



Santa Monica Daily Press

December 3-4, 2005

A newspaper with issues

Volume 5, Issue 18

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

7 16 19 32 36
Meganumber: 24
Jackpot: \$21 Million

FANTASY 5

7 17 30 34 37

DAILY 3

Daytime: 1 4 1

Evening: 4 8 3

DAILY DERBY

1st: 05 California Classic
2nd: 12 Lucky Charms
3rd: 09 Winning Spirit

RACE TIME: 1:49.99
Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site: <http://www.calottery.com>

NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

Cary, N.C., software developer Brian T. Schellenberger, 43, told FBI agents in December 2003 that he had been influenced by a workplace motivational poster, "Achieve Your Dreams," that energized him to fulfill his own dreams. His major life transformation, unfortunately, was that "I decided to get rid of the obsolete idea of morality." Specifically, he told the agents that he was inspired to move beyond his mere passive collecting of pornography and to begin creating his own child pornography to satisfy long-held fantasies about young girls. (He also later enlisted a man, unsuccessfully, to kill his wife in exchange for pornography from his collection.) In October 2005, Schellenberger, though subsequently remorseful, was sentenced to 100 years in prison.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 337th day of 2005.
There are 28 days left in the year.

On Dec. 3, 1967, surgeons in Cape Town, South Africa, led by Dr. Christiaan Barnard performed the first human heart transplant on Louis Washkansky, who lived 18 days with the new heart.

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You don't say: 415 planners await input

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

415 PCH — It's going to be four years and at least \$24 million before Santa Monica residents have a beach club to call their own.

What's more, more parking spaces and a traffic light may be required before visitors can enjoy the old Marion Davies estate, located at 415 Pacific Coast Highway.

Those wishing to discuss noise, traffic or other environmental issues that may arise from the two-year construction project planned to renovate the five-acre estate — built in the 1920s by newspaper giant William Randolph Hearst — have until Dec. 22 to contribute to the 600-page environmental impact report.

The written comments will be incorporated into a final environmental impact report which City Hall will present to various government agencies, starting with Santa Monica's planning commission, in order to obtain necessary permits.

See 415 PCH, page 5



File photo

The refurbished Marion Davies Estate is scheduled to open in January 2009.

No tan for tannenbaum



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Robert Nicholson of Delancey Street Christmas Trees gets busy "flocking" a 7-footer in preparation for the expected rush of customers this weekend. The Delancey Street lot is actually located at Olympic Boulevard and 20th Street in Santa Monica. Flocking runs an additional \$2 per foot.

Resolution by communion

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

SM PIER — On New Year's Day, it might be wise to put down the bloody Mary, turn off the bowl games and, instead, consider your future.

Contemplating what the new year holds for each of us will reach new levels on the first day of 2006, as the Santa Monica Pier plays host to the first annual Resolution Festival. The event is the brainchild of Lawrence Cohen, whose resolution for 2005 was to take more risks.

Cohen, who has helped organize the Los Angeles Marathon and this weekend's Las Vegas Marathon, is self-funding the Resolution Festival. He is taking the financial risk, believing that

offering a venue and support network will pay off for hundreds, if not thousands of people.

"A lot of people keep their resolutions to themselves, but I think declaring them puts the forces to work," he said. "It's the idea of like-minded people gathering and declaring their intentions."

The day will start with a 9 a.m. ceremony, followed at 10 a.m. by a Soft Sand Run — a 10k run on the beach — as well as a 10,000 Steps Walk, which will then segue into a Polar Bear Swim at 11:30 a.m. The day will end with participants writing their resolutions in the sand with bamboo sticks.

"I wanted to start it later, because it is New Year's Day and people should sleep in," Cohen

See NEW YEAR'S, page 6

LOCAL

Ain't it grand? Park re-opens with party

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

VIRGINIA AVENUE PARK — A party this weekend to celebrate the re-opening of this park will provide residents a chance to sample what the new and improved version has to offer.

After more than \$13 million, a decade of planning and two years of construction, City Hall will be sponsoring a \$48,000 grand opening celebration for the newly designed Virginia Avenue Park. The party, to be held from noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday, will include arts, music, dance, food vendors and

See PARK PARTY, page 7

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HOROSCOPE

Proceed Capricorn

Santa Monica Daily Press



JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS The stars show the kind of day you'll Have:
★★★★-Dynamic ★★★★★-Positive ★★★★★-Average ★★-So-so ★-Difficult



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ You are high-energy. You get past a problem that has been holding you back. You are in a cycle in which you will get ahead if you flow with different situations. Absorb new information when making plans. Tonight: Check in on an older relative or friend.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Read between the lines. You finally understand why someone has been cranky lately — or perhaps this person has been you. Through detachment, what has been hidden becomes obvious. Tonight: Off to a happening.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Your ability to relate intensely and clearly comes through later in the day, when your ruling planet moves forward. Information that has been hazy or unavailable becomes clear. Talk to a partner. Tonight: Togetherness.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Others work with you in order to obtain the results you want. The question remains: Do you know what this is? Take a strong, firm action. A gathering of friends makes you quite cheerful. Tonight: Where the party is.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ Take your time and slow the pace. Your vision will be much different from what you thought it was. How you see what happens could change quite a bit. Take in a new perspective or point of view; you will be happier. Tonight: Don't push. Let it happen.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Your playfulness emerges and delights others. Someone new or someone from the past drops into your life. What starts out as a serious inquiry could develop into a silly interchange. Tonight: Let your joy evolve.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Working with others helps you see what is going on. You hear intriguing financial news, but still think in terms of security. A partner or friend could push you very hard to get what he or she wants. Tonight: Invite friends over.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ You gain a clearer perspective than you have had in a while. Hang out and listen to those around you more. Sometimes you demand to be on center stage. Another person might be steaming. Let him or her chill out. Tonight: You feel better and better.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Expenses could be awesome, because a hunch could have been off. Analyze what it is you want. You have the ability to build your security if you think carefully and take your time — which could look like weeks! Tonight: Just don't go overboard.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ You are personality plus. Take a strong action, or at least think in terms of creative actions. Think through a decision by bouncing it off several friends and those you respect. Good news heads in your direction. Tonight: What would you like? Proceed accordingly.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ Much that goes on might be in your head. Be willing to pull yourself away from a tendency to overthink things. You might be really active or have a lot to do on the home front. A meeting proves to be delightful. Tonight: Reveal more of yourself.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Be direct and aim for more of what you want. The main issue is to make an effort and reach out to others. Think through a decision carefully. Your ability to understand someone is intensified. Tonight: Someone finally talks.



Santa Monica Daily Press

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Driving out hunger

By Daily Press staff

’Tis the season to give to those in need, especially those in need of food. The Westside Food Bank is holding its annual Holiday Food Drive to combat hunger in the neighborhoods it serves. From now until Dec. 22, the public can drop off canned goods at the Food Bank’s warehouse, located at 1710 22nd St. in Santa Monica, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., or by appointment. Goods also can be dropped off at the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce, located at 1234 6th St, suite 100, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to noon or 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. In addition, large barrels for food collection are being distributed to schools, religious congregations and businesses throughout the westside.

The Westside Food Bank supplies food to 65 social service agencies in Santa Monica, Venice, Culver City, West Los Angeles, Inglewood and West Hollywood. The Food Bank’s food reaches more than 80,000 people each year, nearly half of whom are children.

For further information or to receive a Holiday Food Drive barrel, call (310) 828-6016, ext. 18.

Student provides ‘First Look’ at new arts complex

By Daily Press staff

The Madison Project of Santa Monica College has selected a design by SMC student Vanessa Dollie to be used for promotional materials for a “First Look” event that will provide a sneak preview of the 541-seat performing arts center and music academy currently under construction.

Dollie’s submission, which blends images of the steel frame with the artist’s rendering of the building, was selected from 12 images. Each of the students, all of whom are in a graphic design class taught by professor Bill Lancaster, will win \$100, thanks to a donation from Martin Sosin, a Santa Monica tax attorney and benefactor of the college.

“It was a very challenging competition and we were totally impressed by the concepts the students came up with,” said Adam Philipson, assistant director of the Madison Project. “We are looking forward to working with Vanessa on the design

See BRIEFS, page 16



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SNOW AND SURF REPORTS

CONDITIONS

DATA PROVIDED BY ONTHESNOW.COM

BEAR MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH 12"-12"	CONDITIONS Machine Groomed Hard Packed	RUNS OPEN 1	LIFTS OPEN 1
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MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH 18"-24"	CONDITIONS Powder Packed Powder Machine Groomed	RUNS OPEN 20	LIFTS OPEN 8
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MOUNTAIN HIGH

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH 6"-10"	CONDITIONS Machine Made Wet	RUNS OPEN 3	LIFTS OPEN 2
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MT. BALDY

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH 0"-1"	CONDITIONS N/A	RUNS OPEN 0	LIFTS OPEN 0
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SNOW SUMMIT

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH 12"-12"	CONDITIONS Machine Groomed Hard Packed	RUNS OPEN 2	LIFTS OPEN 2
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JUNE MOUNTAIN

CLOSED

SNOW VALLEY

CLOSED

CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 60°

DATA PROVIDED BY WETSAND.COM

SWELL FORECAST (2-5FT)

Saturday the 3rd into Sunday the 4th we were hoping on some swell to move in from the Gulf of Alaska, but as mentioned in our last report models have favored this system's fetch hitting the coast of Oregon, with hardly any energy making it further south. As such, according to today's model run, here's how we're calling the weekend:

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

Wind swell due Friday, but rain in forecast... Tracking WNW for 8th..

TIDE FORECAST FOR SANTA MONICA

MONDAY	LOW TIDE:	12:05AM	1.6FT	1:29PM	0.3FT
	HIGH TIDE:	6:33AM	5.7FT	7:35PM	3.8FT

TUESDAY	LOW TIDE:	12:34AM	1.8FT	2:05PM	-0.3
	HIGH TIDE:	6:59AM	6.1FT	8:21PM	3.8

WEDNESDAY	LOW TIDE:	1:02AM	1.4FT	2:31PM	0.0
	HIGH TIDE:	7:28AM	5.4FT	9:15PM	3.2

THURSDAY	LOW TIDE:	1:37AM	1.2FT	3:04PM	-0.1
	HIGH TIDE:	8:07AM	4.9FT	9:40PM	3.0

FRIDAY	LOW TIDE:	2:06AM	1.1FT	3:41	0.3
	HIGH TIDE:	8:41AM	4.3FT	10:09	2.9

SURF AND SNOW QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS? EMAIL ALEX@SMDP.COM

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THE Q-LINE RESPONSES ARE IN!

WE HAVE THE QUESTIONS.
YOU HAVE THE ANSWERS.
CHECK OUT THIS WEEK'S Q-LINE RESPONSES ON PAGE 4.

BACK / UNFILED TAXES?

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

City Hall’s housing plan for the birds

Editor:
Another birdbrain idea by our City Council (SMDP, Nov. 25, page 1). Let me get this straight, taxpayers are to contribute \$200,000 to lucky applicants making \$65,000-plus annually so they may purchase a new \$400,000 condo in Santa Monica for \$200,000?
Who do you have to know on the City Council to buy one of those?

