

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO
3 15 23 32 39
Meganumber: 27
Jackpot: \$36 Million

FANTASY 5
12 14 22 31 34

DAILY 3
Daytime: 0 8 8
Evening: 3 5 7

DAILY DERBY
1st: 02 Lucky Star
2nd: 08 Gorgeous George
3rd: 11 Money Bags

RACE TIME: 1:46.02

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

NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

While Canadian "global warming" protesters express alarm at the dwindling outdoor hockey season (fewer months with ice, fewer days cold enough for hard ice), a growing number of "hockey" players are taking the game underwater, according to a November Associated Press story. With six breath-holding players per team, passing a puck with sticks at the bottom of a pool, and players surfacing for air as seldom as possible, dozens of club teams worldwide play (nearly 50 in the U.S.), with a championship tournament scheduled next year for Sheffield, England. Said a Cincinnati high school player of the respiratory challenge, "(W)hen you're close to the goal, you're like, 'Do I want to score a goal or breathe?' Most of the time I say, 'Score.'"

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 350th day of 2005.
There are 15 days left in the year.

On Dec. 16, 1773, the Boston Tea Party took place as American colonists boarded a British ship and dumped more than 300 chests of tea overboard to protest tea taxes.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic."
ARTHUR C. CLARKE (1917-)

INDEX

Horoscopes	
Out and about, Taurus	2
Snow & Surf Report	
Water temperature: 60°	3
Opinion	
No butts about it	4
Local	
Time not well spent	5
State	
County suit 86'ed	8
Entertainment	
'King' a crowning achievement	10
Comics	
Laugh it up	16
Classifieds	
Have some class	17-19

Rail line heading in right direction

BY RYAN HYATT
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN LA — The group in charge of the proposed Expo rail line, which will one day connect downtown Los Angeles with Santa Monica, approved an environmental report on Tuesday that paves the way for construction on the project beginning next year.

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority board of directors on Tuesday certified the mid-city/exposition corridor final environmental impact report. With the report now

See EXPO LINE, page 6

Sugar on a shingle



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Emily Lewis, 11, adorns her gingerbread house with more edible components during the Police Activities League's Holiday Workshop on Thursday



Photo courtesy

WELCOMING COMMITTEE: Kate Vernez of the City Manager's Office (far left) and members of the city's Homeless Services Unit welcome the city's new homeless czar, Edmund Edelman (center), at this week's city council meeting. Also pictured are: (left to right) Stacy Rowe, Mona Miyasato, Janet Hand, Julia Brown, Danielle Noble and Setareh Yavari.

Czar looks to hit ground running

BY RYAN HYATT
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — Santa Monica's homeless czar hopes that after his year-long contract expires, he will have helped the city make significant strides in dealing with its down-and-out.

Edmund D. Edelman was appointed at the Dec. 13 Santa Monica City Council meeting to help bring regional cohesiveness to the growing homeless problem. Although his responsibilities won't begin in earnest until after

the holidays, he hopes to hit the ground running.

"I'm trying to learn as much as I can about the programs that are going on in Santa Monica that have been effective," Edelman said. "Eventually, I will talk to people in the region so we may become aware of programs that could be effective to reach the homeless."

In January, Edelman is expected to meet with representatives from Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's office, county supervisors, and Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa. He hopes to present

each with some of his own ideas to help alleviate the regional homeless problem and glean, in turn, what they hope to see happen.

Edelman, who will answer to Lamont Ewell, the incoming city manager, will earn \$200,000 for his one-year appointment, according to Judy Franz, City Hall's spokeswoman.

His philosophy toward homelessness is that many social service groups currently expend too many unneeded resources to accommo-

See EDELMAN, page 7

NATIONAL

Santa clause: City approves wage scale

By The Associated Press

SANTA FE, N.M. — Santa Fe's minimum wage will rise to \$9.50 an hour on Jan. 1, mandating a \$4.35 premium above the state's minimum wage.

The City Council on Wednesday rejected a proposal by Councilor David Pfeffer to postpone the scheduled increase for at least six months. Councilors voted 7-1 to let the \$9.50 an hour wage go into effect, but also to require a council vote on the next increase, to \$10.50 in 2008, instead of letting it go into effect automatically.

