



FREE

Santa Monica Daily Press

December 4-5, 2004

A newspaper with issues

Volume 4, Issue 19

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

4 5 9 20 34
Meganumber: 23
Jackpot: \$7 Million

FANTASY 5

17 24 25 31 34

DAILY 3

Daytime: 4 7 0
Evening: 2 4 4

DAILY DERBY

1st: 08 Gorgeous George
2nd: 02 Lucky Star
3rd: 01 Gold Rush

RACE TIME: 1:14.74

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

In November, four University of Memphis basketball players, who share an apartment on campus, reported a break-in, with items missing (according to the police report obtained by WPTY-TV) including \$6,000 worth of shoes, \$4,000 of custom-made shirts, \$6,000 of trousers and \$40,000 of mink coats.

TODAY IN HISTORY

In 1942, U.S. bombers struck the Italian mainland for the first time in World War II.

In 1945, the Senate approved U.S. participation in the United Nations.

In 1965, the United States launched Gemini 7 with Air Force Lt. Col. Frank Borman and Navy Cmdr. James A. Lovell aboard.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"A man is known by the silence he keeps."

OLIVER HERFORD
AMERICAN AUTHOR (1863-1935)

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FBI blames three SM bank heists on 'Big Bills Bandit'



Photo courtesy of FBI

The "Big Bills Bandit" is caught on a bank video surveillance camera amid one of his 17 bank robberies.

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

Federal authorities have linked 17 bank robberies — three of which occurred in Santa Monica — to a suspect they have dubbed the "Big Bills Bandit."

The FBI is looking for a black

man, between 5'7" and 5'10" tall and 35 to 40 years old. He's been dubbed the "Big Bills Bandit" because he demands nothing smaller than \$20 bills.

The suspect, who's considered armed and dangerous, is believed to have robbed US Bank on Santa Monica Boulevard in July, First Federal Bank on Main Street in September and the Bank of the West on Colorado Avenue in October.

His most recent bank robbery was in Monrovia on Nov. 23 at Granite State Bank, where he actually grabbed the money out of the teller's hand and then threatened to shoot someone, said FBI spokeswoman Laura Eimiller.

"Through the pictures and descriptions we have, we believe he is the same individual (in all of the robberies)," Eimiller said.

He is very well dressed, usually threatens he has a gun and uses

See **BANDIT**, page 7

The ol' switcheroo



Susan Tam/Special to the Daily Press

Actress Marion Ross prepares to flip the switch and illuminate the Third Street Promenade on Friday evening. Ross was the guest of honor for the annual Winterlit lighting ceremony that kicks off the holiday season in earnest.

Santa Monica fixture, beloved mother dies

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

Esther Smicklas, mother of Santa Monica Councilwoman Pam O'Connor, died on Friday at the age of 93.

During the 12 years Smicklas lived in Santa Monica, she accompanied her daughter and partici-



event and public meeting O'Connor attended in her capacity

pated in many community events, including dozens of City Council meetings. She was seen at virtually every

as a City Councilwoman and community member.

Wherever O'Connor went, Smicklas wasn't far behind. She was a fixture at the Santa Monica Pier's Twilight Dance Series during the summers, enjoying the diverse music and performers. This past summer, Smicklas listened to the bands in her wheel-

chair behind stage, along with City Councilman Ken Genser's mother, who sat in her wheelchair next to her.

Genser said Smicklas had a strong sense of humor. He remembers Smicklas riding in the front seat of his car on a road trip to Yosemite where O'Connor and

See **SMICKLAS**, page 8

Police nab car thieves, recover stolen property

By Daily Press staff

Local police have arrested two people who are believed to be responsible for burglarizing a

local business and stealing a car in Santa Monica.

Brandon Birchall, 23, of Santa Monica, and Tammy Kim, 29, of Los Angeles, were arrested on

Wednesday for allegedly stealing a car and being in possession of items stolen from a business in the 3300 block of Ocean Park Boulevard.

At 10:15 a.m., Dec. 1, a Santa

Monica Police officer saw a suspicious vehicle in the 1200 block of Franklin Avenue. Information on the license plate showed that the

See **HOT CAR**, page 8

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Order in tonight, Cancer

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)
★★★ Even if you have firm plans, watch them dissolve. You will have a better time anyway! Give up fighting the inevitable, and go with the flow. Tension surrounds a call or a desire to take off and a need to stay close to home. Tonight: Put your feet up.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Your playful personality emerges. Some might do a double take as you act like a kid again, especially if out enjoying seasonal happenings. A partner needs your attention. Schedule time for him or her in the late afternoon. Tonight: Try being a teenager in love.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Relax at home. Return calls, but even more important, get your long-distance cards in the mail. You cannot keep yourself cooped up for long. Join friends or a partner. Be delighted that others care so much and want you with them. Tonight: The action lands at your place.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Get errands done. Get into decorating your house. Others might want to play Santa and go off shopping. Only fatigue will stop you. Relax at home later. If possible, don't go out again. Tonight: Order in.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Wherever you are, you are spending or overindulging. Do remember that there is a tomorrow. Nevertheless, whether playing Santa or hooking up with friends and enjoying eggnog, you have a wonderful time. Tonight: Careful. Make sure you have enough cash!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ You are the lead actor today. Know what you want, and make it so. If you want to do nothing, that is OK too. Just know that others will miss you and seek you out. Iron out tension at home. Talk about holiday plans. Tonight: What YOU want.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★ Hide out or vanish. You don't have to act like a mummy or ostrich, but you need some time to yourself. Sometimes you run around and get so busy, you don't really stop and think. Relax. Screen calls. Tonight: Do nothing, if possible.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Focus on what you want. Certainly, whatever you do, you will be surrounded by people — hopefully friends. Many will decide to clear out some shopping before meeting up with a friend or loved one. Tonight: Wherever you are, there is a party.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Check in on an older relative. You also might need to drop in at work and clear out some additional paperwork. You will be more relaxed as a result. When you join friends or a loved one to share some holiday cheer, you won't have a care on your mind. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ You might decide to scout out a new area or shop in a new place. Enjoy the change of scenery, but also dote on yourself. Buying or doing something special for the Goat would put a big grin on your face. Tonight: Get tickets to go hear some Christmas music.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Deal with a partner or loved one. Realize what you want to do with this relationship. Share more of your long-term goals. Prevent friends from breaking into this very personal day. Express your caring. Tonight: Be discreet.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Others dominate. You might not be able to say "no" to certain friends or invitations. Take time to buy a new Christmas outfit or to do some shopping. Drop in on an older friend or relative who might be blue. Tonight: You might crash several parties.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Fleeting thoughts: RAND on the move

By Daily Press staff

The RAND Corporation, one of the world’s leading research institutions for more than 50 years, has relocated about 1,000 staff members to its new headquarters building on Main Street signaling an important new step in the nonprofit organization’s evolution, officials said.

Designed by Los Angeles-based DMJM Design and built by Turner Construction Co., the new headquarters adjacent to RAND’s longtime home was constructed to reflect the institution’s values of researcher collaboration, conservation of client and natural resources, and an ability to adapt to future changes, officials said. It cost approximately \$100 million to build.

