

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Despite a \$7.5 million budget deficit, the city of Berkeley, Calif., bought a 40-foot-long refrigerated trailer last year for the sole purpose of storing shopping carts that had been commandeered by homeless people for their "stuff" but then abandoned. According to a November 2004 report in the San Francisco Chronicle, the city says the freezer prevents vermin infestation while authorities wait (up to 90 days) for the "owners" to reclaim their belongings. Critics of the program said the city should just confiscate the shopping carts, most of which had been stolen from merchants in the first place and almost all of which are never claimed, anyway.

■ In underreported November election returns: Notorious Florida radio shock jock Bubba the Love Sponge Clem lost his race for Pinellas County sheriff, and his Tampa radio competitor "Dave the Dwarf" Flood lost for a conservation-panel seat (but each got nearly 30 percent of the vote). The mayor of Arvin, Calif., Juan Olivares, was arrested the day before polls opened, charged with child molesting. (Voters ousted him.) Peter Stevenson, losing candidate for Vermont lieutenant governor, appeared at the only televised debate with a fake arrow through his head and blood on his clothes. Bruce Borders won, becoming the Indiana General Assembly's only Elvis impersonator. Losing Pennsylvania congressional candidate Arthur Farnsworth, who ran on an anti-tax platform, was arrested three days after the election for tax evasion.

TODAY IN HISTORY

In 1916, Gregory Rasputin, the monk who'd wielded powerful influence over the Russian court, was killed by a group of noblemen.

In 1950, President Truman proclaimed a national state of emergency in order to fight "Communist imperialism."

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Life means progress, and progress means suffering."

HENDRIK WILLEM VAN LOON
DUTCH-BORN JOURNALIST

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Annenberg to donate \$21M for SM beach estate

Money will be used to make 1920s estate, lived in by actress Marion Davies, a public facility



WALLIS ANNENBERG

BY JOHN WOOD
Daily Press Staff Writer

SM BEACH

The Annenberg Foundation will donate \$21 million to help City Hall restore an historic estate built in the 1920s by newspaper giant William Randolph Hearst, it was announced late Tuesday.

Originally a 100-room mansion lived in by Hearst's mistress, actress Marion Davies, the property at 415 Pacific Coast Highway on Santa Monica Beach was

bought by the state in 1959, which leased it to a private beach club for three decades. It has languished in disrepair since 1994.

Philanthropist Wallis Annenberg took a personal interest in the site after reading a Santa Monica newspaper article detailing City Hall's desire to repair the remaining historical components, but the local government lacked funding. With the foundation's donation in hand, officials hope to have the site open to the public by November of 2008.

"Certainly this is a real partnership, we believe, made in heaven," said Paul Romero, chief deputy



John Wood/Daily Press

The Marion Davies estate at 415 PCH has languished in disrepair since the 1994 Northridge Earthquake. Officials hope to re-open it by 2008.

director of the state's parks department. "We have a project that has had some difficulty because of earthquakes, because of limitations. We now see an opportunity for great success."

Tentative plans for the site call for preserving the property's origi-

inal guest house and swimming pool, designed by famed California architect Julia Morgan. The plans also call for refurbishing a three-story locker building later added to the site, along with a beach cafe, and paddle tennis and

See ANNENBERG, page 5



Stained glass worker Jim Piechowski said he turned around a one-year project in six months at the newly opened pavilion at St. John's Health Center.

New hospital lets the light shine on in

BY PAM WIGHT

Special to the Daily Press

MID-CITY — A 79-year-old nun, a renowned French artist and a local glass master are just part of a colorful story behind the stained glass windows in the newly opened pavilion at St. John's Health Center.

When the designers of the new hospital decided to put 31 stained glass windows along passages and

at the end of all of the hallways, they began a long and complex process that involved much thought, design and labor.

"They were hoping to have all of the windows in before they opened, so we basically did a year-long project in six months," said Jim Piechowski, owner of Stained Glass for Worship, a Venice-based company that manufactures stained glass windows for church-

es, commercial buildings and private residences.

To help with the designing, Piechowski turned to long-time friend and sometimes-business partner, Sister Genevieve Underwood, who began studying stained glass design nearly 30 years ago.

After Underwood got her M.A. in fine arts from The Catholic University in Washington, D.C., she

taught design classes as a professor emeritus at Loyola Marymount University for 15 years.

"One summer I saw some very good stained glass in Los Angeles," Underwood said. "I heard of a local European artist by the name of Roger Darricarrere who had apprenticed under Marc Chagall in France. He had a studio in Los Angeles and did workshops

See STAIN GLASS, page 6



Photos courtesy



GABY SCHKUD

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

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



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ You don't have to reveal everything you understand or perceive. In fact, you might want to keep your opinions to yourself. Look at an important relationship with distance and don't trigger so much. Tonight: Be an observer not a player.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Your sense of responsibility allows you to head in a new direction that might involve more meetings and networking. Someone lets you know how much he or she appreciates you. Others surprise you. Tonight: Start enjoying yourself as if it were the weekend.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ You have thought about, reflected on and studied an issue. You probably have found experts as well. After some evaluation, take a stand or at least present your ideas. You'll get powerful feedback and discover a new way to get where you want to be. Tonight: Work late.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ A partner or associate might not agree with you. Focus on teamwork and cooperation, and you'll turn the corner with this person. Others admire your willingness to try something new. Work with unanticipated news. Tonight: Think about a weekend away in January.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Dealing with people is one of your specialties, which you will draw on both professionally and personally. Make plenty of time for conversation and brainstorming with individuals. A friend or loved one could be contrary. Tonight: Add more spice to your life.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Concentrate in the morning, because by the afternoon, you are the main focus of everyone around you. Don't expect any peace and quiet in the afternoon, when everyone will be knocking on your door. Visit, network and brainstorm. Make the most of this opportunity. Tonight: Where the crowds are.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Plug your creativity in where it counts. Not everyone can or will be able to come up with the ideas you come up with. Your work and daily routine dominate the afternoon, though the unexpected is likely. Tonight: Bring extra work home.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ You might be slow to get started, but once you do, you'll have a difficult time stopping. Laughter marks the afternoon, when good feelings surround you. Someone might make more of a caring gesture than you intended. Tonight: Ever frisky.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Schedule calls and meetings for the early part of the day. Show caring and take the time to work out a misunderstanding. Trust your diplomacy and charm to come through. If you can, make it an early day and head home. Tonight: An easy night at home.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Investigate a confusing matter in the morning. A friend or associate might urge you to take a risk, which ultimately could backfire. Question and get others' opinions. Schedule meetings for later in the day. Tonight: Spontaneity works.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You peak early in the day, only to slide downhill. Excitement surrounds the later afternoon. You don't realize how many fans you have. Your friends come through in the clinch. Be more open to discussion and other points of view. Tonight: Hold on tight to your funds.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You perk up midday and become a veritable force to be dealt with. You will have it your way come hell or high water. A boss smiles, as you seem to complete your work more to his or her liking. Tonight: As you like it.

