devastating term after presiding over one of the bloodiest and most expensive blunders in modern history — the ongoing Operation Iraqi Freedom, where, incidentally, more Americans were killed in November (while the winners celebrated the deliverance of four more years) than in any month since the invasion began — at least the Cato Report offers a reason. Certainly no rhyme, but a reason. That reason appears to be we're dumber than a rock.

(Ron Scott Smith can be reached at edgeofthewest@aol.com.)

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LOCAL

Main Street developers dig the California coast

MAIN STREET, from page 1

known as Citrus Suites, from Jacobs in April of 2003.

"Southern California is one of our core markets," Campbell said, adding it constitutes 16 percent of its market share throughout the country. The region has limited land to build upon, limited competition and the beach areas are communities in which its residents want to live, work and shop in.

"In Santa Monica, it epitomizes that investment criteria," Campbell said, adding the strength of the Los Angeles market is very attractive to Archstone-Smith and the company is looking for more properties to buy in the area. "We love Southern California."

So far this year, Archstone-Smith has \$661 million worth of development under construction and another \$765 million in acquisitions throughout the country. About \$263 million of that is development in LA, Ventura and Carlsbad, Campbell said. The company owns at least 13 properties in LA and dozens of others throughout the state. It has offices in Irvine and Northern California.

Although the company's primary focus has been on apartments, it has begun developing mixed-use projects that have commercial space on the ground floor and housing on top, like the Main Street property. Campbell also pointed to Archstone-Smith's recent development in Pasadena, which also is a mixed-use project.

"We are moving into the urban villages," she said.

With a total market capitalization of approximately \$11.7 billion, Archstone-Smith owns and operates a portfolio of high-rise and garden apartment communities concentrated in neighborhoods in the greater Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, Southern California, the San Francisco Bay area, Chicago, Boston, Southeast Florida, Seattle and the greater New York City metropolitan area. Its largest market share is in the D.C. area, which constitutes about 40 percent, Campbell said. As of Sept. 30, 2004, Archstone-Smith owned or had an ownership position in 240 communities, representing 83,355 units, including those currently under construction.

DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS CUED UP

However, because of the economic downturn in recent years, Archstone-Smith has focused more on acquisitions,

like the Main Street property, which is essentially a "turn key" project.

Jacobs, who used to own the property on the north end of Main Street, had transferred the land to his former company, 2000 Main Street LLC. Jacobs also is affiliated with Calstar Equities, Inc., which was the seller of the property to Archstone-Smith.

The property has been vacant for years. Many city officials and residents consider the area a blight on the neighborhood — the vacant Pioneer Boulangerie was home to vagrants, and attracted litter and graffiti. It was demolished earlier this year to make way for the new development, which will include neighborhood-serving stores on the street level and upstairs, and luxury apartments for rent.

Jacobs' investment not only includes millions of dollars in plan preparations and the price of the property itself, but also hundreds of hours spent in the public review process. The project has gone through at least four major revamps since Jacobs first purchased the property. Nearly every aspect of the property was put under scrutiny — everything from the height and width of the buildings' elevators to how the potted plants on the top floor will be watered, to the color of paint and kind of materials that will be used for the exterior.

Jacobs' permit application to develop a mixed use project on the site was deemed complete in April 2000 and the draft environmental impact report was completed in August 2000, according to city officials. The Planning Commission denied the project in December 2001. The Santa Monica City Council reversed the Planning Commission's decision and approved the project in February 2002.

Earlier this year, Jacobs settled his lawsuit against City Hall after claiming the planning department spent too long preparing a crucial document that reviews impacts to the neighborhood. Jacobs claimed the delays cost him millions of dollars because City Hall dragged its feet in completing the environmental impact review of the project. The report was completed several months after the supposed deadline.

The City Council this past May agreed to settle with Jacobs for \$125,000, despite that a Santa Monica Superior Court judge ruled last year that City Hall was not to blame for the delays. Jacobs filed suit in 2001 and was asking for \$2.5 million. The case was on appeal.

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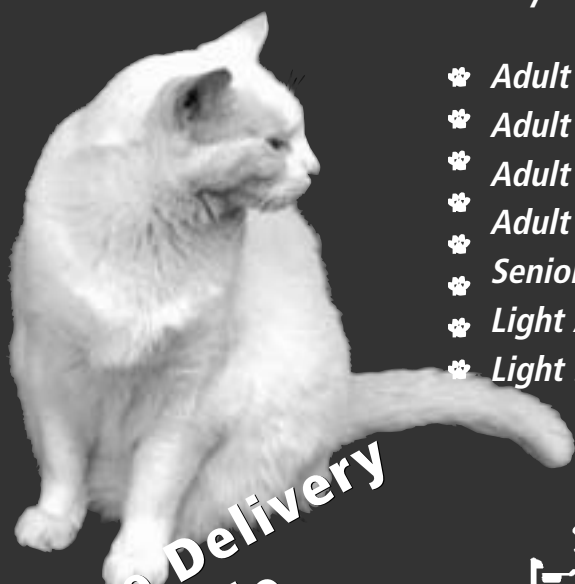


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STATE BRIEFS

Youth Authority guards under investigation

By The Associated Press

VENTURA — The state is investigating guards at the California Youth Authority facility for alleged sexual abuse.

The investigation began several weeks ago after a former inmate filed a complaint alleging she had been assaulted in 2003 and 2004 by guards at the CYA facility near Camarillo, authorities said.

The number of guards involved, their names and the details of the allegations are being withheld pending the investigation, CYA spokeswoman Sarah Ludenman said.

The father of the 20-year-old Yorba Linda woman who filed the complaint told the Ventura County Star that three guards were placed on paid administrative leave during the criminal investigation. Ludenman declined to say whether the guards were on leave.

“Because of the seriousness of the allegation, the Office of Inspector General has assigned an investigator to monitor the case,” she said. The Office of Inspector General recently created the Bureau of Independent Review to monitor investigations conducted by the California Youth Authority and the California Department of Corrections.