Fred Alexander
Santa Monica

Iraq and Vietnam shouldn’t be used in same sentence

Editor:
Opposition to the Iraq war from those who supported the Vietnam War is anomalous. Vietnam was never a threat to world peace, not then and not now. By contrast, Iraq under Saddam Hussein was such a threat, having used poison gas against the Kurds, invaded Kuwait, violated peace agreements and encouraged terrorism with cash payments to families of suicide bombers. Fortunately, we deposed Saddam Hussein before he could acquire nuclear weapons. The lesson of World War Two was not that it is always wrong to fight in a war, but that it is sometimes necessary to fight a small war to prevent a larger war, in the same sense that fire-fighters start a small blaze to prevent a conflagration. The peace movement before World War Two failed to realize that there is no peace to be had with an aggressive dictator who wants war. If the treaty against German re-armament had been enforcers, Europe would have been spared the horror of World War II. Do opponents of the Iraq war now want to bring back Saddam Hussein?

Ralph Meyer
Santa Monica

There ought to be a law, or two

Editor:
Yet another letter about the homeless problem in Santa Monica. I use public transportation, and go for walks twice a day all over the city. I am accosted, barged and harangued by these folks daily not just for some “spare change,” but for “a couple of bucks.” Seems like the aftermath of Reagan’s policies are even affecting the homeless.
My biggest problem with these people is the threat of contracting diseases, like ringworm, or worse, and contacting things like lice on the bus, the train, or the cloth on chairs in the coffee house or park benches, etc. The homeless are essentially “lost” in our system, and they don’t get the medical care they desperately need.
The good citizens of Santa Monica need to pass a law: No day or overnight camping or panhandling on any city property including city streets, parks and beaches, except by permit.
Although it may seem to create another bureaucracy at first glance, the fact of the matter is, it would be easier to enforce than anything the police are doing now to help maintain order. Enforcing overnight camping is simple. If someone is sleeping on the city streets, parks or beaches, they are overnight camping.
Day camping is a little more involved, because we have to distinguish between someone sitting and resting, or enjoying the day and a homeless person “camping out.” But making shopping carts in parks and beaches illegal is a good start. The permit is for events like movie night at the pier where citizens “camp out” and eat on the beach during the movie or concert. The permit is temporary. The organizers of the event would be responsible for obtaining the permit, or any citizen who wants to have an organized gathering on the beach. Having a picnic at the park is not day camping.
I admit, day camping rules would have to be specific, and may not be viable, but forbidding overnight camping and panhandling is specific.
As far as enforcement is concerned, the police would be more effective in stopping crime by essentially moving the homeless person off the streets and into the homeless shelters where they belong, rather than chasing down perpetrators after the fact. The citizens will be safer too. As far as the homeless are concerned, forcing them off the streets and into the homeless shelter where they can get the care they need is much better than where they are now. If we don’t have enough shelters, then we just have to raise the money to build them. Surely, we can find enough philanthropists in the city who can help us raise the money we need. But we have to have the law first to weed out those who want and will use the shelters from those who don’t.
If we are “pushing” the homeless out of Santa Monica and into Los Angeles or Malibu, then it is up to those cities to follow our lead, and enact the same laws.
We are not helping these people by letting them live off garbage and urinating in public and giving them “a couple of bucks.” They are sick people who need care and they have the services available to them if we force them into the shelters. If they don’t want to go into the shelters, fine, then leave the city. We’ve had enough.

Lee Fernandez
Santa Monica

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 editor@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.

The QLine

NEITHER LAWYERS NOR COUNCIL HAS APPEAL

This past week, Q-line asked:
“Do you approve of the way in which City Hall is handling its legal dispute with its former city attorneys in the case related to the MTBE water contamination lawsuit with major oil companies?”
Here are your responses:

Ⓢ “Anyone with a microscopic iota of intelligence understands that attorneys are grossly overpaid. Still, politicians and attorneys deserve one another.”

Ⓢ “ Do you ever wonder why lawyers are viewed as the scum of the earth? Twenty-five percent of \$120 million and they still hit the Santa Monica taxpayers with \$1,000 meals. Whose fault is this? The City Council. They approve hiring of city attorneys just like the hiring of city managers under fiscal suspicion. Our highly paid city attorneys should have spelled out what expenses outside attorneys were allowed. Again, we have another City Hall screw up costing the taxpayer untold millions. Who cares, right? It’s only taxpayer money. City Hall is beginning to smell like a stockyard and all the attorneys are shoveling the steer manure onto the rest of us.”

Ⓢ “Anytime you get lawyers involved the only people who end up with any money are the lawyers. They are a bunch of greedy

shysters, all of them on both sides. Shakespeare was right when he said lets ‘kill all the lawyers.’ What’s the point of it? Anytime you get a settlement the lawyers take most of it. They should just change the law to prevent these greedy lawyers from taking so much of it. And lawyers wonder why people don’t like them, this is why.”

Ⓢ “Well I think the idiotic City Council should be shot for racking up those millions of dollars that were quite unnecessary. Can’t they hire attorneys for a good price instead of racking up \$120 million? It’s just as nonsensical as the idiot council is so let’s get rid of them and get some other people in with the exception of Mr. Shriver.”

Ⓢ “This city administration has yet to handle any major problem, financial or otherwise with class, intelligence, or populace success. Why should we think they would do anything different with questionable attorneys they hired for the lawsuit against the oil companies.”

Potter’s backstory is the real read



MODERN TIMES
BY LLOYD GARVER

The time has come for me to make a confession. Because I’m in such a minority, it takes some courage to come forward like this. Here goes: I have never read a Harry Potter book, and I don’t think I ever will. Does this make me a bad person? Does this mean I’m culturally illiterate? Is this proof that I have no taste? Am I the only person in the world who has no interest in Harry, and no idea what a Muggle is? There, I said it, and I feel much better.
Once again, the latest Harry Potter movie is No. 1 at the box office. The books continue to be huge bestsellers. Readers and fans are not just kids, but adults as well. So, what’s wrong with me?
I’ve tried several times to read a Harry Potter book, but I’ve never been able to get into it. For some reason, I’ve never been a fan of this kind of fantasy literature in which the author creates a world whose inhabitants and rules are unlike the real world, but the action supposedly takes place in our real world. And it’s hard for me to worry about a main character when I know that he or she will get out of trouble by magic.
I was never a big fan of cartoons when I was a kid. Cartoon characters jump off cliffs and, because of the “cartoon law of physics,” are able to be suspended there for a few seconds before they realize they are in danger. Once they do realize this, a combination umbrella/parachute will appear and bring them safely to the ground. As a 6-year-old knowing this, I couldn’t get too worried about these guys.

I’ve seen ads for the new movie, “The Chronicles of Narnia,” (whose subtitle sounds like a punchline to an old Johnny Carson joke: “The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe).” When I saw that an animal actually talked, I knew it wasn’t for me. While I appreciate the artistry that goes into creating such worlds, they always end up seeming arbitrary and uninteresting to me.
For me, the fascinating story is the story behind Harry Potter — that of author J.K. Rowling. Her amazing tale seems more miraculous than any fantasy could be. It was always her dream to be a published author. She worked on the first Harry Potter book for five years. For year No. 5, she was impoverished, living on public assistance. She was a single mother, and whenever her baby fell asleep, she would rush with her in the stroller to a café where Rowling would get some writing done. She had never had a book published before. “Harry” not only won all kinds of awards, but made her rich. She is now wealthier than the Queen of England, and perhaps even richer than America’s queen — Oprah.
She feels her greatest accomplishment was becoming a published novelist. In a bit of understatement, Rowling says she managed to do all this because of “perseverance.” She beat the odds, and her dream came true. Now, that’s a book I’d love to read, and it’s a movie I’d be happy to wait in line to see.
I envy all of you who can be thrilled by the Harry Potter stories, but they’re just not for me. I guess if I want to be entertained by tales of evil masquerading as good or of people just ignoring reality, I’ll just have to stick to reading the newspaper’s political pages.

(Lloyd Garver can be reached at smdp@lloydgarvermoderntimes.com.)



Davies planners hope to take turn for better

415 PCH, from page 1

City Hall hopes to begin construction on the project in December of 2006. The renovations are expected to be completed in time for a public opening by January of 2009.

In October, project leaders and consultants met with 110 community members to discuss the emerging design schemes to rehabilitate the site. Two workshops were hosted by Pankow Special Projects, Ltd., the Pasadena-based design firm contracted by City Hall in July to manage the project from conception to completion.

The estate is expected to offer members of the public a unique location to host banquets, barmitzvahs, weddings and other events, as well as provide recreational activities for visitors to include a children's playground, pool, volleyball courts, maybe even paddle tennis, said Libby Carlson, who works in City Hall's community and cultural services department.

The major source of funding to refurbish the property is a \$21 million grant issued to City Hall last December by the Annenberg Foundation, a corporation established 15 years ago to help develop more effective ways to share ideas and knowledge.

In July, City Hall agreed to kick in \$3 million to round out the project.

The city's landmark commission, California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the state's Coastal Commission will also have a chance to review the final environmental impact report, said Karen Ginsberg, assistant director of City Hall's community and cultural services department, which is overseeing the project.

According to the current report, there are presently 162 parking spaces on the site, a far cry from the 374 spaces expected to be needed if facilities are in full use at the same time.

To help accommodate traffic flow, the report recommends adding 100 additional parking spaces, for a total of 262. The report said an additional 112 parking spaces won't be needed if hours of operation are adjusted to reduce parking needs.

Ginsberg said a chief concern City Hall addressed in the environmental impact report is ensuring safe access of vehicles to and from the site.

In order to accomplish this, City Hall plans to request from Caltrans the additional traffic signal on the PCH. According to the report, if no signal were installed at the intersection of the PCH and Lot No. 10 — the primary vehicular access point — there may be serious adverse traffic effects on a motorway that is already often congested, officials said.

The intersection was analyzed with the installation of one of two traffic configurations in mind, either a half-turn signal or a full-turn signal, according to the report.

A half-turn signal would stop all southbound traffic while northbound left-turning vehicles enter the site and eastbound left turning vehicles exit. Such a half signal would entail the construction of a raised median divider to separate vehicles accelerating to the north away from the site and the unrelated northbound through traffic. This would be similar to the installation currently in place at PCH and Chautauqua Boulevard/Channel Road, according to the report.

However, given the fact the lanes on the PCH are already at a sub-standard width, the report said it would not be possible to add a half-turn signal without widening the road.

The report prefers placing a full-turn signal. This would stop north and southbound traffic while northbound left-turning lanes enter the site and eastbound left-turning lanes exit. A full signal would require new striping, signage, detectors and signal heads. However, it wouldn't require the construction of a raised median divider to separate turning and through lanes or the road widening that would have to be associated with it, according to the report. One drawback to the creation of the full-turn signal is that it would make northbound exiting from access points just south of the intersection difficult.

Frederick Fisher and Partners, the team's design architect, is an internationally-recognized architecture firm based in West Los Angeles. The award-winning firm specializes in art-related design, historic building rehabilitation and residential work. Its projects include the restoration of the A. Quincy Jones Studio and adaptive reuse of the Santa Monica Bay Telephone Company Building for the headquarters for the Broad Art Foundation, among others.

As of July 25, an "e-workshop" was available at 415pch.smgov.net. The e-workshop provides historical information on the site, background information on the revitalization project and an opportunity for community members to provide input on their vision for the site.

Comments received will be forwarded to the design team.

Barbara Stinchfield, director of community and cultural services, said the e-workshop is a relatively new element for city projects. It's being used, in part, to help expedite the timetable to finish the project, as requested by the Annenberg Foundation.



