



FREE

Santa Monica Daily Press

December 11-12, 2004

A newspaper with issues

Volume 4, Issue 25

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

1 6 14 33 36
Meganumber: 10
Jackpot: \$12 Million

FANTASY 5

6 7 23 25 27

DAILY 3

Daytime: 3 0 2
Evening: 5 6 6

DAILY DERBY

1st: 10 Solid Gold
2nd: 04 Big Ben
3rd: 07 Eureka

RACE TIME: 1:48.43

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

In October, with the homeowner away on vacation, Beverly Valentine, 54, broke into a house in Douglasville, Ga., and made herself totally at home, commandeering owner Beverly Mitchell's clothes, having the utilities changed to her name, ripping out carpeting, having a new washer and dryer installed, and painting a room, among other changes. When Mitchell returned after 17 days in Greece, she was of course dumbfounded that her key wouldn't work. Valentine has not yet explained, but a former neighbor said she has had some "problems."

TODAY IN HISTORY

In 1946, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) was established.
In 1981, the U.N. Security Council chose Javier Perez de Cuellar of Peru to be the fifth secretary-general of the world body.
In 1991, a jury in West Palm Beach, Fla., acquitted William Kennedy Smith of sexual assault and battery, rejecting the allegations of Patricia Bowman.

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New kidnapping suspect fits profile

DNA evidence points to a convicted felon in prison, and may help prove innocent Olympic medalist Harris

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

LAX COURTHOUSE — Lawyers on Friday released new information about a second suspect in the violent kidnappings of an elderly Santa Monica woman this fall.

DNA evidence recovered in the case points to a three-strike criminal who was arrested in East Los Angeles last month after allegedly stealing a car, lawyers said. Authorities haven't named the

new suspect, but said he has been jailed before for similar offenses.

The new information may help prove innocent Olympic silver medalist Danny Harris, in custody for the last month in connection with the kidnappings. Harris, 39, was charged with seven felony counts after trained bloodhounds led investigators to his room at the Clare Foundation, a nonprofit organization that helps drug and alcohol addicts.

A track star who earned the sil-

ver medal in the 400-meter hurdles at the 1984 Olympics, Harris also is a recovering cocaine addict who was living at Clare while working as a personal trainer at Better Body Maker on Santa Monica Boulevard. Police believe he twice kidnapped a 75-year-old Santa Monica woman, stole from her, and threatened to kill her and burn down her house. The incidents occurred Oct. 18 and Nov. 4.

Harris, who is being held in lieu of \$1.44 million bail, has pleaded not guilty to the charges and will return to court Monday. After learning of the new suspect, pros-

ecutors refused to drop the charges against Harris, but agreed to conduct new police lineups this weekend and re-interview key witnesses in the case.

Deputy District Attorneys Kelly Fritz and Scott Millington argued Harris should remain in custody because he may have been working collaboratively with the additional suspects. They pointed to eyewitnesses who positively identified Harris, and evidence collected from his room that they claimed connects Harris to the kidnappings.

See DNA, page 5

Merchants feel city has signals crossed at dangerous corner

KATHLEEN BISHOP

Special to the Daily Press

OCEAN PARK BLVD. — Merchants' ongoing fears about the safety of a crosswalk at 18th Street were realized Saturday afternoon when two pedestrians were struck by a car. Despite a traffic light system installed four months ago to prevent such mishaps, last week's accident seemed to justify their concerns.

The store owners feel the accident could have been prevented, but that the city hasn't heard their

See TRAFFIC, page 5



Kathleen Bishop/Daily Press

A woman warily makes her way across Ocean Park Boulevard at 18th Street, an intersection merchants have long felt to be dangerous.

Out of the mouths of babes



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Kindergarten students from Grant Elementary hold hands and belt out Christmas carols for shoppers at Santa Monica Place mall on Friday.

Bell ringers beginning to take donations via plastic

BY BETH DEFALCO

Associated Press Writer

PHOENIX — The clang of coins in the Salvation Army's trademark red kettles is being replaced, at least in part, with the swipe of credit and debit cards, as some bell ringers began using handheld card readers here.

The effort, launched Wednesday in Phoenix, is one of the Salvation Army's first using the card swipes to collect donations at its kettles, which have been a holiday institution since 1891.

"So many people shop with a debit card now. They just don't have cash, or extra change," said Sandi Gabel, a Salvation Army

spokeswoman in Arizona. "It will be a nice way for people to make a donation if they don't have that cash on hand."

Local officials hope the cashless option will grab new donors and help make up a projected \$200,000 decline in donations expected locally after Target stores nationally banned bell ringers. That represents

about a fifth of the \$1 million raised through kettle donations in Arizona last year.

The donations are used for services including medical assistance, emergency services and food and clothing for the needy.

"We knew we were going to have a loss this year in our kettle

See TAKE CREDIT, page 13

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

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
 ★★★★★ Take an overview rather than get triggered. Perfection and enjoyment happen to those who lie back and see the big picture. Schedule a mini-trip or holiday concert. Get into the genuine meaning of Christmas. Tonight: Listen to holiday music.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 ★★★★★ You breeze through a project, opening up the day for special time with others. Some might decide to snuggle in, whereas others could get in the holiday mood and start decorating or buying their tree. Tonight: Under the mistletoe — all night if possible!

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 ★★★★★ You often have a commanding presence, more than you are aware of. Let others lure you out the door, because wherever you are, a good time is had by all. Your laughter and child-like personality add a special touch. Tonight: From party to party, or at least out and about.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 ★★★★★ You throw yourself into a project, most likely at home and/or involving the holidays. You feel special right now and also want to let others know how special they are to you. You embody the holiday spirit. Let your caring flow, especially to someone who might be sad. Tonight: Play it relaxing.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 ★★★★★ The romantic nature of this holiday season takes over as you start playing like you are a kid again. Gather your kids or join pals who can let loose. Put your dancing shoes on, as you could go on and on. Tonight: Spontaneity is the byword.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 ★★★★★ You opt to spend the day close to home visiting with family and loved ones. Some might want to decorate, others write notes on cards, and many something totally unrelated to the season. Let the moment flow. Tonight: Order in.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 ★★★★★ You don't need to go far. Just turn the corner or visit with a neighbor. Before you know it, you're ear-to-ear grins. Run necessary errands, but reserve plenty of people time. Enjoy the moment and let go of concerns. Tonight: Out and about.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 ★★★★★ Funds need to be a major concern when dealing with others, buying gifts or socializing. You easily could go overboard, knowing exactly what you are doing. Remember, there is a tomorrow. Share your holiday spirit in a non-material way. Tonight: Flow with plans.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 ★★★★★ The planets point to you. You have the power to make this day fantastic if you want. Find a special friend and choose an activity the two of you always enjoy. Let your hair down, and others will delight in the moment with you. Tonight: What would you like? Do it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 ★★★★★ Know when to disappear. Today might be perfect, as you are likely to enjoy yourself to the max — all alone. Whatever you have on your agenda, you thoroughly delight in the activity. Don't think that you can vanish completely. Tonight: Mystery works.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 ★★★★★ You might have a hard time covering all the bases. You receive invitation after invitation. Stop. Think. Where do you most want to be? And then decide. A friendship could be developing into more. Be sensitive to this person. Tonight: Where the action is.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
 ★★★★★ You seem to be the leader of the gang and the main organizer. How can you stop putting yourself in this position? You deserve some fun as well. Practice saying the word "no." Check in on a parent or older relative. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

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LOCAL

Community ‘hero’ never one to toot his own horn

BY CATHLEEN YOUNG
Special to the Daily Press

Growing up on the south side of Chicago, Bob Sullivan knew how to get into trouble.

“When I wasn’t throwing rocks at passing trains, I was playing hookie and getting into all kinds of mischief,” he recalled.

What changed?

“We didn’t have Boys & Girls Clubs back then,” he said. “But we did have the Catholic Youth Organization. With the help of the coaches and counselors, I started directing all that youthful energy into positive outlets. Instead of throwing rocks at trains, I was learning how to do a cross-over dribble in basketball and a hook slide in baseball. I learned firsthand the importance of organizations like the Boys & Girls Clubs to keep kids off the streets and give them a home away from home.”

Today, Sullivan is a successful businessman and philanthropist. When it comes to community service, he lives by one simple rule: “If you make a living in a community, it’s your sacred duty to give back to that community.”