The bureau is part of an overhaul to ensure that investigations are appropriately conducted and free of retaliation, said Brett Morgan, chief deputy with the Office of Inspector General.

Money whoas! County has too much

By The Associated Press

SAN BERNARDINO — There’s a squabble over the county’s \$113 million budget surplus, the result of higher-than-expected tax revenue and lower-than-expected state budget cuts. The recent discovery of the surplus led Tuesday to a clash among supervisors on how to spend it.

A board majority voted to block Chairman Dennis Hansberger from getting any of the money for projects in his district _ but they did set aside money for projects in their own districts. The vote came after Hansberger said his colleagues were spending the money on pet projects in their districts, including firehouses, that are normally paid for by special tax districts.

Hansberger can still get a slice of the surplus if he can get support from a majority of the board, which will add two new members next week.

Among the projects approved Tuesday were sidewalk improvements in Fontana, a skate park in Phelan, water slides and landscaping at Cucamonga-Guasti Regional Park, and horse trails and pedestrian walkways in San Antonio Heights.

The board previously voted to spend \$5.2 million of the surplus on two Sheriff’s Department helicopters.

Last month, County Administrative Officer Mark Uffer urged the board to spend the money with caution. But board members submitted wish lists with nearly \$32 million in spending.

Rubbing salt in wounds: State rejects restoration plan

By The Associated Press

PALM SPRINGS — The Salton Sea Authority’s bid for \$9.5 million in bond funding to help restore the giant lake was turned down by the state.

California Resources Secretary Mike Chrisman said that more work needs to be done on the six projects that would be funded under the request to make sure that they are critical in restoring the Salton Sea.

The desert lake is home to 400 bird species and a key stopover for migratory birds on the Pacific Flyway.

Bad Vibes: Knight may have violated his parole

DRE, from page 1

is David Darnell Brown, surrendered Nov. 19 to authorities and is scheduled to be arraigned on Dec. 20. He told the press after he was booked at the Santa Monica Jail that he was at home in Nashville, Tenn., during the awards show.

Knight and Dre co-founded Death Row Records in the early 1990s and produced hits from rappers such as Tupac Shakur and Snoop Dogg. The two founders, however, had a falling out in the mid-1990s.

Knight was released from prison in 2001 after serving time for assault and weapons violations and the conditions for his parole ban him from having any contact with Dre.

Knight entered the awards show without an invitation and sat just a few feet behind Dre, who was receiving a lifetime achievement award from Snoop Dogg and Quincy Jones.

Attorney Milton Grimes, who once represented Knight and now represents Johnson, denied any involvement by Knight.

“As far as I know, my client has no ties whatsoever to Suge Knight,” Crimes told the Los Angeles Times.

The Times, citing unidentified sources, said Santa Monica police and agents from the state Department of Corrections have been interviewing witnesses and reviewing video footage to examine Knight’s actions before, during and after the melee.

“We are conducting an investigation to determine whether any parole violations took place with (Knight) at the awards show,” Alfred Martinez, Los Angeles regional parole administrator for the Corrections Department, told the Times.

“Mr. Knight has some special conditions attached to his parole, and we are working with the Santa Monica police to evaluate all the circumstances that took place that evening,” Martinez said.

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BUSINESS

One of life's necessities: A will or a living trust



MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS

BY COREY K. QUINN, BRETT A. BROWN

Two out of every three Americans die intestate. In plainer terms, without a will. If you don't have a will when you die, the law of your state may then determine what happens to your estate, your assets and any minor children. In addition, the state process is usually governed by a probate court, which is often slow, sometimes expensive, and open to the public. Although many individuals find it difficult to think or talk about having a will, it's an important and necessary planning document. Basically, a will is a legal document that transfers what you own to your beneficiaries. Establishing a will is a relatively easy process, depending on your individual

circumstances. You should consult your lawyer regarding your will. There are several life occurrences when it's a good time to make or revise a will. You should have a will when you get married, and have it reviewed when you purchase a home, have children or acquire sizable assets. However, a will usually must go through the probate process, and the decedent's estate pays all related legal costs, which often totals between 3 percent to 8 percent of the estate. As your estate grows and you seek greater control over your property and an effective estate planning strategy, you may want to consider an alternative to a will — a living trust. If you would rather avoid probate and possibly reduce probate-associated costs or, if you'd like to keep your family business private and not open to the public, a living trust is another way to transfer wealth effectively to your heirs. Also known as a revocable inter vivos trust, a

	Wills	Living Trusts
Avoids probate?	No. The court orders payment of debts and distribution according to instructions in will.	Yes. Based on written instructions, trustee pays debts and distributes assets to beneficiaries immediately.
Legal costs?	Yes. The estate pays all court and legal fees, which can total up to 3-8% of estate.	No. There are no court or legal fees. (However, there may be legal fees for setting up the trust.)
Timely?	No. Processing can take up to two years.	Yes. Immediate payment to beneficiaries.
Contestable?	Yes.	Yes, but difficult to do successfully.
Flexible?	Somewhat. Wills may be changed at any time.	Depends. Revocable trusts can be changed or discontinued at any time; Irrevocable trusts usually cannot.
Privacy?	No. Probate is a matter of public record.	Yes. Trusts are not part of public record.

The table above illustrates some of the differences between a will and a living trust.

living trust is a legal device, created by you during your lifetime and which holds property for the benefit of named beneficiaries. The living trust document includes instructions — as outlined by you — for the property's management and distribution upon your incapacity or death. It's never too early to consult your financial adviser, attorney and tax professional to begin planning for the future. Plans laid today can help ensure that, in the event of your death, minor children would be provided for and your assets would be distributed to your heirs according to your wishes.

