

FREE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2003

Volume 3, Issue 21

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

FANTASY 5

4, 16, 32, 37, 29

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 7, 4, 8

Evening picks: 7, 5, 6

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 8, Gorgeous George

2nd Place: 1, Gold Rush

3rd Place: 6, Whirl Win

Race Time: 1:40.57



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Daniel Smith, 45, written up for traffic violations after a minor accident in Independence, Mo., in November, became the latest person to take seriously the idea that he could assert a "copyright" over his name and expect the police (i.e., the taxpayers) to pay him \$500,000 per use for writing his name on the traffic tickets (plus \$1 million as a late fee if the government didn't pay in 10 days). Smith refused to take his license back from the officer until he was issued a "receipt," which he pointed out earned him another \$500,000.



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"There are more dead people than living, and their numbers are increasing."

— Eugène Ionesco

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Today's lesson: Cooperation

Proposal would redistribute donations

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS — A controversy over whether or not wealthy schools within the district should be forced to share some of their cash donations raged on at Thursday night's school board meeting.

Nine people spoke during public comment on a proposed gift policy that would require every school to put 15 percent of its donations into a central pot. The collected money would then be ferreted out to all schools based on their size and need.

The gift policy was drafted by Superintendent John Deasy, who said Santa Monica and Malibu schools have long suffered from vast inequities. While McKinley Elementary in Santa Monica raised only about \$30,000 from donors last year, Pt. Dume Elementary in Malibu amassed \$300,000 or more.

"A tiny fraction is what were asking for," Deasy said, adding that Malibu High School's stated goal for fundraising is \$1 million.

Critics on Thursday called the proposal unethical, possibly illegal and definitely a deterrent to would-be benefactors. The gift policy will go before the school board in

See POLICY, page 5

Picking a gem



Del Pastrana/Daily Press

Patrons of the 38th annual International Gem & Jewelry Show sift through the thousands of offerings on display Friday at the Civic Auditorium in downtown Santa Monica. More than 200 retailers will be offering their wares throughout the weekend. The show also includes a special "Jewelry of the Stars" display, featuring the gems of such renowned celebrities as Frank Sinatra, Elvis Presley and Marilyn Monroe.

Anti-violence coalition resumes its mission

Group formed after stabbing of Samohi student in 2001

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

PICO CENTER — A small but representative nucleus of local activists and officials intent on stemming violence in Santa Monica reconvened Thursday, agreeing to formulate a mission statement and take stock of available resources.

The "Community Violence Prevention Coalition" was originally formed in response to the fatal stabbing of a Samohi student in November of 2001. While the exact goals of the group remain unclear, members agreed in a roundtable discussion that violence throughout Santa Monica needs to be combatted through

"There's a potential for violence all over Santa Monica."

— LT. P.J. GUIDO
SMPD

education and prevention.

"It's all about power," said resident Michal Golan, who founded a non-violence center and conducts workshops on the issue. "Where you find the power of non-violence is in education."

Among those in attendance Thursday at the Pico Youth and Family Center were local peace activist Jerry Rubin, Santa Monica Police

Department Lt. P.J. Guido, City Hall worker Betty Macias, Santa Monica High School worker Kathy McTaggart and meeting facilitator and Pico Center worker Leslie Sultan.

Group members agreed to compile a list of resources available to them from City Hall, the police department, previous meetings and various other sources by e-mailing ideas to Sultan. The coalition is expected to review that list and draft a mission statement at its next scheduled meeting — Thursday, January 8, at the police department headquarters.

"It's a lot more than just what's in this room. Each of us has tentacles that go out in a million directions," said McTaggart. "A lot of people need to come out of their houses to be a part of the awareness and a part of the process."

See COALITION, page 6

'Team' player: Wells Fargo gives \$8K to schools

By Daily Press staff

DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS — If you signed up for a checking account or online banking through Wells Fargo, you helped raise more than \$8,000 for the local school district.

Wells Fargo is donating \$8,640 to the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District through its "Team Up for Our Schools" program, which was created to help support financially-strapped public school districts respond to unprecedented

budget shortfalls this year.

Through the program, the district where the Wells Fargo store was located received \$10 for every new Wells Fargo consumer checking account opened and an additional \$10 when customers signed up and used Wells Fargo Bill Pay, a

service to pay bills online. The program was offered at four branches in Santa Monica and Malibu, as well as other Wells Fargo banking stores across the country.

All told, Wells Fargo raised

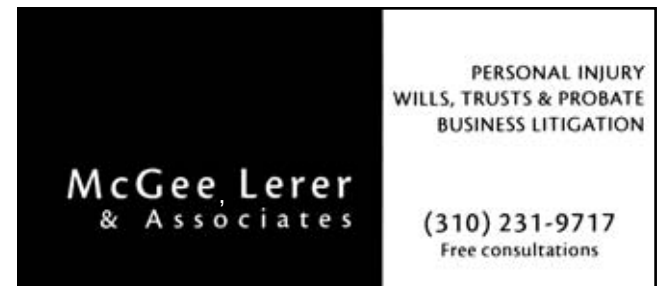
See DONATION, page 6



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

★★★★★-Dynamic ★★★★★-Positive ★★★-Average

★★-So-so ★-Difficult

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Saturday, December 6, 2003:

Make the most of your high energy, which often displays itself at home. Find a constructive way of expressing yourself, or else you could find that you instigate more quarrels than you really want to. Consider a home gym to work through stress. Work remains a high priority and draws much applause from others. A pay raise or promotion might head your way. You also could decide to have a home office. If single, you will meet a lot of people fall 2004. You will have your pick or suitors. If you are attached, your relationship will flourish as long as you deal with your high energy and don't take it out on your significant other. You might decide to do a home project together. TAURUS might be more methodical than you but is a hard worker. Count on the Bull.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Be happy it's Saturday, because you might want to sleep in or go back to bed, as you might wake up on the wrong side of it. As the day gets older, you're more in tune with what is happening. Tonight: Out for dinner.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Be content with others running the show. Your job is to follow along and do your thing. You easily could be overwhelmed by a loved one. You also might have to give more than you want. Nurture yourself, too. Tonight: Add more romance to your life.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Try to sleep in late. You might not like what greets you in the early morning. Your friends seek you out, but with the Moon in your sign, the world is your oyster. Ask for what you want with the full expectation of getting just that. Tonight: Smile away.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Others want you, but how can you be everywhere and do what you want as well? You might consider cloning yourself as a fantasy, but in reality, pick and choose your priorities. Hint: Opt for the good times. Tonight: Express your intensity.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Assume a low-profile. You might have personal plans, but others express a need for you, be they parents, bosses or people important to your life. Do what is necessary here, because ultimately, you will feel better. Tonight: Think "tomorrow."