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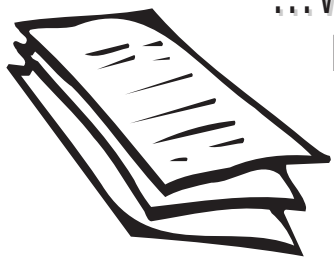
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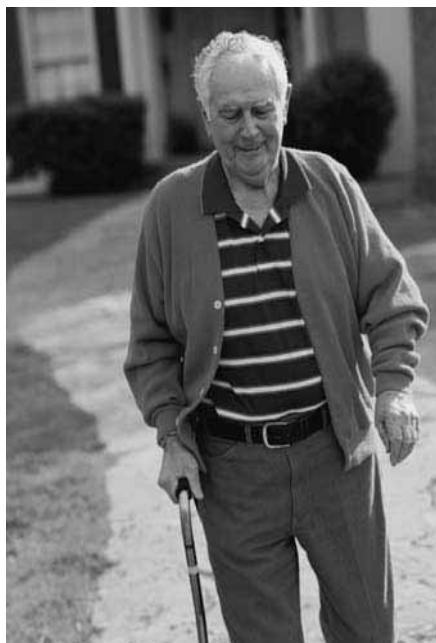
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First 'Resolution Festival' intended to inspire for '06

NEW YEAR'S, from page 1

said, adding that each event will be led by someone who has faced challenge in their life as a means to inspire participants.

The 10,000 Steps Walk will be led by Ernie Van Leeuwen, who for 10 years has been the oldest person in the Los Angeles Marathon and has recently undergone major digestive surgery.

Those events, which require pre-registration, will lead up to the free "New Year/New You Expo." The expo will feature lectures, demonstrations and booths offering supportive products and services. Throughout the day's events, which go from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., the stage will feature lectures and demonstrations designed to inspire and motivate individuals to reach and sustain their New Years' resolutions, Cohen said.

Between 40 and 50 vendors — from financial consultants to health food experts to physical fitness trainers — will be on hand to give resolution seekers advice and guidance.

"The whole day is designed to inspire," Cohen said. "We want to break down the barriers that get in the way of your goals."

"I think it will be a personal experience for many, but getting together will give it momentum," he added. "We all have it in us once we make the decision. We just need a push."

Cohen, who has obtained many goals through resolutions over the years — including losing 60 pounds, doing away with various vices and securing more fulfilling jobs — realized that declaring his intentions among other people helps.

"Ten years ago, a group of my closest friends got together between Christmas and New Year's and reflected and said, 'OK, what do you want to happen this year?'" Cohen said. "We declared our intentions and let the magic take care of itself. That first year, I said I wanted to live and work in a tropical place ... then I got a job in Fiji."

Handling the public relations for the Air Quality Management District for California, which sponsored the Twilight Dance Series summer concerts on the pier, Cohen built a relationship with Ben Franz-Knight, the executive director of the Santa Monica Pier Restoration Corp., which manages the pier.

Typically on New Year's Day, the pier is filled with football fans who rally for their teams that are playing in the Rose Bowl. But in 2006, that rally is scheduled for Jan. 4.

"It came to me one day that New Year's fell on a Sunday. There was no

Rose Bowl, no parade and I thought, let's do an event on the Santa Monica Pier on New Year's Day," Cohen said.

Franz-Knight is hoping some of the Rose Bowl alumni will participate in the activities.

"We are tremendously excited about this event," he said. "It's exciting that it's happening on New Year's Day and it's a real opportunity to get some activity in Santa Monica."

The festival has a "no excuses" theme, meaning it will happen rain or shine. The day's opening ceremony recognizes athletes who represent Challenged Athletes Foundation, which embodies the no excuses philosophy at the heart of the Resolution Festival.

Participants of the walk, run or swim will be able to designate \$10 of their entry fee to the foundation, which has satisfied more than 1,700 funding requests from challenged athletes throughout the world. The foundation will lead off the Polar Bear Swim.

Participants also have the choice to donate to four other non-profit organizations:

■ The Johnny G Foundation, which was established by the creator of the spinning phenomenon, provides support for individuals recovering from heart conditions. Johnny G, who was named one of the top 10 fitness icons by Men's Fitness Magazine, will top the list of motivational speakers during the expo.

■ Operation USA was established to support victims of hurricanes. Of every dollar donated, 98 cents will go to Operation USA to re-establish health clinics serving low-income people.

■ Team Parkinson was established to raise awareness about Parkinson's Disease and funds for research. The Soft Sand and Run will be led by John Ball, on behalf of Team Parkinson. Ball became a marathon runner after being diagnosed with Parkinson's.

■ TreePeople has worked with the people of Southern California to give them tools to take environmental action into their communities through forestry, education and sustainability programs.

Entry fees are \$35 for the 10,000 Steps Walk; \$45 for the Soft Sand Run and \$65 for the Polar Bear Swim. A special \$85 entry fee is available for those who want to participate in the swim and run, or the swim and the walk. Anyone who registers before Dec. 10 will receive a \$10 discount. Online registration is available at www.resolutionfest.com.

"Expect to be inspired," Cohen said.

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Partying in the park

PARK PARTY, from page 1

several family and teen activities.

"It's a wonderful park and we're really proud we can offer this to the community," said Hamp Simmons, City Hall's cultural affairs coordinator.

The event is being organized by Community Arts Resources, the same group which spearheads the Santa Monica Festival.

The park is located at 2200 Virginia Avenue.

FUN FOR EVERYONE

Festivities begin with a noon ribbon cutting at the corner of Pico and Cloverfield boulevards. Park guests will then follow the Santa Monica Police Department Explorer Color Guard and the Santa Monica High School Marching Band through the park to the festival stage.

There, emcee Maria Elena Gaitain will play host to the Cubano stylings of Maggie Palomo and El Son de Los Angeles, as well as the rhythms of the Tom Nolan Band. Also performing are the John Adams Middle School Jazz Band, inspirational melodies from the Calvary Baptist Church and the Santa Monica College Emeritus Gospel Choir.

Mariachi Voz de America will entertain shoppers strolling the community and vendor booths.

East Los Streetscapers artist Wayne Healy will talk about the park's new mural, "Our Pico Neighborhood," in front of the artwork.

The 9.5-acre refurbished park will showcase its many new features.

FUN FOR KIDS

For children, the Santa Monica Museum of Art will host a children's workshop in the new patio building. Other children's crafts will be led by members of the city library in the neighborhood square.

The Virginia Avenue Project will lead youth acting workshops in the park center's fitness room. Police Activities League instructors will give martial arts

demonstrations.

Grupo Folklorico Herencia Mexicana, the park's youth dance program, and local Bulgarian band Veselba, will both perform in the Thelma Terry building.

FUN FOR TEENS

Festival activities in the 2101 building and the courtyard will focus on the teenage crowd. Artist Joseph "Nuke" Montalvo of UNSK8 will teach teens airbrush and painting techniques as they create a mural for an interior wall of the teen center.

Longtime Virginia Avenue Park supporter DJ A-Ski is set to turn the courtyard into a hot music spot.

The Pico Youth & Family Center will host a Hip Hop workshop and contest.

ABOUT THE PARK

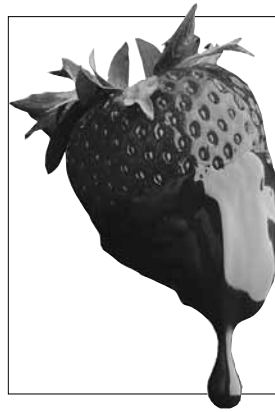
Free parking is available at Santa Monica College's parking lot structures "A" and "C" at Pico Boulevard and 17th Street. A free shuttle will transport people to and from the park. Big Blue Bus lines "7" and "11" also serve the park.

Previously covering 5.8 acres, the new Virginia Avenue Park is bounded by Pico Boulevard to the south, Cloverfield Boulevard to the east and Virginia Avenue to the north. Residences along 21st Street border the park's western edge. The police substation previously on Pico Boulevard is also being moved into the park.

The park has basketball courts, playgrounds, community meeting rooms, as well as an outdoor stage.

Work crews renovated two buildings along Pico Boulevard that used to belong to Plastic Mart. The Plastic Mart buildings — at 2101 and 2115 Pico Blvd. — are to be used for a youth center, park activity rooms, administrative offices and a fitness room for PAL.

There's a seasonal water-play area and a tree-shaded area for the Santa Monica Farmers Market, said Karen Ginsberg, assistant director of City Hall's community and cultural services department.



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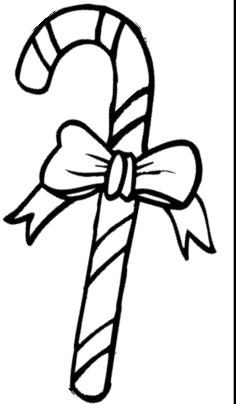
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STATE BRIEFS

Teen commits suicide amid warnings on MySpace

By The Associated Press

MISSION VIEJO — An Orange County teenager shot himself to death after posting warnings on a Web site for teens and young adults that he was going to commit suicide. The 17-year-old boy began communicating his troubled feelings at least a year ago on www.myspace.com, according to one posting. His hometown and pictures of him with his friends were on the site, but his full name was not on his home page profile. Friends became alarmed Monday night and posted messages urging him not to hurt himself, but at 8:14 a.m. Tuesday he left a message saying "call the police" and "im soo sorry."

At about 8:30 a.m., he sent a suicide text message over his cellular telephone, Orange County Sheriff's spokesman Jim Amormino said.

Friends at Capistrano Valley High School alerted school officials, who called the teen's mother. She rushed home, but paramedics were already there and they found her only child dead from a gunshot wound in a bathroom. The youth's name was withheld.

Deck the halls with trees of stars

By The Associated Press

RANCHO MIRAGE — Celebrity-decorated trees — including Tobey Maguire's "Spider-Man" creation and Dick Van Dyke's "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" tree — are going on the auction block at The Lodge.

A silent auction for each tree has begun as part of the annual A Stroll Down Christmas Tree Lane fundraiser for a multiple sclerosis organization.

The trees will be put up for a formal auction — hosted by Jack Jones and Carol Channing — on Tuesday with opening bids beginning where the silent auction leaves off, event co-chair Gloria Greer said.

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STATE

Development pushes homeowners into peril

BY DON THOMPSON

Associated Press Writer

OLIVEHURST, Calif. — Warm rains falling atop a heavy snowpack eight years ago swelled rivers tumbling out of the northern Sierra Nevada, turning pastureland north of Sacramento into a massive accidental lake.

The flooding inundated hundreds of homes and left three dead.

If ever there were a place housing developers would want to avoid, this would seem to be it. But memories of the New Year's flood in 1997 are short.

In recent years, thousands of new houses have mushroomed on the land that was under water then, part of a wave of suburban development in California's vast Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley. An ever-expanding population and sky-high prices near coastal cities are driving a housing boom in the most flood-prone part of the state.

The aptly named Plumas Lake development north of Sacramento is one of those new suburbs. When it's completed,

it will include 11,000 homes sitting atop a filled-in marsh near the former farming town of Olivehurst.

The area is framed by the Feather, Bear and Yuba rivers, which overran their levees during the epic 1997 flood.

Tony and Jennifer Nisbet moved to Plumas Lake six weeks ago from the eastern San Francisco Bay area suburb of San Ramon. Tony Nisbet makes the four-hour commute to the Bay area several days each week, but the couple says the sacrifice is worth the lower prices that allowed them to buy their first home.

Now, with the scenes of New Orleans' flooding fresh in her mind and an aging levee system not far from her front door, Jennifer Nisbet worries about their investment.

"I didn't want to spend \$400,000 on a house and have it float away," she said.

The couple asked her father if they could keep his boat in the garage: "That's our evacuation plan," she says.

See DEVELOPMENT, page 9



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STATE



Plumas Lake homes rise above the waters

DEVELOPMENT, from page 8

California's Central Valley is drained by two rivers, the Sacramento and San Joaquin. The rivers and their tributaries once flooded so regularly each winter that the valley was known as the "Inland Sea."