Santa Monica's living wage law went into effect this year, which requires contractors who do business with local government to pay their workers \$11.50 and all city employees also are paid a minimum of \$11.50.

See MINIMUM WAGE, page 13



Be Prepared for the Next Earthquake

www.safegasservices.com
3017 Lincoln Blvd. • Santa Monica, CA 90405

310-664-8777
CALL NOW! EARTHQUAKE SHUT-OFF VALVES SAVE LIVES!!

Jacquie Banks

310.586.0342

Great service ...
every step of the way.



FIDELITY BANKER
PREMIERS



BACK OR UNFILED TAXES?

ALL FORMS • ALL TYPES • ALL STATES

SAMUEL B. MOSES, CPA
(310) 395-9922
100 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1800
Santa Monica 90401

GIVING TO THOSE YOU LOVE...



Platinum Hand Engraved Diamond
Engagement Ring



SHOP WHERE THEY KNOW YOUR NAME

Visit us today and see the difference family makes.

Open Sundays 12/4-12/18 12pm-5pm & Regularly Monday-Saturday 10am-6pm

331 Wilshire Blvd. Santa Monica 2 Hours Free Parking (Behind Store) 310.451.1349 • www.readersjewelers.com



Eddie Guerboian

GIFT BASKETS FOR THE HOLIDAYS



FOR HER
FOR HIM
CORPORATE



Relish Gift Designs
HOURS: 11-7 Everyday
relishgiftdesigns.com

"Unique gifts & toiletries
from around the world."



We Ship Worldwide!
208 Pier Ave. (Off Main St.)
(310) 314-0080

"It's a another hit by Samohi Theatre. 8 to 5 says you'll love it!"

Santa Monica High School Theatre
presents

GUY AND DOLL



Humanities Center Theater

Fridays at 8PM and Saturdays at 2 and 8PM!
Dec 2, 3, 9, 10, 16 and 17

call for tickets

310-458-5939

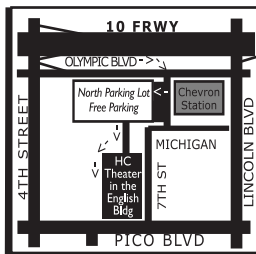
order online - no fees www.smclo.org



GELSON'S
THE MARKET

Santa Monica Daily Press

LOEWS SANTA MONICA
BEACH HOTEL





EXPERT PIPE & LIGHTER REPAIR

IMPORTED GIFTS FROM 22 COUNTRIES
WE FEATURE THE WORLD'S FINEST IMPORTANT PIPES

WITH THIS AD 15% OFF ANY PURCHASE
EXP. 12-01-05

COME IN FOR A FREE SAMPLE OF
OUR PERSONAL PIPE BLENDS!