Recently, Sullivan was awarded the Boys & Girls Council Community Service Award. By any standard, Sullivan has given back to his community. And the Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Monica have benefited from his tireless dedication to improving the lives of children. He is a director and past president of the organization. He has given more than two decades of service aimed at helping young boys and girls improve their lives.

He’s also volunteered in numerous civic organizations. Sullivan served as the first chairman of Santa Monica’s Architectural Review Board, a position he held for four years. He later served for four years on the city’s Planning Commission and spent another 14 years on Santa Monica’s Personnel Board. Sullivan was

also the past president of the Apartment Association of Greater Los Angeles. He also served as a director since 1968 and currently is the state legislative chair. Sullivan is the past president of the Santa Monica Board of Realtors and a 28-year member of the Rotary Club of Santa Monica. This past January, Sullivan was honored by the Lion’s Club with the Lions Community Recognition Award.

Frank Schwengel presented Sullivan with the Lion’s Club Award and has this to say about his long-time friend: “Bob is too modest to toot his own horn, but he’s a guy who always says ‘yes’ when others might say ‘no.’ He gives his time, his money, his enthusiasm. But that’s not all. He gets other people excited about our

mission of helping kids. Bob creates a wildfire effect. We’re honoring Bob, but the truth is, he honors us by all he gives to his community.”

Allan Young, president and CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Monica, refers to Sullivan as a “quiet hero.”

“Bob has that wonderful Irish sense of humor,” Young said. “He loves to laugh and have a good time, but underneath the humor is a man who is very serious about making the world a better place. It may sound corny, but

that’s who Bob Sullivan is. To me, that’s a hero.”

After 25 years of working together, Sullivan considers Young a good friend. And he claims his work for the club also springs from his admiration of Young, a man he calls “inspiring.”

“It’s not easy to keep people excited about giving,” Sullivan said. “Even when you have a great cause like we do. Allan is dedicated to improving the lives of every kid who walks through the door. That’s what drives him, day in and day out. You can’t fake that. That’s why Allan generates such tremendous loyalty and dedication. The worst day of my presi-

See SULLIVAN, page 6



BOB SULLIVAN



SURF REPORT

On Saturday, look for fading WNW swell. Northern LA spots with good NW exposure see waist-chest high waves, with some shoulder-high and bigger sets at top spots. South Bay beaches see chest- to head-high waves, with sets 1-2' overhead at standouts on the best tides. Light winds in the morning turn light onshore for the afternoon.

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

Today the water is:

59°

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	1:21	2.0	3:04	-1.5	7:43	7.0	9:36	3.9
SUNDAY	2:04	2.1	3:52	-1.7	8:26	7.2	10:30	3.9
MONDAY	2:50	2.3	4:42	-1.6	9:12	7.1	11:27	3.9
TUESDAY	3:42	2.5	5:35	-1.4	10:02	6.8	N/A	N/A
WEDNESDAY	4:42	2.6	6:29	-0.9	12:27	3.9	10:56	6.2
THURSDAY	5:59	2.8	7:26	-0.4	1:30	4.0	1:57	5.5
FRIDAY	7:35	2.7	8:22	0.1	2:32	4.3	1:10	4.8

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



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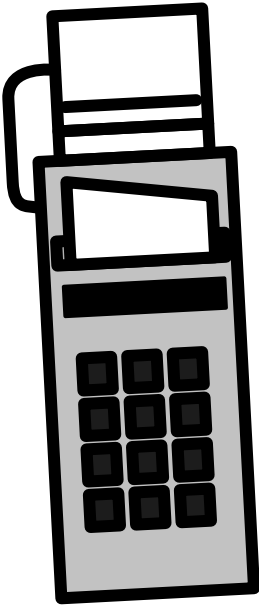
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OPINION

The QLine

THE MAN WHO WOULD BE MAYOR

This past week, Q-line asked:
Who should be the next mayor of Santa Monica?
Here are your responses:

① “I choose Mr. Ken Genser. Although Mr. Genser lives north of Montana, he understands the problems of those residents who live south of that affluent boundary. Also Mr. Genser enjoys the twilight dance series that takes place on the Santa Monica Pier. That makes him good enough for me.”

② “I think Bobby Shriver would be a vast improvement over the nincompoops we have now on the City Council of Santa Monica.”

③ “Well as much as I hate to say it, I think Kevin McKeown should be the next mayor because he’s been waiting patiently and gracefully for the opportunity for some time now. Pam (O’Connor) has been the mayor. Bob Holbrook’s been the mayor. Herb’s been the mayor, so that brings us back to Kevin who’s been waiting for the chance and it’s largely ceremonial so let’s not politicize it — let’s give everyone a shot.”

④ “The city’s elected representation, with or without Richard Bloom, is a losing proposition. My only consolation is that I did not vote for any of them. Those that did will rue the day. There is no one on the current scene that I would recommend for mayor. It’s a no-win situation anyhow.”

⑤ “Bobby Shriver should be definitely be selected for the new mayor of Santa Monica. He’s the new guy on the block and the other guys have been around for a long time, and look at the mess we’re in with their leadership. So let’s take in somebody with the mindset to do things and he can take on anything else like this re-development idea.”

⑥ “The next mayor should be Shriver since he got, by far, the most votes.”

⑦ “Bobby Shriver should be appointed as the next mayor of Santa Monica. And the reasons are numerous. Number one, he’ll bring a fresh look to the council and the city with fresh ideas. Number two, people will listen to him on the council and not fall asleep, as half of them do now. Number three, he will get it done. Whatever Bobby Shriver puts his mind to it will get done. These are the reasons Bobby Shriver should be the next mayor.”

⑧ “I think that the mayor should be Kevin McKeown because he’s reasonable, he’s respectful and he’s responsive. When I disagree with him politically, he listens to other people and the few times he’s run meetings, he’s done a really good job. So I think it should be Kevin McKeown.”

⑨ “Kevin McKeown should be elected mayor for at least four reasons. The first is he’s the hardest working council member, striving always to maintain close contact with the residents and other community stakeholders. Two, it’s his turn after serving as mayor pro tem for three years. Three, Richard Bloom should vote for Kevin McKeown since he (took) on a two-year term as mayor instead of a split-term, sharing a split-term with McKeown two years ago, so Richard Bloom should definitely support Kevin McKeown. Four, Pam O’Connor should vote for Kevin McKeown to show, for a change, she can be reasonable and personable.”

⑩ “Our next Santa Monica mayor should be Kevin McKeown who’s the mayor pro tem. I think he should have been mayor to begin with, even though I do like Bloom. Bloom is all right. But Kevin McKeown goes to all the meetings, he’s paid his dues. Our next Santa Monica mayor should be Kevin McKeown.”

⑪ “It should be none other than Kevin McKeown. He’s been serving as mayor pro tem and is representative of the people of the city, regardless of what area and where one resides. He’s always there when you need help. There’s no one more deserving than Kevin McKeown for mayor of Santa Monica.”

⑫ “I think the answer to the question as to who should be the next mayor is, it should be me. I would be interested in the anointing procedure. Olive oil should do very well. I would serve with no salary. That would give the elected council people more time to do nothing.”

⑬ “I would like to see Bobby Shriver the next mayor of Santa Monica.”

⑭ “Bobby Shriver was the highest vote-getter in the Nov. 2 City Council race and even though he’s new, the new blood, and new thinking ideas would probably be more beneficial, and as a result, he should be the new mayor. We certainly couldn’t go wrong because there needs to be a lot of things changed and there’s no time like the present.”

⑮ “Bobby Shriver or an infusion of new blood would help the city a little bit.”

⑯ “I wholeheartedly support Ken Genser for mayor. He is the most savvy councilmember for many years. Additionally, with the new Macerich proposal, he will be able to help the city navigate its way through that process, and come out with a win for the residents of the city. And finally, the night that he was sworn in, he was very humble and thanked the coalition of people who support him, and I appreciate that very much.”

The task of governing can be too intoxicating



MODERN TIMES

BY LLOYD GARVER

Sen. John McCain wants to clean up baseball by clamping down on drug use. I commend him for that. It would be nice if we could be reasonably certain that the athletes kids look up to are drug-free.

But the more I thought about the nobility of the Senator’s undertaking, I started thinking, why stop at baseball? Why not bring about serious drug testing into something even closer to McCain’s heart: Government.