“Our new headquarters design will stimulate and inspire creativity and collaboration among our researchers, who produce some of the most innovative and forward looking research and analysis in the world for our public and private-sector clients,” said RAND President and CEO James A. Thomson. “The headquarters also signals our continuing commitment to Southern California as our home, even as we extend RAND’s reach into more regions around the United States and the world.”

RAND has been headquartered in Santa Monica since it was founded in 1948. It also has domestic research offices in the Washington D.C. area, in Pittsburgh and in New York City. RAND Europe offices are located in Leiden, The Netherlands; Berlin, Germany; and Cambridge, United Kingdom. The RAND-Qatar Policy Institute is located in Doha, Qatar.

Next spring, RAND will host a variety of events for local, state and national leaders — as well as the local community — to celebrate the completion of the new headquarters and highlight RAND’s continuing contribution to the local community, the nation and the world.

Local teachers make the grade, get certified

By Daily Press staff

The local schools superintendent and school board are proud to announce that among its staff of teachers, 19 elementary and secondary school teachers achieved National Board Certification in 2003-2004, according to the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

The percentage of local teachers passing certification this year is substantially higher than the national average. The total brings the total National Board Certified teachers in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District to 44, officials said.

The following teachers have successfully completed the rigorous National Board certification process in 2003-2004:

Sylvia Jiminez, Edison Elementary School; Linda Beasley, Edison Elementary School; Lori Orum, Edison Elementary School; Tracy Levin, John Adams Middle School; Lisa Bartoli, Franklin Elementary School; Cindy Thatcher, Will Rogers Elementary School; Amy Bisson, Santa Monica High School; Adrienne Karyadi, Santa Monica High School; LaSonya Roberts, Santa Monica High School; LaShawn Moore, McKinley Elementary School; Rob Thais, Santa Monica High School; Stephanie Gross, Lincoln Middle School; Staci Erlandson, Roosevelt Elementary School; Wendy Berman, Webster Elementary School; Jill Matthews, Cabrillo Elementary School; Susan Scheer, Cabrillo Elementary School; Cindy Weinstock, Cabrillo Elementary School; Anna DeShautelle, Malibu High School; Kelly Didion, Point Dume Marine Science Elementary School; and Cindy Johnson, Point Dume Marine Science Elementary School.

The National Board’s mission is to advance the quality of teaching and learning by:

- Maintaining high and rigorous standards for what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do.
- Providing a national voluntary system certifying teachers who meet the standards.
- Advocating related education reforms to integrate National Board Certification in American education.

See BRIEFS, page 5



SURF REPORT

Look for 2-3 ft.+, knee- to chest-high sets on Saturday, and fair+ conditions. On Sunday, 3-4 ft., waist- to shoulder-high, occasionally 6 ft. and poor+ conditions.

A steep, new NW swell fills in on Saturday to keep the waves from dropping too much. NW wind swell mix will build late in the weekend and into early next week to boost the surf once again. On Saturday look for a new, steep NW ground swell (290+300+) to fill in as the old swell fades.

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

Today the water is:

57°

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	9:12	3.2	9:20	0.9	4:18	4.0	1:52	3.9
SUNDAY	10:34	2.6	10:04	1.0	4:41	4.3	3:29	3.7
MONDAY	11:27	1.9	10:44	1.2	5:03	4.7	4:51	3.6
TUESDAY	12:11	1.1	11:23	1.4	5:28	5.2	5:58	3.7
WEDNESDAY	N/A	N/A	12:53	0.2	5:56	5.8	6:57	3.8
THURSDAY	12:01	1.6	1:35	-0.5	6:28	6.3	7:51	3.9
FRIDAY	12:40	1.8	2:18	-1.1	7:04	6.7	8:44	3.9

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CHECK OUT THIS WEEK’S Q-LINE
RESPONSES ON PAGE 4.



MATT CRABBS



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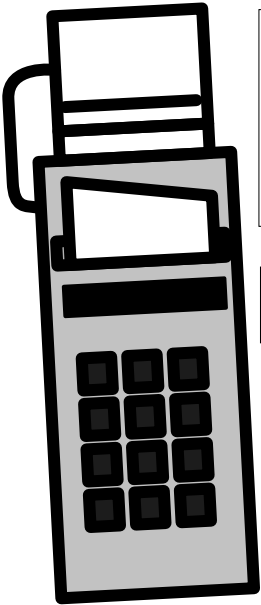
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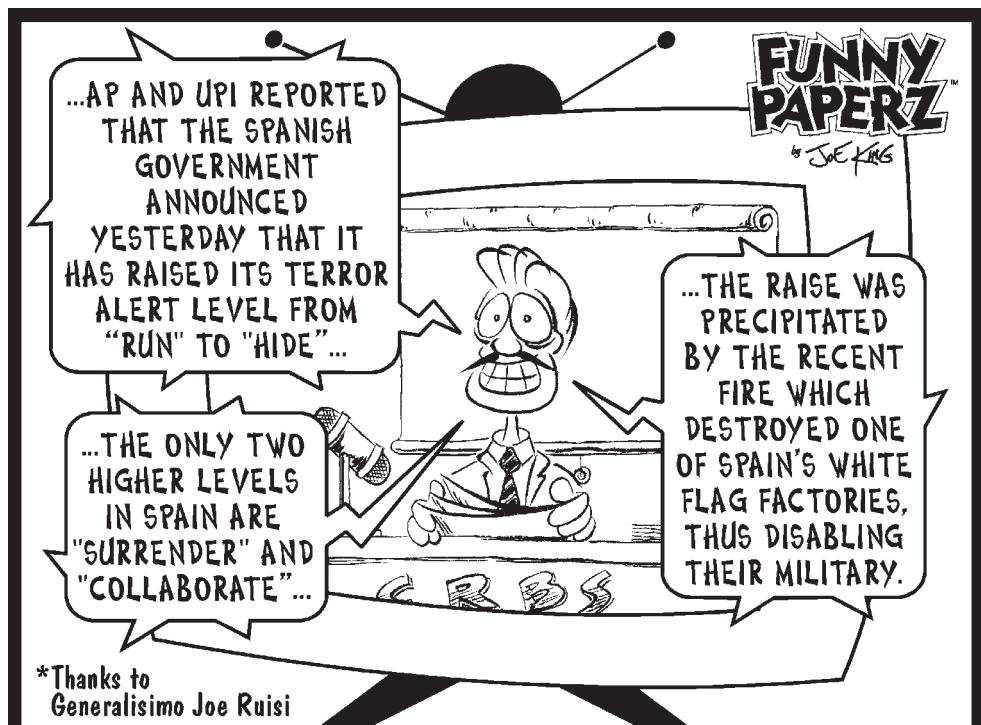
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OPINION



TOON IN FOR OUR BILINGUAL SIMULCAST...

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

War is hell ... but good for the economy

Editor:

Thanks to an article by Derrick Z. Jackson of the Boston Globe, I was reminded of some things which resigning Secretary of State Colin Powell said regarding decisions made in the Vietnam War. Sadly, he, as well as those he criticized about 30 years ago, "quietly acquiesce(d) in half-hearted warfare for half-baked reasons" and "bowed to groupthink."