The Tinder Box

THE ORIGINAL EST. 1928

2729 WILSHIRE BLVD., SANTA MONICA CA
Ph. (310) 828-4511 www.tinderboxsantamonica.com

HOROSCOPE

Out and about, Taurus

Santa Monica Daily Press



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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ Great moments will happen if you maintain a low profile. Inspiration seems to flow from within you very naturally. Adding to your environment or home becomes a pleasure. A partner proves to be extremely beneficial. Tonight: Head home.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Your high energy is a delight to all. Listen to what others say. You are definitely upbeat and creative. See what happens if you let go and relax. Spontaneous happenings are the name of the game. Tonight: Out and about.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★ Take your time doing what you must. You might be acting on strong feelings when you make a purchase. Loosen up and smile rather than get uptight. Change plans accordingly. Tonight: Treat others to bubbly and a drink.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Work with someone more carefully. Listen to what might be happening among your friends. Someone might be a bit put out by what comes down the path. A call or news could be surprisingly positive. Tonight: Very desirable — yes, you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ You could find that a family member is pushy and difficult. You need to do a better job of listening right now. A partner could be most erratic. You'll have a good time no matter where you are if you maintain a low profile. Tonight: Head home.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ The unexpected occurs when dealing with others. Focus on long-term goals, and you will be OK. Difficulties surround others, but you have a way to handle the situation. A meeting allows you to express your opinions. Tonight: Out and about.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Your strong drive takes you down a new path. You might need to take on greater responsibility and chip in where it counts. Financial plusses will become very obvious sooner than you expect. Zoom in on what you want. Tonight: Out late with associates.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Do what you want as long as you have the big picture and the ability to see everything from a greater perspective. Don't hesitate to get it. Your creativity spins out when you least expect it. Tonight: Be where there is music.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You need to work with a partner much more. Listen to an associate. He or she has the spirit and knowledge to make a strong financial or emotional decision. Tonight: Flex with the moment.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Others seek you out. If you pull back, you could have a problem. Someone has great ideas and a sense of fun. Network and break out of a rigid pattern that might be stopping you. Life takes on an unexpected quality. Tonight: Your pals want you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Emphasize your work and don't take anything for granted. Someone whose support you have counted on could be rather belligerent or argumentative. You are more in control than you realize. Tonight: Don't trigger.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Your imagination goes haywire, making it difficult to control the various factors. Others find a way to disagree. Yes, you do have the answers. A romantic twist could float through the day no matter what your status. Be sensitive. Let your imagination flourish. Tonight: Start the weekend with flair.



Santa Monica Daily Press

AUDIT PENDING

Published Monday through Saturday
Phone: (310) 458-PRESS (7737) • Fax: (310) 576-9913
1427 Third Street Promenade, Ste. #202 • Santa Monica, CA 90401 • www.smdp.com

PUBLISHER Ross Furukawa ross@smdp.com	ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE Rob Schwenker schwenker@smdp.com	NIGHT EDITOR Michael Tittinger MoNeY.T.LaRoK@smdp.com
EDITOR Carolyn Sackariason editor@smdp.com	ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE Stewart O'Dell stewarto@smdp.com	CLASSIFIEDS SALES MANAGER Annie Kotok anniek@smdp.com
STAFF WRITER Ryan Hyatt ryanh@smdp.com	TRAFFIC MANAGER Connie Sommerville connies@smdp.com	CIRCULATION Keith Wyatt
SANTA MONICA PARENTING Nina Furukawa nina@smdp.com	PRODUCTION MANAGER Alejandro Cesar Cantarero II alex@smdp.com	CIRCULATION Glenn Bolan
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Fabian Lewkowicz	NIGHT EDITOR Lori Luechtefeld lori@smdp.com	SPECIAL PROJECTS Dave Danforth dave@smdp.com
ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE Robbie P. Piubeni rob@smdp.com		MASCOT Maya Furukawa maya@smdp.com



COMMUNITY BRIEFS



What a gal! McCarthy honored for leadership

By Daily Press staff

A local woman, who for the past six years has managed more than 300 city employees, was recognized last week for demonstrating outstanding leadership.

The Santa Monica Commission on the Status of Women (COSW) presented its quarterly “Outstanding Woman Leader,” award to Santa Monica’s former city manager, Susan McCarthy.

The quarterly award is given to a woman who has demonstrated exceptional personal and/or professional dedication to improving the lives of women and girls in Santa Monica.

“Not only did Susan run a city which is regarded as a national leader in progressive policies, services for its citizens, and travel and tourism, she also set a precedent and outstanding example for women occupying top positions in government,” said Tia Skulski, chair of COSW.

As city manager from 1999 to 2005, McCarthy was one of a handful of female city managers in the United States. During that time, she spearheaded the planning of a new civic center; supported construction of new public facilities; encouraged funding of new parks and major park improvements; helped streamline the permitting process and advocated raising the hotel room tax to strengthen the city’s financial base. Her direction and leadership helped shepherd the city through the economic slump following Sept. 11.

McCarthy’s 24-year career with Santa Monica began with a position as an administrative analyst for the directors of transportation and administrative services in 1975. By 1992, she was the director of community and cultural services, prior to moving to the position of city manager.

“It’s great to see men and women working as colleagues today in all fields and it’s worth remembering that it was not always so,” McCarthy said. “I thank the commission for the opportunity to reflect on that progress.”