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22- Dec. 21)

★★★ Get into a project or two with vigor. You relax this way. A roommate or family member, possibly a child, wants to pitch in. Sharing what you are doing adds to the closeness and makes the job easier. Tonight: Make dinner easy.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Follow your friends, unless you have something special you want to do. The only "sin" you can commit is hanging alone. Listen to a pal; he or she delivers words of wisdom, whether you like it or not. Tonight: Where the party is.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Act like it's Saturday; act like it's the weekend. Everyone will join in the spirit. Follow an urge to take off on a day trip. Why not? This is your weekend to enjoy yourself to the max. That's your job. Do it. Tonight: Let your imagination go.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ A must show is on your agenda, or perhaps you need to drop in on an older relative or friend. Oddly enough, a partner could become extremely jealous and want your attention. Schedule time with this person later in the day. Tonight: Happily play away.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You might want to stay close to home. Why not? Whether you're flipping through catalogues looking for presents, addressing cards, decorating or being a couch potato makes no difference. It's your time to do what you want for a change. Tonight: Rent a movie. Order Chinese. Be lazy if you want.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Take an overview. So much might be happening that you could be on overload. Listen to others, but make your own choices. A drive in the country might help you recycle and gain perspective. Tonight: Dinner for two.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Speak your mind; in fact, you will anyway. You're not in the mood to hold back. If you say what you think, others might have a strong reaction, but you certainly will have an interesting discussion. Go with the moment. Tonight: Out at your favorite restaurant or haunt.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Published Monday through Saturday

Phone: 310.458.PRESS(7737) • Fax: 310.576.9913

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

St. Joseph's plans a month of holiday cheer

By Daily Press staff



Photo courtesy

Thousands will attend nearly a dozen planned holiday parties by the St. Joseph Center to benefit those in need.

Since 1976, St. Joseph Center has been hosting holiday parties

since its founding in a Venice storefront by two Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. "It's the one time of the year when clients, staff, volunteers, board members and donors can get together to truly celebrate," said Rhonda Meister, the center's executive director. "Everyone is welcome at St. Joseph Center."

There's a holiday party for each program. On Dec. 12, at the Bread & Roses Café on Rose Avenue, volunteers will serve food, play games and give door prizes to clients in the center's monetary advisory program in Santa Monica.

On Dec. 13, the family center and food pantry will hold its annual party at the administration building in Venice. This year, the program will provide case management, educational activities and housing assistance for almost 1,000 families. Poverty-level families this year received 17,498 bags of groceries.

"It's the first step toward case management and the road to self-sufficiency," Meister said.

Between Dec. 15 and Dec. 23, the homeless service center will have holiday music, gifts and events. The program serves more than 2,500 people with emergency services, job training and housing and employment referrals.

On Dec. 19, Santa and his reindeer will land at the infant toddler development center on Rose Avenue for their holiday potluck, toting toys and gifts. The program provides low-income working mothers with free full-day child care for children under 3 years old.

Martin Sheen, Stephen Collins, Wendy Malick and Ted Danson are among the center's past volunteers.

"Many of our volunteers are students," said Maria Alderete, coordinator of volunteers. "They're giving the gift of themselves."

The St. Joseph Center plans to host 11 holiday parties for needy families and individuals in Venice, Santa Monica and West Los Angeles.

Business owners, professionals, political and community leaders and celebrities this month will join the center to support its programs, which include emergency services, child care, counseling and training for more than 8,000 adults and children.

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See BRIEFS, page 5

Look for new WNW swell to be on the rise through today, eventually peaking late in the afternoon towards sundown. It will mix with small SW swell and a some W wind swell, and, as it peaks, looks good for surf in the 5-8' range at the better exposed winter breaks, while standout breaks see bigger sets.

OUTLOOK: The surf will slowly wind down on Sunday and Monday, although most of the better exposed areas continue to see overhead waves.

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

Today the water is:
59°
Sunrise: 6:59 a.m.
Sunset: 4:53 p.m.

	LOW TIDE				HIGH TIDE			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	12:53	1.9	2:19	-0.1	7:13	5.9	8:36	3.7
SUNDAY	1:19	2.1	2:50	-0.3	7:38	6.0	9:15	3.7
MONDAY	1:45	2.3	3:23	-0.4	8:03	6.0	9:55	3.6
TUESDAY	2:11	2.4	3:57	-0.4	8:31	6.0	10:36	3.5
WEDNESDAY	2:38	2.6	4:34	-0.4	9:00	5.9	11:22	3.4
THURSDAY	3:07	2.7	5:43	-0.2	9:32	5.8	N/A	N/A
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Head of the class: School district elects new leadership

By Daily Press staff

The local school board has new leadership.

José Escarce has been elected president, and Emily Bloomfield vice president of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education. Their one-year terms began Dec. 4.

Dr. Escarce, serving for the first time as president, succeeds Maria Leon-Vazquez, while Bloomfield fills the spot previously held by Escarce.

Dr. Escarce, M.D., Ph.D., was elected to the board in November, 2000. Currently, he is professor of medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and senior natural scientist at RAND Corp. Dr. Escarce grad-

uated from Princeton University, earned a master's degree in physics from Harvard University, obtained his medical degree and doctorate in health economics from the University of Pennsylvania, and completed his residency at Stanford University. Dr. Escarce has served on the National Advisory Council for Health Care Policy, Research, and Evaluation of the Department of Health and Human Services, and currently serves on the National Advisory Committee of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Minority Medical Faculty Development Program. He is past chairman of the Health Economics Committee of the American Public Health Association. He was a member of the Institute of Medicine Committee on Understanding and Eliminating

Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care and is currently a member of the National Research Council Panel on DHHS Collection of Data on Race and Ethnicity. Dr. Escarce's research interests include provider and patient behavior under economic incentives, access to care, racial and ethnic disparities in care, and the impact of managed care on cost and quality.

Bloomfield, was elected to the board in November, 2002. An economist, Bloomfield has a B.A., M.P.A. and M.Phil in economics. Prior to being elected to the board, she was a member of the district's strategic planning design team, PTA and school site governance council. Bloomfield is the parent of three children currently in the district.

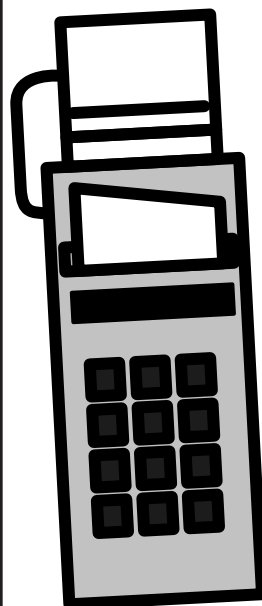
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OPINION

LETTERS

Cut the fat from smoking ban

Editor:

The health Nazis are so funny!

I wonder how many of those who wish to ban smoking on the beach roar around our polluted city in gas guzzling SUVs.

I agree that cigarette butts on the beach are inexcusable, as inexcusable as those fat butts driving around in fat cars.

Richard Tuttle
Santa Monica

Stay home, Ralph

Editor:

Ralph Nader thinking about 2004? That is the last thing we need. If it wasn't for him siphoning off enough votes from Al Gore, President Bush wouldn't have been able to steal the election.

Mike Kirwan
Venice

A compound problem we don't need

Editor:

We sent this to the Santa Monica City Council almost two months ago, but have received no reply:

Please consider our opposition to fluoridation of our city's water supply. We object to not having a choice as to whether or not we wish to drink or bathe in fluoridated water. It is unconscionable that you would force a chemical compound on all people of Santa Monica without their permission. What choice will we have not to partake in fluoridation after the fluoridation has been added?

There are plenty of ways people can ingest fluoridation if they so choose, but can you show us any way not to ingest once it's already in Santa Monica's water?

Thank your for your serious consideration to our request.