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LOCAL COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Photo Courtesy

The Jingle Bell Rockers include (clockwise from back left) Steve Goodie, Suzy Williams, Rory Johnston, Catherine De La Casas and Kathy Leonardo.

Off their rockers

By Daily Press staff

“The Off Their Jingle Bell Rockers,” is a zany group of Venetians that just can’t help but sing. This is their third season of bringing holiday cheer to local communities.

The group consists of dedicated professional singers who love to share the holiday spirit in their own energetic and distinctive way.

They recently sang at the Abbott Kinney Christmas extravaganza on Dec. 4. They participated in the annual Christmas Boat Parade in the Venice canals.

The Rockers will perform at the Sunday Farmers Market on Main Street Dec. 19 from 10 a.m. until noon.

Support group formed to deal with teen angst

Daily Press staff

Are you a parent riding the adolescent roller coaster?

A Place for Parents at the YWCA Santa Monica/Westside will host a support group for parents of adolescents ages 11-16. This group offers a supportive environment for parents of tweens and teens to compare notes, explore strategies and advance communication skills as their children navigate through adolescence. Jan V. Solomita, a life coach, will facilitate the support group.

The support groups will be held Wednesday evenings, Jan. 19-March 9 from 6:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.

The cost is \$175 individually and \$315 for couples. Pre-registration is required. Limited scholarships are available.

The YWCA Santa Monica/Westside is located at 2019 14th St. Call (310) 452-3881 to pre-register. Space is limited.

Holiday party benefits those less fortunate

By Daily Press staff

More than 100 people who would otherwise not enjoy the holiday with all the trimmings enjoyed a festive holiday earlier this month, thanks to a nonprofit and a

See BRIEFS, page 6



SURF REPORT

The surf gods are smiling on Bay Street. Sunny mornings, little to no winds, and solid swell has blessed Santa Monica beaches with chest-high thumpers this week.

On Thursday, a fading WNW (285-300) swell has lots of exposed spots of Northern LA in chest- to shoulder-high surf with plus sets. South Bay beaches see chest- to head-high waves early, while top breaks in the north half of the bay hit overhead sets. Slow drop during the day. Then powerful new WNW'er takes over on Friday.

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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The QLine

It’s been suggested that the vacant RAND building across from City Hall should be converted into a homeless shelter instead of being torn down, and made into a park and other governmental facilities.

City Hall owns the property and spends about \$2 million on homeless services each year. Some have suggested that City Hall should redistribute that money into its own shelter. The idea is that the shelter would provide transitional housing and would be

tied to work and educational programs, as well as addiction and mental illness programs.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, “Is this a good idea? Why or why not?”

Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we’ll print your response in the weekend edition. Please limit your comments to less than a minute. It might help to think first about the wording of your response.

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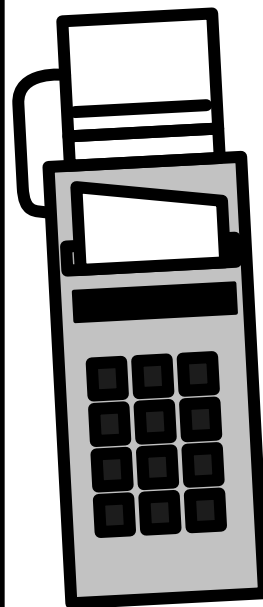
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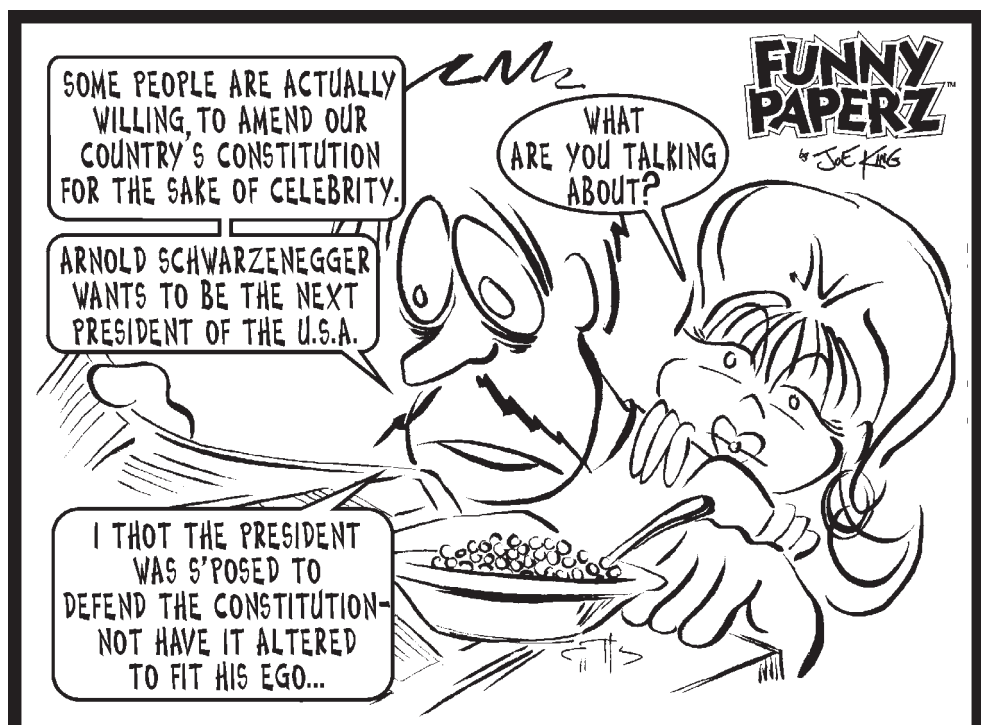
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OPINION



HOW 'BOUT HE CONCENTRATES ON HIS CURRENT JOB, HUH? © 2004 WWW.FUNNYPAPERZ.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Be safe, be seen'

Editor:

I felt compelled to write in on this issue. Thank you for the forum to express viewpoints.