Decades ago, the rivers were channeled behind 1,600 miles of levees built to keep 2 million acres of cropland from the seasonal floods.

Today, about 700,000 homes are in flood areas from Sacramento north to the region that includes the Plumas Lake development, many protected by levees badly in need of repair, according to the Sacramento Area Council of Governments.

The regional agency projects an additional 250,000 homes will be built there by 2050. Tens of thousands of homes also are being built in the San Joaquin Valley south of the state capital.

Local government officials say they have little choice but to approve new construction in questionable areas, with the Central Valley's population expected to nearly double to 12 million in 35 years.

"There are those who characterize us as having entered a Faustian agreement with the devil by using development fees to repair the levees," said Yuba County Administrator Kent McClain, whose board approved the Plumas Lake development.

He said the board approved the subdivision partly to protect 24,000 residents who already lived in the danger area. About \$30,000 from each new home is helping improve 35 miles of levees, a project that should be completed in 2008.

"If you live in the Central Valley, you're pretty much living in what was a flood plain," said Susan Dell'Osso, who is directing development of 11,000 homes on an island of the San Joaquin River system south of Stockton.

That island also flooded in 1997.

The company is ringing Stewart Island with a second interior levee, betting that homebuyers will pay a premium for more flood protection. Homes atop the new 300-foot wide "super-levee" are expected to sell for \$100,000 more than those in the island basin below.

The state Department of Water Resources says the state's aging levee system protects property worth more than \$47 billion throughout the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley.

Shoring up the levees sufficiently could cost \$7 billion to \$12 billion, said Leslie F. Harder Jr., the department's acting deputy director for public safety.

That would provide enough protection for the largest flood expected to occur over a century, and add protection for urban areas.

State lawmakers and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger are considering a multi-billion-dollar borrowing program next year to pay for improvements to levees and other aspects of the state's infrastructure, including freeways and ports.

"We're not going to have enough money for everything, and some triage will probably be involved," Harder said.

The greatest flood risk in California comes from warm rain on melting snow, which Harder said can fill reservoirs and rivers to overflowing within days and tax poorly constructed levees.

The risk also carries significant financial liabilities for the state.

A 2003 court decision found the state is liable even for breaches of federally certified levees it did not build. That ruling cost the state \$500 million this year for damage caused when levees failed in the Olivehurst area in 1986 and 1997.

Development pressures present an intrinsic problem: Local governments decide whether to allow new homes in flood-prone areas, even though it is the state that bears the financial burden if levees are to blame for flooding those homes.

"We've got to figure out some way to remedy that disconnect to make sure we're not putting more people in harm's way," said state Assemblyman David Jones, a Democrat who represents Sacramento.

Lawmakers are considering mandatory flood insurance for homeowners protected by levees and requiring local governments that approve growth in flood areas to share the liability cost if levees break.

A federal certification that a levee can withstand a once-a-century flood is enough so that residents need not buy flood insurance. Yet a homeowner behind a 100-year levee has a one-in-four chance of being flooded during the life of a 30-year mortgage, double the risk of a fire.

"Statistically, we're in potentially worse shape than New Orleans. We just haven't gotten ours yet," said George Booth, senior engineer for the Sacramento County Department of Water Resources.

Joel Crawford is among the 90 percent of residents in Natomas, a rapidly expanding section of north Sacramento, who do not have flood insurance. Natomas is one of the areas identified by a regional agency as being one of the most flood-prone sections of the Sacramento Valley.

Crawford said he doesn't believe he needs flood insurance because he doesn't see a danger after living near the river in another part of Sacramento most of his life. He has seen the water level rise and fall, but isn't worried about a Katrina-style catastrophe.

"For me it's just kind of commonplace," he said of the river's periodic swelling. "I think a lot of Sacramento area residents are used to it."

Since Hurricane Katrina, Sacramento officials have been warning of the flood danger during community meetings that sometimes attract thousands of residents, more of whom are now buying flood insurance.

Statewide, just 15 percent of homeowners protected by 100-year levees carry flood insurance, meaning most would get no money to rebuild.

"When I lived in San Francisco, we worried all the time about when's the Big One coming," said Marc Molinari, who moved to his Plumas Lake home a month ago. "No matter where you are, you've got something that's going to plague you. You can't run away from everything. And generally floods are predictable — you can't predict an earthquake."

Jeffrey Mount, a University of California, Davis geology professor, has issued warnings to state legislative committees about the construction in flood areas. But he says trying to stop it is probably futile.

"We're going continue to do development and hope for the best," Mount said. "That political drive is greater than all the forces I can name in nature."

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NATIONAL

Atheist group looking to cross out memorials

BY BROCK VERGAKIS
Associated Press Writer

SALT LAKE CITY — An atheist advocacy group sued the Utah Highway Patrol and Utah Department of Transportation on Thursday seeking the removal of large steel cross memorials from state property that honor troopers killed in the line of duty.

American Atheists Inc. contends placement of the crosses, which carry the Highway Patrol's beehive logo, in state rights of way is an unconstitutional promotion of Christianity.

The lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court, seeks \$1 in damages, a court determination that the use of the UHP logo on the crosses is unconstitutional, a court order that the logo be removed and that the crosses be removed from government property. The Utah Department of Administrative Services is also named in the lawsuit.

This is the first lawsuit of its kind American Atheists has filed and, if successful, may result in others being filed in other states, said Ellen Johnson, president of American Atheists, in a telephone interview from Parsippany, N.J.

"We'll see how this case goes, but these crosses are going up everywhere," Johnson said. "We end up with little

shrines everywhere."

The 12-foot crosses are often found on the side of state highways and rest stops. They bear the names and badge numbers of state troopers killed in the line of duty on the horizontal section of the cross, with the year the individual died and the Highway Patrol logo beneath that on the vertical section.

"It gives the impression that government is endorsing a religion here," said Michael Rivers, Utah state director of American Atheists. Rivers is listed as a plaintiff in the lawsuit.

The Transportation Department had not seen the lawsuit Thursday and could not comment on it, said spokesman Brent Wilhite. The Highway Patrol is signaling its intent to keep the memorials up.

"Our statement right now without seeing (the lawsuit) is we stand behind our troopers and the sacrifice they made, which is the ultimate sacrifice for the citizens of Utah. Obviously we're going to try to keep those crosses there in their memory," said trooper Jeff Nigbur, Utah Highway Patrol spokesman.

Johnson said she believes the troopers should be honored, but that it should be done in a secular way that doesn't promote religion.

"Highways are not the way to do it, not with religious symbols," Johnson said.

New parks policy would give private donors more recognition

BY MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Interior Department is poised to begin naming benches, bricks and rooms in national parks after private donors, a practice that critics say sends mixed signals about industry influence on public lands policy.

Park Service officials say the new guidelines, which could be approved by early next year, would simply make it easier for the agency to recognize corporations and individuals who are already giving. Names already appear on plaques around parks, but the new policy would make donors more prominent.

Corporate logos would be forbidden in most cases, officials say.

"We hope to create a positive tone for philanthropy," said John Piltzecker, chief of the parks' partnership office.

The guidelines, which will be reviewed again by the agency after the public comment period closes next week, would also allow some high-level employees to solicit donations.

Piltzecker says the signs would be tasteful and unobtrusive. But environmental groups argue it's a slippery slope.

Jeff Ruch, executive director of the advocacy group Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, says the policy "starts a slow motion commercialization of the national park system."

"What will be allowed stops just short of licensing ads for 'The Official Beer of Yosemite' or 'Old Faithful, Brought to You by Viagra,'" Ruch said.

Under a worst-case scenario, Ruch said, companies that have a direct interest in national parks would take advantage of the new policy. If snowmobile manufacturers were recognized for donations to Yellowstone National Park, for example, it might appear as if the industry were attempting to influence debate over the use of their vehicles in the park, he said.

"Presumably these donations would be made with an eye toward corporate self-interest," he said.

Another fear, Ruch said, is that park visitors would be encouraged to make donations upon their visits. Currently, the parks accept donations but don't aggressively encourage them.

The order states that any new installations recognizing donors should not be placed in areas where they would "compete for attention with, or attract attention away from, the purpose for which the park was created to commemorate."

The guidelines also say that no park features or facilities can be named after donors.

The idea of increased signage has met with mixed reaction. One park superintendent, Vaughn Baker of Rocky Mountain National Park, has said he will not name rooms after donors if the proposal becomes final.

Others say more donor recognition is essential to bring in private dollars.

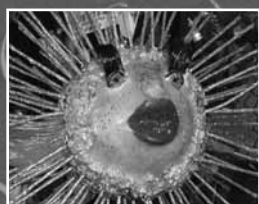
"You have to thank donors, that's just part of being in the philanthropic world," said Ken Olson, president of a group that raises money for Acadia National Park in Maine. "The question is: How do you do it tastefully?"



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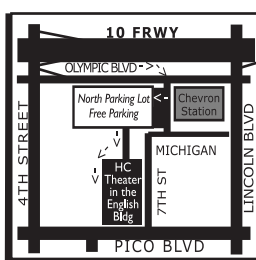
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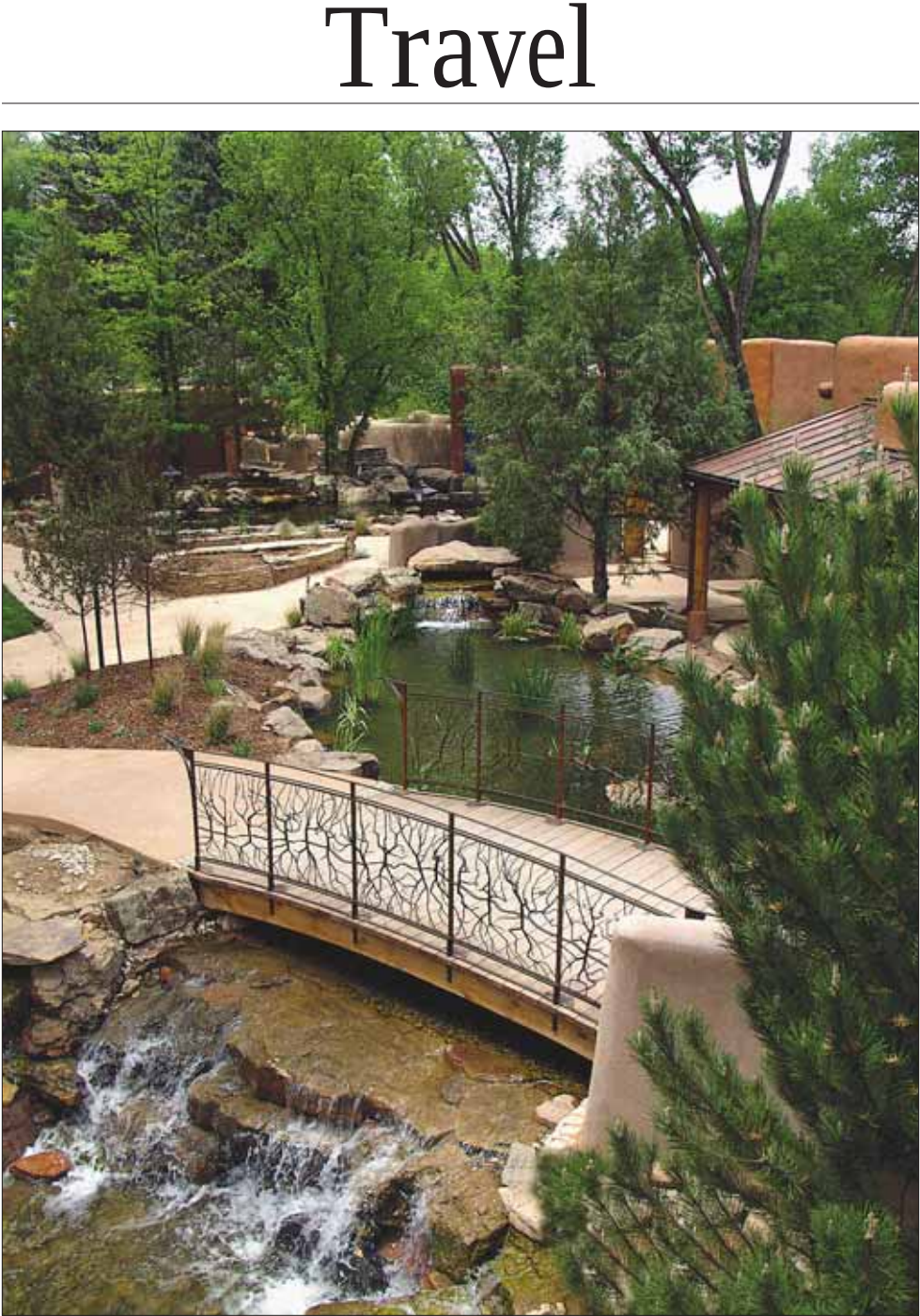
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Photos courtesy