Ben and Doris Stegall
Santa Monica

VERSION
2.0

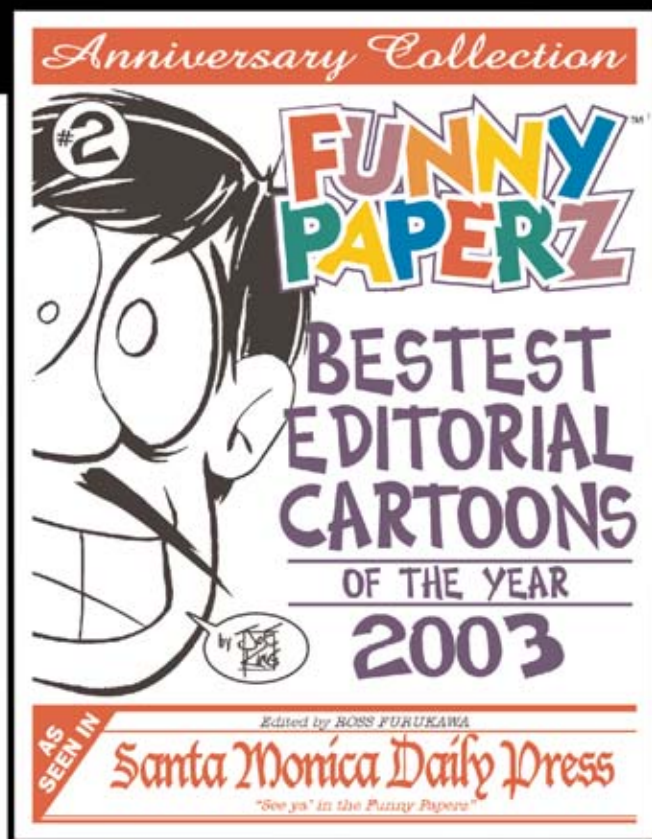
**Celebrating
SMDP's 2nd
Anniversary!**

CHECK OUT THESE REVIEWS--

"HOT POTATOS
& HAM BONES!"
--The Publicist

"WHY DOES HE
ALWAYS PICK
ON ME?"
--The Councilman

"JOE'S WORK
IS THE
SECOND THING
I LOOK FOR
EVERY DAY."
--The Peace Activist



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Red-letter day for sending along holiday tidings



**MODERN
TIMES**
By Lloyd Garver

Every year, we all get a few of those Christmas letters from people instead of cards. You know the kind I mean. They talk about what a "challenging" year it's been, and chronicle events like children's achievements, home improvements and the sender's ailments. Our friends and relatives can't be the only people who send them each year. Some famous people must mail out holiday letters as well. Here's what excerpts from some of those letters probably look like:

FROM BRITNEY SPEARS: It's been a challenging year, what with the war going on and that sore throat that I had. But right now is my funnest time of the year. However, Madonna, my idol and mentor, has shown me that it's also a time for reflection. She has taught me that following a spiritual path is just as important as

wearing jeans with a perfect rise. Sometimes watching the news is so yucky, but we can't ignore those who are less fortunate no matter how gross they are. I've been racking my brain trying to think how I can help people. And then it came to me, and I was like, "duh." People all over the world will be happier if they just listened to me sing and watched my videos. And everyone can buy them at their nearest mall. Or, if it's too dangerous for them to go outside, they can get them online. ...

FROM BILL CLINTON: It's been a challenging year, but an uplifting one. When we had the power blackout here, it was truly inspiring to see the way everybody came together to help each other. But maybe if you're not a New Yorker, like we are, y'all can't comprehend the spirit of New York.

But I'd be lying if I said I didn't miss the White House — and everybody knows I'm a bad liar. So I'm hoping that Hillary will run for president soon and get us back where we belong. I can't put my finger on it, but I just feel like I lost something in that big ol' house. Oh, now I remember. It was my integrity.

Happy holidays, Bill

FROM PRESIDENT BUSH: It has been a challenging year for the country and for our family. However, both remain strong. My mother, the beloved Barbara Bush, wrote a book this year. She did a great job. I enjoyed every chapter that Laura read to me.

Debates are constantly going on in this great country of ours about some of my policies, and that's perfectly healthy. All Americans have a right to express their opinions, and I have a right to ignore those who don't agree with me. But I am a uniter, not a divider. So, at least during this time of year, let's all try to put our differences aside. With that spirit in mind, let me just issue this holiday wish: "Peace on earth, Good will to all heterosexual men."

FROM THE EDITORS OF THE NEW YORK TIMES: ... so it was a challenging year for us as we put our house in order. But the country and the world have also had many challenges this year. Fighting continues in Iraq and neighboring countries, and so far, Mr. Bush still has not found either Mr. Bin Laden or Mr. Hussein. So all the editors here hope that there will be peace in the coming year. And we wish you a happy holiday season whether you

observe in your own personal, secular manner, or if you celebrate Kwanzaa, Hanukkah or the birth of Mr. Christ.

FROM JAY LENO: ... so, it's been quite challenging to entertain during this difficult year. And entertaining people is all I care about. I'm not interested in the whole competition thing. I don't care how many babies David Letterman has. I'll still be Number One.

On a personal note, the rumors are true. I am going to have an operation in the near future. It's become necessary to have my lips surgically removed from Arnold Schwarzenegger's butt. ...

FROM MICHAEL JACKSON'S FAMILY: Don't ask.

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

Opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to sack@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite 202, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

DID YOU KNOW?: TV's Mr. Ed, whose real name was Bamboo Harvester, was once a parade horse. He was bought for \$1,500 by Filmway Productions.

LOCAL



School board to debate gift-sharing proposal

POLICY, from page 1

January for discussion and action.

Sandy Thacker, co-president of the Parent Teacher Association at Webster Elementary School in Malibu, thinks the policy will quell donor enthusiasm, while possibly violating the PTA bylaws that govern how donations are handled and dis-

tributed by school officials and volunteers.

"We feel that it will decrease fundraising in the district," said Thacker, whose 450-pupil school got \$180,000 in direct donations alone. "Parents will be less likely to donate because their full donation won't go to the school."

Thacker added that the schools will suf-

fer because money will be collected next school year, but not distributed until the following year under the proposal. She suggested creating a voluntary program in which donors can fuel district coffers, pointing out that disadvantaged schools have access to other revenue sources and grants.

However, other Malibu residents praised the plan.

"I think that we need a policy that will bring equity to our district," said PTA volunteer Laura Rosenthal, who has two sons in Malibu schools. "One of the things that I really wanted to address ... was a perception of certain people in Malibu that some schools in Santa Monica do not do their share of fundraising."

Rosenthal alluded to the feelings held by some that it is unethical to share the money raised for one school with other schools. She said there is also a misperception that Santa Monica schools don't work hard at fundraising.

"We need to have a district-wide policy that will address these issues," she said.

"And whatever that policy looks like, it needs to have this as a basic tenet."

Deasy said the district still needs to hash out the details of redistributing non-cash donations, but added they occur much less frequently.

Under the plan, the money would be allotted to the schools based on the number of students currently enrolled, with additional consideration given to the respective number who receive free or reduced-price lunches, those who are below basic proficiency levels, the number of English language learners, as well as the number of severely handicapped.

Rosenthal admitted there will still be vast inequities in local public schools, even if the proposal moves forward, but said it is a step in the right direction. Deasy said he hopes officials can agree that it's the right thing to do.

"I am very optimistic that this community will want to do what it can, in our ability, to solve this problem — a long-standing problem," he said.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 3

Anyone can take part in the center's holiday parties by adopting a family, serving meals, providing entertainment or by making monetary donations. People can also donate food, clothing, gifts, decorations and party supplies.