Tell Santa Monica what you think!

...write a letter to the editor

Email to: editor@smdp.com
or fax 310.576.9913



Santa Monica Daily Press

BOB GABRIEL INSURANCE

Providing Professional & Personalized Service Since 1936



- Auto Experts
- Life, Disability & Pension
- Homeowners
- Commercial & Business
- Workers Compensation
- Group & Individual Health

Representing “A” rated companies
including MERCURY INSURANCE

*California survey shows Mercury Insurance Auto
rates to be the most competitive in this area.*

Phone Quotes Available

We encourage you to visit the Santa
Monica Historical Society Museum —
The Archives of Santa Monica.
1539 Euclid (310) 395-2290

310.829.0305
2325 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica

SNOW AND SURF REPORTS

CONDITIONS

DATA PROVIDED BY ONTHESNOW.COM

BEAR MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH	LIFT HOURS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
0"	12"-12"	8:30am - 4:00pm	3	3

CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Made, Machine Groomed, Hard Packed

JUNE MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH	LIFT HOURS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
0"	12"-24"	8:30am - 4:00pm	35	4

CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Groomed, Obstacles

MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH	LIFT HOURS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
0"	24"-36"	8:30am - 10:00 pm	150	21

CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Groomed, Obstacles

MOUNTAIN HIGH

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH	LIFT HOURS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
0"	12"-12"	8:30am - 10:00 pm	10	6

CONDITIONS: Machine Made, Machine Groomed, Hard Packed

MT. BALDY

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH	LIFT HOURS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
0"	0"-1"	8:30am - 4:00 pm	0	0

CONDITIONS: N/A

SNOW SUMMIT

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH	LIFT HOURS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
0"	12"-12"	N/A	6	4

CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Made, Machine Groomed, Hard Packed

SNOW VALLEY

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH	LIFT HOURS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
0"	12"-0"	8:30am - 4:00 pm	3	3

CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Made, Hard Packed

CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 60°

DATA PROVIDED BY WETSAND.COM

SWELL FORECAST (2-4FT)

Today looks like another moderate NW swell day with waist to chest high sets around west facing breaks.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

Substantial NW swell hits Sunday...

Bigger NW swell hits midweek...

TIDE FORECAST FOR SANTA MONICA

MONDAY
LOW TIDE: 1:36PM -0.4FT N/A N/A
HIGH TIDE: 6:23AM 6.3FT 7:57PM 3.7FT

TUESDAY
LOW TIDE: 12:34PM 2.0FT 2:18AM -0.8FT
HIGH TIDE: 6:58AM 6.4FT 8:49PM 3.7FT

WEDNESDAY
LOW TIDE: 1:12PM 2.3FT 2:57PM -1.0FT
HIGH TIDE: 7:32AM 6.5FT 9:36PM 3.7FT

THURSDAY
LOW TIDE: 1:50PM 2.1FT 3:41AM -0.1FT
HIGH TIDE: 8:09AM 6.1FT 10:04PM 3.1FT

FRIDAY
LOW TIDE: 2:34PM 1.8FT 4:36AM 0.0FT
HIGH TIDE: 8:42AM 5.8FT 10:34PM 2.9FT

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



SURF CENTER santa monica

✱ Core Surf/Lifestyle Shop ✱

**1451 THIRD STREET PROMENADE
IN SANTA MONICA • 310.656.CURL**

The QLine

Sponsored by...

Dozens of tenants who were evicted from the Lincoln Place apartment complex by their landlord, Denver-based Apartment Investment Management Co., have set up a tent city to protest the loss of their affordable housing. The company, one of the largest real estate management companies in the country, plans to redevelop the land into condos. The ex-tenants and their supporters say they will stay put until the landlord agrees to renegotiate a settlement that will allow them to return to their apartments.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, **“Do you think a compromise can be reached between the tenants and their former landlord? If so, what form should it take?”**

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

EST. 1934 The Galley

Rediscover The Galley's genuine service while experiencing our new weekend brunch served on our beautiful outdoor patio.