It seems reasonable to assume that the abuse of legal and illegal drugs is as frequent among the people running our country as it is among other white collar workers in high-stress occupations. People in other critical fields are tested for drugs and alcohol. Why shouldn’t we have the same standards for those who decide how to spend our money and if our kids should be sent off to war? Wouldn’t you feel better about the integrity of our government if, before every vote, you knew all the members of Congress were lining up to use the bathroom while holding little sample cups?

Historically, alcohol has been the drug of politics. We’ve all seen famous leaders photographed with drinks in their hands. Politicians have often tried to convince the opposition to compromise “over a couple of drinks.” It’s been an accepted practice for our leaders to drink with foreign rulers as they all attempt to resolve the dangerous issues of the world. Don’t see anything wrong with this? Would you find it just as acceptable if the political drug of choice had been marijuana or cocaine instead of scotch?

It probably sounds silly to wonder if steroids are also possibly taken by some government officials, but let’s use the same criterion that many people use for assuming that some athletes are on steroids. The common side effects include anxiety, aggression, increased testosterone, euphoria, confusion and paranoia. Sound like any politicians you know?

President Bush has made it known that sobriety is part of his life. But I doubt that he insists that those around him refrain

from imbibing while they discuss important matters. He probably thinks it would be inappropriate to force his views on the others. How ironic. In this one area, it would finally be a good thing if he used his power to tell people to adopt his behavior just because he thinks they should.

I’m sure there are some nights when the president’s most dedicated advisers stay up late, discussing a particularly important issue. It doesn’t take a great deal of imagination to picture the possibility of alcohol being with them as they talk into the wee hours. (Or maybe some of them take something to help them stay awake). Finally they come to a decision, and the next morning they give their advice to the president. Whether it’s about how to spend billions of dollars or where to drop some bombs, wouldn’t you feel better if you knew for sure that this advice were based on minds that weren’t numbed during the night? Might we all be just a tad bit safer if the cocktail tumbler were replaced as a symbol of political discourse by the sample cup?

Believe it or not, this is a very practical suggestion. Even if mandatory testing isn’t embraced, voluntary testing is bound to catch on. It’s just going to take a few brave individuals (maybe like Sen. McCain) to set an example. All one candidate has to do is get tested and say, “I’m on the up and up. Why’s my opponent afraid of the cup?” Then the other guy will volunteer faster than he can say, “Where’s the bathroom?”

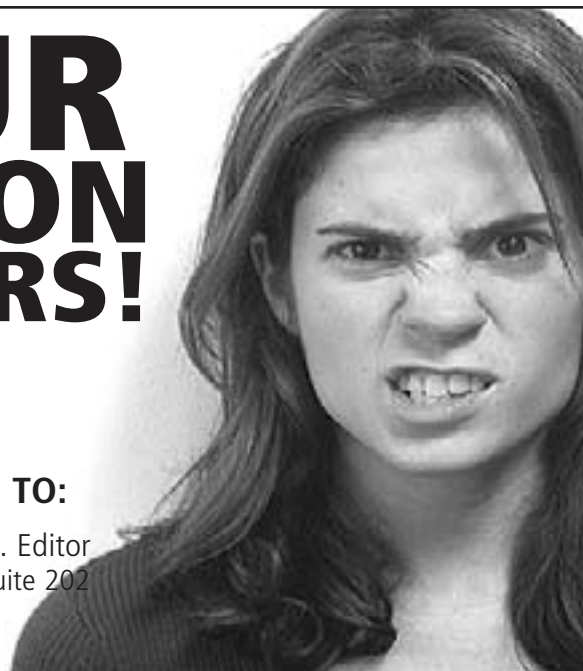
It’s bad enough that from time to time, politicians from both sides of the aisle have embarrassed themselves by public drunkenness or drug use. And too many government officials have DUIs on their records. But I’m more concerned about what these people are putting into their bodies while they’re making public policy. I’m asking Sen. McCain to try his best to get rid of something even more dangerous than DUIs. I’d like him to help abolish GUIs — Governing Under the Influence.

(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@lloydgarvermoderntimes.com).

YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

PLEASE SEND LETTERS TO:

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LOCAL



Olympic medalist to return to court on Monday

DNA, from page 1

Public Defender Matt Huey disagreed, saying the evidence was weak and asking that the charges be dropped and, failing that, that Harris be released without bail.

Found in Harris' room was a pair of white tennis shoes, a commemorative coin set and a screwdriver. Prosecutors said the kidnapper stole a coin set from the kidnapping victim, and was described as wearing white tennis shoes and using a screwdriver to intimidate the elderly woman. Huey

maintained the coin set found in Harris' room didn't match the one reported stolen, adding it was no surprise Harris, an athlete and personal trainer, had white tennis shoes. As to the screwdriver, Huey said Harris shouldn't be punished for keeping a simple tool in his room.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Katherine Mader didn't comment on the evidence, but refused to release Harris without bail, citing the eyewitness accounts. Three people identified Harris in police lineups — the victim, the vic-

tim's neighbor, who chased off the kidnapper with a handgun, and a nearby resident who saw the kidnapper flee.

Huey countered the eyewitnesses may have been mistaken because Harris and the new suspect have similar physical characteristics. What's more, he said the victim identified two other suspects in the police lineups.

One thing, at least, is clear. The new DNA evidence challenges a key component of the case against Harris.

Police said the bloodhounds led them

to Harris using the scent from a black stocking cap left by the kidnapper outside the victim's home and the scent from a shirt left a block and a half away by the kidnapper as he fled. Both items led investigators to Harris. However, subsequent laboratory tests showed neither item contained Harris' DNA.

The items instead matched a prior felon whose DNA was contained in a database controlled by the California Department of Justice. Authorities are expected to name the second suspect in court on Monday.

Accident occurred days after meeting of the minds

TRAFFIC, from page 1

concerns.

Two pedestrians hit while crossing Ocean Park Boulevard were taken to a local hospital, and according to Lt. Frank Fabrega of Santa Monica Police Department, the accident is under investigation by the department's traffic division. This year alone, there have been 93 pedestrian-versus-vehicle accidents, said Fabrega.

The accident occurred just four days after store owners met with city officials about improving their area of business. The crosswalk in question had served as a major topic of discussion, with the proprietors offering suggestions on how to improve safety for pedestrians.

Annette Turner, owner of Bring Something to the Party, a greeting card and gift shop, said one proposal was to put diagonal parking in place directly front of the stores so Ocean Park Boulevard would have just one lane of traffic in either direction, forcing motorists to slow down.

"It's awful. I mean, look at it ... it's like a freeway," Turner said.

Nancy Lombardi, whose store Artful has been at its Ocean Park location for just about a month, felt city officials were unresponsive to their concerns in regards to the intersection at 18th Street. She said she is afraid herself when crossing the street and thinks a traffic signal needs to be installed.

Currently in place at the crosswalk are painted stripes, neon yellow pedestrian crossing signs and flashing lights embedded in the pavement. When pedestrians want to cross, they press the sidewalk button to activate the crossing lights. However, cars moving at high rates of speed do not always yield.

Lucy Dyke, a Santa Monica transportation planning manager who attended the Nov. 30 meeting with the mer-

chants, said that reconfiguring the street or changing the current crosswalk is a matter that will need to be taken up with the City Council.

According to Dyke, a traffic signal at the intersection would not necessarily help, as an additional light at 18th Street would represent three lighted intersections in a row on Ocean Park, leaving even more cars on the street at any given time. In addition, she added, most pedestrian accidents occur at signalized intersections.

"We are very sad and humbled when we keep having accidents like this because it's not enough, it's never really enough," she said.

Nevertheless, Dyke said the city has gone above and beyond the minimum required by the California Vehicle Code by studying individual intersections and bringing in traffic engineers, consultants and urban designers to ensure that each solution works for its respective location.

"A lot of times, when we have accidents in the city, somebody is blatantly not paying attention to what they're doing," said Dyke.

The police department stages weekly sting operations at Santa Monica crosswalks, during which they ticket drivers who fail to yield for pedestrians.

Sgt. Jay Trisler of SMDP's Traffic Enforcement Division thinks crosswalks are necessary and helpful, but advises pedestrians to "be safe, be sane."

"There are benefits to them (crosswalks), but there are cases in which they provide a false sense of security," he said.