For more information on St. Joseph Center, call (310) 396-6468 ext. 328, or visit www.stjosephctr.org.

Act up at Emeritus College workshop

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica College's Emeritus College is seeking students for its winter session acting workshop to be offered 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., on Fridays, beginning Jan. 9.

Classes are held at Emeritus' new facility at 1227 Second St., just south of Wilshire Boulevard.

Students have a chance to rehearse and perform scenes of their choice.

The class is taught by Barbara Gannen — actress, director and professional acting coach — who for 25 years has worked in theater, film and television. She also teaches at the Margie Haber Studio in West Hollywood.

Emeritus College offers classes designed for people 55 and older.

The class is free, but advance registration is required. Call (310) 434-4306 or (323) 935-6119.

Historical society looks at Christmas past

By Daily Press staff

A Victorian Christmas and open house will be celebrated Sunday, Dec. 14 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., at the Santa Monica Historical Society Museum.

The free event will include music, antique postcards, a tabletop original 1890s decorated Christmas tree, a life-size mechanical talking Santa Claus and "Landmarks" paintings by Fielden Harper.

The Laurel & Hardy film "Babes In Toyland" will begin at 1 p.m.

The museum is located at 1539 Euclid Street, Santa Monica. Parking is available behind the building.

For more information, call (310) 395-2290.



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Giants' Bonds, Santiago testify before grand jury

BY ROB GLOSTER

AP Sports Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Barry Bonds became the highest-profile athlete to appear before a grand jury focusing on possible tax and drug violations by a California lab that supplied nutritional supplements to Bonds and other sports stars.

The six-time National League MVP entered the grand jury room late Thursday morning accompanied by attorney Mike Rains and left the room nearly 5 1/2 hours later, though it was unclear how long he testified.

"It went fine," Bonds said as he was led by two bodyguards and two federal marshals to a freight elevator that was held for him. He was taken directly to the garage of the federal courthouse, then driven away as a marshal stopped traffic.

Bonds' wife and mother sat in a nearby hallway during most of his appearance. At one point, Bonds — who wore a sports jacket and tie — stuck his head into the hallway and asked, "Is my mother here?"

Benito Santiago, a free agent who spent the past three seasons as Bonds' teammate with the San Francisco Giants, testified for 45 minutes later in the afternoon.

His attorney, David Cornwell, said he fears athletes who appear before the grand jury will be unfairly ostracized.

"My only concern is that there seems to be almost an undercurrent that stigmatizes these guys, which I think is inappropriate," Cornwell said.

Bonds has attributed his muscular development over the years to intense weight training, proper diet and a regimen of nutritional supplements from companies such as the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative, or BALCO, that is at the heart

of the grand jury probe.

Bonds repeatedly has denied using steroids.

Thursday's appearance gave grand jurors the chance to ask the Giants slugger under oath whether his growth has been entirely natural.

Other athletes that already have appeared before the grand jury include track star Marion Jones and her boyfriend, 100-meter world record-holder Tim Montgomery, four Oakland Raiders and Olympic champion swimmer Amy Van Dyken.

An appearance before the grand jury, or being subpoenaed to testify, does not mean an athlete is a target of the probe.

Two people have been named so far as targets of the grand jury — BALCO founder Victor Conte, and Greg Anderson, Bonds' personal trainer.

Bonds, 39, became a BALCO client just before his record-setting 2001 season, in which he hit 73 homers, and has praised Conte for giving him a personalized nutritional program.

Anderson's home was raided by the Internal Revenue Service and a drug task force Sept. 5, two days after a similar raid at BALCO.

Bonds posed with Conte and Anderson for this past June's issue of Muscle & Fitness magazine and heaped praise on both.

"I visit BALCO every three to six months. They check my blood to make sure my levels are where they should be. Maybe I need to eat more broccoli than I normally do. Maybe my zinc and magnesium intakes need to increase," Bonds told the magazine.

"Victor will call me to make sure I'm taking my supplements, and my trainer Greg will sit near my locker and stare at me if I don't begin working out right away. I have these guys pushing me."

Group aims to stem violence

COALITION, from page 1

Since its creation in the wake of the fatal stabbing of Samohi student Deanna Maran at a party in 2001, the coalition has sponsored various community-related events at Samohi and throughout the city.

"It began, really, with a group of community parents, teachers, students and clergy from the community who came together for a meeting here at Santa Monica High School shortly after Deanna's death," McTaggart said Friday. "All these people were feeling in need, not just to mourn Deanna and the other student who died, but to really do something."

Coalition meetings, which were held regularly for several months, tapered off last year and have recently been revived.

"We stopped for a number of months because there were other issues (facing the community)," McTaggart said. "Now we've reconvened."

The debate over violence in Santa Monica has recently grown a little louder in response to a spate of gunshots this year in the eastside Pico neighborhood, including the fatal shooting of 19-year-old Jalonn Carter. Group members said, despite that violence, no one incident spurred the coalition back into action.

SMPD Lt. Guido urged the coalition to keep its focus broad, adding that targeting only the Pico neighborhood would be a mistake.

"There's a potential for violence all over Santa Monica," he said.

Schools bank on Wells Fargo

DONATION, from page 1

almost \$1.4 million for school districts in California, which includes more than \$450,000 for districts in Los Angeles, Ventura and Santa Barbara counties.

"School districts throughout California faced more than \$1.5 billion in cuts from the state's education budget this school year," said Shelley Benson, Wells Fargo Market president, who oversees South Bay and Westside banking stores. "Wells Fargo felt a responsibility to create a program that would support our students and teachers in the Santa Monica-Malibu schools during these difficult budget times."

In the past three years alone, Wells Fargo contributed more than \$60 million to schools and educational programs across the country. In 2002 alone, Wells Fargo provided more than \$2.5 million to fund programs that support pre-kindergarten through 12th grade students throughout the greater Los Angeles area.

STATE



Lawmakers are at impasse on eve of March ballot deadline

BY TOM CHORNEAU

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — With slightly more than 24 hours to go before a deadline for placing measures on the March ballot, negotiations between Democrats and Republican leaders broke down this week over a proposed limit on state spending.

The impasse comes just two weeks after Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger took office amid much hoopla and expectation that the moderate Republican governor could bring an end to political gridlock in the Capitol.

But party leaders emerged from an early evening, closed-door budget session with the governor Thursday saying no agreement is at hand largely because key players still cling to old political positions.

"We've put forward a proposal that is very substantive," said Assembly Speaker Herb Wesson, D-Culver City. "We are ready to put this thing to bed and make it happen. We are not in the mood for political posturing and playing games."

Schwarzenegger is struggling to get lawmakers to approve a budget package he wants to go on the March ballot. His package includes the proposed spending cap and a request to borrow up to \$15 billion to wipe out the state's existing deficit.

The governor has said he needs both elements to begin putting California's fis-

"The spending limit that the Democrats put forward today did not go far enough."

— **ROB STUTZMAN**
Schwarzenegger spokesman

cal house in order. But to get the two-thirds approval needed, Schwarzenegger will have to attract 22 Democrats in the Assembly and 12 Democrats in the Senate to his side, while getting all of the Legislature's Republicans to support him.

Lawmakers have only until Friday at midnight to act on the measures to allow time for election officials to prepare ballots for the March election.