(This article does not constitute tax or legal advice. Consult your tax or legal advisor before making any tax or legally related investment decisions. This article is published for general informational purposes only and is not an offer or solicitation to sell or buy any securities or commodities. Any particular investment should be analyzed based on its terms and risks as they relate to your individual circumstances and objectives. Investments and services are offered through Morgan Stanley. To contact Corey K. Quinn and Brett A. Brown, call them at their Santa Monica office at (310) 319-5210).

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STATE



Pombo adding beef to endangered species fight

BY ERICA WERNER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The California rancher and congressman whose committee oversees environmental policy wants to enlist some home-state muscle in his campaign to rewrite the Endangered Species Act.

House Resources Committee Chairman Richard Pombo, R-Calif., said he'll seek backing for his legislative efforts from Arnold Schwarzenegger and other Western state governors during a meeting this weekend of the Western Governors' Association.

"I think that having the governor on board is critical for a lot of different reasons, particularly the impact that the act has had on California, and I think he also helps influence a lot of people," Pombo said in an interview.

"It's critical to have the governors on board with any

legislative effort that we make," Pombo said.

Pombo's committee passed bills this year that would change the 30-year-old act by requiring peer review before a species can be listed as endangered and allowing critical habitat to be designated for species only when "practicable."

Environmentalists said the changes would gut the landmark law. Pombo and other property rights supporters said they were needed to improve a law they contend creates unreasonable regulatory hurdles for property owners while failing to help many species.

The Western Governors Association, which has 18 member governors now split between 12 Republicans and six Democrats, has supported reforming the Endangered Species Act for years. The group has convened an "Endangered Species Act Executive Summit" for Friday and Saturday in San Diego.

"What the governors would say is that the act is not meeting its intended purpose, which is to recover species," said Shaun McGrath, the group's program manager.

Schwarzenegger is expected to attend, but the moderate Republican has sided with environmentalists on some issues, and a spokeswoman said he hasn't taken a position on rewriting the Endangered Species Act.

"As the ESA reform legislation makes its way through Congress next year the governor will be tracking it closely to make sure California's interests are represented," said spokeswoman Ashley Snee.

The Western Governors Association has endorsed legislation changing the act in the past. Pombo said he will ask for the group's support and lobbying as he tries to get his bills through the full House and the Senate after Congress reconvenes in January.

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NATIONAL

New Art exhibit has little-known tribal artifacts

BY F.N. D'ALESSIO

Associated Press Writer

CHICAGO — A translucent, larger-than-life hand with long, tapering fingers lends an air of mystery to a new exhibit of ancient and little-known tribal art at the Art Institute of Chicago.

The image of the open hand suggests communication between the human community and a world of spirits beyond, says exhibit curator Richard F. Townsend. But it's the ancient carving's origins that tell a less well-known story of how early North Americans lived, providing evidence of what once must have been an extensive trade network.

The hand can be traced to the early Hopewell American Indian culture that spread from Ohio before 400 A.D.

Although the hand was found in Ohio and is believed to have been made there some 2,000 years ago, it was cut from sheet mica that probably originated in North Carolina, Townsend said. Other artifacts in the exhibit —

titled "Hero, Hawk, and Open Hand: American Indian Art of the Ancient Midwest and South" — were cut from seashells, hammered from Lake Superior copper, or chipped out of obsidian from the mountain West.

"It really wasn't a wilderness here," Townsend said, noting the trade and the impressive earthworks left by large tribal communities that once dotted the region.

In setting up the exhibit, Townsend assembled a team of archaeologists, art historians, anthropologists and representatives from Indian tribes descended from the creators of the artifacts on display. The tribes were invaluable in interpreting the symbolism and connecting it with the beliefs of modern American Indian groups, he said.

Townsend cited, in particular, the recurring open hand image, the pervasive hawk or falcon motif associated with the sky and the sun, and the dramatic figures of a lone hero, which gave the exhibit its name.

Although many of the sites of the ancient people have been lost to 19th-century plows and 20th-century subdivisions, their belief systems and imagery remain with their present-day descendants.

Representatives of 10 Indian nations, including the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Osage and Seminole, attended a preview of the exhibit and applauded the effort.

The works are not the easily recognizable Indian art of the Great Plains and Southwest; they are older and more unknowable. Some of the images, such as the "piasas," or underwater panthers, and other mythic beasts from the deep waters and the underworld, baffle even the experts.

The oldest objects on display are banner stones from spear-throwing sticks and stone axes dating to about 3000 B.C. Despite their age, there is a precision and

grace in their carving.

The artifacts from later cultures, such as the Adena/Hopewell (Ohio), Etowah (Georgia-Tennessee), Spiro (Arkansas-Oklahoma), and Moundville (Alabama), are more elaborate and deliberately decorative.

"This work is intelligent and beautiful," James Cuno, the Art Institute's new director, said. "It follows the basic human impulse to ornament basic objects with beauty and imbue them with power."

Some of the most sophisticated work comes from the culture centered on the Cahokia Mounds in southwestern Illinois. That culture, which reached its peak shortly after 1000 A.D., created what are believed to be the New World's biggest city and largest structure (Monks Mound) north of the Valley of Mexico.

But Cahokia and most of the other Midwestern and Southern cities were abandoned long before European settlers trickled into the area in the 18th century.

Those settlers were unable to connect the artworks and massive earthworks with the depleted Indian tribes they encountered. Some 19th-century antiquarians credited the structures to vanished non-Indian "Mound Builders" — an idea long since discredited.

"In the 19th century, everything was first credited to the Lost Tribes of Israel or wandering Welshmen, then to people from Atlantis, Lemuria or Mu. Now it seems to be Carthaginians or beings from Outer Space — anything but what is obvious," Townsend said.

"Hero, Hawk, and Open Hand" is on view at the Art Institute through Jan. 30. It is scheduled to be shown at The St. Louis Art Museum from March 4 to May 30, 2005, and at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History from early July to late September.