He said people should remember to look both ways, try to make eye contact with approaching drivers and cross the street at crosswalks with a hand signal.

The lighted crosswalks at 16th and 18th streets on Ocean Park Boulevard were the last two installed after about seven years of planning and construction and mil-

lions spent on Santa Monica crosswalk improvement. The city began studying its crosswalks in earnest after several cities in California began completely removing them, claiming they were dangerous.

The lighted crosswalks throughout the city, new traffic signals on 26th Street, medians on Wilshire Boulevard, curb extensions on Montana Avenue, police enforcement and an awareness campaign are all parts of the city's subsequent plan.

Still, the statistics and bureaucracy are little consolation for those crossing Ocean Park Boulevard.

"(The light system) doesn't work," Lombardi said. "They may have had good intentions, but it just doesn't work."

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LOCAL □ STATE



Regulators churn ahead after truckers fall short

BY DON THOMPSON

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — California air pollution regulators, frustrated with the failure of a voluntary plan promoted by the trucking industry, instituted mandatory requirements this week to clean up illegal diesel engines.

Air quality groups hope California's decision once again ripples across the country, as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency struggles with the same nationwide enforcement problem. The decision applies to an estimated 300,000 to 400,000 vehicles licensed in other states that drive through California, as well as 58,000 California-licensed trucks.

But the Engine Manufacturers Association suggested it will sue on behalf of its members, who believe they shouldn't have to pay for diesel engine upgrades as required under the state Air Resources Board ruling.

The action is the latest round in a battle that state and federal regulators thought they had won more than six years ago with a \$1 billion settlement with truck manufacturers.

The settlement required manufacturers to replace so-called "smog defeat" devices that regulators said illegally bypassed emissions equipment in trucks,

buses and recreational vehicles at highway speeds.

But it required replacement only when heavy-duty engines built between 1993 and 1999 underwent major overhauls, something that happens far less frequently than regulators had expected.

The Air Resources Board estimated only about 18 percent of roughly 58,000 California-licensed vehicles had the upgrades since the settlement.

In March, the air board agreed to a voluntary plan that called for the industry to reach 35 percent compliance by Nov. 1, with 100 percent compliance phased in by 2008.

But that resulted in an increase of only about a half-percent per month, said board spokesman Jerry Martin.

"Some companies had barely moved, and most of them were in the teens or less" in percentage of compliance, he said.

The rest of the industry now faces legal deadlines that, based on model year, will phase in the retrofits by the end of next year for all heavy duty trucks. Medium duty trucks have until the end of 2006. "It finally ends six years of delay by the engine manufacturers. There's an enormous benefit for air quality," said Don Anair, a clean vehicles engineer with the Union of Concerned Scientists environmental group.

World savvy Sullivan grateful to be American

SULLIVAN, from page 3

dency was when Allan told me he might leave to become the western regional director for the Boys & Girls Clubs of America. The best day was when he told me he didn't want to leave Santa Monica before he achieved all his goals."

Sullivan has come a long way since the days he used to throw rocks at trains.

The son of a printer and homemaker, Sullivan came to California after his father, Joseph, desperate to escape the frigid Chicago winter, vacationed in sunny Pasadena so his kids could see the Rose Bowl.

"That was it," Sullivan recalled with a laugh. "Six months later, in June of 1951, my dad moved us all out here. I still remember that trip along Route 66. As far as my dad was concerned, we were headed for the shining city on the hill. And he was right."

After graduating from University High School, Sullivan joined the Navy and visited far off ports in Korea, Australia, Singapore and all over the South Pacific.

"I saw parts of the world I barely knew existed," he said. "And all I kept thinking was how lucky I was to be able to call myself an American."

After his stint in the Navy and attending Santa Monica College, Bob married Kathleen Fitzsimmons on Jan. 7, 1961.

"Even today, after 43 years of marriage, that was the happiest day of my life," he said. "I'm still a lucky man."

As a newlywed, Sullivan went to work for his dad while working part-time in the world of real estate holding open houses and renting apartments.

"I was making more money in my part-time job than I was in my full-time job,"

Sullivan said. "My dad knew linotype printing was a dying art, so he encouraged me to explore other ways to make a living."

Sullivan ended up buying out his former boss and building The Sullivan-Dituri Company into one of the largest commercial real estate management companies on the Westside.

Sullivan is quick to deflect praise and shower it on his colleagues, son-in-law Bill Dawson and nephew Joseph Fitzsimmons.

"I have a great family," Sullivan said. "We play together and work together. It doesn't get much better than that."

Dawson also serves on the board of the Boys & Girls Clubs and was recently awarded the Distinguished Service Award by the Santa Monica Jaycees. Last year, Dawson served as president of the Santa Monica Boys & Girls Club Council which raised more than \$170,000 at their annual auction.

"I learned up close from Bob how important it is to give back to your community," Dawson said. "Bob makes it look easy. That's because my father-in-law has one defining characteristic: The gift of friendship. He doesn't 'sell.' He doesn't need to. He shares his excitement and people follow him. He's a natural leader and an all-around great guy. And I would say that even if I wasn't married to his daughter."

Perhaps Bob's wife, Kathy Sullivan, sums it up.

"I am a casual person," she said. "My husband is not. He's very exacting. When he does something, he does it right. And that includes helping kids. He believes children are our future and he does everything he can to insure a good future for the kids in our community."

STATE



Crush of crab boats has fishermen at boiling point

BY TERENCE CHEA

Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Like lobster is to Maine or shrimp is to the Gulf states, Dungeness crab has become enshrined as a regional symbol for San Francisco.

Its image is the logo for the popular tourist attractions at Fisherman's Wharf. The city's defining meal is fresh crab, a glass of chardonnay and sourdough bread. The crab season outside San Francisco Bay is the first to open along the Pacific Coast, allowing locals to enjoy what has become a regional tradition — fresh Dungeness for Thanksgiving.

Longtime local crab fishermen and crab connoisseurs now worry that one of the city's most beloved delicacies is in trouble, a victim of changes in the crab-fishing industry.

The anger among local fishermen hit the boiling point this year, after a crush of fishing boats during the season's first frenetic week produced a crab glut that led to what the fishermen say was the wasteful dumping of excess Dungeness.

"The people of the Bay Area need to be outraged because a lot of their winter crabs have been taken and wasted," said fisherman Larry Collins, vice president of the San Francisco Crab Boat Owners Association. "The crabs are getting harvested too fast. It's a waste of the resource. It's greed out of control."

Although the official Dungeness season lasts eight months, most of the catchable-sized crabs were taken in the first week after the Nov. 15 opening. No crab fishing is allowed in San Francisco Bay itself, which is considered the nursery for a Dungeness fishery that stretches from Santa Cruz to Bodega Bay.

Many longtime local crab fishermen said too many crab boats bearing too many traps scoured the ocean floor within days and flooded the market. Seafood processors couldn't handle the volume, and many crabs died aboard boats before they could be unloaded, they said.

For Bay area consumers, it means their chances of buying local Dungeness crab for the rest of the season are slim because most of the larger crabs that fall within the legal size limit are gone.

Fishermen and restaurant owners said the current free-for-all during the season's opening days depresses prices, creates dangerous conditions at sea and leads to waste when too many crabs are dumped on the market at once.

This year's frenzy has renewed the call for restrictions on the number of crab traps allowed in the waters outside San Francisco Bay.

"The glut is caused by having so much gear harvesting the crab at once," said Zeke Grader, executive director of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations. "If they restricted the fishing gear, the crabs would be harvested throughout the season, as opposed to just at the beginning of the season."

Crab fishermen have been circulating a video that shows what they say are piles of dead Dungeness crabs on the deck of a fishing boat docked at Fisherman's Wharf. Crabs are supposed to be alive when they are off-loaded and sold to processors, restaurants or street vendors.

One fishermen said he later witnessed workers on that boat dumping buckets full

of the crabs into San Francisco Bay. Fishermen claim there have been several incidents of large-scale crab dumping this season, but those reports have been difficult to confirm.

Grader said that if the reports he's heard are true, the "magnitude is pretty staggering."

The state can impose fines if it confirms that crabs were wasted.

The fishermen have taken their complaints and the video to the California Fish and Game Commission, which plans to gather more testimony on crab dumping and trap limits at its March meeting, said John Fischer, the commission's assistant executive director.