Who's to blame? The recent vehicular-pedestrian accidents seem to point a finger at the driver. This is most likely true. However, it seems to me that there are always two sides to a story.

Your article (SMDP, Dec. 11, page 1) relating to the issue on Ocean Park Boulevard and 18th Street quotes Lucy Dyke, "A lot of times, when we have accidents in the city, somebody is blatantly not paying attention to what they're doing." Also quoted was Sgt. Jay Trisler of SMPD, "There are benefits to crosswalks, but there are cases in which they provide a false sense of security." In addition, he advises pedestrians to "be safe, be seen."

These comments are right on target. No matter what planning or new techniques are developed for our streets, it will not improve the ratio of accidents unless the citizens improve their bad habits. I sit at a corner office right in front of a busy intersection. I see amazing things all day. I even had close calls being involved in possible accidents.

This morning, while I was crossing the intersection on a green light, a mother walking her child in a stroller was over anxious in crossing the street against her red light/don't walk signal. She barely could wait for me to pass. Interestingly, she felt putting herself and child in front of danger was more appropriate than exercising patience for a minute and waiting her turn.

Conversely, I have seen motorists talking on their cell phone, looking around for a particular store and ignoring everything else around them. One person drove through a red light and almost hit me when it was my turn to cross.

Everyone needs to exercise more patience and caution. A word of advice I'm sure most of all our mothers taught us as children, when crossing the street, look both ways, look again, be sure cars see you and stop, then cross. As for motorists, remember your driver's education class and those simulators? Maybe a refresher course is in order.

Ron Davis
Santa Monica

Strip malls infuriate resident

Editor:

Many long-time Santa Monica residents — friends and neighbors of mine — would like to know how come there was no room for the Trader Joe's that everybody wanted and no room for the Target that everybody wanted, but all of a sudden there's room for a strip mall on Wilshire Boulevard?

Isn't it too close to the residential district — the city's poor and dumb excuse for not accepting Trader Joe's or Target? And isn't a strip mall somewhat below Santa Monica's new high standards? Do strip malls generate less traffic?

I think we all know the answers to these questions. Every time I pass the strip mall area, I go into a rage. I feel like all of us old-time residents have been and are being completely ignored and someone is running their own personal agenda.

Adele Wapniarski
Santa Monica

Xmas headache: Why not start with the 4th of July?

NEWS ON THE EDGE

BY RON SCOTT SMITH



And so this is Christmas. You came here for opinion, ok, so here's one. John Lennon's "Happy Xmas (War is Over)" is the best Christmas song. Really know how to stir things up around here, don't I?

But when I heard that beautiful thing coming through the speakers over there at Rite-Aid when I was picking up a bottle of Aspirin way back on the day after Halloween, the headache only got worse. You think they could maybe wait until the pumpkins have fully rotted away before they throw the fruitcakes at us? Can we at least get the bellies full over Thanksgiving before the pockets get empty over Christmas? Might just as well start stringing the lights up on the Fourth of July if you get my gist.

But I come to praise Christmas, not to bury it. It's under siege in case you haven't noticed. It seems the whole red-American, "right-radio" contingent, led by the inexorable Bill O'Reilly, is on Red Alert- ablaze — having found the next perfect storm to blowhard across the American airwaves to keep the sky falling, the nation divided, the faithful tuned, and the revenues pouring in. The perfect storm they've found is that somebody's messing with Christmas, and nobody messes with Christmas, see?

For instance, the Federated Department Store chain that is mostly Macy's, has ordered employees not to say "Merry Christmas" to customers, and managers not to display "Merry Christmas" in any form. New York City's Mayor Bloomberg is compelled to call their official city tree, not a Christmas one, but a "holiday" one. The Festival of Lights Parade in downtown Denver forbade a local church from rolling a float with Jesus on it down Main Street. Elementary and middle schools across the nation have banned religious themes from their holiday recitals, and now get this — O'Reilly just reported something about how in Vatican City of all places, the likeness of baby Jesus has been replaced by Little Red Riding Hood at some schools. Only the big, bad wolf would huff and puff and mess with Christmas like that.

Upon further review, however, from one who loves and cherishes it, maybe the time has come for Christmas to be messed with a little. Jesus himself might very possibly say, "Maybe you could all calm down a little bit about this birthday thing of mine." He might then very well add,

"Don't throw 'Silent Night' out there before the leaves have even turned, just so you can start raking in the bucks as soon as righteously possible."

But the current gripe going around about Christmas goes deeper than its gross over-commercialization. Not just Scooges and big bad wolves, but many decent Americans are beginning to get just a little bit nervous about where this sudden new wave of religious fervor might be headed, and they may be thinking — what better place to slow it down than right here in the Yuletide? Separation of church and state is not a concept dreamed up by the newly-exposed, derelict, leftist, elitist, anti-American, liberal-biased media (did I get in all the pejoratives?) in order to slide us down that greasy slope straight into hell. To the contrary, it's one of our stalwart founding principles, one that keeps us from taking that slide. It sets us apart from those we've sent our underpaid and overworked warriors out there to fight to the death against.

You want religion coming into play in the governance of your nation? Radical Muslims have that thing down to the "T," as in Taliban. That holier-than-thou bunch ran the training grounds for guys who would then go out and fly planes into skyscrapers for the higher cause, remember? We didn't care much for the mixture of religion and state in that case, did we? But it's ok here because we've got it right, right?