New Mexico's Taos is as green as it gets

BY CAROLE ORLIN
 Special to the Daily Press

Over the course of the last year and a half, I have attempted to share my ideas on a wide variety of topics — everything from local politics to national and international energy policies. I have looked at immigration laws, sex offenders, vagrants and dog parks. Frequently, I have turned my attention to consumer issues: from outsourcing of airline maintenance to the difficulties in purchasing a suitable hybrid automobile; from changes in grocery shopping trends to taking action to prevent the barrage of unwanted junk faxes. I have written a multi-part series on stress reduction through the wonderful world of travel to help break the routine of normal stress in the everyday life of Southern Californians.

As I look around Santa Monica, with the frustrations inherent in the absence of real progress on the quality of life issues like those relating to homelessness and traffic, it gets harder to look outside of West LA for a diversion in the newspapers, magazines or television. We seem to be continuously bombarded by the pain and anguish of large-scale human disasters: tsunamis, hurricanes, earthquakes, fires, mudslides, the war on terrorism. I can see that I need to put more emphasis on the diversions which are created by travel.

With this brief introduction, let's travel to New Mexico. Here is a state that ranks

fifth in the U.S. for total area — more than 121,000 square miles — but a state whose total population (just more than 1.8 million people) is less than half that of the city of LA. New Mexico is easily reached by a short and inexpensive plane ride to a central location in Albuquerque, where just under 450,000 people reside. Perhaps, Albuquerque's most notable event occurs during early October, with the International Balloon Fiesta. We had the opportunity to take a dramatic flight in one of the mass ascensions, during which approximately 750 colorful balloons took to the sky all at once. What a thrill.

Next, with a rental car secured in Albuquerque, you can access some incredibly interesting locations within a couple of hours driving time. You can reach the state capital and its rich art community located in Santa Fe in less than an hour. My husband and I decided to travel about an hour or so further north to Taos, a small community of about 4,700 residents. Warning: Do not be deceived by its size. It is home to Taos Pueblo, a Native American community, where its multi-storied adobe buildings have been continuously inhabited for more than 1,000 years. Taos Pueblo is one of 19 working pueblos remaining in New Mexico, where an independent government, social order and religious practice are retained. Taos is also home to a unique resort destination

Travel



‘Hybrid resort’ luxurious, elegant

TAOS, from page 12

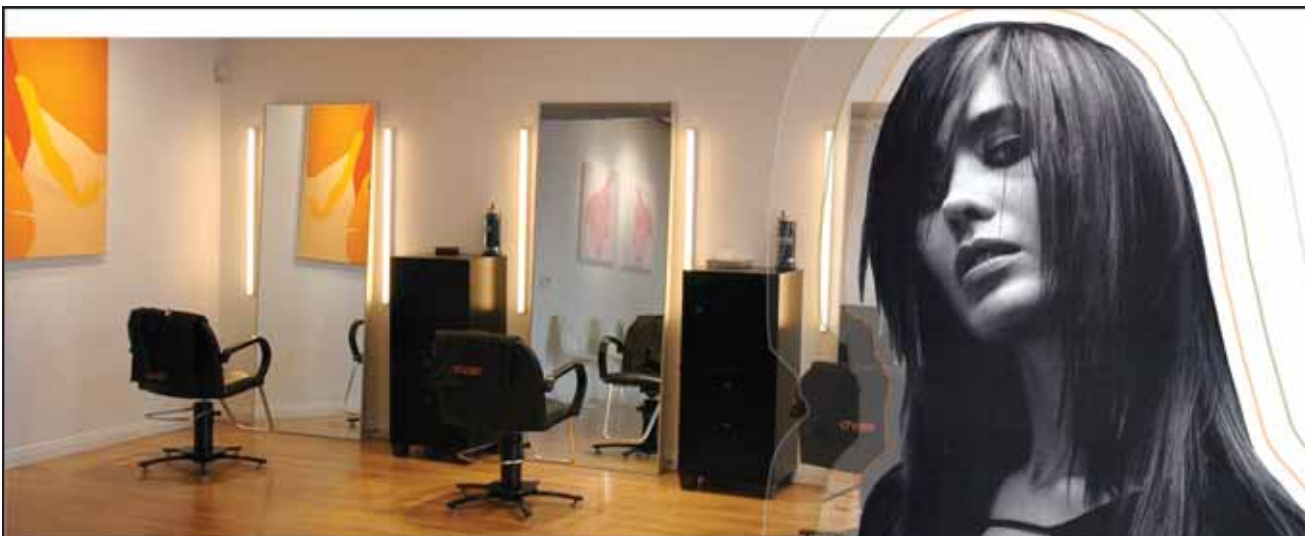
which opened in 2003, El Monte Sagrado Living Resort and Spa.

El Monte Sagrado is set within four acres of gardens at the foot of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. What sets this place apart from anything else that I have seen is what I would call being a “hybrid resort.” It is both a luxurious, elegant spa and sanctuary, while at the same time totally committed to living in harmony with the environment and to preserving our natural resources. El Monte Sagrado is the dream of Tom Worrell, a newspaper magnate with a law degree and MBA who found his true calling in environmental and humanitarian interests. In the mid 1990s, Worrell created the philanthropical Dharma Foundation. They took on a truly ambitious project in Taos. The development of their unique luxury spa surrounded by green space was built not only as a refuge from the hustle and

bustle of everyday life. It also was built as a model for a self-sustainable town, hospital, school, shopping center, or home. (Don’t worry, they do not walk around in Birkenstocks and they do shave their armpits.) They have their own wastewater treating and recycling system, called the Living Machine System, which imitates the processes used by nature to clean water. They use Curoxin, a natural water biocide, instead of chlorine and bromine to disinfect their pool water. Situated next to their swimming pool, which includes a plunge pool, wading pool and hot tub, is the Biolarium. It looks like a beautiful greenhouse but actually houses the Living Machine, where this recycling process takes place.

El Monte Sagrado uses alternative energy sources such as solar panels and zero-energy climate controls by

See TAOS, page 15



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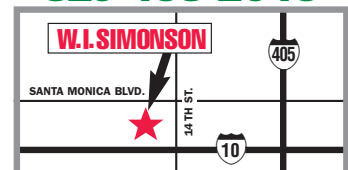
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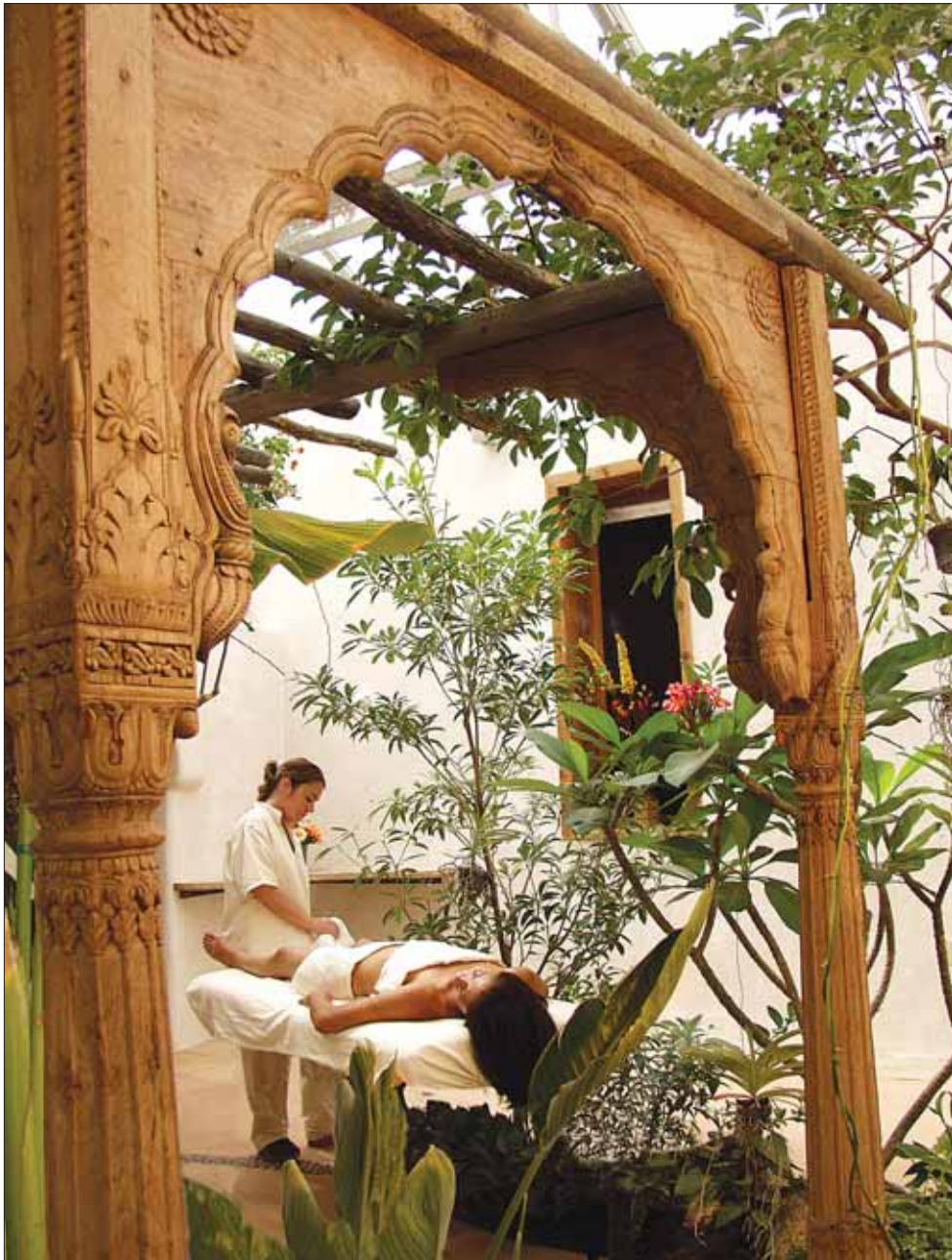
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Travel



Anaconda was top notch

TAOS, from page 13

having all the interior spaces heated by underground aquifers. The beautiful photovoltaic-covered entrance to the spa is another source of alternative energy. They plan to be entirely off the grid and completely self-sustaining within three years. They also used environmentally safe alternative building materials made from recycled power plant ash in place of concrete. El Monte Sagrado contains 36 suites, 18 of which are Native American themed, and 18 that are globally themed. We spent one night in the Spain room and one night in the Tibet room. Each suite tells a story, and it definitely takes time just to explore the many details in each room and learn the story behind it. We also got to see a beautifully designed Native American Suite and the Magpie suite that was designed by Jim Wagner, a local Taos artist. It was a fun room, filled with whimsical creations inspired by the Magpie. Learning about each room, and the artists and designers who researched and designed them was as fascinating as learning about El Monte Sagrado's environ-

mental goals.