Buzz kill: High Court restricts church from serving happy tea

BY GINA HOLLAND

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration on Wednesday won a Supreme Court stay that blocks a New Mexico church from using hallucinogenic tea that the government contends is illegal and potentially dangerous.

The government has been in a long-running legal fight with the Brazil-based O Centro Espirita Beneficiente Uniao do Vegetal over hoasca tea, brewed from plants found in the Amazon River Basin.

The church won a preliminary injunction in a lower court, and the Supreme Court was asked to intervene.

Justice Stephen Breyer, acting on behalf of the full court, granted a temporary stay to give both sides time to file more arguments with the court.

"Compliance with the injunction would force the United States to go into violation of an international treaty designed to prevent drug trafficking worldwide,

which could have both short- and long-term foreign relations costs and could impair the policing of transnational drug trafficking involving the most dangerous controlled substances," acting Solicitor General Paul Clement wrote in a court filing.

The 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver found that the church probably has a religious-freedom right to use the tea. The Bush administration plans to appeal, but wants the church barred from using the tea in the meantime.

The church's leader had sued after federal agents raided his office in Santa Fe in 1999 and seized 30 gallons of hoasca tea. The tea contains DMT, a controlled substance.

The Bush administration already has one drug appeal at the Supreme Court. Justices heard arguments earlier this week in that case, which asks whether the federal government can prosecute patients who smoke marijuana on doctors' orders and in states that have medical marijuana laws.

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NATIONAL



No God, no go: Baptists dive into home-schooling

BY DUNCAN MANSFIELD

Associated Press Writer

SEVIERVILLE, Tenn. — Frustration with public education seems to be growing among the nation's Southern Baptists, with supporters of Christian schools and home schooling arguing that if God is absent from the classroom then their children should leave, too.

"What has happened is not so much that the Christians are leaving the public schools as that the public schools have left the Christians," advocate Ed Gamble said.

Gamble is executive director of the Southern Baptist Association of Christian Schools, an Orlando, Fla.-based group that supports the more than 600 Southern Baptist schools created in the past eight years.

"As the public schools have become increasingly secular and increasingly intolerant of things Christian, people who are openly Christian have said, 'I guess they are not part of our team anymore,'" Gamble said.

The number of conservative Christian schools grew by nearly 11 percent between 1999-2000 and 2001-2002, to 5,527, according to the U.S. Department of Education's latest statistics.

At that rate, Christian schools are growing faster than private schools as a whole, and have increased their share to nearly 1 in 5 private schools in the country.

Earlier this year, a resolution proposed at the national meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention — which guides the nation's largest Protestant denomination — urged parents to withdraw their children from "officially Godless" "government schools" in favor of religious education.

While the measure was rejected, interest in faith-based schools has continued to spread among Baptists at the state level, particularly in Tennessee, Missouri, Florida, South Carolina, Illinois, Texas, Virginia, North Carolina, California and New England, according to Exodus Mandate, a Columbia, S.C., group that promotes private, Christian and home-school education.

A recent resolution promoting Christian schooling easily passed the Missouri Baptist Convention but was quashed in committee at the Tennessee Baptist Convention meeting in Sevierville last month.

The Missouri resolution talked about the "inherent dangers of secular educational philosophies that now permeates America's public education system" and

affirmed "the importance of systematic training ourselves and our children in the ways of authentic, biblical Christianity."

"What we are saying is that God has given us some very specific commands that we are to train our children in the ways of the Lord, not in the ways of the world," said the Rev. Roger Moran, of Troy, Mo., the resolution's author and a member of the Southern Baptist Convention's executive committee.

That means teaching creationism over evolution, that life begins at conception, and that homosexuality is immoral, as is sex outside of marriage. But it is more.

"It hits everything, when you realize the reality of life is (that) life was created by God and the entire universe is his creation. Therefore, everything has meaning and reflection on his nature, whether it is math or history or science. Two plus two equals four because God created them that way," said Glen Schultz, who heads the Baptists' LifeWay curriculum program for church-based schools and homeschoolers.

The Tennessee resolution came one step short of asking Baptist parents to pull their children from public schools.

"I wanted to be positive in promoting Christian education. I didn't want the resolution to be portrayed as attacking public education," said the Rev. Larry Reagan, of Dresden, who wrote the measure.

But the Rev. Mike Boyd of Knoxville, outgoing president of the 1 million-member Tennessee Baptist Convention, worried about the divisiveness of the issue.

"It was not wise, is all I am saying," added the Rev. Grover Westover, of Whiteville, chairman of the resolutions committee.

Reagan's resolution would have promoted more "Kingdom education" schools following LifeWay's lead. Schultz said the program has reached some 150 churches since 1996.

"We encourage our members to pray for this ministry and we encourage the promotion of an adequate system of Christian schools," Reagan said.

Boyd agreed there were "some serious issues in the public schools" to resolve but said the focus should be on supporting the teachers working in them, including many Baptists, and parents.

"Historically, Baptists have been pretty staunch supporters of the public school system, and they still are," said Gamble, who was not surprised to see the convention resolutions fail.



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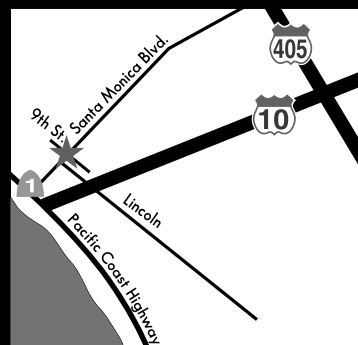
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NATIONAL

Nevada wild about Bush after land designation

BY SCOTT SONNER

Associated Press Writer

RENO, Nev. — President Bush has signed into law a measure conservationists say is the single largest designation of federally protected wilderness in Nevada history — a total of about 1,200 square miles north and east of Las Vegas.

The legislation is billed as a compromise between environmentalists who want permanent protection of intact wild lands and developers who want more water for Clark County.