Could the fundamentalist Shiites, who stand poised to take control of Iraq in the upcoming election we've spilled our precious blood to make happen, cite the institutionalized rape of children by the highest practitioners of Christianity — Catholic priests — as a reason to question whether we do indeed have it right?

Do Muslims think Jerry Falwell is more righteous than Osama Bin Laden? Do you? Just asking, because honest to God, I don't know. The way he hobbles around in those caves over there in the sandals and robe, long hair and beard, walking stick in hand, with his millions of followers and believers, would it be shocking to find he is worshipped some 2000 years from now? Worldwide terrorist or no worldwide terrorist, holy leaders all get their start somewhere.

Who knows, maybe a guy like John Lennon has a shot at that revered status too. He got blown away, like they all seem to. "Give peace a chance," and "all you need is love," he said over and over, and sometimes it's the simple notions that last and grow, and grow, through the ages. Just ask Jesus.

(To reach Ron Scott Smith, e-mail him at edgeofthewest@aol.com.)

Do you have community news?

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LOCAL



Marion Davies estate may be open to public by 2008

ANNENBERG, from page 1

volleyball courts. A banquet center with ocean views would be available for public and private events, and pathways and a promenade would allow visitors to enjoy the property and learn its history, according to the plans.

Officials from the Annenberg Foundation said they were eager to get started on the redevelopment.

"This particular project happens to fall into a new emerging area of interest for Wallis and the foundation, with respect to preserving historic facilities and supporting programs that serve families, educators and students in creative and new ways," said Leonard Aube, a managing director for the foundation.

Established by Walter Annenberg, a distinguished publisher, broadcaster, diplomat and philanthropist, the Annenberg Foundation granted nearly \$200 million to 40 different groups throughout the country last year. Walter Annenberg founded journalism schools at the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Southern California. Wallis Annenberg is the daughter of Walter Annenberg and vice president of the foundation, which is headquartered in Pennsylvania. She lives on the Westside of Los Angeles.

The gift to City Hall is the third of its kind from the Annenberg Foundation. In September of 2003, the foundation announced a \$25 million matching grant to help develop a science center on an historic Los Angeles armory at Exposition and Figueroa boulevards. The foundation had already given that project \$6 million. In June of this year, the foundation announced a \$15 million grant to convert the Beverly Hills Post Office, now defunct, into a community center.

"All of the trustees of the foundation feel this deep-felt commitment to improving the quality of life in our community and to make a lasting contribution to that," Aube said after the new grant was announced. "We also recognize, however, that the foundation can't function or operate in a vacuum."

City officials said Santa Monica already has garnered approximately \$1.4 million in state and federal grants to support the project, and has contributed an equivalent amount of local dollars. Before Annenberg expressed an interest in the site, the city was poised to approach private developers.

Mayor Pam O'Connor said the \$21 million gift was unprecedented in the history of Santa Monica. O'Connor and every other council member during a Tuesday night meeting thanked Wallis

Annenberg and the foundation for the generous grant.

"It's such an extraordinary gift," City Councilman Bob Holbrook said. "It's unbelievable, and to think that a private family foundation would seek to make a gift of this size to the community ... is just astounding, and I'm so appreciative. Thank you."

City Councilman Bobby Shriver, who worked on the project as chair of the State Parks Commission, said he has long known and admired the Annenbergs.

"They're a tremendous family, they've done amazing philanthropic things throughout the country, Pennsylvania and here in California," Shriver said. "I've worked myself in philanthropy half my life, and to see a family of distinction and discipline and rigor come into Santa Monica and (fund) this project is a great moment."

Barbara Stinchfield, who heads City Hall's community and cultural services department, said if the project passes the environmental review stage, the two-year construction process will begin in November of 2006.

An opening celebration could then be held in November of 2008, nearly 15 years after the property was red-tagged and fenced off due to damage sustained in the Northridge Earthquake. After being operated for decades as the Sand and Sea Club, the property was at the center of a battle between local restaurateur Michael McCarty, who won approval from the City Council to build a hotel there, and residents determined to prevent new beach hotels in Santa Monica.

When an initiative passed that squashed McCarty's project, the City Council voted to terminate the Sand and Sea lease and take control of the grounds. From 1990 until 1994, the estate was open to the public for recreational use and was often rented for various film shoots, including for the popular TV series "Beverly Hills 90210."

Wallis Annenberg, who confirmed the foundation's gift in a letter to City Manager Susan McCarthy that was received Tuesday afternoon, said she admired the property and was eager to preserve it for future generations.

"This is an especially exciting project because this property will offer residents and families extraordinary access to a lovely stretch of beachfront property and will contribute to the quality of life in the area by providing a wide range of recreational opportunities," she said in a prepared statement. "The project will also help restore and preserve a spot that has a unique place in California's history."

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LOCAL

Glass passion: Local man's handiwork on display

STAIN GLASS, from page 1

there sometimes. He only had time for a few pupils so I was really privileged to have worked there and studied under one of the very best masters."

Underwood has worked with Piechowski designing and manufacturing stained glass windows for the past 20 years, beginning with a joint project for a church in Catalina.

Since then, they have collaborated on projects for 15 churches in the Los Angeles Archdiocese.

"This project is unique in our collaboration ... most of our work has been religious," Piechowski said. "Even though most of these designs are completely abstract, they're all based on the first book of the Bible, Genesis, talking about creation of some sort."

The only window with an explicitly religious theme is in the hospital's oratory. Images of a chalice, host, grapes and wheat are based on the Catholic sacra-

ment, Piechowski explained.

"This hospital is religious but opened to the entire population, so the rest of the windows are abstract," he said.

Underwood designed all 31 windows at St. John's. The swirling, decorative shapes are meant to have some relation to the operation of each floor of the hospital, Piechowski said. For example, a window on the fourth floor maternity ward displays an explosion of intricate, colorful shapes resembling stars, moons and planets sweeping around a womb-shaped center.

"Stained glass windows were originally used to educate an illiterate population (about the Bible story)," Piechowski said. "I like to say it was the first 'multimedia.' But with the abstract windows, they can read into anything they want."

Because of the reflective glass used by the hospital, it's difficult to see the windows from the outside during the daylight hours. But from the inside, the colorful windows warm an otherwise sterile structure.