Is our economy so dependent on the military industrial complex that we are doomed to fight endless wars against phantom menaces if there are no real ones? If Osama bin Laden and Abu Musab Zarqawi didn't exist, would we have to invent "evil doers" like them? Did Sen. John Kerry lose the election because we couldn't afford a peacemaker?

John Wisdom Dancer
Canoga Park

OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff.

Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to sack@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite 202, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

The QLine

MACERICH'S PLANS FOR SKYLINE A LOW BLOW

This past week, Q-line asked:
"Do you support the idea of the Santa Monica Place mall being replaced with three 21-story luxury apartment towers? Why or why not?"

Here are your responses:

© Developers who would not be caught dead living in Santa Monica build these elevated rectangular eyeshores with investors' money, and then after completion, take their profit and sail off to the luxury resort areas of the world, leaving the residents of the community to endure the horrors of traffic congestion and overcrowding. The worst reason in the world to do anything is for monetary profit only. The best reason is to improve the photosynthesis and the aesthetics of the community. If any project is approved, I would hope it to be for apartment structures only, with beautiful garden-like park lands surrounding the project."

© "I'm certainly not in favor of Macerich's company going ahead and building those bloody tall buildings, because many years ago, my husband tried to build a complex on Ocean Park, and it was denied because it was too high. And we're not talking, many, many stories, we're talking about a huge behemoth 21 stories! So I think it's outrageous in the city of 'Samolicious.'"

© "The Macerich proposed plan is ludicrous, dangerous and ugly. The affordable housing clause is just to make the creepy developers look like good guys, which they are not. The parks are thrown in for the same reason. And these would just be more flop space for the bums anyway. But as for a few well-chosen pawns, (which) are sufficiently greased, you can be sure they will get their way. Let's not forget, the glutton of people, vehicles and unimaginable traffic congestion that will ensue. It's horri-

ble now. How can anyone in their right mind want to add to this mess?"

© "I was reading about the plans to raise the Santa Monica Place Mall. I don't know, that was pretty neat when it went in, actually I did think that the Third Street Promenade was sufficient for many, many years. I don't like the idea that it's going to be luxury apartment towers in there, where the Santa Monica (Place) mall is now. I prefer it to be affordable housing, and of course we need parking spaces. But I just don't like any more retail stores, and I think we got plenty of office spaces around. I'd like to see a survey of how much of the office space all over town now, such as at Colorado Center, showing how much of those office buildings are vacant and how much are being rented. But I just cringe at the thought of more luxury apartment towers. I just cringe."

© "I do not support the idea, and nevermind that it will ruin the Santa Monica skyline. Does anyone understand that it will throw like 4,000 to 5,000 cars into the traffic that already doesn't move anywhere? I don't get it, but I do get it because it's going to generate millions of dollars. That's the key word for the greedy town of Santa Monica."

© "I think the idea of the 21-story towers, or whatever they are, is just ridiculous. It's not going to look like Long Beach, I hope. I like Santa Monica as small, nice. It's worth many more millions of dollars to have Santa Monica a nice, small, wonderful beach commu-

See Q-LINE, page 5

Bearing it all: A good hibernation can be healthy



MODERN TIMES

BY LLOYD GARVER

My name is Lloyd G. and I'm a napper. Now that I've got it out in the open, I hope millions of others will proudly admit what they do on the privacy of their bed or couch. It's time for an end to the American prejudice against naps and nappers. Those who like to catch a few Zzz's now and then should be able to do so without shame or fear of ridicule.

Our culture's prejudice against napping also applies to sleep in general. It's as if the fewer hours per day that you claim you sleep, the better person you are. People brag and say, "I only need five hours of sleep." They boast like this because they improperly think of sleep as a weakness or an annoying need. Instead, it's time we viewed it as a pleasurable experience. Then that macho guy won't come into the office bragging about five hours of sleep last night. Instead, maybe

he'll brag that he got 10 hours of pleasure.

Certain people are so embarrassed about sleep that they rarely admit that they even do it. Some feel the need to begin each conversation with, "I didn't sleep well last night." Why are they telling us this? They don't report on their other bodily functions. And let's say you call someone up at four in the morning. After realizing the time, you apologize for waking them, and invariably they'll say, "No. I was up." What are they ashamed of? Why can't they just admit they were sleeping?

And if you happen to call during the day and obviously wake them and apologize, they'll act as if you've just accused them of some mortal sin. "Me? Napping? Don't be ridiculous. I've got better things to do."

In our culture, anything that doesn't appear to be productive — anything that doesn't look like you're in the process of earning a buck — is frowned upon. But of course, napping is very productive. It's rejuvenating. And it feels nice and cozy, especially in the cold weather. Many other cultures recognize the value of a nap, and make room for it in their day. The "siesta"

is considered just as important as eating and working. In those cultures, people who choose to work in the late afternoon rather than sleep are the ones who are considered weird.

Throughout our history, even presidents have been criticized for napping or sleeping too much. This makes no sense. First of all, the more hours per day that a president sleeps means he has fewer hours to mess things up. Secondly, if there is some kind of crisis or emergency, I want my president well rested.

Some people say they can't nap, or they tried it a few times and didn't like it. My advice to them is to not give up. I firmly believe that, if properly motivated, anyone can learn to nap. Besides, if everybody quit trying other bedroom activities just because they didn't work out the first few times, where would we all be today?

Just to be clear, I'm only advocating responsible napping. I'm talking about things like the "I've got a few minutes before dinner nap," the classic late Sunday afternoon nap, and the "Boy, is this a boring movie nap." I'm not talking about people who nap to avoid work or to

escape responsibilities. Proper napping's all about balance.

It's not going to be easy for everyone to get rid of the guilt they feel about sleeping during the day. It's ingrained in us. So, maybe the best thing for those of you who are just starting out is to take a nap right after doing something important. That way, you won't feel like you're being irresponsible or lazy. Take a nap after you've played with your children, or after you finish that difficult project, or after you've made that uncomfortable phone call. If you really want to take a nap with absolutely no guilt whatsoever, do it after you finish your most important task of the day. In other words, a good time for a nap would be right about ... now.

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

OPINION



The Q Line

Q-LINE, from page 4

nity. Also, what about the traffic? Herb Katz promised better traffic. I don't think that's going to mitigate any traffic. And it's just too many people, too much garbage, and too much money for the developers, no doubt."

© "I absolutely do not support the idea of a bunch of 21-story luxury apartment buildings in downtown replacing Santa Monica Place. That particular mall would do really well if they'd just quit screwing up the parking and let us get in and out. I kind of quit going there when they tore up Fourth Street. Also, this is Santa Monica, not Miami. Miami is a mess, and it looks like a mess, and that's what's going to happen to Santa Monica if they keep this up."

© "Well this plan to tear down Santa Monica Place is kind of stupid. It's not even that old, and they want to build these high-rises which would bring even more traffic, more traffic and more traffic — we don't need it. And then this is just after they spent all that time and money

putting in escalators in Santa Monica Place. Next thing you know they'll be tearing down the brand new library that they haven't even finished yet. It's ridiculous. In Europe, they've got buildings that are hundreds of years old. Here, we tear down things when they are 20 or 30 years old. It's totally ridiculous."