Serving Brunch from 11AM-4PM
Full Bar-Best Bloody Mary's in Santa Monica
(310) 452-1934
2442 Main Street • Santa Monica

A CHRISTMAS TRADITION *Since 1953*

Santa Monica Nativity Scenes

Beginning at the intersection of Arizona and Ocean avenues, these 14 inspiring and dramatic scenes proclaim the story of Christmas to all who pass by. Scenes will be on display until the end of the year.

Donations may be sent to:
**Santa Monica Nativity
Scenes Committee**
P.O. Box 0648, Santa Monica, CA 90406





OPINION

EDITORIAL

Noose around smokers continues to tighten

 Most would agree that cigarettes are evil, nasty “cancer sticks” that everyone who smokes them would be better off without. But unfortunately, millions of people are hooked and hundreds of thousands die or fall ill because of them.

Smokers cost taxpayers and the government millions of dollars each year to treat their illnesses as a result of their addictions. And now, California health officials want the financial burden to be put back on the smokers themselves.

A coalition of health organizations is making moves to campaign for a 300-percent tax increase on cigarette sales, which would boost funding for nursing education, cancer research and other health programs.

The tax on each pack of cigarettes would increase by \$2.60 under an initiative the coalition wants to place on the November 2006 ballot. If approved, it would bring the total tax on a pack of cigarettes to \$3.47 — the highest such figure in the nation.

According to estimates, the tax would raise \$2.7 billion annually and could fund various health programs, including low-cost children’s insurance, tobacco education and cessation, prevention and research and cancer screening.

But supporters of the tax also believe that the increase will curb sales by about 8 percent, which could potentially reduce the revenue stream generated by Proposition 10, a 2004 voter-approved cigarette tax of 50 cents that funds early childhood education. The new initiative would set aside \$159 million annually to offset any lost revenue from Prop. 10 as a result of a decrease in sales.

Some argue the tax hike will actually reduce the collection of taxes and will damage the tax structure because people will stop buying cigarettes.

However the numbers shake out, we believe any measure taken to encourage people to stop smoking is a good thing. If people realize they can’t afford to smoke, they’ll quit. And isn’t that the ultimate goal? The result will be fewer people — many of whom don’t have insurance — ending up in the hospital.

Like so many other things, California should be a leader in this effort.

Editor’s note: In the editorial regarding the selection process for Santa Monica’s new city manager, Lamont Ewell, (SMDP, Dec. 2, page 4), we suggested that city officials should have held public forums so citizens could meet and ask questions of the top three candidates. It is worth noting an opposing viewpoint from a Santa Monica City Councilmember, who said that oftentimes applicants haven’t informed their employers (elected officials and the public) that they are looking for a new job. So holding open forums wouldn’t allow confidentially in their job hunt, potentially damaging their position in the city they serve.

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

GUEST COMMENTARY BY KELLY HAYES-RAITT

Iraqis worry more about insecurity than about elections

I am in touch with very few Iraqis these days. The children I met during my two trips to Iraq do not have access to the Internet. The English studies graduate I met at a coffee shop went on to translate for the U.S. Army, wrote me a few times, then disappeared. Other friends I know are among the 30,000 Iraqis — “more or less” — that our president has just admitted have died so far during his “crusade.”

I do receive periodic e-mails from Abdullah Al-Samaraie, a bright, thoughtful, optimistic horticulturalist who works as the gardener at the Palestine Hotel, where foreign journalists and aide workers can log on to send dispatches abroad.

I remember Abdullah’s exuberance and optimism following the fall of Saddam. The last time I saw him in July 2003, he was participating in a labor picket against the hotel’s management. His e-mails last January, during the first election to ratify the constitution, were filled with the hopeful belief that the new constitution signaled the end of the U.S. occupation.

Today, during the historic election to choose new leaders, I received this biting note:

“The elections for a new Iraq started now but the street is never clear of chaos. You can see some of the groups cutting or removing (campaign) posters from walls. Some are angry with nervous words. Most of the Shiaa’ are worried about their future. They are thinking they can’t be free or the Baa’th may come back and rule like Iran politics.”