Schwarzenegger spokesman Rob Stutzman said that the governor did not find the Democratic proposal acceptable but remained "optimistic" that an agreement can be worked out before the deadline.

"The spending limit that the Democrats put forward today did not go far enough," said Stutzman. "It was not rejected out of hand. The governor saw it as part of the negotiations. This was a counterproposal."

Senate Republican Leader Jim Brulte, of Rancho Cucamonga, said the Democrats were playing politics. "The governor has proposed a spending limit and the

Democrats don't want a spending limit — that's the conflict. Their balanced budget proposal does not require a balanced budget next year or any year into the future.

"If you take a pig and call it a cat, it doesn't make it a cat," he said.

The latest Democratic offer on the spending cap — also envisioned as a constitutional amendment that would need voter approval — was brought to Republican leaders Thursday although many Democrats struggled to endorse the plan.

Some insiders say the Democratic caucus remains badly split over the amount of borrowing proposed and the restrictions of a spending limit.

According to a memo outlining the Democrat's budget plan obtained by The Associated Press, the Democrats would tie the spending limit — not to the rate of inflation or population — but rather to the amount of tax revenue raised. In short, "general fund spending must not exceed general fund revenues."

Democrats say the proposal would prohibit future borrowing and calls for a reserve fund to be created but only a portion of the excess revenues would be set aside. Democrats would also provide the governor with some new authority to act on budget emergencies, but allows the Legislature 45 days to act on the problem before the new powers would be triggered.

Republicans said that proposal imposes no limits on spending because of its many loopholes.

Democrats will not agree to the "draconian" spending cap, said Wesson. He said their alternative "is a framework for an agreement. It's not business as usual. We are trying to do everything we can to meet tomorrow's (Friday's) deadline."

Lost in the debate is the other half of the Schwarzenegger plan — the borrowing of up to \$15 billion to be used to wipe out the state's existing deficit.

Senate President Pro Tem John Burton, D-San Francisco, said his caucus is ready to support the governor's borrowing plan.

But instead of paying back the debt over 30 years — as some administration officials have suggested — Senate Democrats would redirect a portion of the state's existing sales tax to retire the loan in seven years.

Brulte said the issue of the bond measure has not been discussed because all the attention has focused on the spending cap.

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STATE

Jackson documentary may have led to molestation charges

BY LINDA DEUTSCH

AP Special Correspondent

LOS ANGELES — More than a year ago, Michael Jackson let a television crew into his bizarre world for a documentary he no doubt hoped would boost his fading career.

Instead, "Living With Michael Jackson" may have triggered the child molestation case that threatens to destroy Jackson and his multimillion-dollar music empire.

Exactly what happened is a matter of dispute, but interviews with several sources close to Jackson and the accuser's family reveal one consistent thread: The documentary set in motion a series of events that led to the pop star's arrest last month.

The TV special, broadcast worldwide last February to an audience of millions, offered images of Jackson's fairy-tale estate, Neverland, his lonely trips to Las Vegas and his lavish spending habits. It also showed him talking about sleepovers with children at Neverland and holding the hand of a cancer-stricken boy — the boy who is now Jackson's accuser.

Those close to Jackson's defense team allege that around the time the TV special aired, the mother demanded a fee for her son's appearance. When Jackson refused, they say, the relationship between the family and Jackson soured.

In an alternate version, those close to the mother's side say she did not ask for payment. Instead, they say Jackson began acting strangely just before the special aired, telling the family they were in danger and would have to pack their belongings and leave their home.

According to this account, Jackson barred the family from Neverland, after which the mother hired an attorney — the same lawyer who had represented a boy in a molestation claim against Jackson 10 years ago.

The sources spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity but are in a position to know each side's version of events.

Jackson attorney Mark Geragos called the latest accusations "the big lie" and said the singer denies molesting the boy, now 13. The Santa Barbara County district attor-

ney's office said it expects to file formal charges the week of Dec. 15.

Everyone is in agreement on one thing: Jackson's relationship with the boy began with a good deed. Jackson was told by Jamie Masada, a comedy club owner who runs a camp for underprivileged children, that a child hospitalized with cancer wanted to meet him.

Jackson, who supports many children's charities, obliged and formed a relationship with the boy and his mother. The boy visited Neverland as his condition improved and gradually became part of Jackson's large entourage.

In the TV documentary, which was filmed over an eight-month period and aired in this country on ABC, Jackson defended his habit of letting children sleep in his bed as "sweet" and non-sexual. In one scene, the boy, his head sometimes resting on Jackson's shoulder, told the interviewer he had been a guest for sleepovers at Neverland.

The sleepovers have been a subject of curiosity for years: In 1993, Jackson was accused of molesting a 13-year-old boy. Jackson denied the allegations but paid the family millions in a settlement. The boy would not cooperate with prosecutors, and no charges were ever filed.

The month the documentary aired, Jackson hired Geragos, a high-powered Los Angeles defense attorney who represented actress Winona Ryder and Whitewater figure Susan McDougal.

Sources familiar with Jackson's defense said the singer hired Geragos because the boy's mother was demanding payment for her son's appearance in the 90-minute documentary. The documentary producers had neglected to get the boy to sign the standard disclaimer form.

Those sources said Geragos obtained an affidavit and a tape-recorded statement from the child and the mother. They praised Jackson as being like a father to the child and said nothing inappropriate had happened between Jackson and the boy.

Geragos declined to comment for this story.

A source who is in contact with the boy's family said no demand for payment was made and outlined a different scenario.

Last February, when the documentary was about to air, Jackson became alarmed because much of the pre-show publicity focused on his relationship with children and the previous child molestation allegations against him.

Shortly before the special aired, a source close to the family said, Jackson sent his assistants to the boy's home and told the family to pack their belongings and leave, saying, "Someone wants to hurt you."

They were then taken to Neverland, where Jackson met with them and said they had to leave town. There was talk of their leaving the country, but that never happened. Instead, they were whisked off to a lavish hotel in Florida, later returning to Southern California. Jackson then paid for them to stay in a hotel in Ventura, not far from Neverland.

At some point, Jackson told the family they were not welcome at his home anymore, a source close to the family said. The source also said Jackson put the family's furniture and other belongings from their home in storage, and did not return them when the mother asked for them back.

It was then, the family source said, that the mother consulted lawyer Larry Feldman, who had handled the case of the boy who leveled the molestation allegations against Jackson a decade ago. She said she thought her son had been molested, and she claimed Jackson had given him wine.

The lawyer advised her to have the boy see a psychologist, according to other sources close to the family. Ultimately, the psychologist, who had handled celebrity cases before, went to authorities under a legal requirement to report any claims of child molestation.

Feldman declined comment on the case. Repeated attempts to contact the boy's mother have been unsuccessful.

Geragos defended Jackson during a news conference last week and said the accusations against him were motivated by money. He said Jackson would not become "a pinata for every person who has financial motives."

Jackson has claimed that "Living With Michael Jackson" was edited to show him in a bad light and said he felt betrayed. The documentary now is being rerun on cable and is likely to be a central piece of evidence in Jackson's trial.

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NATIONAL



Bush finding himself in middle of a brawl after scrapping tariffs

BY LARA JAKES JORDAN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — By scrapping steep tariffs on imported steel, President Bush puts himself in the middle of an electoral brawl between Midwest and Rust Belt states he will need to win re-election, even as he averts a global trade war targeting other political battlegrounds.