© "I'd like to see the project that Macerich is putting out. I'd like to see it not done down by the beach at the Santa Monica Place Mall, but instead, put it on Cloverfield where Ocean Park Community Center is supposed to be doing a homeless center. Put the homeless center where the Santa Monica Place Mall is, and bring the open space, the affordable housing, the park space, the retail and all of the good economic shot in the arm that that project would bring — bring it to a neighborhood that needs it. They'll still be able to see the beach from there. Those towers are 21-stories high. OPCC would still be closer to their constituency downtown. Pico neighborhood benefits. Everybody wins ... tell them to do it somewhere else, or else just don't do it in Santa Monica."

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 3

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RECREATION

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BY THADDEUS REICHLEY

So, it's the beginning of December and I just realized something that is missing here in Santa Monica — seasons. When I lived in Colorado, it was usually early October when I would have to pull out the tights and gloves for my daily runs. In Seattle, October signifies the end of the dry season, which begins around Sept. 25, and means that every time you step outside you should be prepared with a personal flotation device. Even San Francisco had a noticeable change in the weather around this time of year when it went from partially foggy to really foggy. Those of you who have lived in other places know what I am talking about. For those of you who have lived here all your life, it's called "winter" and it is a great thing.

I have seen an increased number of scarves lately, Starbucks is pushing the eggnog lattes, and down jackets are coming out of the closets. But, even though the calendar tells me it's here, and the Christmas music on the radio is a painful hint, it just does not feel like winter to me. To me, winter is a scrape your windows, wear two pairs of socks, sip-coffee-all-day-like-a-chain-smoker-time-of-year. The weather is crummy, the days are shorter, and it is a perfect time to take a break from competitive racing and training, and catch up on my lack of junk food and beer consumption during the rest of the year. This year, I rediscovered Fritos. Man, they're good. Of course, this time of rest is capped off with Thanksgiving day, a beautiful holiday where I attempt to eat my body weight in mashed potatoes, and where the most strenuous activity I will do is a rousing family game of Jenga.

So, please forgive me if I am a little troubled by the fact that it is still so damn sunny and nice around here. I am starting to feel like a bear waiting for the change of weather so I can fatten up and hibernate, but it isn't coming. Still, I have remained true to my nature and have taken my days off. It has been a much harder to be lazy with these summertime conditions, and all of you out there jogging around in shorts and T-shirts making me feel guilty. I would appreciate it if you would kindly knock it off.

Really, it is for your own good. If you are a competitive, compulsive, over-trainer like me, one of the best things you can do for yourself is to take a good two weeks off at some point in the year. Even if you are a much more casual exercise enthusiast, you could probably stand to put away the gym pass for a week and give your body a chance to experience life without exercise for a little while.

While you are taking this little break, it is also a good time to indulge in some of the foods and activities that you don't let yourself, or have time for during heavy training. Go to the movie and order popcorn, have pizza for dinner and then have another slice, and what the hell, order dessert. A few extra pounds will easily disappear when you get back into your schedule, and it will even help to keep

you warm when the thermometer plummets below 60 degrees. Just be careful not to overdo it. Competition season will be here before you know it and you don't want to end up like some high school wrestler trying to make weight come April. A good rule of thumb is to keep weight gain below 5 percent of your body weight during your period of gluttony. My guess is that by the time your dietary indulgence is over, you will be more than ready to get back to your normal eating routine.

Another thing to understand about taking time to rest is that resting does not have to mean doing nothing. In fact, most of us exercise as a means of therapy as much as a way to stay healthy and fit. Stopping exercise altogether would not only lead to depression, but could potentially be dangerous to the people who have to live with us. You don't need to just sit on the couch to let your body rest, though you should try it, it's rather nice. Instead, get out and do the things you are always talking about. Go surfing or play some tennis. Take a walk and go to yoga. Or, go for a run just for the fun of it. For those of you ultra-competitive exercise junkies out there, this will not be easy. I recommend taking off your watch and running a favorite loop in reverse. You will feel great, and you might even remember why you started running in the first place.

By the end of your scheduled respite you will undoubtedly be chomping at the bit to get back into your old routine. In truth, this is one of the best things about taking time off, and if you are not feeling anxious to get going again, you probably need more time. It is important, however, to resist the urge to just jump back into things full on. You risk injury, and you are really not going to make any serious gains during this time anyway. Most serious athletes break their season into pieces and focus on different aspects of their fitness during times of the year. This process is called "periodization," and though it can be very complex, it can also be performed on a simple level. Basically, it's the idea that your body can only improve in performance for so long without resting or changing things up. If you are a serious athlete, looking to make big gains this year, I would advise working with a trainer or coach. Or, if you are not so hard-core, starting by taking a rest period this season would be a great start.

Whatever your level of fitness or your goals for the coming season are, there will be times this fall when have those little angel and devil moments. The angel will be telling you to go for that run, order the salad and skip dessert. The devil, on the other hand, will be hiding your running shoes, pouring you a beer, and turning on the TV. This winter, think about all of the hard work that is ahead of you and listen to the devil in you for a change. What the hell.

(Thaddeus Reichley is a local teacher and pro triathlete. He recently won the solo division in the "24 Hours Of LA." Look for his column every other week in the Daily Press weekend edition).

LOCAL

'Bandit' brandishes Post-it note

BANDIT, from page 1

profanity. He wears what's described as "Ray-Ban" sunglasses and carries a cell phone. He also has been described as having a dark complexion and has a goatee, Eimiller said.

In all of the robberies, the "Big Bills Bandit" uses a demand note. In the case of the First Federal robbery which occurred at 1:15 p.m. on Sept. 17, a Post-it type note was given to the bank teller, which said, "give me all of your \$20s, \$50s and \$100s." During that robbery, he was wearing clear, wrap-around glasses, and a light blue baseball hat, according to Eimiller.

While the bandit didn't threaten to produce a gun in September, he did at Bank of the West at 5:45 p.m. on Oct. 1. His note to the teller read, "put the money in the bag. I'm watching you. \$50s and \$100s. I'm not f--cking around. I have a gun my bag."

The "Big Bills Bandit" is believed to have robbed banks in the following cities:

Aug. 25, 1999 — Glendale
Nov. 29, 2002 — North Hills

Jan. 18, 2003 — Woodland Hills
June 4, 2002 — Los Angeles
July 13, 2004 — Santa Monica
July 16, 2004 — Beverly Hills
Aug. 6, 2004 — Encino
Aug. 27, 2004 — Los Angeles
Sept. 2, 2004 — Pasadena
Sept. 10, 2004 — Los Angeles
Sept. 17, 2004 — Santa Monica
Oct. 1, 2004 — Santa Monica
Oct. 7, 2004 — Los Angeles
Oct. 12, 2004 — Century City
Nov. 5, 2004 — Century City
Nov. 15, 2004 — Sherman Oaks
Nov. 23, 2004 — Monrovia

Anyone with information is asked to contact:

Federal Bureau of Investigation special agent Steve May at (310) 477-6565, Beverly Hills Police Department Detective Marcelo Rodriguez at (310) 285-2170, Los Angeles Police Department Robbery/Homicide at (213) 485-0780, Santa Monica Police Department at (310) 458-8427

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LOCAL

Councilwoman's mom always had front row seat

SMICKLAS, from page 1

Genser were attending a conference a few years ago. As it started to get dark, Smicklas started getting nervous and determined Genser needed help navigating the windy roads.