Many fishermen said trap limits are needed to curtail what they say amounts to an escalating arms race among fishermen bringing bigger boats with greater numbers of traps, also known as crab pots.

The state Legislature this year passed a bill imposing a 250-pot limit per vessel on an experimental basis for two years, but Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger vetoed the measure. Its sponsor, Assemblyman Mark Leno, said he may try again next year.

Opponents say a 250-pot limit isn't fair to fishermen who have invested in large boats. If the fleet wants pot limits, those limits should be based on a boat's size, said Rod Moore, executive director of the West Coast Seafood Processors Association, which urged Schwarzenegger to veto the bill.

In the past, the San Francisco crab industry was dominated by small, local boats that carried between 200 and 300 traps.

In recent years, encouraged by abundant crab harvests, a growing number of fishermen from California's north coast, Oregon and Washington have arrived with larger boats that often carry more than 1,000 traps. They move north two weeks later when the larger crab fisheries open.

The collapse of the Pacific Coast's groundfish population has added pressure to the coastal crab fishery. After the federal government bought out half the West Coast trawling fleet last year, many of those fishermen used their government checks to buy new boats and join California's \$35 million crab industry.

Despite the increased number of vessels, biologists at the state Department of Fish and Game said the fishery remains healthy because only the largest crabs are allowed to be harvested. That allows younger ones to grow into next year's catch.

The video at the center of this season's controversy shows workers unloading piles of what appear to be dead crabs on the deck of a boat called the Bold Contender.

John Tarantino, another San Francisco fishermen, said he was heading into the wharf when he saw crew members pitching the dead crabs into the bay near Golden Gate Bridge.

"They were throwing them overboard," Tarantino said. "They were using garbage buckets to get rid of them."

The owner of the 400-trap boat, Dennis Sturgell of Warrenton, Ore., denied the crabs were dead. He said he had to wait a day and a half to deliver his catch because there were too many vessels unloading at the same time.

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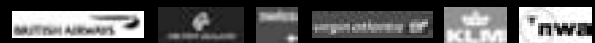
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STATE BRIEFS

No more shortcuts for non-native nurses

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Immigration officials beginning Jan. 1 will block a shortcut that allowed thousands of foreign nurses, predominantly from the Philippines, to get fast-track U.S. work permits, the State Department has announced.

According to a State Department bulletin issued this week, until further notice, the government will not process applications filed after January 2002. What has been a 60-day wait could now take up to three years or more.

"It's basically going to cut them off," said Charles Oppenheim, head of the State Department's immigrant visa control division.

The new quota limit is actually the indirect result of a more efficient immigration process. After Sept. 11, 2001, the system became backlogged due to updated security measures. Many foreign workers from the Philippines, and to a lesser extent India and mainland China, got by on temporary work permits as they waited for their "number" to come up for a green card.

Now those cases are being processed, and the government said beginning Jan. 1 it will no longer issue new temporary work permits for workers from these countries until it deals with the backlog, which could take several years.

Authority goes with the flow, despite warnings

By The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — An \$8 billion plan to restore the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta that serves as both water filter and straw for 22 million Californians was approved this week, despite critics' warnings that Congress and the state Legislature would not provide the money.

The finance plan unanimously adopted by the California Bay-Delta Authority proposes to shift more of the future cost to the federal government and to water agencies that benefit from the Delta, after state taxpayers carried much of the burden for years.

Congress and President Bush reauthorized the joint California Federal Bay-Delta Program in October, devoting \$395 million to rebuild levees, restore ecosystems and study new water storage projects.

The Delta collects Northern California water that is sucked through massive pipes to feed much of Southern California and some of the nation's most productive farmland.

CalFed was created a decade ago in an attempt to end the water wars between farmers, urban users, fishermen and environmental groups. Its multibillion projects are bringing the first major changes to California's water systems since the 1960s.

Debt of ingratitude: Lawsuit would block governor

By The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's plan to sell \$929 million in bonds to cover the state's pension obligation this year violates constitutional mandates that voters approve all big loans, according to a lawsuit filed this week.

The governor and the Legislature included the bonds in this year's budget as one of several loans the state took out to help close a funding gap that was once estimated at \$17 billion.

The move was made even though a similar pension obligation bond proposed last year by former Gov. Gray Davis was struck down by a state judge as unconstitutional.

Attorney Harold Johnson of the Pacific Legal Foundation, who filed the challenge on behalf of an Orange County anti-tax group, said the legal issues this year are the same as last year.

"The state constitution requires that all major borrowing be approved by the voters," Johnson said. "There are no exceptions."

At issue is Article 15 of the constitution that prevents the state from borrowing more than \$300,000 without voter approval, he said.

The administration has argued that the constitutional ban is not in play. It claims the bonds are tied to reforms of the pension system that will save nearly \$3 billion over 20 years. Savings from the reforms will more than pay off the bonds, Schwarzenegger has said, and thus there is no debt to the general fund.

O'er the Rampart DA watched case slip away

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Five years after the Rampart scandal shook the Los Angeles Police Department, the last three officers remaining from the only trial held had their charges dismissed after prosecutors said they could no longer proceed.

Deputy District Attorney Anne Ingalls told Superior Court Judge Kathleen Kennedy-Powell that the prosecution was unable to retry Sgts. Brian Liddy and Edward Ortiz and former Officer Michael Buchanan, whose convictions four years ago were overturned and sent back for a new trial.

Kennedy-Powell then dismissed the charges.

"The case should have never been filed," said attorney Harland Braun who represents Buchanan. "The tremendous pressure of the Rampart scandal pushed the district attorney to file a case."

A district attorney's official, Janet Moore, said after years of lingering in appeals courts, the case was no longer viable.

"We really feel that a dismissal was in the best interest of justice," said Moore, director of the district attorney's Bureau of Specialized Prosecutions.

She said there were "witness difficulties" now that did not exist before. Some witnesses have vanished, some are incarcerated, and others "have continued to engage in actions that could affect their credibility."

NATIONAL



Gay rights activists reassess their strategy

BY WILL LESTER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The ritual was replayed from Boston to San Francisco: Exuberant gay couples sharing marriage vows and slices of wedding cake.

After decades of seeking the same basic rights as most Americans, gay activists celebrated a long-sought achievement as the highest court in Massachusetts ruled that same-sex marriage was legal. In San Francisco, Mayor Gavin Newsom performed gay marriages even though he had no similar court affirmation.

Gays thought barriers were finally crumbling. Then came the elections.

Outraged by these images of gay couples, conservatives clamored for laws not only banning gay marriage but in some states for prohibiting civil unions and domestic partnerships. Nine of the 13 states that acted on or before Election Day on laws barring gay marriage also banned other forms of recognition for same-sex relationships.

Effects of those measures are already being felt. Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm, a Democrat, will remove same-sex partner benefits from contracts negotiated with state workers after passage of the voter-approved amendment to the Michigan Constitution that bans gay marriage "and similar unions."

Granholm has said she'll go ahead with the benefits if a court says they're allowable under the constitutional amendment.

The lack of activists' success in the United States stands in contrast to Canada where the Supreme Court ruled Thursday that gay marriage was constitutional, allowing the government there to call on Parliament to legalize same-sex unions nationwide.

The string of U.S. election defeats — and the extent of the restrictions — has forced gay activists to reassess their strategy in what they see as a protracted fight for equal rights.

"There now is a profound realization that this struggle is going to go on for a very long time," said Matthew Foreman, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. "People understand the reality of that in a way they did not before."

Suggestions that gays would move more cautiously or bargain for certain rights prompted letters from activists to all members of Congress saying there would be no retreat in their push for equal rights or trading of gay rights for support of other measures — like changes in Social Security.

While many gays heralded the ruling in Massachusetts, several said they had mixed feelings as they watched the

unprecedented developments.

"I thought what was done in Massachusetts was worth the price," Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., said of the legal success of gay couples who sued for the right to get married.

"The mistake was in San Francisco," said Frank, an openly gay congressman. Newsom's short-lived effort to allow gay marriages was "a lot of hoopla that didn't accomplish anything," Frank said.

Gay activists say their strategy will include:

—Seeking public support for equal protection for gays and taking that message to the conservative-leaning states in the South and West won by President Bush. Activists say there are many in those states who would be sympathetic to the difficulties gays face if they had more information about the legal barriers — both in the workplace and in recognition of relationships.