The colored glass sheets from which

shapes are cut are all hand-made by a glass blower. The resultant glass is referred to as "mouth blown" or "antique." Three dry chemicals make up the base of any glass — silica sand, like beach sand, and soda and lime, both dry chemicals.

"When I used to teach stained glass art at LMU, I would tell the students it was like baking a cake," Piechowski said. "You mix all of the ingredients into a dry element, and when you put it into the oven, it becomes a completely different kind of beast."

Glass is considered a super-cooled liquid, as it is first melted into a molten substance at temperatures of up to 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit, resembling the consistency of molasses.

A glass blower then blows the liquid glass into a long cylinder with a blow pipe. It's allowed to cool, then it's cut and laid flat before being put into the annealing oven. The annealing process is like using a firing ceramics kiln, Piechowski explained. One sheet of glass takes a little more than 24 hours to make.

Color is created by adding certain chem-

ical compounds to the mix, such as gold oxide for reds, and cobalt oxide for blues.

"The color is inherent in the glass, not painted on like a lot of people think," Piechowski said.

Two black steel bars are blended into the images to strengthen the long-term life of the window which, depending on the environment, is about 100 years. Lead strips separate the individual pieces and "draw" the image.

Piechowski's company manufactures the windows from glass that is already made by a German company, called Lambert. Underwood does the designing, creating a cartoon of the image for each window.

The intricate windows installed at St. John's average 150 individual pieces each at a cost of approximately \$250 to \$300 per square foot, Piechowski said.

Despite its labor-intensity nature, for Underwood and Piechowski, artistic passion is what drives them.

"Sister and I, we live for projects like these," Piechowski said. "So it was definitely God-given."

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 3

beauty supply company.

Seventeen Neutrogena employees this month prepared and served more than 150 sit-down holiday turkey dinners with all the trimmings to veterans and staff in St. Joseph Center's Veterans Representative Payee Program on the grounds of the West Los Angeles Veterans Administration.

For the third year in a row Neutrogena volunteers provided food, gift bags, and a decorated holiday tree. Veterans and Neutrogena staff also "jammed" together on musical instruments brought to the event.

"Several vets approached me afterwards to say 'thank you' with tears in their eyes," says Nick Maiorino, director of St. Joseph Center's money management services. "Neutrogena's generosity and dedication is truly a gift to us all."

St. Joseph Center has 11 programs on eight sites in Venice, Santa Monica, and West Los Angeles, providing emergency services, case management, childcare, job training, and senior services to homeless and low-income individuals in order to break the chain of poverty, so that they can achieve self-sufficiency.

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Money management tips for the single parent



MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS

BY COREY K. QUINN, BRETT A. BROWN

Being a single parent is far from a rarity in the U.S. In fact, one-parent households number in the millions, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Even if another parent provides monetary assistance, single parents often independently make decisions that impact their child's financial security. Here are a few guidelines that may help single parents ensure their family's future.

MANAGE EXPECTATIONS

Discuss finances with your children. Kids today are very aware of their environment. Discussing your finances with them will help them to manage their expectations of what the family can afford.

Live within your budget. An obvious step to saving money is to develop a streamlined budget that still meets your family's needs. This may be as simple as limiting discretionary spending which, for some, can add up to a savings of hundreds of dollars a month.

INITIATE PROTECTIVE MEASURES

Protect your income with long-term disability insurance. A significant number of

mortgage foreclosures are the result of loss of income, according to the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Should you become unable to work, long-term disability insurance may be obliged to cover a portion of your salary for an extended period of time. The easiest way to get long-term disability insurance is through your employer. Check the specifics of your company's benefits. You may be covered and not know it.

Update your will. A will ensures that your wishes for your children will be followed instead of being mandated by a state's intestacy statutes. Moreover, assets such as real estate, investments, automobiles and jewelry can add up to a sizable amount. A will can provide guidelines for how you wish your assets to be managed or used to benefit your children.

INCREASE YOUR NET WORTH

Learn about savings and investment opportunities. With the cash you save from your new budget, consider the many savings and investment opportunities available to you. For instance, instead of keeping too much cash in low- or non-interest-paying accounts, you may want to

consider the growth opportunities available through a wide variety of mutual funds or tax-deferred investments. These accounts can be incorporated into a college and/or retirement savings plan.

share values, investors should consider their financial ability to continue the program through all market cycles.

Being a single parent can be difficult and demanding. However, successfully managing your finances does not have to be.

GET PROFESSIONAL ADVICE

Your financial advisor can suggest specific strategies tailored for your situation and point out any additional considerations, such as a systematic or dollar-cost averaging plan. This investment strategy helps you make consistent contributions on a regular basis. A program of systematic investment cannot assure profit or protect against loss in a declining market. Because such a program involves continuous investments regardless of fluctuating

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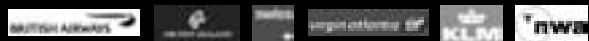
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Study shows federal subsidies go to a handful of largest farms

BY JULIANA BARBASSA

Associated Press Writer

FRESNO — A handful of farms get most of the water, and the subsidy dollars, delivered by the country's largest federal water supply project, according to a study released Wednesday by a national environmental organization.

The Central Valley Project, authorized in 1936 to support family farms, now funnels up to \$416 million of subsidized water to agricultural giants in California's Central Valley, with the top 10 percent of agricultural water users getting 67 percent of the water, the Environmental Working Group study found.

This is a perversion of the project's initial intent — and very expensive to taxpayers, said Bill Walker, the organization's vice president for the West Coast.

"The system is broken," Walker said.

And fixing it is more important than ever, Walker said, since the Central Valley's water districts are currently going through contract negotiations that could lock in millions of acre feet of water deliveries for decades to come — a time when the state's booming population is expected to increase demand on the limited resource.

But representatives of Westlands Water District, the biggest beneficiary of the federal water project, called the report's conclusions "irresponsible."

The rate charged for water from the CVP is determined by law, they said, and the only break farmers get is on repayment of the \$3.6 billion in public money used to build the project, an amount that is being returned over decades with no accruing interest, water contractors said.