"She decided to call out every curve for me," Genser said. "It was getting a bit much so I tried to bait her with a political issue to talk about ... but then she said to me, 'Oh no, you are not going to take me off this curve,' and then she yelled 'curve!'"

Weeks later, she saw Genser and yelled "curve, curve" to him as a joke.

Smicklas attended City Council meetings and sat near the front of the room. Oftentimes, O'Connor would have to step down from the dais to re-adjust her mother's hearing aid, which gave off loud feedback and blared throughout the room.

"She was a character and she knew it," said Santa Monica Mayor Richard Bloom. "She always had something to say and she was very blunt about it, but always constructive and positive."

As the widow of Chicago Police detective Emil Smicklas, Esther Smicklas was an avid supporter of the Santa Monica police and fire departments. She always enjoyed young people and encouraged organizations such as the Police Activities League.

Smicklas never drove a car and used public transit — throughout most of the 20th and into the 21st century — to get around, and especially enjoyed Santa Monica's Big Blue Bus. She participated in the Big Blue Bus rodeos as a passenger on the bus driven by O'Connor.

Even before the concept became popular, Smicklas was a proponent of lifelong-learning, encouraging people of all ages to continue their education through ongoing learning. An avid reader, she enjoyed many hours at the Santa Monica and Los Angeles Public libraries.

Genser said she would read newspapers daily and clipped out many articles for him that were relevant to local politics.

"She was a very curious woman and fascinated with space exploration," Genser said.

Smicklas also was an artist, drawing and sketching throughout her life. Smicklas was involved in children's affairs, including Little League and was a champion for youth and women. She enjoyed gardening and the outdoors. Smicklas was very proud of her extensive lapel pin collection.

Most of all, Smicklas enjoyed people of all ages, and with her effusive personality, inspired others.

Smicklas loved the "big city" and worked in downtown Chicago in the 1920s, '30s and '40s, creating floral arrangements in florist shops in the Bismarck Hotel, the Palmer House, the Drake Hotel and the Blackstone Hotel.

The sixth of eight children born to Martin and Anna Block in Kankakee, Ill., in 1911, Smicklas in 1936 married Emil Smicklas. They had three children: O'Connor; Tyke Caravelli and son-in-law Alfredo Caravelli of Santa Monica; and son Emil Jr. of Glenwood, Ill. She had six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Smicklas will be buried in Chicago.

Mayor Bloom said every time he saw Smicklas, she would always ask about his sons Zack and Emmett.

"She would say, 'where are the boys?' and ask if they were practicing their music because music is important," said Bloom, who visited her at the hospital Thursday night.

"She had 93 really solid good years and that's about all you can ask for," he said.

In lieu of flowers, donations should be sent to the Santa Monica Police Activities League and the Friends of the Santa Monica Public Library.

Suspect leads the police to her partner in crime

HOT CAR, from page 1

vehicle had been reported stolen from the 500 block of 20th Street, police said. Officers conducted a surveillance of the vehicle and a short time later, Kim approached the vehicle and opened the truck. She was taken into custody, and led officers to Birchall, who was in the 1200 block of Berkeley. Officers recovered stolen property taken in an earlier commercial burglary and an automobile bur-

glary in Los Angeles, police said.

Birchall was booked for burglary, auto theft, possession of stolen property, and felony probation violation for burglary. No bail was set. Kim was booked for possession of stolen property and her bail has been set at \$20,000.

Anyone having any information regarding the incident is encouraged to contact the SMPD at (310) 458-8491 or Detective Jaime Hernandez at (310) 458-8498.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

STATE



Despite election setback, MoveOn is moving ahead

BY BETH FOUHY

AP Political Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — After President Bush won re-election, many political observers expected MoveOn.org to move into retreat. The sentiment surrounding the liberal online powerhouse was neatly summed up by The Onion, a well-known satire publication, in its spoof headline: "MoveOn CurlsUp InCorner."

But on a Sunday night just two weeks after the Nov. 2 election, the group was back — hosting 1,600 house parties across the country where some 18,000 members gathered to vent and vote on how MoveOn should refocus after such a decisive Republican victory.

"With 56 million people not signed up to the Bush agenda and the Democratic establishment in exile, people are looking for ways to move in another direction," said MoveOn founder Wes Boyd. "In the current circumstances, we are more needed than ever."

Just a year ago, the Berkeley-based MoveOn was hailed by many as "the next big thing" in political organizing. Having won fame as the voice of the anti-Iraq war movement, MoveOn's cybercommunity of activists was gearing up to wage a high-profile battle against Bush's re-election.

Armed with more than \$30 million raised from donors ranging from students to billionaire financier George Soros, MoveOn moved well beyond cyberspace — organizing star-studded concerts, airing television ads produced by A-list Hollywood directors and mobilizing 70,000 members to walk precincts in key battleground states.

But the efforts proved ultimately unsuccessful, and amid the inevitable postelection recriminations MoveOn came in for plenty of heat.

Republicans took aim at the group for allowing a member's proposed TV ad comparing Bush to Adolph Hitler to be briefly posted on its Web site.

Others complained that MoveOn and other so-called 527 organizations like America Coming Together and the Media Fund sometimes worked at cross-purposes with the Kerry campaign, creating a hodgepodge of confusing messages.

Still others said that while MoveOn was effective in stirring up a sense of righteous anger among hardcore Democratic partisans and anti-war activists, the message didn't necessarily resonate with swing voters.

"We got all the votes of people who were against the war — what we didn't get were the votes of people who were for the war," said Democratic consultant Bill

Carrick. "Bush got the votes of people like married white women and Latinos who, despite their affinity with Democrats on other concerns, believed Bush would be stronger in the war on terror. And that wasn't really MoveOn's agenda."

MoveOn plans a formal announcement in the next few weeks to lay out its agenda for the coming year. But at the November house parties members voted to prioritize efforts to remove barriers to voting, such as requiring electronic voting machines to produce paper receipts. They also vowed to pursue ways to create a media counterbalance to right-tilting Fox News.

"Our whole approach was to take people who are online members and get them into off-line activity," said Adam Ruben, MoveOn's field director. "We can get a lot done on the Internet but we know that to reach beyond the choir, there are essential parts of political activity we can't neglect."

In the short term, MoveOn's leaders say its mission remains the same: mobilizing rapid response on issues of concern to the organization, from the Iraq war to future battles over Social Security privatization and nominations to the U.S. Supreme Court.

In the long term, Boyd said the group will seek a more substantial foundation for the progressive movement, from creating think tanks to counteract the conservative Heritage Foundation and Hoover Institution to building grass roots networks that rival the Republican Party's deep ties to evangelical churches.