Minutes after the announcement by the White House this week that it was repealing the tariffs, Democratic presidential candidates lambasted Bush as shunning the U.S. steel industry by caving in to threats from global trading partners.

Even more telling, Republicans who usually ally with Bush from politically key Rust Belt states declared their dismay in what Rep. Bob Ney, R-Ohio, described as "bad news" and a "disappointing setback."

But the decision will surely endear Bush to manufacturers of automobile parts, refrigerators, door hinges and hundreds of other steel products in just-as-politically-crucial states in the Midwest that eluded him in 2000.

"There's no question it will help," said Rep. Joe Knollenberg, R-Mich., who represents 1,500 auto parts businesses in his district and fought to end the tariffs when they were imposed in March 2002. Bush lost Michigan in 2000 by a slim 217,000 votes out of more than 4.1 million cast.

Michigan, along with Minnesota and Wisconsin, account for a total of 37 of the 270 electoral votes needed to win next year's presidential election. The key steel-producing states of Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Ohio hold 46.

Facing the threat of a trade war, Bush lifted the nearly 2-year-old tariffs but promised to continue monitoring imports vigilantly to guard against a sudden flood of foreign steel entering the country.

Bush's decision — a turnabout from his own policy — came in the face of threats by the 15-nation European Union to retaliate with \$2.2 billion in duties on U.S. products such as Florida oranges and pajamas made in the Carolinas.

Analysts said the list of products was carefully chosen to put pressure on Bush; sanctions could have created significant political pain for him in next year's race.

Within minutes of Bush's decision, the EU withdrew the threat, which was based on a World Trade Organization ruling that the tariffs were illegal.

The tariffs, covering a wide range of steel products, had been scheduled to remain in effect for three years, until 2005, to give U.S. steelmakers protection from foreign competition. Bush said the tariffs had been imposed to give the domestic industry critical time to modernize and to protect jobs.

"These safeguard measures have now

achieved their purpose, and as a result of changed economic circumstances, it is time to lift them," the president said in a statement.

U.S. Trade Representative Robert Zoellick said that neither political calculations nor the EU threat directly contributed to Bush's order. But, Zoellick said, "the politics are part of trying to accomplish an agenda" and "this one worked out pretty darn well."

"We avoided any retaliation," he said. "We gave the industry a chance to be back on its feet. And in terms of trade negotiations, I didn't find it (had) any effect. People, of course, use excuses for whatever their position. But it didn't stop us from going ahead."

With 41 steel companies nationwide declaring bankruptcy since 1997, the tariffs are politically symbolic in states like Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia, where the industry once thrived. If next year's presidential election is decided by a small margin of voters — as it was in 2000 — the tariffs may be enough to tip the balance in those swing states, said Ben Fischer, a labor relations professor at the H. John Heinz School of Public Policy at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh.

"There are a lot of people who still feel an identification to the industry," Fischer said. "I have no friends who are steelworkers, but all feel that this community somehow revolves around steel."

In 2000, Bush lost Pennsylvania by just 204,000 votes out of more than 4.7 million votes cast.

Four Democratic presidential candidates — Missouri Rep. Dick Gephardt, Connecticut Sen. Joe Lieberman, former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean and retired Gen. Wesley Clark — accused Bush of abandoning steel producers without offering plans to retain jobs in the industry and other manufacturing sectors.

Gephardt said that "rather than bow to the pressure of our trading partners," Bush should have negotiated further with the WTO. Dean said the tariff repeal "is just another example of this administration playing politics with peoples' lives."

But even lawmakers disappointed with the repeal said Bush still could carry the Rust Belt states if the economy continues on the upswing.

"I think there would be criticism of Mr. Bush regardless of what he decided on this," said Rep. Phil English, R-Pa., who chairs the Congressional Steel Caucus and is a Bush loyalist who pushed the administration to keep the tariffs.

But, he added, "If, at the end of the day, the steel industry is revitalized and we've bounced back, and the manufacturing sector is bouncing back, then I think Mr. Bush is going to do very well."

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page 2



INTERNATIONAL

Bremer warns Iraqi power switch will draw fire

BY SAMEER N. YACOB

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The top U.S. administrator in Iraq, L. Paul Bremer, warned Friday that attacks against coalition forces will likely escalate over the next few months as the occupation authority prepares for a transfer of sovereignty to a new Iraqi government.

The warning came after a roadside bomb hit a U.S. military convoy in Baghdad, killing one soldier, the military said. Two Iraqi civilians also died and 13 were injured, hospital workers said.

Also Friday, President Bush named longtime family troubleshooter, former Secretary of State James A. Baker III, to oversee the job of getting Iraq out from under its crushing \$125 billion debt.

"Secretary Baker will report directly to me and will lead an effort to work with the world's governments at the highest levels, with international organizations and with the Iraqis in seeking the restructuring and reduction of Iraq's official debt," Bush said in a statement read by White House press secretary Scott McClellan.

As the president's personal envoy on the issue, Baker will tackle a major problem in the rebuilding of Iraq. Iraq's debt carries annual servicing charges of \$7 billion to \$8 billion.

"The regime of Saddam Hussein saddled the Iraqi people with the debt because they were more interested in

"The regime of Saddam Hussein saddled the Iraqi people with the debt because they were more interested in building palaces and torture chambers and mass graves than helping the Iraqi people."

— SCOTT MCCLELLAN
White House press secretary

building palaces and torture chambers and mass graves than helping the Iraqi people," McClellan said.

Bush said he made the appointment in response to a request by the Iraqi Governing Council.

On Saturday, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld was scheduled to visit American troops in Iraq. He is on a tour of nations in Central Asia, the Middle East and Azerbaijan, Afghanistan and Georgia.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Bremer said former members of Saddam Hussein's intelligence agencies were now assuming an increasingly prominent role in the insurgency. He predicted an upsurge in attacks in coming months.

"In the immediate phase ahead of us between now and the end of June we will actually see an increase in attacks, because the people who are against us now realize that there's huge momentum behind both the economic and political

reconstruction of this country," Bremer told the AP.

According to a Nov. 15 agreement between the U.S.-led coalition and Iraq's Governing Council, caucuses will be held across Iraq to elect delegates who will convene by the end of May. One month later, the delegates will elect a transitional government with full sovereign powers, formally ending the U.S.-led occupation.

"The dead-enders can see that all this, plus the fact that the Iraqi people will get their sovereignty back, spells trouble for them," Bremer said. "So I think we will see a phase now when we will actually see increased attacks."

A total of 79 U.S. soldiers died in Iraq in November. Twenty-five other allied troops also were killed, making it the deadliest month for the coalition since the invasion of Iraq on March 20.

The military said that on Friday a roadside bomb killed a soldier who was trav-

eling in a three-vehicle convoy near the al-Samarrai mosque in the New Baghdad section of town.

Two civilians also died, said Karim Abdullah Muslim, the head of emergency services at the nearby al-Kindi hospital.

Most of the civilian casualties were passengers on a bus that was badly damaged in the explosion, witnesses said.

Haitham Rashid, a passenger on the bus, said about two dozen people were aboard the vehicle at the time of the blast.

Haidar Aziz Kazim, an 11-year-old schoolboy, said he had been shopping with his mother and aunt when the explosion occurred.