During our visit, we dined at the elegant De La Tierra restaurant, where the dinner, service and presentation were first-rate. The same could be said for our lunch at The Gardens. The Anaconda Bar, named for the huge anaconda sculpture (evidently, anacondas mean good luck) was breathtaking. The spa services offered at The Torreon, or tower of the Living Spa, were top notch. The spa menu is extensive and impressive.

Part of the amazing experience of staying at El Monte Sagrado was learning about and understanding their environmental advances in such a luxurious, peaceful and spiritual setting. Everything in this spa sanctuary was done with such thought, detail, and yes, love. It definitely puts a new face on the old ecolodge stereotype. We left there relaxed, renewed, well-fed, feeling much better about the world, and inspired to do a little more, or at least to tread a little lighter on our wonderful planet.

(Carole can be reached at Caroleorlin@yahoo.com).

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LOCAL

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 3

Rendering courtesy

project and future competitions in Bill’s classes.”

The “First Look” event, which will be held in early 2006, will give members of the public and college community an idea of what the theater will be like when it is completed. The theater is the centerpiece of a new visual and performing arts center the college is building at 11th Street and Santa Monica Boulevard.

The theater will feature both student work and professional engagements in music, theater, dance and more. The Madison complex also will house SMC’s music department.

The center, designed by Zecchetto Architects of Santa Monica, is funded with a combination of public and private funds and is scheduled to be completed in early 2007.

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NATIONAL



Volcanic shelf falls, exposing lava stream

By The Associated Press

HAWAII VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK, Hawaii — A massive section of volcanic shelf has collapsed at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, bringing down a section of sea cliff and sending molten rock and boulders into the air.

The collapse of 44-acres into the ocean Monday exposed a 60-foot cliff and a stream of lava 6 feet in diameter shooting from the cliff face 45 feet above the water. The glowing lava has since formed a ramp of new land as it continues to pour out into the ocean, sending up a tower of steam.

The collapse of solidified lava and sea cliff is the largest since Kilauea Volcano began its current eruption in 1983.

Jim Kauahikaua, scientist-in-charge of the U.S. Geological Survey's Hawaiian Volcano Observatory, said a warning of possible collapse was issued in June because the shelf had become very large, formed cracks and was located in an area

where other large collapses had previously occurred.

The National Park Service restricted access to the area along the coast, where visitors to the park commonly gather to view the lava entering the water.

Monday's collapse took about 4 1/2 hours, beginning at 11:10 a.m., and had been anticipated by geologists because of seismic rumblings.

But even at that relatively slow pace, the effect was spectacular.

"The cliff just caved away like a glacier. It just sheared off that old wall. There's this gigantic steam plume and you see the red just falling down, an incredible fire hose display," said Jim Gale, chief of interpretation for the park.

The collapse sent out globs of lava and head-size boulders. Thin strands of volcanic glass known as Pele's hair and sheets of volcanic glass called limu o Pele, after the Hawaiian goddess of fire, were found 1,800 feet inland.

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NATIONAL

Underground economy growing in more states

(Editor’s note: They are not supposed to be here. But they are, almost everywhere, as many as 20 million strong. Illegal immigrants harvest our groceries, build our houses, make our beds and do our dishes. They are spreading beyond traditional immigrant states like California and Texas, moving wherever there is growth, affordable housing and family networks. They are increasingly found in states like Utah, Washington, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Georgia and the Dakotas. They form an underground economy that, by one estimate, produces \$970 billion in goods and services, or nearly 9 percent of the overall U.S. economy. AP reporters have been examining the phenomenon of this underground economy. This is part one in a multi-part series, which will run in the Daily Press Dec. 3-6.)

BY ANGIE WAGNER
 Associated Press Writer

LAS VEGAS — Each morning, Israel Gonzalez rises before dawn and heads to the sidewalks around the city’s plant nurseries to wait for a job. There, alongside other men, he watches for pickup trucks that slow down, hoping today he will be chosen for work.

It’s a morning ritual played out regularly in cities and towns as day laborers, mostly illegal immigrants, scramble for work in a country that comfortably accepts their work while disavowing their right to be here.

The work is steady, the money is good, and when Gonzalez gets picked up for a job, no one asks for documents or identification.

“The bosses don’t care if the papers are real or not,” he said, wearing a navy hat with an American flag on it.

Gonzalez, 31, lives with his three brothers in an apartment; none of them is legal. They are among millions of illegal immigrants who work in obscurity, in the shadows of the American economy, quietly bringing home wages from people and companies more than willing to hire them.

On paper, many don’t exist. Fake Social Security numbers and birth certificates make sure of that. They are nannies, housekeepers, landscapers, construction, farm and food service workers. Cash is paid under the table, or fake documents are accepted without question.

Illegal immigrants may number as high as 20 million, and they are gaining a larger share of the job market, according to Bear Stearns in New York.

More and more, they are spreading beyond traditional immigrant states like California and Texas. They are spreading through the West and South, where there is tremendous growth, affordable housing and family networks. They are increasingly found in states like Utah, Washington, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Georgia and the Dakotas. And they’re heading to suburbia.

This is America’s underground economy, and it generates billions of dollars worth of labor each year. Illegal workers come for the jobs, and always find companies eager to hire them.

“The toleration of illegal immigration undermines all of our labor,” said Vernon Briggs, a Cornell University labor economics professor.

“It rips at the social fabric. It’s a race to the bottom. The one who plays by the rules is penalized. It becomes a system that feeds on itself. It just goes on and on and on.”

For years, the immigrant population mainly stuck to six destination states — California, Texas, New York, Florida, Illinois and New Jersey. But in the past five years, the most rapid growth has taken place in states once of little interest to immigrants — Tennessee, Mississippi,

the Dakotas, Ohio and Pennsylvania, said Bill Frey, demographer at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C.

They are following rapid growth, going where the jobs are and where the cost of living is low. Suburbs now attract more new immigrants than cities.

In the West, the immigrant population in the Mountain states is growing faster than the rest of the region. In the South, the interior Southeast has higher immigrant growth than the more glamorous coastal states, Frey said.

The way Bob Justich sees it, America is hooked on cheap, illegal workers. As a senior managing director for Bear Stearns, he has spent the last two years meeting with immigrants, business owners, police and real estate agents to determine the size of the underground economy and its effect on the real economy.

This he knows for sure: There are way more illegal immigrants in the country than the government estimates. The government puts the number at around 8.5 million; Justich says it is more than double that — closer to 20 million, mainly because illegal immigrants don’t bother to respond to Census Bureau forms.

“If everybody was deported tomorrow, it would be like emptying the equivalent of New York state,” he said. “And this source of labor has become vital to many businesses.”

Illegal immigrants hold about 12 million to 15 million jobs in the United States, or about 8 percent, according to Justich. That may seem a small percentage, but the pressure of its presence helps keep wages for unskilled jobs low. And many of the jobs are off the books, meaning the government may be foregoing \$35 billion a year in income tax collections, he said.

That figure, however, is partially offset by employers withholding taxes for illegal workers who never file returns or seek benefits, said Marti Dinerstein, a Center for Immigration Studies fellow.

An analysis by Barron’s estimated the size of the shadow economy at about \$970 billion, or nearly 9 percent of the goods and services produced by the real economy.

The service sector employs the most illegal immigrants with 33 percent, followed by the construction industry, production and food processing and farming, according to the Pew Hispanic Center.

The hotel and restaurant businesses and construction are the big employers. More than 1 of every 4 drywall installers and landscape workers are illegal, the center estimates. About 1 in 5 workers in meat and poultry packing are illegal, as are about 1 in 6 in the leisure and hospitality industry or construction.

Illegal immigrants make far less than the rest of the population. Their average

NATIONAL



Hiring out day laborers goes unchecked

IMMIGRANTS, from page 18

family income of \$27,400 is more than 40 percent below the legal immigrant or native family income of about \$47,700, the Pew Hispanic Center found.

That's because illegal immigrants work cheap and don't complain; those that do complain are easily replaced. They have little bargaining power, and employers take advantage of that.

"We're seeing the wage bases in these industries erode simply because there is a glut of low-skill labor flooding the low-skill market," said John Keeley, spokesman for the Center for Immigration Studies. "The business community has become addicted to it. It's a way for them to keep their business costs down."

Enforcement is lax, especially in a post-9/11 world. The government doesn't have the time or resources to devote to rounding up illegal gardeners or maids; instead, it focuses on national security and critical infrastructure sites.

A Government Accountability Office report in August found worksite arrests were down from 2,849 in 1999 to 445 in 2003. In 1999, 417 civil notices of intent to fine employers for hiring illegal workers were issued, not counting civil settlements; in 2003, there were just four. Part of that may be due to employees using false documents, making it harder for employers to be held accountable.

But since the Immigration and Naturalization Service disbanded and Immigration and Customs Enforcement was created in 2003, the focus has switched to criminal investigations of national security sites instead of civil fines.

From 2004 to 2005 the number of work site criminal indictments, mostly from national security investigations, were up from 67 to 140.

But with the government occupied with national security sites, the numbers show the practice of hiring illegal workers is not only tolerated, but largely ignored.

Nowhere is that more evident than in communities across the country where thousands of illegal immigrants wait for work on street corners. With the federal government paying little attention, many cities have been forced to create day-labor sites, where job seekers can congregate at a central location without loitering near businesses and bothering citizens.

That has come with its own set of problems. Critics don't believe local governments should use tax dollars to

fund centers that cater to illegal immigrants.

In Herndon, Va., six residents, represented by the conservative legal group Judicial Watch, have sued the town over its plans to create a day labor site. And in Farmingville, N.Y., Hispanics have been beaten, harassed and evicted in disputes over day laborers.

"No one's solving the problem," said Wade Bohn, owner of Jay's Market, a gas station near where day laborers loiter in Las Vegas. The county here is considering creating a day labor center.

"They're just moving it. Instead of enacting some type of legislation that forces them to become legitimate, they're trying to find a way to corral them and put them in a center.

"Something just smacks me all wrong about that."

In the sidewalks around Jay's Market, contractors and landscaping companies pull up constantly. No one cares that men are taken to job sites where they will be paid under the table for a day's work, usually around \$8 an hour. The practice is widely known and largely unchecked.

Gonzalez is thankful for the steady work. He usually gets chosen for a job and sends money home to his wife and 7-year-old son in Mexico. Justich projects illegal immigrants will send \$19 billion to \$20 billion home to Mexico this year.

Gonzalez was deported once, but easily made his way back to booming Las Vegas, where jobs are plentiful.

"Here you can work year round," he said. "It gets hot, but the climate is a lot like Mexico."

But in the underground economy, there is no one to make sure workers like Gonzalez are getting paid and are treated properly. Many workers are willing to take risks to get cash, sometimes at horrible consequences.

A 2004 Associated Press investigation found that Mexican workers are 80 percent more likely to die on the job than are native-born workers.

The hazard is not just workplace safety. Upset that he wasn't paid for three weeks, construction worker Jesus Hernandez shot his boss to death in January 2004 in Lehi, Utah, and is now serving five years to life in prison.