The new law creates 14 new wilderness areas protecting wildlife habitat, rugged mountain peaks, limestone cliffs, fragile caves and archaeological resources across a total of 768,000 acres, an area about half the size of the state of Delaware.

It directs the Bureau of Land Management to auction up to 90,000 acres of federal land in the rural county north of Las Vegas.

It also establishes a utility corridor that would allow the Southern Nevada Water

Authority to build a pipeline to tap into groundwater in eastern Nevada and draw as much as 200,000 acre-feet of water per year — enough for more than half a million households.

Nevada's entire congressional delegation supported the measure, which Bush signed Tuesday night. The wilderness areas include habitat for the desert tortoise, bighorn sheep, golden eagles, goshawks elk and deer.

"A lot of people with varying interests and priorities came together to forge a compromise that will benefit the people of Lincoln County for generations," said Sen. John Ensign, R-Nev.

"We've created a boost for Lincoln County's economy while protecting environmentally sensitive areas and allowing for the development of new water resources," he said.

Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., said it's a good example "of what we can accomplish when we work together in a bipartisan manner."

"It is a good compromise that ensures

that our public lands will be used for the public good," he said.

Rep. Jim Gibbons, R-Nev., agreed.

"This bill was the epitome of compromise and responsible public lands policy," he said.

J.C. Davis, a spokesman for the Southern Nevada Water Authority, said the new law is critical to the proposed pipeline but that construction is still a long way off.

"From our agency's perspective, the key is that we have now identified the corridor so we can move forward with the environmental impact study," Davis said from Las Vegas. "But this is just about the pipeline. It doesn't fill the pipeline with any water."

The EIS will analyze the potential impacts on the withdrawal of groundwater. The state water engineer also must rule on applications for groundwater and make sure it would not harm existing water rights, Davis said.

"It is a very protective process. It is several years at the minimum before construction would begin," he said.

Lee Barrett, president of the Greater Las Vegas Association of Realtors, said the new law is good news for the region. He said construction of the pipeline "would be a very positive thing for southern Nevada."

"We are definitely interested in the conservation of water and the development of more water resources for southern Nevada," Barrett said.

The new law will distribute the funds from the Lincoln County land sales — 85 percent to the BLM, 10 percent to Lincoln County and 5 percent to the state education fund.

The county will now be eligible to receive special account dollars through the 1998 Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act for parks, trails, conservation projects and capital improvements on federal land.

"We applaud the president for signing a bill representing the largest single wilderness designation in Nevada history," said Mike Matz, executive director of the Campaign for America's Wilderness.



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NATIONAL



New Homeland Security chief will be busy

BY TED BRIDIS

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Tom Ridge's successor as chief of the Homeland Security Department will have to unify a sprawling bureaucracy, a deadly serious job where failure could put the United States at risk of another terror attack.

Ridge, who announced his resignation Tuesday, acknowledged the frustrations of working out the kinks in the broadest government reorganization in half a century, a job critics say remains largely incomplete. "I like going to work every day," Ridge said, before adding, "There are certain days I've enjoyed it even more."

Ridge said he will remain in the job until Feb. 1, unless the Senate confirms his successor earlier. Among those cited as potential candidates are Bernard Kerik, the former New York City police commissioner who helped rebuild Iraq's police force; former Federal Emergency Management Agency Director Joe Allbaugh; Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Mike Leavitt; and White House homeland security adviser Fran Townsend.

Others are also believed to be interested in the job, including Asa Hutchinson, undersecretary for border and transportation security in the Homeland Security Department.

Critics said Ridge's legacy is mixed at Homeland Security, a collection of 22 disparate federal agencies with more than 180,000 employees. It includes Citizenship and Immigration Services, the Customs Service, the Coast Guard, the Secret Service and the Transportation Security Administration, with a combined budget of \$36 billion.

"He was dealt an impossible hand," said

Richard Clarke, the former top counterterrorism adviser to President Bush who resigned last year. "He was not allowed to make some of the key decisions about the beginning of the department. I think anyone would have failed under those circumstances."

Although the Homeland Security Department originally was envisioned as a broker of intelligence after the 2001 terror attacks, the Bush administration opted to establish a new terrorist screening center and terrorist threat integration center, set up at the FBI and CIA respectively.

"Ridge is a personality. He engendered extreme loyalty in headquarters staff," said Dan Prieto, a research director at Harvard University and former Democratic staff member for the House Homeland Security Committee. "Was he the right person to go out on a limb, knock heads and make sure the department achieved this goal? I would argue that he wasn't."

Even loyalists to Ridge acknowledge the next secretary must work to unify the organization, which still uses hundreds of different computer networks for systems such as intelligence, accounting, procurement and hiring. Auditors have complained about the department's spending controls and the security of its own computer networks, and it can take months at Homeland Security to hire key employees for important positions.

"Tom Ridge is a decent man and a fine public servant but unfortunately was not given the leeway or resources to tighten up homeland security the way it should be done," said Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y. "We hope that whoever the administration chooses to succeed him will be given the tools needed to really do the job."

Ridge will be remembered for his terror alerts and tutorials about how to prepare for possible attacks, including the controversial "disaster kits" that caused last year's run on duct tape and plastic sheeting. He said he was certain the country is safer today than before the suicide hijackings on Sept. 11, 2001, killed nearly 3,000 people in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania.

"I am confident that the terrorists are aware that from the curb to the cockpit we've got additional security measures that didn't exist a couple years ago," Ridge told reporters Tuesday at the department's Washington campus, which he helped create.

Bush said Ridge's efforts resulted in "safer skies, increased border and port security and enhanced measures to safeguard our critical infrastructure and the American public."

Ridge sent his letter of resignation to Bush at midday Tuesday, after attending a morning White House threat briefing with CIA and FBI officials. The former Pennsylvania governor thanked Bush for giving him the opportunity to fight back against terrorists. He recalled that the passengers on Flight 93, who forced their hijacked plane down in a Pennsylvania field, had also fought back.