"People really feel like they're at the beginning of a movement rather than the end of a campaign," said political director Eli Pariser. "It's such an exciting feeling for a lot of these people, and it mitigates some of the heartbreak of the next four years."

MoveOn's many boosters say that despite the election's outcome, the group motivated voters more effectively this year than either Kerry or the Democratic Party. The group was also widely credited with its rapid reaction to news events, even launching ads renouncing the claims made by the anti-Kerry group Swift Boat Veterans for Truth before the Kerry campaign responded to those charges.

For his part, Boyd said MoveOn would always remain a "progressive, populist" organization that represents both a broad cross-section of middle America, with many members brand new to the political process.

"People are engaged and they've learned two things: they are very concerned about where the country is going, and that even if you lose, being involved in politics is a positive thing," Boyd said.



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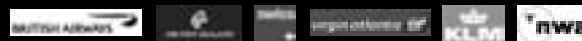
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STATE

Four rivals rip L.A. mayor on ethics, corruption

BY MICHAEL R. BLOOD

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES— The four major candidates seeking to oust Mayor James Hahn depicted his administration Thursday as paralyzed by ethical conflicts and lapses, and alleged he stood by while campaign contributions and favoritism opened the doors to City Hall.

Hahn largely avoided addressing ongoing investigations that have placed a cloud over his administration, but argued in an hour-long debate that he was leading the city toward a brighter, safer future.

Voters “know who Jim Hahn is. I’ve always been about honesty,” Hahn responded.

In making the case against giving Hahn another four-year term, his rivals argued that new leadership was needed to restore public confidence in city government.

“Scandal starts at the top and ends at the top,” said Councilman Antonio Villaraigosa. “I’ll restore trust ... and get rid of the special interests.”

Councilman Bernard Parks added,

“Together we can clean up the corruption at City Hall.”

Federal prosecutors and the Los Angeles County district attorney’s office have been conducting parallel investigations into city practices. Federal prosecutors have been collecting contracting documents involving the airports and harbor departments and the Department of Water and Power, and District Attorney Steve Cooley has said he is looking into whether city contracts were tied to political contributions.

The televised debate, sponsored by KNBC-TV and the League of Women Voters, marked the first time the five leading candidates have faced off, marking the unofficial kickoff to next year’s campaign to run the nation’s second-largest city.

The debate represented something of a coming-out party for the candidates, who have been overshadowed in recent months by the presidential race and, now, will be competing for attention during the holiday season. The primary election is March 8.

Like Hahn, the major contenders are Democrats.

Although 20 candidates have filed

papers to run for mayor, only five with significant support and organizations were invited to the debate. They were Hahn; Parks, the former police chief ousted after Hahn took office; state Sen. Richard Alarcon, D-Sun Valley; Villaraigosa, a former state Assembly speaker who was defeated by Hahn in a 2001 runoff election; and former Assembly Speaker Bob Hertzberg, an attorney.

The debate touched on issues from gang violence to modernizing the Los Angeles International Airport, along with its famously snarled traffic and expensive, hard-to-come-by housing.

Hahn has made clear that he will anchor his campaign to safety issues, and he made the case that safer streets were the key to attracting new jobs. But Villaraigosa challenged the mayor’s sweeping statements about crime falling, noting that gang violence had moved upward.

One testy moment came when Hahn turned to Hertzberg and warned him not to fault him for fund-raising, since

Hertzberg raised “millions” while heading the Assembly.

“I’m not going to take lectures from you,” Hahn told Hertzberg.

In defending his record on ethics, Hahn said he proposed reforms that would prohibit contractors that bid on city business from donating to candidates for city office. “If somebody has done something wrong, they need to be held accountable,” the mayor said.

Hahn took office after running as a tough-on-crime candidate in 2001, but his tenure has been shadowed by investigations into possible conflicts and shakedowns in city contracts. The mayor has denied knowledge of wrongdoing, but Parks and others have depicted him as blind to alleged corruption and favoritism at City Hall.

However, no incumbent mayor has lost in more than 30 years and through six campaigns, Hahn has never lost a city-wide election. He also has headed the field in fund-raising.

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NATIONAL



Drip dry: Water official announces he's quitting

BY SETH HETTENA
Associated Press Writer

Bennett Raley, the Bush administration's point man on Western water issues, announced he is leaving his Interior Department post.

Raley, who is returning to his native Colorado to practice law and spend time with his family, will perhaps be best known for his role in wrangling rival water agencies into signing a landmark Colorado River accord last year.

"Bennett has been the linchpin of this administration's Western water policy, tackling some of the most contentious issues facing the region during a prolonged period of drought," Interior Secretary Gale Norton said in a statement Thursday.

Raley, 48, said he doesn't do "the legacy thing" and expressed gratitude for the chance to make what he termed a small contribution.

Norton promoted Tom Weimer, Raley's deputy, as an interim replacement.

As assistant interior secretary for water and science, Raley oversaw both the U.S. Geological Survey and the Bureau of Reclamation. Virtually unknown in the East, the Bureau of Reclamation runs more than 600 dams and reservoirs in 17 states that generate power, irrigate farmfields in the desert, and deliver water to 30 million people.

Raley helped lead the Water 2025 initiative, which highlighted areas where clashes over water were likely in the future. He also worked out an agreement with representatives of Arizona, Nevada and California to protect wildlife habitat on the Colorado River and aid native species.

But his biggest achievement involved last year's deal that ended years of bickering among California and six other states that rely on Colorado River water. The pact was designed to curb California overreliance on the river. More than 30 million acre-feet of water will move from farms to cities in Southern California over

75 years.

"I think Bennett stood out because of his passion for the river," said Pat Mulroy, general manager of the Southern Nevada Water Authority. "His most dominating trait is plain old doggedness. He's just like a pit bull: Once he digs in he doesn't let go. He's not afraid of anybody. He's not intimidated by anybody."

After California missed a Dec. 31, 2002 deadline to sign the deal, Raley and Norton took the unprecedented step of cutting the amount of water California could draw from the Colorado River. He later strong-armed a group of stubborn farmers in California's Imperial Valley by using the threat of taking their water as leverage for the deal.

David Hayes, a deputy interior secretary under President Clinton, said it said a great deal about Raley's approach that he forged ahead with a plan from a Democratic administration. "He didn't look at it as a political matter. He looked at it as a bipartisan, good plan," Hayes said.

In recent months, Raley has been sounding the alarm about the toll five dry years has taken on the Colorado River. Continued drought could lead to the first-ever cut in the river supplying 25 million people. Raley has been pushing the Western states to come up with a solution of their own making.

When he took office in 2001, environmentalists who battled him for years feared the worst from the cowboy-turned-lawyer with close ties to the property rights movement. Three years later, many conceded that Raley was not the ideologue they imagined but a straight-shooter willing to listen to all sides.

Earlier this year, Raley led a group of journalists and water officials on a 225-mile rafting trip through the Grand Canyon to discuss drought and other problems affecting the Colorado. Raley said almost every day in Washington he feels torn by the opposing forces of idealism and the need to compromise.