—Answering the high-profile religious leaders who are opposed to gay rights with religious leaders who are supportive.

—Shifting resources to work with corporate leaders about the need for more protections for gays in the workplace.

"Our biggest job is education, the hard work has to take place of telling people who we are and explaining that we don't even have these rights," said Cheryl Jacques, former president of the Human Rights Campaign. The Human Rights Campaign is a gay rights group that is attempting to recruit more non-gay members and shift its focus to human rights generally.

Americans oppose gay marriage by almost 2-to-1, according to a recent AP-Ipsos poll. Other recent surveys have found that people are evenly divided on civil unions that provide many of the same legal benefits for gay couples.

After the 2004 elections, conservatives are determined to continue fighting for a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage, which fell well short of the necessary two-thirds vote in the House and Senate.

"We'll have efforts in another eight to 12 states in the next couple of years, but also a renewed effort to get a federal marriage amendment passed," said Tony Perkins, president of the conservative Family Research Council.

Court challenges to bans on gay marriage also will continue, said Gary Buseck, legal director for Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders. But he acknowledged that winning over the public may take time.

"The younger generation is much more tolerant," said Buseck, whose group led efforts to change Massachusetts laws. "Our opponents can see where this is headed down the line."

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NATIONAL

Dems must step up to galvanize Hispanic voters

BY ERICA WERNER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Democratic Party has neglected Hispanic voters for a decade and risks severe election losses unless it changes course now, Hispanics in Congress wrote party leaders Thursday. “It is time for the leadership of the Democratic Party to face the facts. ... Republicans have been committed, methodical and are clearly winning the battle for the Hispanic voters,” said the letter by the newly elected leaders of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, including incoming Chairwoman Rep. Grace Napolitano, D-Norwalk.

“If Democrats do not undertake a major paradigm shift in how they deal with (the) Latino vote, the future of the party is in serious jeopardy,” the letter says. “If the recent trends hold, several current Democratic strongholds will soon become swing states.” The letter was being delivered to members of the Democratic National Committee’s executive committee, who are meeting in Orlando, Fla., starting Friday. The letter includes the demand that “any future chair have a serious plan (for) changing this dynamic.” The Democratic

National Committee will choose a new chair in February, and potential candidates will make pitches in Orlando to state party chairs. The letter reflects extreme frustration among Hispanics over the election results Nov. 2 and before. The Republican Party stepped up its effort to target Hispanic voters after a poor showing in the 1996 election, and the work paid off: President Bush claimed 35 percent of Hispanic voters in 2000, and at least 40 percent Nov. 2, according to exit polls. Democrats must stop this trend by treating Hispanic voters as a swing vote,

not as part of their base, and improving their message to Hispanics, the letter says. It also recommends integrating Hispanics into the party’s senior staff, providing state parties with more resources to reach Hispanic voters, and demonstrating an understanding that the Hispanic community is diverse, not monolithic. The letter was being delivered to the party’s executive committee by Rep. Mike Honda, D-San Jose, who chairs the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus and planned to recommend that the party also increase its outreach to Asian voters.

Arizona goes it alone in trying to protect itself

By The Associated Press

PHOENIX — Arizona is taking a regional approach to homeland security, using five advisory councils to define the security needs in separate sections of the state. The approach is expected to forge cooperation between communities. Advocates say it will also speed delivery of funds to set up programs to detect ter-

rorist activities and equip the emergency crews who would respond to them. “It’s a pretty revolutionary change from the way we’ve done business,” said John Phelps, deputy director of the Arizona Office of Homeland Security. “In the past, each government entity was left to its own devices. Cities, counties, tribes developed their own plans, not necessarily (consistent) with their neighbors.” The advisory councils created by the state homeland security office are each made up of local government and business leaders and each looks at a different region. For example, members of the South Region Advisory Council, which includes all the border counties, are likely to tackle border issues. In the Central Region, which includes Maricopa County, security needs will lean toward urban life.

The members will help decide how to spend Arizona’s share of federal homeland-security grants, about \$115 million since 2002. Glendale Mayor Elaine Scruggs, a member of the Central Region council, said council members will use the money “to do the most good for the most people” rather than dole out a certain cut of the money to each of the state’s 15 counties.

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NATIONAL



EPA knows best: Nevada wants help with cleanup

BY SCOTT SONNER

Associated Press Writer

RENO, Nev. — Citing growing concerns about health and safety, state regulators asked the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency this week to assume lead oversight over cleaning up radioactive and other toxic waste at a huge abandoned copper mine in northern Nevada.

Gov. Kenny Guinn wants EPA to take over regulatory control of the former Anaconda site at Yerington through a process similar to a Superfund designation, officials for the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection said.

The move, based partly on new concerns about the potential for groundwater contamination, "is the best way to protect human health and the environment," Guinn said in a brief statement Thursday.

"We believe that designating a lead agency will make certain that the good work and ongoing progress at the site continues," he said.

Until now, the state had opposed changes in a 2002 agreement that gave state regulators, EPA and the Bureau of Land Management equal footing in the regulation of Atlantic Richfield Co.'s clean up of pollution at the site covering nearly six square miles in the irrigated high desert of Mason Valley, about 55 miles southeast of Reno.

But additional toxins documented in recent months — including uranium — and new concerns that the pollution may have seeped into water tapped by neighboring domestic wells prompted the request for EPA to replace the "memorandum of understanding" with a special designation under the Superfund law.

"It's like a Superfund designation but different. It puts EPA in charge of the site," NDEP spokeswoman Cindy Petterson said.

NDEP wants to continue as a coordinating agency in the clean up, she said. But "the need for a lead agency has been magnified by all the new data. There are some additional concerns about groundwater," she said.

Tests this summer found unusually high levels of radiation in soil samples at the mine. Earlier groundwater tests showed high concentrations of uranium in wells on site — up to 200 times the U.S. drinking water standard. Results of another round of testing of 100 wells this fall have yet to be made public.

"The need for a designated lead agency has been magnified by an evolving envi-

ronmental understanding of the Yerington mine site," NDEP Administrator Leo Drozdoff said.

"Since the signing of the (memorandum), data has been collected that increases the degree of complexity surrounding the agencies' understanding of this project, particularly the ongoing discovery of the occurrence of multiple contaminant classes in multiple environmental media both on- and off-site," he said in a letter Thursday to Wayne Nastri, EPA's regional administrator in San Francisco.

Drozdoff said Arco has been "very cooperative and responsive" in addressing concerns at the mine the past five years and he expects that to continue.

"We have always wanted to have something in place that is the most responsive to community needs," he said in explaining the proposed change in oversight.

"It's not like something was broken. We just know more. A lot more information has come in the door. Given that there still are questions and concerns about various environmental contamination, we think this is now the best approach," he told AP.

Dan Cummings, a spokesman for Arco's parent company, British Petroleum, said Arco would review NDEP's request to EPA. Arco already is providing bottled water to neighbors who want it and has pledged to do whatever necessary to determine the source of the pollution.

Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., and leaders of the Great Basin Mine Watch are among those who have been pressing the state to allow EPA to make the mine a Superfund site. Drozdoff said NDEP still opposes that move but agrees "in the best interest of achieving overall progress at the site, it is time to change the management structure so as to provide for a lead agency."

EPA spokeswoman Lisa Fasano in San Francisco said the agency would review the request.

Guinn is asking EPA to assume primary responsibility for oversight as part of a "Section 106 designation" under the main Superfund law — the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA).

The move is backed by Lyon County, the city of Yerington and the Yerington Paiute Tribe, NDEP said.

The state's request to EPA comes a month after a former federal manager of the site said he was fired for refusing to keep silent about dangers posed by radioactive and other toxic wastes at the mine.

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NATIONAL

Colorado's rivers and snowpack up, easing fears

BY ROBERT WELLER
Associated Press Writer

DENVER — Every river basin in Colorado has risen above the 30-year average when it comes to snowpack and experts say the state appears to be bouncing back from a five-year drought.

"I think it is too early to say the drought is over. But now I would bet against it becoming a 10- or 20-year drought," federal climatologist Klaus Wolter said Friday after a snowstorm pounded northern Colorado.

Vast stretches of the West are still parched, with parts of Wyoming, Idaho and Montana still mired in severe drought, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor index maintained by the University of Nebraska.

But Colorado, a top source of water for the West, is looking better. The Upper Colorado River basin on Friday was at 110 percent of average.