By 2002, water users had only paid back 11 percent of the initial building cost, in part because they've been locked into decades-long contracts that set their water

rates lower than what was necessary to pay back the construction costs, the report said.

Farmers argue they pay that debt back to the public by generating jobs and revenue in a region plagued by double-digit unemployment, and producing the fresh fruits and vegetables that feed the nation.

Water "is a resource that should be available to a variety of users — and there isn't any question the public benefit outweighs the cost in this situation," said Thomas Birmingham, the general manager for Westlands Water District.

Westlands Irrigation District, a political heavyweight that encompasses about 550,000 acres in Fresno and Kings counties, gets more than a quarter of the water delivered by the CVP. In 2002, it paid \$13.4 million for its 721,258 acre feet of water — a deal bolstered by a subsidy of at least \$23.9 million, according to the environmental group's calculations.

Westlands is home to some of the largest enterprises served by the Central Valley projects — farming conglomerates like the 25,000 acres of nuts, tomatoes and other vegetables owned by the Woolf family.

Back when the federal water project was built, a farm was "what a man and team of mules could work," Stuart Woolf said.

"We've moved beyond that," he said, adding that the main beneficiaries of the solid agricultural economy that rests on the back of operations like his family's and the federal water project are "those who eat and wear clothes," he said.

But many experts who have worked to reform the 60-year-old federal water project, like Rep. George Miller, D-Martinez, warned that contract negotiations under way could "provide these same handouts to these same special interests for decades to come."

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NATIONAL



Grocery strike looms in Northern CA and CO

BY SANDY SHORE

AP Business Writer

DENVER — As they ring up purchases of holiday celebration foodstuffs, grocery workers in two Western states are wondering if they will end up on strike in the New Year.

"It's a constant worry," said Anna Flynn, a 38-year Safeway employee in Denver. "We do our best to protect our customers, to not let them know that we're upset, that we're worried about the holidays, we're worried about our families, we're worried about job security, our health care."

Contract talks are under way involving nearly 50,000 employees at Safeway Inc., Albertsons Inc. and Kroger Co. in Colorado and Northern California.

All three chains are under pressure to control labor costs as they battle competition from nonunion retailers like Wal-Mart and warehouse stores like Costco. They also are trying to recover from a 4 1/2-month strike in Southern California that cost them hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue and hundreds of customers who still haven't come back.

In Colorado, the two sides have been negotiating for months, though no talks are now scheduled. The national union president even stepped in last month to stop employees from voting on a potential contract, saying the health care proposals were unacceptable. Experts called the move unusual, but the stakes in the labor fight are high.

There are two critical sticking points for both sides — how to pay for rising health care costs and a wage system that would set salaries for new hires lower than existing workers.

The United Food and Commercial Workers Union says the companies want not only to impose health-care premiums for the first time but at a rate that is too high since many grocery workers are part-time. The union also opposes a multitiered wage system it says would never allow newly hired employees to reach the salary levels of existing workers.

Each contract is different, but the common thread has been health care costs.

"It's an issue that all of the unionized chains obviously are grappling with," Safeway spokesman Brian Dowling said. "We've got to find a way to restructure these agreements addressing the issue of health care costs in a way that doesn't dramatically affect current employees."

The Southern California strike, which affected about 59,000 workers, was devastating both emotionally and financially. About 15,000 workers either never returned to their jobs or quit after the settlement.

Pleasanton, Calif.-based Safeway said its 2005 earnings would fall below Wall Street expectations because the strike hit its Vons stores hard. It has reported at least \$275 million in losses from the strike.

Kroger, based in Cincinnati, has reported \$318 million in strike-related losses since October 2003, including the impact of a West Virginia labor dispute. Boise, Idaho-based Albertsons has linked at least \$240 million in losses to the strike.

The California strike also set a standard for negotiations that have followed, said George Whalin, president of Retail Management Consultants in San Marcos, Calif.

"The major issue is reducing the cost of labor with the proliferation of Wal-Mart Supercenters," he said. "If they think they're going to beat this thing in Denver or Northern California, they're wrong. The supermarkets are going to hold out as long as it takes."

Since the strike ended, Kroger has negotiated more than half a dozen contracts covering more than 70,000 workers across the country that include at least some measures addressing health-care costs, Kroger spokesman Gary Rhodes said.

The companies, too, would like to avoid a walkout, he said. "The lesson out of Southern California has been very clear: Nobody wins in a strike," he said.

Rhodes and Dowling declined to discuss specifics of the talks in Colorado or Northern California. An Albertsons spokeswoman did not return telephone messages seeking comment.

In the San Francisco area, talks are ongoing with a contract extension set to expire in mid-January, said Ron Lind, a spokesman for eight UFCW locals representing about 30,000 members.

"They've been jittery ever since Southern California happened," Lind said of the workers. "They know there is the potential for a labor strike."

"We think time is on our side," he said. "Our goal is to find ways to pressure the companies while the workers are still on the job."

In Colorado, about 17,500 union members are working without a contract for now. Separate negotiations are under way affecting about 1,200 union workers at Safeway, Albertsons and Kroger's King Soopers chain in western Colorado.

Bob Lopez says this year's negotiations are some of the most tension-filled he has ever seen in the 43 years he has worked for King Soopers in the Denver area. Although a few union members want to strike now, most are optimistic for a settlement, he said.

"The longer it goes on, the more optimistic they're going to get settled without a strike," he said.

Flynn, the Safeway worker, isn't so sure.

"If it's necessary, we're going to do it," she said of a strike. "We don't want to do it but we're willing to do it."

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NATIONAL



European countries not happy with U.S. election

BY WILL LESTER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — President Bush's re-election was viewed negatively by a majority of people in several European countries — including those in Britain, America's strongest ally in the war in Iraq, Associated Press polling found.

The president was not the only one viewed unfavorably. Americans generally were seen in an unfavorable light by many in France, Germany and Spain, countries not supportive of U.S. Iraq policies.

Bush pledged soon after his re-election victory Nov. 2 that he would work to "deepen our trans-Atlantic ties with the nations of Europe." He plans a trip to Europe in February.

The president, and Americans generally, have plenty of work to do to win over Europeans, according to international AP-Ipsos polls.