"I blame Saddam Hussein for what happened," said Kazim, who was in the hospital with wounds to his legs. "They are hurting ordinary Iraqis, not the Americans."

In a Friday sermon in the town of Kufa south of Baghdad, radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr threatened to call a general strike in the holy city of Najaf if U.S. occupation forces do not free members of his militia group by the start of the next Arabic month which falls in about 20 days.

Al-Sadr did not say how many militia-men of the group were in detention.

His call came two days after Amar Yassiri, whom the U.S. military has described as a senior al-Sadr aide in Baghdad, was detained by U.S. troops in Baghdad in connection with his alleged part in an Oct. 12 ambush in which two soldiers died.



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DID YOU KNOW?: Cleo and Caesar were early stage names of Cher and Sonny Bono.



WORLD BRIEFLY

Bomb blows up Russian train, kills 36

By The Associated Press

ROSTOV-ON-DON, Russia — A bomb ripped through a commuter train near Chechnya during rush hour on Friday, killing 36 people and wounding dozens in what authorities described as an act of terrorism.

The bomb was planted inside the train's second car, said Maj. Gen. Nikolai Lityuk of the Emergency Situations Ministry. Lityuk said authorities are investigating the possibility that suicide bombers orchestrated the attack.

Authorities were investigating the blast as a terror attack, Vladimir Rudyak, a spokesman for the prosecutor's office in the region, said, although he didn't single out any groups. He described the force of the blast as equivalent to 22 pounds of TNT.

In Moscow, Prosecutor General's office spokeswoman Natalia Vishnyakova said that detectives were investigating many scenarios, including the possibility that the bombing was linked to parliamentary elections scheduled for Sunday.

The bombing occurred at around 8 a.m. and seemed calculated to kill and injure a maximum number of people. The train was traveling between the cities of Mineralnye Vody and Essentuki, Lityuk told reporters. Nobody claimed responsibility.

Crude comments greeted with open arms

By The Associated Press

VIENNA, Austria — By maintaining its current production target, OPEC appeared to offer a breather to oil consuming countries that had feared the group might cut output and drive oil prices higher than already uncomfortable levels.

OPEC representatives meeting this week at the group's Vienna headquarters decided to keep their daily production ceiling at 25.4 million barrels. Any relief for importers could be short-lived, however, as the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries made

clear that it was ready to slash production in coming weeks to avert a looming surplus of oil next spring.

OPEC, which supplies about a third of the world's crude, worries that a seasonal decline in demand might cause prices to fall in April, May and June. Prolific output from non-OPEC producers like Russia, combined with a steady recovery in postwar exports from Iraq, compound its challenge.

Officials vow to solve prosecutor's murder

By The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Jonathan Luna was known as a highly skilled attorney inside the courtroom and a champion of minorities and the poor outside of it.

Law enforcement authorities have vowed to do everything they can to find who was responsible for the death of the 38-year-old assistant U.S. attorney, who was found stabbed to death in a Pennsylvania creek Thursday.

"Let there be no doubt. Let there be no doubt that everyone in law enforcement, local police, state police, the United States Marshals Service, ATF, FBI, are united," said U.S. Attorney Thomas DiBiaggio. "We will find out who did this, and we are dedicated to bringing the person responsible for this tragedy to justice."

Luna was discovered face-down in the water behind the parking lot of a well-drilling company in Lancaster County, Pa., about 70 miles from Baltimore, police said. His car was near the body, police said.

Limbaugh denies 'doctor shopping'

By The Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — Rush Limbaugh says prosecutors are on a fishing expedition.

Investigators allege in search warrants that the conservative radio commentator engaged in illegal drug use and went "doctor shopping" for prescription painkillers.

Limbaugh denied any wrongdoing to listeners on his show this week. Reading from a statement prepared by

his attorney, Roy Black, Limbaugh said medical records will clear him.

"What these records show is that Mr. Limbaugh suffered extreme pain and had legitimate reasons for taking pain medication," Limbaugh said. "Unfortunately, because of Mr. Limbaugh's prominence and well-known political opinions, he is being subjected to an invasion of privacy no citizen of this republic should endure."

State Attorney Barry Krischer said in a statement that Limbaugh's rights have been scrupulously protected.

In search warrants filed Thursday, investigators say they were looking for medical, insurance and appointment records for Limbaugh as well as cash receipts and prescription forms during raids made of two doctor's offices Nov. 25.

Limbaugh "alternated physicians to obtain overlapping prescriptions" and failed to tell each doctor that he was seeing others," according to the warrants, filed in Palm Beach County Circuit Court.

Truckers wary of highway shooter

By The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — A national trucking association has asked drivers to report anything out of the ordinary to law enforcement as authorities try to solve a series of 12 shootings — one of them fatal — along a stretch of interstate in Columbus.

The American Trucking Associations sent the alert this week to drivers, who can use a toll-free number that links them with law enforcement.

In the Washington-area sniper shootings case, a truck driver was credited along with another man with tipping police to the location of the suspects.

"He saw an alert to truck drivers on the news. We have about 30,000 members who can act as eyes and ears on the road," said truckers association spokesman John Willard.

Ballistics tests have definitively linked four of the 12 shootings — three at vehicles and one at an elementary school — but investigators believe they all are connected.

The shootings took place on or near the same short stretch of I-270 south of Columbus; the woman who was killed, Gail Knisley, was the only person hit.

State transportation officials say an average of 77,000 vehicles travel each day on I-270 and U.S. 23, the north-south artery that intersects 270 near the sites where the shootings happened.

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6 Rings

11 Museum piece

12 Confused

13 Flooded

14 Birth-based

15 Use, as birthday candles

17 Big head

18 Tick off

19 Trial

22 Teaching org.

23 Role for De Niro

24 Toss

25 Lab container

27 Big galoot

30 Theater seat part

31 Not strict

32 Party staple

33 Casual top

35 "See ya!"

38 Chair repairer

39 Danny's daughter

40 Sports site

41 Winter weather

DOWN

1 Entice

2 Do electrician's work

3 Sitka's state

4 Pike, e.g.

5 Trinket

6 Bad review

7 Flight guess: Abbr.

8 Toward the wake

9 Team group

10 Perm place

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Yesterday's answer

16 Most

proximate

20 Convertible, often

21 Pull

24 Sticky stuff

25 Kind of shower

26 Realm

27 Flared dresses

28 Report card

recipient

29 Crowd scene

30 Second group

34 Fast runner

36 Bullfight call

37 Drunk

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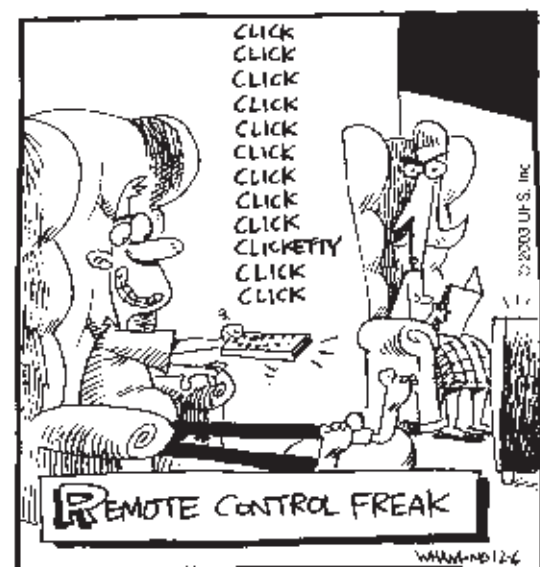