"Many days the agony is there, and I fear anyone in public policy who doesn't feel it," Raley said.



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NATIONAL

Bush and GOP playing for keeps with Hispanics

BY LIZ SIDOTI
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Election gains among Hispanic voters and two high-profile Cabinet appointments make it clear President Bush and the Republicans are playing for keeps with the nation's fastest growing minority group.

The long-term implications of the GOP's efforts to court Hispanics are significant for both major political parties, analysts and partisan strategists say, given that the Latin American immigrant community has become a powerful swing voting group.

"This all is a clear sign that the Republicans are serious about capturing the Latino vote to make it part of their base and that the Democrats are at risk of losing what used to be perceived by them as a key constituency," said Stacey L. Connaughton, a Rutgers University professor who is writing a book about Hispanic voters.

The Democratic Party long has considered Hispanics part of its own political base. But the Democratic advantage has been whittled down over the years, and some Democrats and Hispanic advocacy groups have warned the party not to take the community's historical support for granted.

Since 1980, the Republican Party has made an effort to bring Hispanics into its fold by targeting advertising and grassroots outreach to the community, arguing that Hispanic social values matched those of the GOP. But it wasn't until after the 1996 presidential election, when Republican nominee Bob Dole captured just 21 percent of the Hispanic vote, that the GOP really boosted its efforts.

In the 2000 campaign, Bush and his political team made the Hispanic vote a priority, and he claimed 35 percent of their votes. Once in office, Bush tapped Cuban-born Mel Martinez to serve as secretary of Housing and Urban Development. Martinez left the post to run for the Senate from Florida; on Nov. 2, the Republican won the open Senate seat.

In his re-election campaign, Bush built upon his 2000 gains and at least 40 percent of Hispanics backed his candidacy, according to exit polls conducted for The Associated Press and the television networks.

Weeks after securing a second term, Bush put an exclamation point on his campaign-trail rhetoric about his commitment to the Hispanic community: He nominated two accomplished Hispanics to serve in his Cabinet.

The president tapped Alberto Gonzales, a Texas native and the Harvard-educated son of migrant farm workers, to be the next attorney general.

Earlier this week, Bush chose Carlos Gutierrez, a Cuban political refugee who rose to the top of Kellogg Co., for commerce secretary.

Taken together, analysts and Republicans say, the gains and appointments make a bold statement.

"All of it says Republicans are fair, open people who treat Latinos as Americans first. That Republicans are the party of opportunity and Republicans are opening the doors to the American dream," said Lionel Sosa, a GOP consultant in Texas who specializes in Hispanic media.

The president, Sosa said, is "leaving a legacy for whoever runs after him" on the Republican ticket.

Time will tell if future party leaders follow Bush's lead and exploit GOP inroads with the Hispanic electorate.

Some Democrats argue that it's do-or-die time: Respond forcefully to the GOP Hispanic grab or face the consequences of letting their advantage with the constituency disappear.

Since the election, some Democrats have complained that Sen. John Kerry's team mistakenly assumed Hispanics were part of the party's base instead of a swing voting bloc. The party has defended its effort, contending that it activated its most far-reaching effort to court Hispanics ever.

Still, Kerry failed to win any states in the Southwest, a heavily Hispanic region. He lost Florida, also home to significant numbers of Hispanics. With Bush solidifying his hold on the South and making gains in the Midwest, the Southwest shapes up as the one region Democrats have the best chance of reclaiming in four years.

"That's where the Democratic future lies, but if we don't start working that area, we're going to be losing an even larger share of the Hispanic community to the Republicans, and rightfully so," said Joe Velasquez, a former White House deputy political director under President Clinton.

Some Democrats paint an even more dire situation, arguing that if the party doesn't make a major play for Hispanics, states that are considered solidly Democratic and have large numbers of Hispanics — California, Illinois and New York — could become vulnerable.

New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, the newly anointed chairman of the Democratic Governors' Association, said the party needs a different approach.

"We have to appeal to Hispanics on new, more mainstream issues like homeownership, like education and not just the traditional immigration and civil rights issues," he said.

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NATIONAL



BLM may retreat, kill the drills near monument

BY PAUL FOY

Associated Press Writer

SALT LAKE CITY — The next federal oil and gas lease auction in Utah will offer more than 112,000 acres of land for drilling, including parcels within a stone's throw of Hovenweep National Monument on the Utah-Colorado border.

Archeologists, conservation groups and a former park ranger are protesting, and the Bureau of Land Management said Thursday it may revise the list of parcels that go up for lease next week.

The monument protects five prehistoric villages of multistory towers across 20 miles of mesa tops and canyons.

"There is simply no justification for BLM to offer oil and gas leases on the doorsteps of sacred places like Hovenweep National Monument," said Stephen Bloch, staff attorney for the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance.

"The sale is especially unnecessary when you realize that there are nearly 3 million acres of Utah BLM lands already under lease, but that are not being developed," he said.

Oil and gas drills will degrade the "unblemished" views and solitude at the monument, said Larry Van Slyke, the former chief park ranger for the Southeast Utah Group of National Parks.

Slyke, a member of the Coalition of National Park Service Retirees, filed his comments with the Bureau of Land Management.

Also weighing in was Sonia Hutmacher-Cunningham, a vice president for the Utah Professional Archaeological Council, who said oil-and-gas development was incompatible with the monument's natural beauty and prehistoric sites.

The Bureau of Land Management is describing the 112,756 acres as a "final sale list" of lands to be leased for energy extraction on Dec. 10, but BLM spokeswoman Laura Williams said Thursday the list wasn't

final.

Williams said agency staffers will meet Tuesday or Wednesday "to decide which parcels will be offered and which parcels will be pulled."

Bloch said that if critics hadn't filed protests, "BLM would be moving right along and selling these lands, and that's a mistake."

The BLM list includes two parcels less than a quarter-mile from the monument, and a third parcel within view of monument.

The "land man" who nominated these parcels for leasing refused to return a message relayed by BLM land-law examiner Connie Seare, who said the man probably was acting for one or more energy companies. "He doesn't want you to throw questions at him that he's not prepared to answer," she said.

Lee Peacock, president of the Utah Petroleum Association, did not immediately return a message left at his office seeking comment.

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NATIONAL

Health secretary is said to be quitting his post

BY RON FOURNIER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson resigned Friday, The Associated Press learned, broadening an exodus that has emptied more than half of President Bush's Cabinet before he takes the oath of office for a second term.

Thompson submitted his resignation to Bush, and planned to announce his departure at a Friday afternoon news conference, said an official close to the former Wisconsin governor who asked not to be identified.

Mark McClellan, the government's Medicare chief and brother of White House press secretary Scott McClellan, is Thompson's likely successor, officials said.

Thompson's resignation brings to eight the number of members of Bush's 15-member Cabinet who have left.

News of Thompson's departure came not long after Bush introduced former police commissioner Bernard Kerik as Tom Ridge's successor to be secretary of homeland security. When Thompson's exit becomes official, eight of the 15 members of Bush's Cabinet will have departed.

Kerik is the steady former military man who helped New York get back on its feet after the Sept. 11 terror attack.