In Denver, a Saudi Arabian man and his wife are facing charges for allegedly keeping an Indonesian woman captive for four years. The woman, an illegal immigrant, said she was paid less than \$2 a day to work as baby sitter, cook and maid.

"All of this brings out the worst in society," Briggs

said. "It's just like a cancer. It just eats at the social fabric. It brings out all kinds of prejudice. They (illegal immigrants) are willing to take the chance, and as long as they're there, there are people willing to take advantage of them."

If all the illegal workers in America packed up and left the country tomorrow, business wouldn't come to a halt, but experts believe it would be dramatically affected.

With cheap labor no longer available, prices would rise

See IMMIGRANTS, page 20

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All in a day's work

By The Associated Press

America's underground economy at a glance:

ILLEGAL WORKERS: The government estimates there are around 8.5 million illegal immigrants in the country, though an expert at Bear Stearns puts the number as high as 20 million, with 12 million to 15 million holding jobs.

WHERE THEY LIVE: Traditionally, the immigrant population was mainly in six destination states — California, Texas, New York, Florida, Illinois and New Jersey. Recently, they have been following rapid growth and jobs and heading to states that once held no attraction: Tennessee, Mississippi, the Dakotas, Ohio and Pennsylvania. Suburbs now attract more new immigrants than cities.

WHERE THEY WORK: The service sector employs the most illegal immigrants with 33 percent, followed by the construction industry, production and food processing and farming.

HOW MUCH DO THEY MAKE: The average family income of illegal immigrants is \$27,400, more than 40 percent below the legal immigrant or native family income of about \$47,700.

WHAT'S BEING DONE ABOUT IT: In the wake of the 2001 terror attacks, the government focuses on illegal workers at national security sites. Congress is looking at a complete overhaul of the immigration system, with several proposals being considered. The White House is expected to soon propose a guest worker program, but details are unclear.

Sources: Bear Stearns, Brookings Institution, Pew Hispanic Center, government statistics, Associated Press files

Listen to the money talk

By The Associated Press

Quotes about the underground economy:

ILLEGAL WORKERS: "The toleration of illegal immigration undermines all of our labor. It rips at the social fabric. It's a race to the bottom. The one who plays by the rules is penalized. It becomes a system that feeds on itself. It just goes on and on and on." — Vernon Briggs, a Cornell University labor economics professor.

LOW WAGES: "We're seeing the wage basis in these industries erode simply because there is a glut of low skill labor flooding the low skill market. The business community has become addicted to it. It's a way for them to keep their business costs down." — John Keeley, Center for Immigration Studies.

ON DAY LABOR SITES: "No one's solving the problem. They're just moving it. Instead of enacting some type of legislation that forces them to become legitimate, they're trying to find a way to corral them and put them in a center. Something just smacks me all wrong about that." — Wade Bohn, owner of Jay's Market, a gas station near where day laborers loiter in Las Vegas.

ON REMOVING ILLEGAL WORKERS FROM THE WORK FORCE: "It's a problem for people who aren't underground. How do they compete? Some businesses suffer. There'd be a void because this is a trend that has been growing over 10 to 15 years and to abruptly disengage this segment of the work force would have an impact." — Bob Justich, senior managing director, Bear Stearns.

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NATIONAL

Debate stirs over granting guest visas

IMMIGRANTS, from page 19

— for food, child care, household maintenance. Businesses would have to pay workers more, and the demand for workers in some trades would drop. Some smaller providers would be forced to shut down, Justich said.

"It's a problem for people who aren't underground," Justich said. "How do they compete? Some businesses suffer. There'd be a void because this is a trend that has been growing over 10 to 15 years and to abruptly disengage this segment of the work force would have an impact."

This summer, farmers in Michigan and Oregon complained they didn't have enough fruit pickers because of crackdowns on border crossings and raids of farms and communities, though the government said it wasn't doing any sweeps.

Congress is looking at a complete overhaul of the immigration system, with several bills proposed to

address immigration reform. One bill would provide temporary legal status for farmworkers who can prove they worked at least 100 days in agriculture since July 2003.

President Bush is considering allowing illegal immigrants who came to the United States before February 2004 to qualify for guest-worker visas. Those who arrived later would be deported.

But a guest worker program, Briggs said, guarantees wages will never go up, and there is no way American citizens can compete with guest workers.

"They will take over the jobs. The guest workers are tied to the industry. They are tied to the employer," he said.

Bush last year introduced a plan that would allow undocumented workers to get three-year work visas. They could extend that for another three years, but would then have to return to their home countries for a year to

apply for a new work permit, something John Gay, co-chairman of the Essential Worker Immigration Coalition, considers absurd.

"It doesn't really serve a purpose," Gay said. "You can't take 10 million people out of the economy for a year. Why would you want to do that?"

Instead of all the new reform ideas, Briggs and other experts don't understand why the government doesn't just enforce the existing immigration laws.

On the sidewalks of Las Vegas, a red truck pulls up and a swarm of workers surround it, backpacks in tow. But the employer only wants one today. The rest shuffle back to the corner, knowing there will always be another truck.

They will be back tomorrow, and the day after, fueling their part of the underground economy.

"We all come down here and want to work as an American," said Antonio Perez Vazquez, 26.

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NATIONAL



Secretive agency may spur vaccine testing

BY ANDREW BRIDGES
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — By creating a federal agency shielded from public scrutiny, some lawmakers think they can speed the development and testing of new drugs and vaccines needed to respond to a bioterrorist attack or super-flu pandemic.

The proposed Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Agency, or BARDA, would be exempt from long-standing open records and meetings laws that apply to most government departments, according to legislation approved Oct. 18 by the Senate health committee.

Those exemptions would streamline the development process, safeguard national security and protect the proprietary interests of drug companies, say Republican backers of the bill. The legislation also proposes giving manufacturers immunity from liability in exchange for their participation in the public-private effort.

“We must ensure the federal government acts as a partner with the private sector, providing the incentives and protections necessary to bring more and better drugs and vaccines to market faster,” Sen. Richard Burr, R-N.C., said when the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions approved the bill.

The agency would provide the funding for development of treatments and vaccines to protect the United States from natural pandemics as well as chemical, biological and radiological agents.

But it is the secrecy and immunity provisions of the legislation that have alarmed patient rights and open government advocates. The agency would be exempt from the Freedom of Information and Federal Advisory Committee acts, both considered crucial for monitoring government accountability.

“There is no other agency that I am aware of where the agency is totally exempt either from FOIA or FACA,” said Pete Weitzel, coordinator of the Coalition of Journalists for Open Government. The coalition is an alliance of journalism groups, including the American Society of Newspaper Editors and Associated Press Managing Editors, that wrote to lawmakers seeking amendments to the bill. “That is a cause for major concern and should raise major policy concerns,” Weitzel said.

Burr spokesman Doug Heye said the provisions would keep competitors from gaining proprietary information through FOIA. However, confidential business information already is exempt from FOIA.

“There’s no secrecy involved in BARDA,” Heye said. “That is absolutely false. This is an agency that will be putting out information daily.”

Some Democrats question whether the public would accept drugs or vaccines developed in conjunction with the agency, citing the abortive 2003 effort to vaccinate 500,000 front-line health care workers against smallpox. Only about 40,000 workers ultimately received the vaccine amid concerns about the vaccine’s safety, which health authorities initially downplayed.

“Republican leaders in Congress are now proposing a plan that would make exactly the same mistake,” Sen. Chris

Dodd, D-Conn., said in a statement. “Their plan will protect companies that make ineffective or harmful medicines, and because it does not include compensation for those injured by a vaccine or drug, it will discourage first responders and patients from taking medicines to counter a biological attack or disease outbreak.”

The bill does provide for limited compensation. However, another provision would grant drug companies immunity unless “willful misconduct” can be shown.

The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America said it was reviewing the bill. Another industry group, the Biotechnology Industry Organization, declined comment.

The National Vaccine Information Center, an advocacy group, called the legislation “a drug company stockholder’s dream and a consumer’s worst nightmare.”

The proposed law comes amid growing concern about pandemics and the government’s ability to meet such threats. For instance, the United State needs another three to five years to develop the manufacturing capacity to produce 300 million doses of flu vaccine, Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt said Sunday on NBC’s “Meet the Press.”

The agency would improve on Project BioShield, a barely two-year-old program also meant to encourage production of vaccines and drugs, Heye said.

“While some progress has been made, we still haven’t seen the participation from companies, universities and research institutions in developing vaccines we might need to protect us from the next threat, whatever that might be,” Heye said. “One of the reasons is (they) don’t want to put their very existence on the line.”

Dr. Sidney Wolfe, director of Public Citizen’s Health Research Group, said the agency as proposed would represent a setback to decades of progress in opening up to the public the process of testing the safety and efficacy of drugs.

“These provisions are extremely dangerous,” Wolfe said. “The fact that they are being proposed, really exploiting people’s fears about pandemics and epidemics, is outrageous and goes backward on the progress on the use of the Freedom of Information Act and Federal Advisory Committee Act to increase public scrutiny and increase the correctness of decisions that are made.”

Republican and Democratic lawmakers alike agree the drug industry needs some protections to encourage it to produce emergency stocks of vaccines and drugs, but Democrats have balked at providing blanket immunity without first establishing a compensation fund for patients.

Republicans are pushing for liability protections for vaccine manufacturers on other fronts as well. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., is seeking to add such protections to a defense appropriations bill.

Frist spokeswoman Amy Call said drug company concerns about liability are real. “There’s really no financial incentive for them to get into the market, sell to the government at a reduced rate and then open themselves up to losses that could potentially bankrupt them,” Call said.

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NATIONAL

Abramoff investigator staying put despite having used lobbyist's skybox

BY JOHN SOLOMON

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Democrat helping to lead the Senate investigation into Jack Abramoff's Indian lobbying had his own connections to the controversial lobbyist's team and clients, including using his sports arena skybox to raise money.

Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D., acknowledges he got Congress in fall 2003 to press government regulators to decide, after decades of delay, whether the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe of Massachusetts deserved federal recognition.

Dorgan met with the tribe's representatives and collected at least \$11,500 in political donations from Abramoff partner Michael D. Smith, who was representing the Mashpee, around the time he helped craft the legislation, according to interviews and documents obtained by The Associated Press.

The senator also didn't reimburse another tribe, the Mississippi Choctaw, for the use of Abramoff's skybox in 2001, when the tribe held a fundraiser for him there, instead treating it as a tribal contribution. He only recently reimbursed the tribe for the box, four years later, after determining it was connected to Abramoff.

Dorgan, who is vice chairman of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee that is investigating Abramoff, says he sees no reason to step down from the probe, which he and Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., are leading. He said he had no idea at the time that any of the transactions were connected to Abramoff or the alleged fleecing of tribes.

"I never met Jack Abramoff but I am appalled by what we have learned about his actions," Dorgan said Thursday. "So I have never felt there was any conflict in my helping to lead that investigation. I think Senator McCain would agree our investigation has been relentless and that neither of us will be diverted."

Dorgan's contacts, donations and fundraisers involving Abramoff tribal clients and lobbying associates, as well as those of other lawmakers, have not been examined during the Senate hearings into the lobbyist's roughly \$80 million in charges to the tribes.

The senator didn't volunteer the information, although he did disclose his donations in campaign reports over the years.

Larry Noble, the government's former chief election enforcement lawyer, said Dorgan should have considered stepping aside from the inquiry and at the very least should have disclosed all his own intersections with Abramoff's associates and tactics.

"I think any way you look at it he had an obligation to disclose," Noble said. "It is hard for anyone not to see a conflict when you're investigating the same activity you yourself were involved with."

Over the last month, the AP has reported that about four dozen lawmakers, Republicans and Democrats, collected donations from Abramoff's tribal clients and firm around the time they wrote letters to the Bush administration or Congress favorable to the tribes.