Even the hardest-hit part of Colorado, the southwest,

is improving. Monte Vista potato farmer Ray Wright said the effects of the drought are still being felt, but the snowpack in the mountains circling the San Luis Valley is better than in recent years.

"It appears that at least this won't be a repeat of the last several years," Wright said. "It can be pretty discouraging to watch (snow) not accumulate."

The drought was particularly severe in the valley, where dwindling water supplies and shriveled grazing land have forced farmers to leave fields bare and ranchers are selling off their cattle.

Ski resorts have plenty to cheer about.

"Ski conditions are just fabulous," said Adam Aron, chief executive of Vail Resorts. The ski area is opening its back bowls a week ahead of schedule and in plenty of time for the busy holiday season.

Breckenridge, owned by Vail, picked up 14 inches early Friday while Vail itself reported 11 inches in 24

hours.

Southwestern Colorado began picking up snow earlier than the central and northern parts of the state. Until this week, northern regions were below average, including the rivers that serve Denver and Colorado Springs. As of Friday, the South Platte, a major source of water for Denver and northeast Colorado, was 112 percent of the average.

In one day, the Yampa-White River basin in the northwestern section of the state, went from 98 percent of average to 111 percent.

"There is not a single pocket of the state that is really falling behind," said Wolter, an atmospheric scientist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Boulder.

Still, he said a dry period is likely for the next several weeks.

"The fact that it is likely to dry out is very consistent with El Nino," he said, because wet springs associated with the Pacific weather pattern usually are preceded by a dry spell.

Wolter has predicted an El Nino system will produce a wetter-than-average spring in Colorado.



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NATIONAL



Nevada governor learning to like 'What happens here, stays here'

BY SCOTT SONNER

Associated Press Writer

RENO, Nev. — The edgy ad campaign that raised some eyebrows with a suggestive invite to wild times in Las Vegas didn't originally seem like a very good tourism promotion idea to Nevada's top executive.

But "What happens here, stays here" is kind of growing on Gov. Kenny Guinn — now that he hears it everywhere he goes.

"Some of you may not like 'What happens in Las Vegas, stays in Las Vegas,'" Guinn told about 600 delegates to the 20th annual Governor's Conference on Tourism in Reno this week. "I had my concerns about it."

But Guinn said he's changed his mind since traveling in different parts of the country in recent weeks, from Southern California to Louisiana and Washington D.C.

"I can tell you that slogan is synonymous with Las Vegas, and they don't take it as a negative," the Republican governor said.

"Some of us did. I believe I did to begin with. But I've changed my mind because you need something that is attached to Las Vegas and the state of Nevada," he said.

"It is a very popular statement because everybody is familiar with it and that's what we want," Guinn said.

The campaign launched last year by R&R Partners of Las Vegas includes one TV ad with a woman who apparently just married a man who speaks no English on the spur of the moment at a Vegas wedding chapel.

In another, a Chinese woman scratches out a line in a postcard she apparently doesn't want the folks at home to read and in another, four women in a limousine giggle and laugh about an undisclosed, apparently embarrassing, incident.

The exact meaning of each is left to the viewer's imagination. Each closes with the now-famous tag, "What happens here, stays here."

"Let everyone else decide what it means to them," Guinn told the convention after he announced that Nevada is on track to surpass the 50 million visitor mark for the first time this year — a record 37 million in Las Vegas. "My interpretation has changed dramatically."

Guinn wasn't the only one who initially questioned whether the racy ads were appropriate.

Jan Jones, the former mayor of Las Vegas who now works as an executive for Harrah's Entertainment Inc., said she feared they would portray the city as a place "where people come to cheat and steal."

One billboard sponsored by a church read, "What happens in Vegas, God knows about."

"I think some local people in the community who have a great deal of respect for the town and who want us to diversify our economy thought maybe it made us look like we are not as serious as we truly are," said Lt. Gov. Lorraine Hunt, chairwoman of the Nevada Commission on Tourism.

"I think people consider it to be a more playful statement than anything bad," she said in an interview this week.

The Salvation Army has just one word for its donors — plastic

TAKE CREDIT, from page 1

income, so we were looking for ideas, things to do to spark the interest of the public and our donors," Gabel said.

The card swipe machines have been tried at least once before by bell ringers, in Pittsburgh. The Salvation Army there offered them in 1997, but found they weren't very popular.

"There's a whole psychology to it," said Ginny Knor, a spokeswoman for the Western Pennsylvania Division

of the Salvation Army, which covers about half of the state. "People would come over and look at it, then put their change in the kettle."

"We found that people like to give small donations repeatedly," she said. The Pennsylvania experiment lasted only a year.

At the introduction of the machines in downtown Phoenix Wednesday, some donors had a similar response. In the first hour, dozens of people whizzed by volunteers holding card readers and instead emptied their pockets into a giant kettle.

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NATIONAL

Lack of animal instinct can't halt construction

BY JOHN HEILPRIN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration said Friday it will allow developers to complete construction and other projects even after belated discoveries that the work could endanger protected species.

The new rules from the Interior Department's Fish and Wildlife Service restore a Clinton-era initiative known as "no surprises." It will let federal agencies give blanket assurances to home builders, timber and mining companies and other developers that they won't have unforeseen requirements to protect rare species once a project has begun.

A federal judge had blocked the rules last June, telling the government it needed to hear more ideas from the public about the changes. The administration gathered the extra comment and moved ahead Friday in a victory for business over environmentalists.

Bobby Rayburn, president of the National Association of Home Builders, said the rules strike "a fair balance between two important priorities: protecting endangered species and building adequate, affordable housing."

Six groups led by California-based Spirit of the Sage Council, which represents some American Indians and environmentalists, had challenged the rules from the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Commerce Department's National Marine Fisheries Service, which enforce the Endangered Species Act.

Eric Glitzenstein, a Washington-based lawyer for the groups, said the rules remain "a legally and scientifically bankrupt policy that can only drive species closer to extinction."

The rules were blocked in June by U.S. District Judge Emmet G. Sullivan, who ordered the Fish and Wildlife Service to get more public input and re-evaluate the rules within six months. He said the government had violated the

Administrative Procedure Act by denying the public a chance to weigh in on the rules and their consequences.

The Fish and Wildlife Service said it had received about 250 comments since June to comply with the judge's order, mostly from people who felt the rules were appropriate. Some told the government it should have more of a free hand to revoke permits, or that it should create a new government fund to pay for restoring habitat in cases where permits and the developers' conservation plans prove harmful.

A rule in effect from 1998 until this past June offered some immunity during development. In 1999, the Clinton administration adopted a second rule spelling out narrow circumstances under which permits could be revoked.

Under the twin rules, landowners and developers must develop plans for dealing with species' habitats if they want to obtain a permit that lets them off the hook for killing, injuring or harassing rare plants and animals.

Any such harm to species on the government's threatened and endangered list must be during "otherwise lawful development or land use activities," Fish and Wildlife officials said in a statement.

The government reserves the right to revoke a permit, if killing a plant or animal "will reduce the likelihood of (its) survival and recovery in the wild, ... and the Service cannot find a remedy to prevent this situation," the statement said.

So far, no permits have been revoked, said Fish and Wildlife spokesman Mitch Snow.

Revoking a permit "is not going to solve the fundamental problem because the failure of these political deals will only become apparent after the permit is no longer needed," said John Kostyack, senior counsel for the National Wildlife Federation, a conservation group. "The destruction happens up front; conservation happens later."



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NATIONAL



Bush names Bodman as new energy secretary

BY H. JOSEF HEBERT
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — President Bush picked a new energy secretary Friday and dubbed him “a problem solver” — a talent Samuel W. Bodman will need as he deals with high oil prices, nuclear waste and a Congress unwilling to pass the president’s long-term energy plan.

The announcement filled one of the last two vacancies in Bush’s second-term Cabinet, leaving only the secretary of health and human services. Bush is replacing nine of his 15 Cabinet members.

The selection of Bodman came as a surprise to most in the energy field and to many in Congress, but it was widely applauded.

Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee that will consider Bodman’s nomination, predicted a “swift and smooth” confirmation.

Over the past four years, Bodman, 66, has been the No. 2 official at the Commerce Department and, more recently, the Treasury Department. He replaces Spencer Abraham, the former Michigan senator.