"There will always be more to do, but today, America is significantly stronger and safer than ever before," Ridge wrote Bush.

After Ridge sent the letter to Bush, he met with senior department leaders to tell them his plans.

Ridge is the seventh of Bush's 15-member Cabinet to announce they won't be part of the second term. More are expected, and administration officials said Treasury Secretary John Snow or Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson appear to be next.



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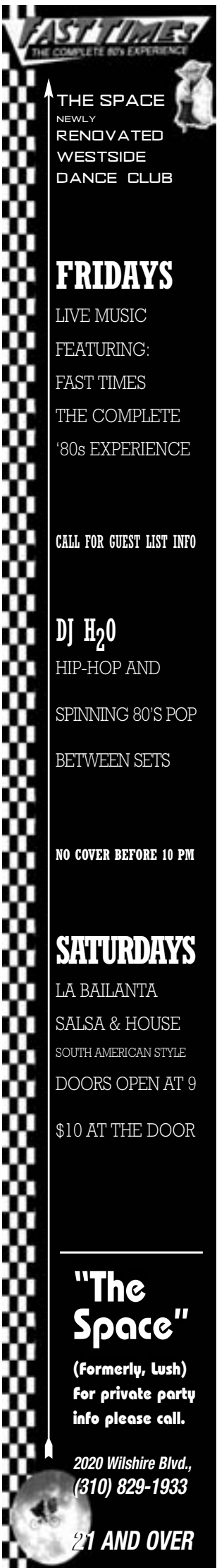
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21 AND OVER



NATIONAL

Powell uses quiet diplomacy to induce new attitude

BY GEORGE GEDDA

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — One can only wonder what Secretary of State Colin Powell thinks of the Russian attempt to tilt the Ukraine election toward the pro-Moscow prime minister, Viktor Yanukovich.

While decrying what he considers widespread fraud in the elections, Powell has said nothing about Russia's position. His view is that quiet diplomacy is the best hope to induce the Russians to shift course and contribute to a democratic outcome in Ukraine, a former republic of the Soviet Union.

Former national security adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski is less constrained. "The stakes are of truly historic proportions," Brzezinski said last week in discussing what he sees as a Russian power grab in Ukraine.

"If Ukrainian democracy prevails, Russia has no choice but to go to the West and to be a democracy," Brzezinski told a gathering at the American Enterprise Institute. "If Ukraine democracy fails, Russia and imperial ambitions are awakened."

Much like Brzezinski, former Secre-

tary of State Henry Kissinger believes Moscow's propensity for acquiring client states was undiminished by the collapse of the Soviet empire 15 years ago.

Secretary of State-designate Condoleezza Rice will have no trouble picking up on Russia policy where Powell leaves it. Russia has been a passion of hers for years. A Russian-speaker, Rice spent two years working at the National Security Council on Soviet issues for the first President Bush.

Powell and his administration colleagues play down the idea that Ukraine represents a sphere-of-influence contest between Washington and Moscow.

Dan Fried, a former U.S. ambassador to Poland and now a top NSC official, said, "It is not for us to make this an East-West issue. This is a fight about democracy."

"We are not going to make this about Russia or any other country. I think that all democratic nations should support the principle and practice of democracy in Ukraine."

Russian President Vladimir Putin has made clear all along his preference for Yanukovich over his Western-oriented

opponent, Viktor Yushchenko. Buoyed by the Ukrainian electoral commission's ruling on Nov. 21 that Yanukovich had won, Putin sent him a congratulatory note. He ignored findings by American and European monitors of massive election-day fraud and abuse.

Russian state television, seen by many in Ukraine, campaigned relentlessly for Yanukovich. The Ukrainian opposition claims that Russia provided some \$300 million to Yanukovich's campaign.

Still, Russia is showing signs that it is not interested in having a political crisis on its western border in one of Europe's largest countries. State Department officials say Russia seems interested in a peaceful, democratic end to the crisis, now in its 10th day.

Russia already plays a dominant role in neighboring Belarus, where voters extended the term of pro-Moscow President Alexander Lukashenko in October in a referendum that European monitors said was neither free nor fair. Lukashenko wants to reunite his country with Russia. Yanukovich seeks an open borders policy with Russia as part of a broader eastward orientation.

Russia's defenders reject the notion the country acts not much differently from the Soviets. They note that Moscow put up little fuss when former East Bloc nations joined NATO. Nine have done so since 1998.

Russia also has shown a cooperative spirit on a number of issues of keen interest to Washington. Like the United States, Moscow supports a denuclearized North Korea and is involved in six-party talks to get it. It also has trimmed nuclear cooperation with Iran and is a partner with the United States in seeking an Israeli-Palestinian settlement.

In 2002, the United States and Russia agreed to reduce their stockpile of deployed strategic nuclear weapons by two-thirds within 10 years, to between 1,700 and 2,200 each.

Powell wants nothing to jeopardize these examples of Russian cooperation. But the warmth is not what it was three years ago when Bush said of Putin after a meeting in Slovenia: "I was able to get a sense of his soul, a man deeply committed to his country and the best interests of his country."

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INTERNATIONAL



Ukraine parliament has no confidence in leader

BY ALEKSANDAR VASOVIC

Associated Press Writer

KIEV, Ukraine — Ukraine's parliament brought down the government of Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich with a no-confidence motion Wednesday in a show of the opposition's strength in the country's spiraling political crisis.

Yanukovich and his opposition rival Viktor Yushchenko, who both claim the presidency after a Nov. 21 run-off vote, sat down for talks Wednesday in the presence of European mediators and outgoing President Leonid Kuchma in an attempt to work out a resolution.

Earlier, Kuchma called for an entirely new election to be held. A new vote would bring in more candidates.