Congressional ethics rules require lawmakers to avoid even the appearance of a conflict of interest in performing official duties and accepting political money. The Justice Department is investigating whether Abramoff, already charged with fraud in a Florida case, won any undue influence through donations and favors.

Dorgan on Monday sharply criticized the AP for reporting last week that he collected \$20,000 from Abramoff's firm and tribes in the period when he wrote a letter urging the Senate Appropriations Committee to fund a school construction program that Abramoff's clients and other tribes wanted.

The senator, who has Indian tribes in his state, said he long supported the program, and the letter and donations had no connection. And he asserted that he never took any action or received any campaign help that knowingly involved Abramoff.

Dorgan, however, benefited from the very arena skybox that has become a symbol of Abramoff's controversial efforts to win Washington influence, records show.

The Mississippi Choctaw tribe, an Abramoff client that has been a primary focus of Senate hearings, sponsored a fundraiser March 28, 2001, for Dorgan's political group, the Great Plains Leadership Fund. The event treated Dorgan and his donors to a bird's-eye view of a professional hockey game from a skybox Abramoff leased in Washington's MCI Center, while lobbyists got the chance to bend his ear.

Dorgan knew the fundraiser was sponsored by the Choctaw and that two Abramoff lobbyists attended, but at the time he didn't know they were connected to Abramoff, his spokesman said. "He was told the skybox was the Choctaws'," Barry Piatt said.

Dorgan didn't reimburse the tribe, instead reporting the event as an "in-kind" \$1,800 tribal contribution without specifying it involved the skybox.

Piatt said reporting it that way was legal and normal. The senator reimbursed the tribe \$1,800 for the skybox earlier this year when he learned from reports that it was connected to Abramoff, Piatt said.

Documents the Senate released show Abramoff charged the Choctaws \$223,679 to underwrite use of the skybox in 2001, the year of Dorgan's fundraiser, even though the tribe "very rarely" used it. Dorgan has denounced the fees as outrageous.

Dorgan and his staff met several times with Abramoff's lobbying team, according to the lobbying firm's billing records.

Smith, the Abramoff associate who represented both tribes and the Northern Mariana Islands, billed for at least four meetings with Dorgan or his staff in 2001. He billed for two hours on the day of Dorgan's skybox fundraiser for a discussion with the lawmaker on "minimum wage legislation," the records state.

Investigators have information suggesting Dorgan and his staff may have had more than 20 contacts with Abramoff's lobbying team involving the Marianas, tribes and other clients over the years, said a person directly familiar with the investigation who spoke only on condition of anonymity because of the probe continues. Piatt said Dorgan's office doesn't keep records of staff meetings but that any notations in billing records shouldn't be trusted because Abramoff was fired from his firm over his billing practices.

Dorgan's office acknowledged he met in 2003 with representatives of the Mashpee, the Massachusetts tribe that Abramoff signed as a client and Smith represented. The tribe was trying to persuade the federal government to rule on its decades-old request to be formally recognized.

The senator used his position as a member of the joint House-Senate committee that approved the final Interior Department spending bill for 2004 to craft a provision that pressed the agency to "complete its review of the Mashpee petition as expeditiously as possible."

"Absolutely, he was involved. The tribe asked him to be involved and the Massachusetts senators supported it," Piatt said. "They had 29 years of waiting. It seemed like a reasonable thing to do."

Piatt said he didn't think Dorgan's help was significant because the action didn't order Interior to make a specific conclusion, only urged it to act more quickly.

But the Mashpee say the lobbying paid off because Dorgan's provision prompted Interior to speed its decision-making process. The tribe credits Dorgan and one of his colleagues, Sen. Conrad Burns, R-Mont., another frequent recipient of Abramoff tribal donations, for the provision.

"Both Senator Burns and Senator Dorgan were helpful," Mashpee spokesman Scott Ferson said.

The summer before the help, Smith sent three donations to Dorgan totaling \$1,500, while a separate Abramoff client, the Saginaw Chippewa, sent Dorgan a total of \$10,000. The Saginaw were interested in a second provision in the same Interior spending bill, inserted by Burns, that provided the tribe \$3 million in school construction money.

The spending bill was finalized Oct. 27, 2003, with both the Saginaw and Mashpee provisions.

Six weeks later, Smith donated \$5,000 to North Dakota Senate 2004, a joint fundraising committee set up to help Dorgan's re-election. Smith made a second \$5,000 donation to the same Dorgan committee in February 2004, campaign reports show.

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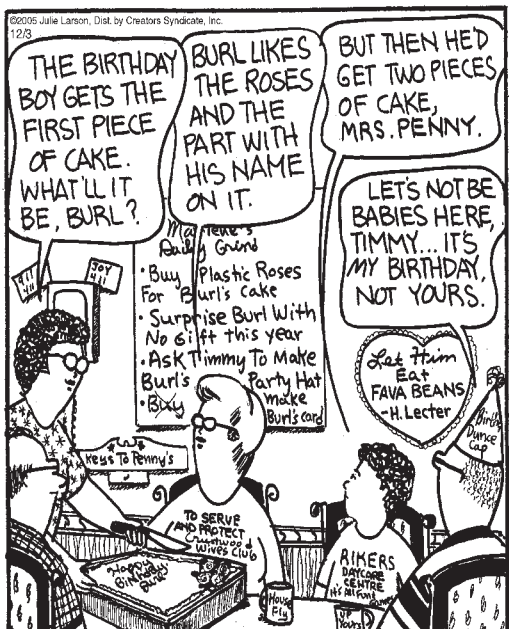


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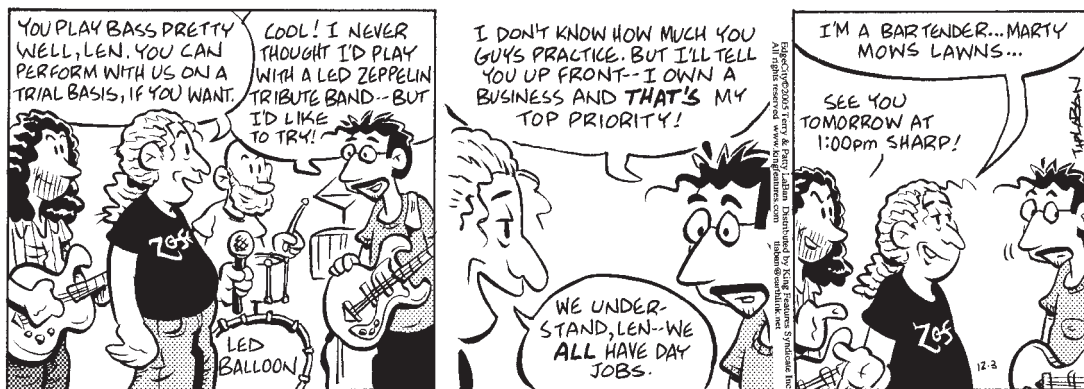
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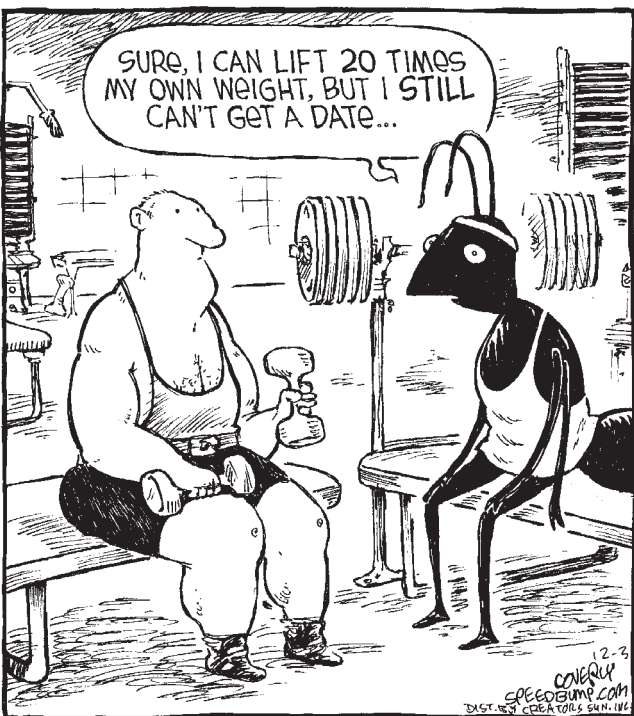
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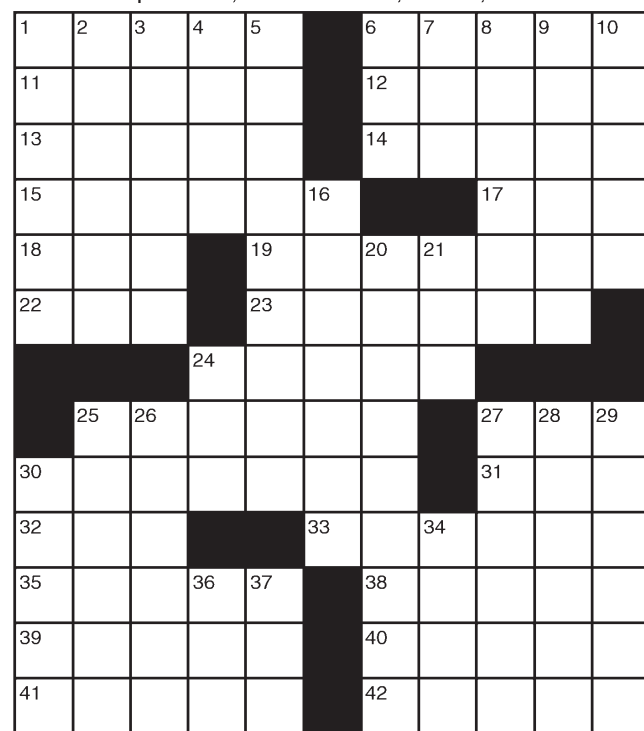
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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 2546753 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Universal Home Supply, 15018 Sylvanwood Ave, Norwalk, CA 90650. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Alexander Carlos, 15018 Sylvanwood Ave, Norwalk, CA 90650 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/ Alexander Carlos
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 10/21/05. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 11/19/2005, 11/26/2005, 12/3/2005, 12/10/2005



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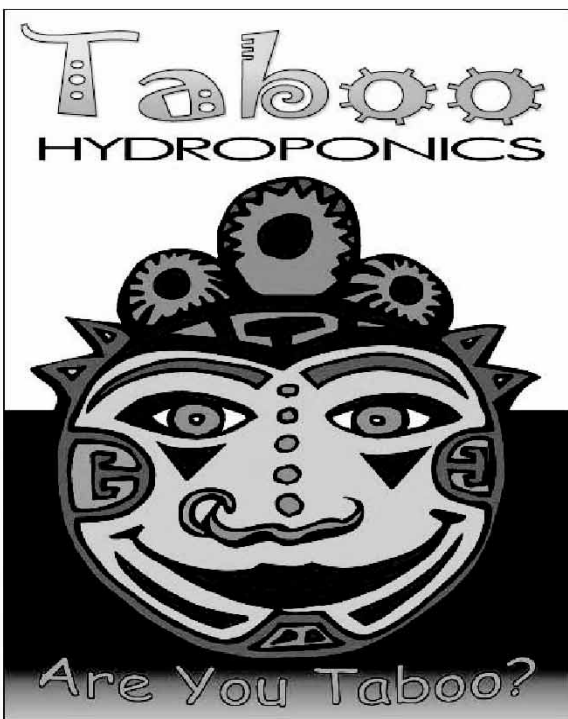
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