Polling in the United States as well as Australia, Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Spain was done for the AP by Ipsos, an international polling company.

As reflected by his re-election, a majority in the United States viewed Bush favorably. Just over half in this country said they were hopeful and were not disappointed after Bush's re-election.

At least seven in 10 in France, Germany and Spain said they have an unfavorable view of President Bush. Just over half of the French and Germans said they have an unfavorable view of Americans in general, and about half of Spaniards felt that way.

Especially inclined to have an unfavorable opinion of Bush in those countries were people between ages 18 and 24. A majority of all respondents in France, Germany and Spain said they were disappointed that Bush won a second four-year term, defeating Democrat John Kerry.

The rift with longtime allies France and Germany is the most serious in years, and relations with Spain are particularly frosty after Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero withdrew Spanish troops from Iraq last April.

"Contrary to what usually happens just after a victory, George W. Bush's re-election hasn't improved his image in European public opinion," said Gilles Corman, director of public affairs for Ipsos-Inra in Belgium.

The polls suggest an increasing lack of

understanding about Americans in Europe, rather than a surge of anti-Americanism, said Corman, who studies public opinion trends in Europe.

"The predominant feelings about Bush's re-election in the European countries are disappointment and surprise more than anger," he said, noting that anger about Bush's re-election was higher in Spain.

"Above all, they appear to be worried about the consequences of this election," Corman said.

Polling found that Bush is viewed favorably by a majority of people in the United States. But that is not the case in Australia, Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Spain.

A majority of people in Britain, America's strongest ally in the Iraq war, have an unfavorable view of Bush. Six in 10 Britons said they were disappointed he was re-elected.

In Canada, about the same number of Canadians said they were disappointed with the re-election. The president was asked last month during a trip to Canada about various polls that show Canadians and Americans drifting apart.

"We just had a poll in our country where people decided that the foreign policy of the Bush administration ought to — stay in place for four more years," he replied.

Just over half of the people in France, Germany and Spain had an unfavorable view of Americans, but a solid majority in Australia (69 percent), Britain (60 percent), Canada (80 percent) and Italy (56 percent) expressed a favorable opinion.

Australia, Britain and Italy are U.S. allies in the Iraq war. Canada did not send troops to support the U.S.-led coalition in Iraq but did send them to Afghanistan.

"The negative view that Canadians have of George Bush does not extend to Americans in general," said Darrell Bricker, president of Ipsos-Reid Public Affairs-North America.

In Australia, seven in 10 surveyed had a favorable view of Americans; four in 10 had a positive impression of Bush.

Randall Pearce, general manager of Ipsos Mackay Public Affairs, said Prime Minister John Howard's public backing of Bush appeared to help the president.

The AP-Ipsos polls of about 1,000 adults in each country were taken between Nov. 19-27 and have margins of sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.



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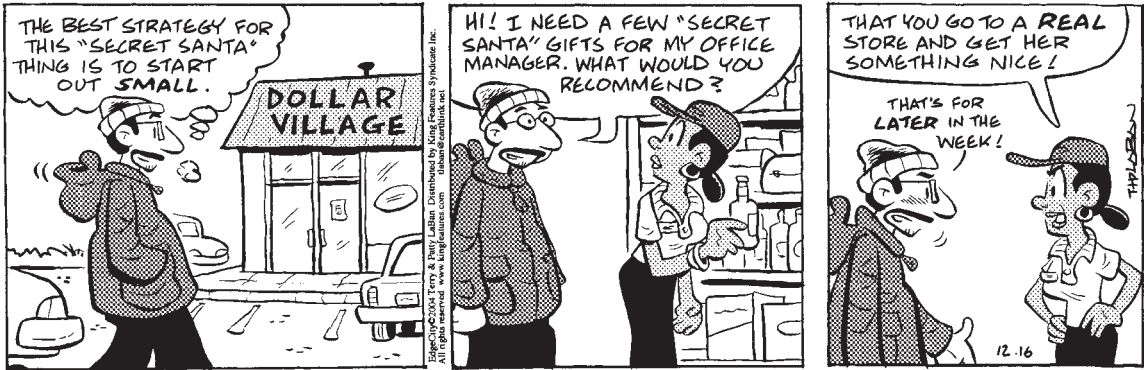


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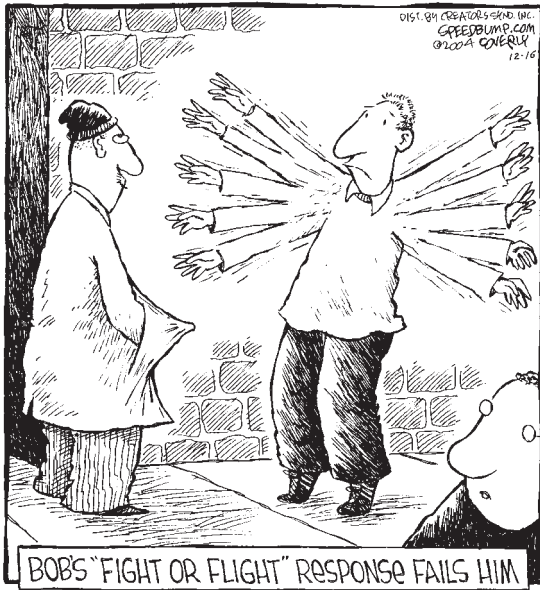
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- 28 Stag party attendee
29 Faux pas
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32 Science of light
36 Unfair treatment
39 Juvenile's music
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41 Marry in secret

DOWN

- 43 Like some jackets
44 Inert gas
45 Oozes
46 "Peer —"
1 Court player
2 Scent
3 Kin of a crunch
4 Sigma follower
5 Mexican money
6 Addition column
7 Paper workers
8 Got in shape
9 Uppsala's setting
11 Buffets
17 Hockey legend
19 Hockey need
22 Multi-screen theater
24 Wood of film
25 Tangle