Yanukovich was declared the winner of the run-off by the election commission, but Yushchenko has insisted he won and was robbed of victory by widespread fraud. Hundreds of thousands of opposition supporters have set up tent camps on Kiev's main avenue and blockaded official buildings, paralyzing the capital for 10 days.

Yanukovich asked to the Supreme Court to declare part of the results of this month's presidential run-off vote invalid, the justices said.

It was not clear if the court would agree to hear the appeal. Yanukovich was appealing alleged voting violations in western Ukraine, where Yushchenko

draws most of his support.

The court is already hearing an appeal by Yushchenko against alleged violations in pro-Yanukovich eastern Ukraine.

Yushchenko's appeal has been a key part of the opposition strategy for reversing the run-off, and both sides have been awaiting a court ruling. Yushchenko's supporters hope that the court would then declare him the winner of the vote.

The opposition succeeded in further undermining Yanukovich with Wednesday's no-confidence vote in parliament. The measure passed with 229 votes in the 450-seat parliament, three more than necessary. Outside the building, a crowd of opposition supporters, listening to a live translation, broke into applause, chanted "Yushchenko!" and raised their fists in triumph.

Kuchma must now appoint a caretaker government within 60 days, under the rules of the constitution.

Kuchma called the vote "the parliament's answer to the worsening political situation in Ukraine," said his spokeswoman Olena Hromnitskaya. She said Kuchma "will act within the framework of the Constitution."

The measure automatically triggers the resignation of Yanukovich's government. Kuchma can, however, allow the government to continue to exercise its powers until a new Cabinet is formed, but not for longer than 60 days.

Kuchma is likely to name parliament speaker Volodymyr Lytvyn to head an caretaker government, said Markian Bilynskyj, a Kiev-based analyst. pro-Communist parliamentary groups, with Kuchma's implicit backing, used a similar no-confidence vote in 2001 to oust Yushchenko from the prime minister's post, Bilynskyj said.

Soon after the parliament vote, the two rivals held talks, joined by Kuchma, European mediators: European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana, the presidents of Poland and Lithuania and the head of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Yushchenko's representatives pulled out of compromise talks on Friday, accusing Yanukovich's side of seeking to use the negotiations to win time.

Ukraine had a first round of voting with a crowded field of 24 candidates in which no one received more than half the votes, setting up a runoff between the top two candidates. International monitors and Western governments have denounced the results of the Nov. 21 run-off, citing fraud in favor of Yanukovich.

Earlier Wednesday, Kuchma announced he supported holding an entire new presidential election, not just a revote of the disputed second round as the opposition wants if a new vote is needed.

"Where in the world do they have a third round of elections? A revote — it's

a farce," Kuchma said at a government meeting. "I never supported it because it is unconstitutional."

Kuchma's proposal seemed to be an attempt to buy the government time in the face of mass protests. It also opened up the possibility of bringing new candidates into the race.

Yanukovich proposed a day earlier that both he and Yushchenko refrain from running in any new election.

Yushchenko has led the opposition for years and was long seen as its candidate in a country where millions are yearning for change after Kuchma's 10-year rule. Kuchma anointed Yanukovich as his favored successor last spring, hoping his prominence as prime minister would attract votes.

The regional legislature in Yanukovich's eastern home region of Donetsk decided to hold a referendum on Jan. 9 seeking a measure of autonomy from the country's central government.

Governor Anatoliy Bliznyuk said the region wanted to transform Ukraine into a federation but was not seeking full autonomy.

The move reflected government supporters' warnings that the opposition demands will split Ukraine, a nation nearly the size of Texas. Yanukovich's base of support lies in the Russian-speaking, industrialized east, where many support close ties with Moscow. Yushchenko draws his support from the Ukrainian-speaking west and the capital.

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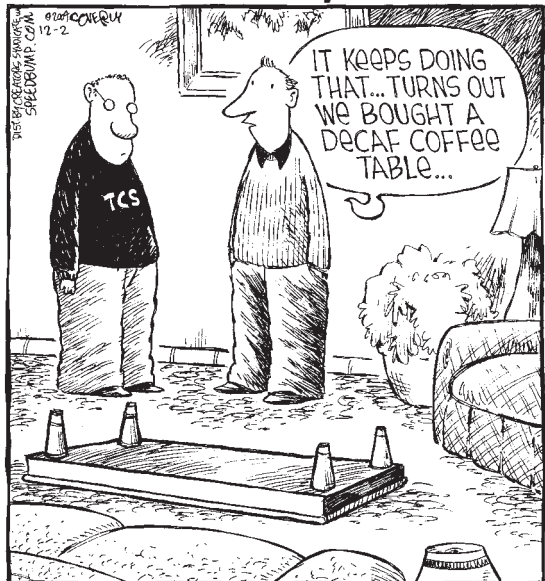
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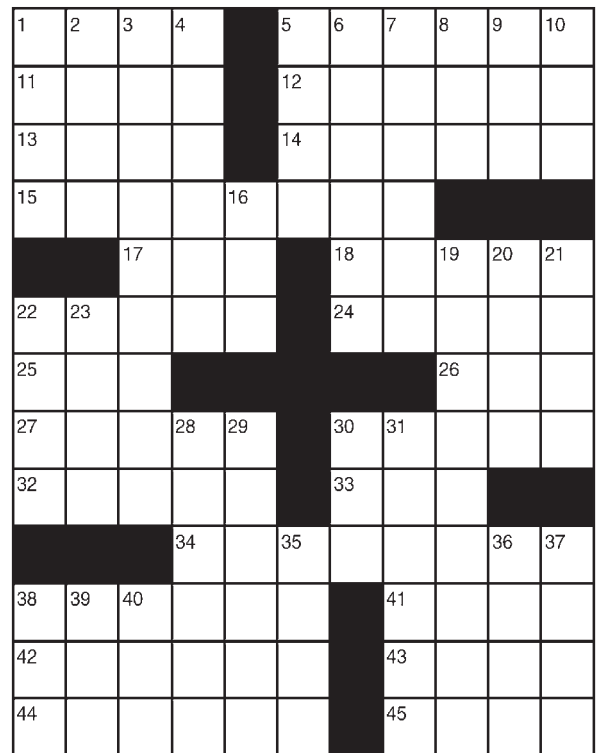
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- 17 Shipping amount
- 18 Release
- 22 Cerebrate
- 24 Patriot Allen
- 25 Bird of myth
- 26 Woolly mother
- 27 Adam of "Chicago Hope"
- 30 Lies in the sun
- 32 Out of fashion
- 33 Skill
- 34 Last
- 38 Places
- 41 Opposed to
- 42 Crude shacks
- 43 Profound
- 44 Lace's place
- 45 African snakes