Bodman is a former president of Fidelity Investments and the former chairman and chief executive officer of Cabot Corp., a chemicals and specialty materials company. He has degrees in chemical engineering and taught at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

In 2001 he joined the Bush administration as the deputy secretary at Commerce, and a year ago he moved over to the Treasury Department with the same title. Outgoing Commerce Secretary Don Evans, a longtime Bush friend, recommended him strongly for the energy job.

Bush praised Bodman’s management skills and noted his scientific background. “In academics, in business and in government Sam Bodman has shown himself to be a problem solver who knows how to set goals and he knows how to reach them,” said Bush.

One of Bodman’s major challenges will be to sell Congress on Bush’s energy priorities, including one of the president’s longtime goals of opening an Arctic

wildlife refuge in Alaska to oil drilling.

After unveiling an outline of a broad energy strategy 3 1/2 years ago, Bush has yet to see Congress agree on comprehensive energy legislation despite soaring oil prices, a massive 2003 power blackout and concern about natural gas prices and possible future shortages.

Bush pledged Friday to renew his push for energy legislation when the new Congress convenes next month and to “pursue more energy close to home in our own country ... so that we’re less dependent on energy from unstable parts or the world.”

Other challenges facing Bodman will be to find a way to untangle legal and budget problems that have threatened the proposal for a nuclear waste dump in Nevada. Congress this year refused to provide enough money to keep the Yucca Mountain project on schedule, and a federal court ordered a review of proposed radiation standards for the site.

Bodman also will face growing concern — and probably complaints from Capitol Hill — about high energy costs with record winter heating bills expected to hit households across the country.

On Friday, state officials in charge of administering energy assistance to low-income families reported that they expected 5 million households to seek government help to pay heating bills this winter, the most in a decade.

Both heating oil and natural gas prices are at record highs this winter. Although crude prices have receded somewhat in recent weeks, they edged up again Friday past \$42 a barrel as OPEC producers decided to cut output by one million barrels a day to stave off further price declines.

Bodman’s selection was greeted with approval across the energy and business sectors. Representatives from the electricity, nuclear and natural gas industries cited his technical, management and financial background.

Rep. Sherwood Boehlert, R-N.Y., chairman of the House Science Committee, lauded Bodman’s experience in industry and government, his “management skills, and boundless intellectual curiosity.”



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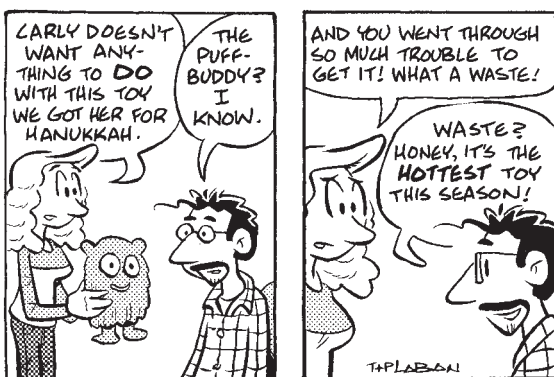
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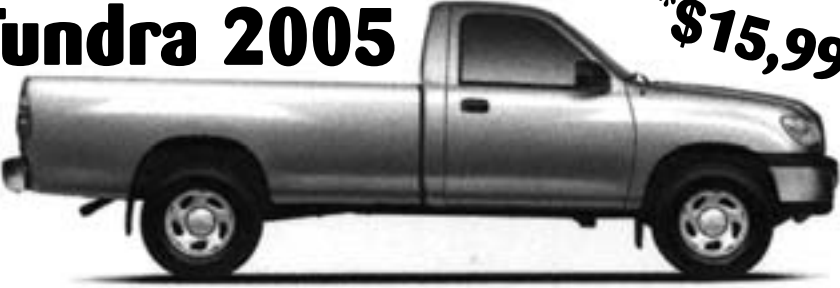
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Winfrey, Cruise help keep the Peace in Norway

By The Associated Press

OSLO, Norway — Tom Cruise and Oprah Winfrey will continue the tradition of bringing a superstar shine to dark December nights in Norway when the pair hosts the annual Nobel Peace Prize Concert.

The Saturday concert, held to honor Kenyan environmentalist Wangari Maathai, will also feature musical artists such as Joss Stone, Andrea Bocelli, Diana Krall, Cyndi Lauper and Patti LaBelle.

The 64-year-old Maathai, Kenya's deputy environment minister, was honored as founder of the Green Belt Movement, which has sought to empower women, improve the environment and fight corruption in Africa for almost 30 years.

Winfrey said it was a "great pleasure" to celebrate "the first African woman recipient of one of the most meaningful awards of our time."

"Wangari Maathai is a true inspiration because she uses her life to benefit others, from fervently fighting for women's rights to literally turning the earth to improve living conditions in Africa," Winfrey said.

Cruise said he was "exceptionally proud" to pay tribute to Maathai.

"Wangari is a real example of what one person, determined to help her fellow man, can accomplish," he said. "She has demonstrated that change in conditions can occur simply by one's willingness to roll up their sleeves and do something about it."

The Nobel concert, which will be carried live in more than 100 countries, will be broadcast in the United States Dec. 23 on E! Entertainment Television.

NEW YORK — There are four people left on CBS' "Survivor: Vanuatu — Islands of Fire," and Julie Berry isn't one of them.

The 23-year-old trucker hat-wearing youth mentor was the 14th person voted out of the game after attempt-

ing to sway lone male player Chris Daugherty to abandon his previous alliance and cast his vote against Twila Tanner.

On Thursday's episode, Daugherty told Berry, "What I'm comparing this to is my friendship with you." That friendship, which Berry said was mostly left on the cutting room floor, didn't amount to his vote.

"It's worthless to talk about now," Berry told The Associated Press Friday. "He was like my big brother. He annoyed me, but I got along really well with him. You truly connect with people. I considered our friendship to be unique and strong, but, in comparison, it wasn't as important as a million dollars."

The jury will chose the \$1 million winner during a live two-hour finale Sunday.

Berry describes her time on Vanuatu as "spicy" and "sexual in a way." Her antics included going nude on the beach, snuggling with tribe mates and coaxing Tanner and 40-year-old drill sergeant Lea "Sarge" Masters to sunbathe in the buff, which she said was easy to do because they were both "itching for some fun."

Besides Tanner and Daugherty, the other "Survivor" finalists are Eliza Orlins and Scout Lee Cloud, whom Berry doesn't think deserve their "final four" slots.

"Eliza got (to the final four) as people's pawns, not as a prominent player," Berry told the AP. "Scout is strictly there because she can't do anything."

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson was arrested on suspicion of misdemeanor criminal damage for allegedly jumping on the hood of a car outside a nightclub, police said.

Tyson, who moved to Scottsdale early this year, appeared with lawyers at the city's police station Tuesday afternoon and was released after being given a citation.

Scottsdale police Detective Sam Bailey said Wednesday that Tyson likely will make an initial court

appearance within 10 days.

Tyson allegedly dented the hood of a car when he jumped on it as its driver was leaving the club around 1 a.m. on Nov. 27.

Asaf Alikadic, 22, told police he had stopped his car to let Tyson cross the street when the boxer started screaming and yelling and then jumped on the hood of the car on his hands and knees and began to pound on it.

Alikadic said he doesn't want Tyson to go to jail.

"I just want my car fixed. That's it," he said.

A witness told police that Tyson "was intoxicated, falling over and slurring."

Tyson's lawyers said they were conducting their own investigation.

The 38-year-old Tyson is beginning to train for a fight in March, his first since being knocked out by Danny Williams in July.

NEW YORK — A who's who in New York politics turned out to celebrate former Mayor Ed Koch's 80th birthday at a party at Gracie Mansion.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Sens. Hillary Rodham Clinton and Charles Schumer, and Gov. George Pataki all spoke at Thursday night's bash, at which Bloomberg announced that a gift had been given to establish the Edward I. Koch scholarships at City College, Koch's alma mater.

"Simply put, Ed was not only a great mayor and a great source of advice and support to other mayors, he happens to be one of the greatest leaders and politicians in the history of our city," Bloomberg said.

The mayor didn't say who had donated the gift to City College. Bloomberg's spokesman, Ed Skyler, said the donor and the amount of the gift wasn't being disclosed.

Koch spoke to the crowd and was presented with a cheesecake with two candles forming the number 80.



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