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North Arrowhead Avenue, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0210 on November 15, 2004. Filed by Brian G. Thorne, Esq., #120423, The Partners, and Incorporated Law Firm, 3403 Tenth Street, Suite 810, Riverside, California 92501, Attorney for Jeffrey Nesbit Enterprises, LLC. Plaintiff. NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: Gregory D. Mead; Twin Sport; and Does 1 through 10, inclusive, as an individual defendant. You are being sued by Plaintiff Jeffrey Nesbit Enterprises, LLC. You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and you wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court. There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.law-helpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court of county bar association. The name and address of the court is Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino, 351 North Arrowhead Avenue, San Bernardino, CA 92415, Central Division. The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: Brian G. Thorne, Esq., #120423, The Partners, an Incorporated Law Firm, 3403 Tenth Street, Suite 810, Riverside, CA 92501; Dated July 10, 2004 Clerk, by Shannon Pratt, Deputy. Defendant(s) Respondent(s): George D. Mead; Twin Sport; and does one through 10, inclusive. Upon reading and filing evidence consisting of a declaration as provided in Section 415.50 CCP by Brian T. Thorne or citee George D. Mead and Twin Sport, cannot be served with reasonable diligence in any other manner specified in Article 3, Chapter 4, Title 5 of the Code of Civil Procedure, and it also appearing from the verified complaint of petition that a good cause of action exists in this action in favor of the plaintiff, petitioner, or citee therein and against the defendant, respondent, or citee and that the said defendant, respondent, or citee is a necessary and proper party to the action of that the parrot to be served has or claims an interest in, real or personal property in this state that is subject to the jurisdiction of the Court of the relief demanded in this action consists wholly of in part in excluding such property from any interest in such property: NOW, on motion of PLAINTIFF Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff(s), Petitioner(s), or contestant(s), IT IS ORDERED that the services of said summons or citation in this action by made upon defendant, respondent, or citee by publication thereof in Santa Monica Daily Press a newspaper of general circulation published at Los Angeles, California, here by designated at the newspaper most likely to give notice to said defendant: that said publication be made 12/15/04, 12/20/04, 12/27/04, 01/03/04. Dated November 15, 2004

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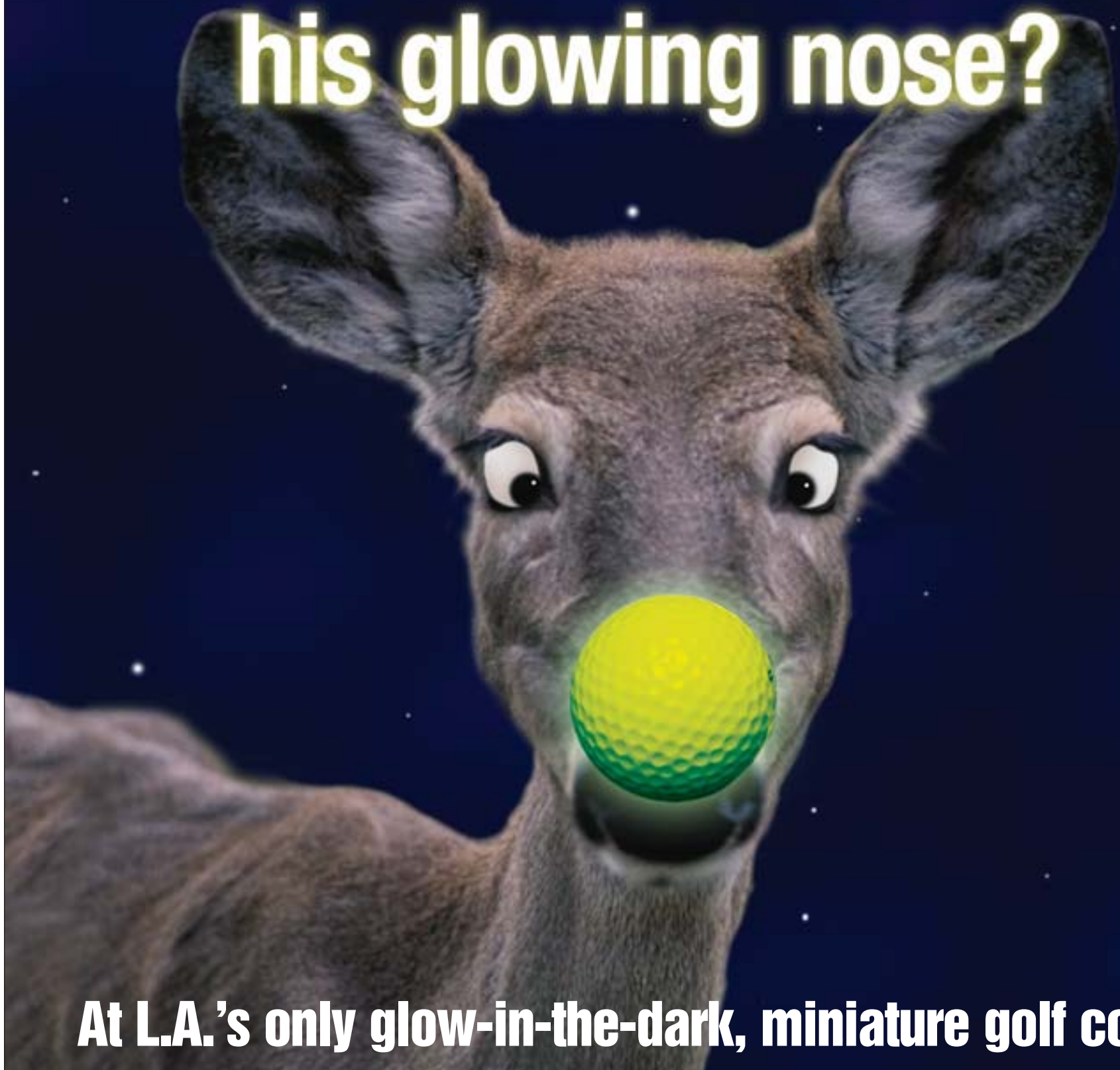
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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 04 3197241 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Kulture Klub, Chopper Lounge, 125 San Vicente Blvd., Suite D, Santa Monica, CA 90402. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: Gene Paul Gurley, 125 San Vicente Blvd., Suite D, Santa Monica, CA 90402. This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/ Gene Paul Gurley

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on . NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/16/2004, 12/20/2004, 12/27/2004, 1/3/2005

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