DOWN

- 1 Swimmer Biondi
- 2 China setting
- 3 Boon-docks
- 4 "Ben-Hur" star
- 5 Take turns
- 6 Excited feeling
- 7 Ready
- 8 Flower visitor
- 9 Dealer's place
- 10 Printer's units
- 16 Printer's supply
- 19 Mick, Keith, et al., for short

- 20 Goggle
- 21 Folding money
- 22 Catch
- 23 Circle dance
- 28 Jordan neighbor
- 29 Pester
- 30 Tavern
- 31 Spanish fleet
- 35 Helper: Abbr.
- 36 Footprint
- 37 They come to those who wait
- 38 That ship
- 39 Christmas gift, often
- 40 Christmas fore-runner

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12-2

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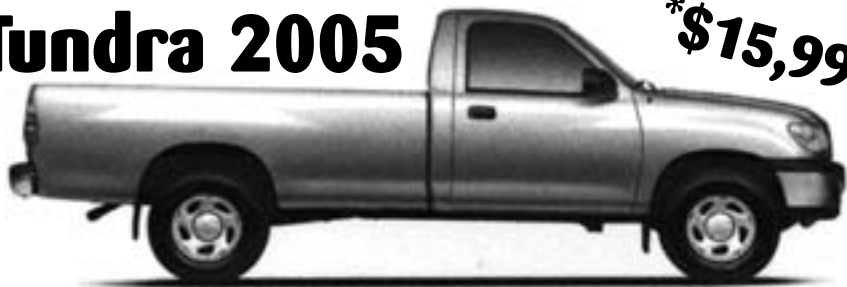
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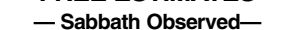
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

No rising son: Princess turns 3, but still a girl

By The Associated Press

TOKYO — Princess Aiko, the only child of Japan's imperial heir, marked her third birthday Wednesday amid speculation about legal changes that would allow her to one day ascend the ancient Chrysanthemum Throne.

Current laws prohibit women from inheriting the throne, but the Japanese imperial family is facing its most serious succession crisis in centuries. Public support is strong for a revision that would allow Aiko, the only child of Crown Prince Naruhito, to reign.

Aiko greeted her birthday much like a regular 3-year-old.

A birthday celebration was planned for the little princess, who loves to climb trees, the Imperial Household Agency announced.

She can now brush her own teeth and change clothes by herself. She also enjoys origami, singing and play sessions with other children at the palace, the agency said.

A Mainichi Shimbun newspaper report said Wednesday that the government has begun studying the feasibility of amending the Imperial Household Law within the next several years. The report did not cite sources.

Although opposition remains within the government to any revision because some want to "protect the tradition of male succession," practical considerations were taking over, it said.

The government's top spokesman said he was unaware of such movements.

"I think we have to continue to look at public opinion," and see how the situation develops, Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda added. Surveys show more than 80 percent of the public supports changing the law.

"But I don't think it's the appropriate moment yet," he said.

No boy has been born to the imperial family since the 1960s, and supporters of a revision say it should be made sooner rather than later to allow Aiko to be properly groomed for the throne.

NEW YORK — A Paris Hilton autographed stapler? Yeah, they've got that.

Office retailer Staples is holding a "Staplers of the Stars" online charity auction of celebrity signed staplers. With more than 140 celebs in the mix, Hilton's stapler is currently leading the pack at \$1,005.

Hilton is followed by Donald Trump and Katie Couric, whose autographed staplers are each going for \$800. Other staplers being bid on are signed by Ringo Starr, Kobe Bryant, Bill Gates, Rudy Guiliani and Cher.

All of the proceeds go to a charity of each star's choosing. Since the auction opened on Nov. 16, more than 2,600 bids have been placed. The staplers are available to bid on until Dec. 6 at www.staples.com.

NEW YORK — The sister team on CBS' "The

Amazing Race" failed to find a clue in a haystack, eliminating them from the race around the world.

Kristy, 26, and Lena Jensen, 23, were the third of nine remaining teams to arrive at a challenge at a rural Swedish farm, where team members were assigned to find a clue by unraveling a series of 200-pound hay bales. After an eight-hour search, Lena never gave up — or found the clue.

"I just felt like I didn't have any option to quit," she told The Associated Press Wednesday. "It was heart-wrenching seeing all the other teams we passed then seeing them pass us."

Breaking protocol, "Amazing Race" host Phil Keoghan went to the challenge site to inform the Utah sisters they had been eliminated from the race. Usually, contestants rush to meet Keoghan at his "Amazing Race" mat at a predetermined pit stop.

"It was very dramatic to see Phil," said Kristy, who was at the farm until after dusk. "We didn't see him coming in. Ultimately, we just wanted to find that stupid clue."

The religious background of Mormons Kristy and Lena, one of the few teams who didn't have an on-screen spat, was notably featured during their time on the show.

"We were a little worried about being dubbed the Mormon sisters," Kristy told the AP. "Lena and I are not the traditional type of Mormons. We're used to being misfits in the state we live. But in this situation, everyone else was the misfits." b



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