"Bernie Kerik is one of the most accomplished and effective leaders of law enforcement in America," Bush said.

Kerik said what he witnessed in the days after the attacks would be etched in his mind if he were confirmed to lead the department. "I know what is at stake," Kerik said.

"Both the memory of those courageous souls and the horrors I saw inflicted upon our proud nation will serve as permanent reminders of the awesome responsibility you place in my charge," he said.

Bush also lost his ambassador to the United Nations, John Danforth, who is retiring.

Friday's ceremony has become a ritual as Bush rounds out his Cabinet for his second term. He stood in the Roosevelt Room with Kerik, as the nominee's wife and some of their children looked on.

Joe Allbaugh, the former FEMA director who was mentioned as a candidate for the job, said Kerik will "be drinking water from a fire hose for quite a while, but I know he's up to the challenge."

Former Mayor Rudolph Giuliani,

Kerik's boss in city government and later at a private consulting firm, told the Associated Press the former undercover detective will surprise many within the sprawling bureaucracy of homeland security.

"When you see him, he's a big strong guy and a black belt," said Giuliani. "What you get to know when you work with him is how smart he is ... how effective and sophisticated a manager he is."

Rep. Christopher Cox, R-Calif., chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, said "there is no doubt that Bernie is a strong, no-nonsense manager who is intimately familiar with the homeland security mission."

Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, chairwoman of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, said her panel would conduct confirmation hearings as swiftly as possible, calling Kerik "a strong candidate."

Samuel J. Plumieri, superintendent of the Port Authority police, which lost 37 of its own on Sept. 11, said his department had worked closely with Kerik.

"We are confident that he will be able to aggressively deal with the nation's security interests," Plumieri said.

A military policeman in South Korea in the 1970s, Kerik's first anti-terrorism work was as a paid private security worker in Saudi Arabia. He joined the New York Police Department in 1986, first walking a beat in Times Square when it was still a haven for small-time hustlers.

He eventually was tapped to lead the city's corrections department, and was appointed police commissioner in 2000.

It was in that position that he became known to the rest of the country, supervising the NYPD's response to the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks, often at the side of then-mayor Rudolph Giuliani. Kerik helped rally a department that lost 23 members and became a steady presence for a population deeply shaken by the attacks.

Kerik inherits a new and sprawling bureaucracy. The creation of the department in 2003 combined 22 disparate federal agencies with more than 180,000 employees and a combined budget of \$36 billion. The organization is still learning to work together and faces criticism over aspects from the coordination of finances to computer systems.

Danforth had been mentioned as a possible successor to Secretary of State Colin Powell, but Bush picked Condoleezza Rice.



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Interior motives: Judge was wrong to pull plug

BY SAM HANANEL
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — A federal judge should not have ordered the Interior Department to pull the plug on many of its Internet connections without giving the agency a chance to show it had improved security measures, a federal appeals court ruled Friday.

U.S. District Judge Royce Lamberth ordered the shutdown in March after finding security holes could have allowed hackers access to hundreds of millions of dollars in royalties from Indian lands managed by the agency.

But the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit said Lamberth ignored evidence showing Interior had addressed his concerns and faulted Lamberth for making the decision without holding an evidentiary hearing.

The shutdown lasted only nine days because the appeals court blocked Lamberth's order while it considered the Interior Department's appeal.

A department spokesman said he would not comment until officials had a chance to review the decision.

The ruling is the latest in a fractious, eight-year-old lawsuit pitting more than 300,000 American Indian landowners

against the Interior Department. The landowners claim the agency stole, lost or never collected tens of billions of dollars in royalties it was assigned to manage from lands held in trust for the Indians.

The Indians sued the department in 1996, demanding an accounting that had been ordered by Congress two years earlier. In 1999, Lamberth said the department must account for the money and repair its management flaws.

Lamberth ordered the Internet shutdown — the third in three years — after the Interior Department refused to sign sworn certifications that it had fixed security flaws identified in 2001 by the court's

special master, Alan Balaran.

Balaran determined that even a novice hacker could penetrate the accounting system's security and access data for the Indian revenues. The system processes hundreds of millions of dollars annually that is paid to American Indians for oil, gas, timber, and grazing activities on their land. The department is assigned to collect and disburse the funds.

The Interior Department resisted Balaran's oversight, saying his report did not show that unauthorized access presented an imminent danger to the integrity of the system. Balaran eventually resigned after Interior officials accused him of bias in the case.

Key Canadian land claims figure dies at the age of 74

By The Associated Press

NEW AIYANSH, British Columbia — Roderick Anthony Robinson, elder statesman of the Nisga'a people and a leading force in Canada's long-running native land claims talks, is dead at 74.

Robinson, who played a pivotal role in the nation's first Indian land claims settlement

involving the Nisga'a on May 11, 2000, died Tuesday at his home in this remote northern British Columbia town after a long illness, relatives and tribal officials said.

A hereditary chief of the Eagle Clan, Robinson also held the Nisga'a name Sim'oogit Minee'eskw.

He "was instrumental in helping move Canada's First Nations people from the

dark fringes to the forefront of Canadian society," said Nelson Leeson, president of the Nisga'a Lisims Government. "He will be sadly missed."

He was a founding member of the Nisga'a Land Committee in 1953, vice president of the Tribal Council in 1973-81 and executive director of the council in 1981-99. He also represented the Nisga'a

in federal constitutional discussions in the early 1980s.

In October he was presented the Order of Canada by Gov. Gen. Adrienne Clarkson for lifelong service to his people.

Survivors include his wife Marjorie and nine children. A memorial service is scheduled Sunday in New Aiyansh, followed by a funeral and Nisga'a feast on Monday.



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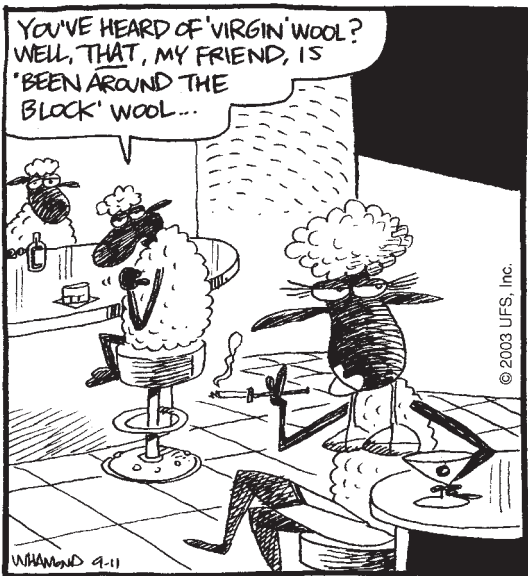
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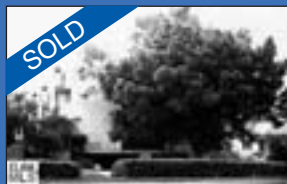
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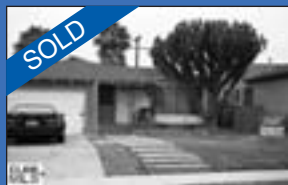
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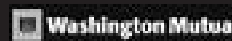
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