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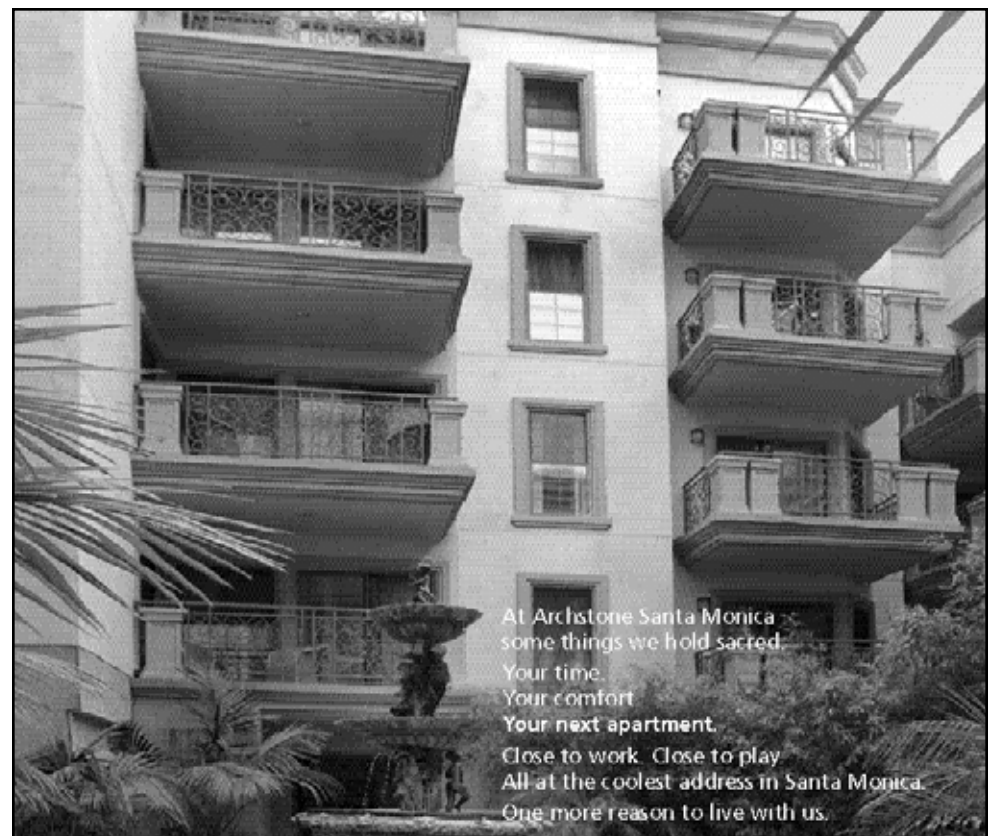
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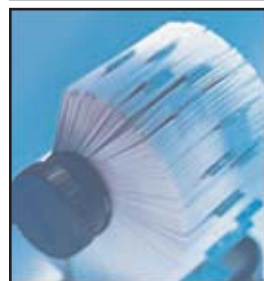
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BACK PAGE

Springsteen keeps drummers drumming, pipers piping

By The Associated Press

■ **ASBURY PARK, N.J.** — Bruce Springsteen is providing some season's greetings for a high school marching band.

Springsteen and other musicians performing three benefit shows at Convention Hall this weekend will donate some of the proceeds to the Asbury Park High School band. The money will help buy uniforms and instruments for the band, which was resurrected two years ago with seven members and now features 25 musicians.

The band also has been told that Springsteen, who earned his reputation playing clubs in Asbury Park, will donate 30 instruments. That has band members excited because the instruments they now play are in constant need of repair, the Asbury Park Press of Neptune reported Friday.

Officials said each band member also will get a free ticket for either Saturday or Sunday's show, and the band will be allowed to set up a table to collect contri-

butions from concertgoers at all three shows.

■ **EDMONTON, Alberta** — The jersey Wayne Gretzky wore in last month's outdoors old-timers hockey game sold for \$26,600 in an Internet auction.

The autographed Edmonton Oilers sweater, one of three Gretzky wore during the Nov. 22 game, went Thursday to a buyer on eBay who asked only to be identified as Dale. He also spent \$9,600 on Mark Messier's jersey.

Dale told CFRN News he was "pretty nervous" about buying the jersey. "More overwhelmed with the publicity. I probably wouldn't have bid on it if I had known this would happen."

He said he'd planned to buy only Messier's jersey because he thought Gretzky's would be too expensive.

"But then I started bidding on Gretzky and the more I thought about it, I thought it would be nice to keep them together," he said.

Proceeds from the sale will go to a charity of the

NHL Players Association's choice, according Doug Goss, the hockey event's chairman.

■ **CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va.** — "Cold Mountain," starring Nicole Kidman, Renee Zellweger and Jude Law, will be screened here nearly two weeks before its national release.

The Dec. 13 showing will benefit the Virginia Film Festival.

While most of the film was shot in Romania, the opening sequence and other scenes were shot in Virginia. Miramax, which is releasing the film, was keen on having an early screening in Virginia, said Richard Herskowitz, artistic director of the film festival.

"Also, we have friends at Miramax," he said.

"Cold Mountain," directed by Anthony Minghella ("The English Patient"), is based on Charles Frazier's acclaimed Civil War novel. It's scheduled for national release on Christmas Day.

Everything you wanted to know about flu, but afraid to ask

By The Associated Press

Health officials say this year's flu outbreak, which has spread faster and earlier than usual, appears to be the worst in at least three years. Here are answers to some common flu season questions:

QUESTION: What's the difference between a cold and flu?

ANSWER: Colds usually begin slowly and last only two to seven days, although it can be two weeks. They start with a scratchy, sore throat, followed by sneezing and a runny nose. You may get a mild cough later. Infants and young children can sometimes run temperatures up

to 102 degrees Fahrenheit with a cold.

Flu often begins with a sudden headache and dry cough, possibly a runny nose and sore throat; also achy muscles and extreme fatigue. You may run a fever up to 104. Most people feel better in a couple of days, but the tiredness and cough can last for two weeks or longer. Flu can cause severe illness and life-threatening complications in some people.

Children may have symptoms — nausea, vomiting or diarrhea — that are not common for adults.

Flu can be confirmed with a test if given within two to three days after symptoms begin, but getting it isn't always practical.

Q: What flu symptoms are dangerous?

A: A combination of symptoms — sustained fever and chills, chest pain that gets worse when taking a deep breath and sputum that's a yellow color — can indicate pneumonia and a doctor should be consulted.

Q: Can I get the flu even though I got a flu shot this year?

A: Yes, although it often lessens the severity of the virus and can prevent deadly complications. Typically, the flu shot protects between 70 percent and 90 percent of healthy people under age 65. The elderly are more susceptible.

The power of the flu shot also depends on how well it matches the flu virus in cir-

culation. The current Fujian flu strain that is affecting most people is not the strain in this year's flu shot. But disease experts say it is a close enough match that considerable protection should be provided.

Q: What are complications from the flu?

A: They include bacterial pneumonia, dehydration and worsening of chronic medical conditions such as congestive heart failure, asthma or diabetes. Seniors and those with chronic medical conditions are at highest risk.

Q: How is flu spread?

A: It spreads when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks and the virus is sent into the air.

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