“Iraqis think that the real (winner) in elections will come true but we believe that the U.S. will change the (winner) for whom the U.S. likes to rule Iraq. I never believe in anyone — even I will never try to go for elections and vote for which person I give my voice. No one deserves even the walk to the election center ... It is rubbish! And soon we will see the person that the U.S. wants to rule Iraq and (implement) her policies — under the (guise) of democracy!”

“The real victim is the Iraqi people. All they want is to live in peace and have enough food and to sleep nights in safety — not promises!”

“May God keep you all safe and happy, my dear friends. Please remember me and remember our friends in CPT (Christian Peacemaker Team) to get freedom and to be safe and come back to us soon. Inshallah.”

In October, Abdullah e-mailed photos of the dilapidated Palestine Hotel following its bombing. He wrote: “You can see in one (photo) a small stony garden that I made last year, but they broke it and I insisted on repairing it again with nice new plants ... They will never stop the life. We will keep going in our way and we hold the peace. The terror will end one day soon and we will feel safe again ...”

(Kelly Hayes-Raitt traveled to Iraq in February 2003, five weeks before the war, and again in July 2003. Other columns she wrote about her experiences in Iraq are on-line at www.KellyForAssembly.com.)

Dems shouldn’t count their chickens just yet



HERE’S THE THING

BY LARA M. BROWN, Ph.D

The holidays are fast-approaching and unlike most years in Washington, no one is certain how happy the new year will be. Political Washington is in turmoil.

Not only has Rep. Tom DeLay been charged with criminal wrongdoing in the state of Texas for money laundering, etc., but he and a whole host of other representatives, including Duncan Hunter and Bob Ney are being investigated for their connections to lobbyist Jack Abramoff and to the defense contractor ADCS and ADCS executive Brent Wilkes who was accused of bribing former Rep. Randy “Duke” Cunningham.

The House of Representatives embarrassed the White House on Wednesday and voted 308-122 (107 Republicans voting with the proposal) on a non-binding motion in favor of Sen. John McCain’s measure “to bar cruel and inhumane treatment of prisoners in American custody.”

The Senate is about to move forward

on investigating the CIA’s secret prisons in foreign countries.

The U.S. Supreme Court has said that it will have a decision on the DeLay-Texas redistricting case by March 1, 2006. While this is too late to affect next year’s election in Texas, the outcome could profoundly impact 2008 and beyond.

Special prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald, who has been investigating the CIA leak case, seems to be on the path towards more indictments and presidential advisor Karl Rove appears to be the most likely target.

One other note on the CIA leak case, conservative columnist Robert Novak said on Tuesday at a speech in North Carolina, “I’m confident the president knows who the source is ... Bug the president as to whether he should reveal who the source is.” Guess those aspen leaves are starting to turn.

Here’s The Thing:

After talking with most Democrats about the aforementioned developments in Washington, they are convinced that the 2006 election will be a clean sweep.

Not to spoil the party, but there are three major reasons why this isn’t likely to happen and unless the Democrats focus on

those issues, they may never win back the Congress again.

First, the House is badly gerrymandered. In the last election, 98 percent of incumbent members of the House of Representatives won reelection. Safe seats make it almost impossible to retake the chamber. Out of the 435 seats, only 55 are considered to be even nominally competitive next year and if the Democrats want to win, it is my understanding, according to Roll Call, that they would need to win 35 out of those 55. Those are long odds. California Democrats just shot themselves in the foot by voting down Proposition 77 because their party told them to go against Arnold. Who knows when the chance to change so much will come again?

Second, there are more red states than blue and given that the Senate is a body which gives an equal number of representatives to each state, the Republicans have a “natural majority” in this body. The fact that the Democrats compete here at all is a testament to what great candidates the Democrats have in places like Arkansas and Nebraska. That being said, Democrats have got to turn their attention towards winning rural states, otherwise they will always be in a minority position in this body.

Third, the Democrats have got to put together a message and a plan. You can’t just run against the other guy — no matter how bad. The voters need to know what you would do if you had the power. The Democrats have until February to get it together, but by then the party needs to be on the same page. So how is the Democratic Party going to shape America’s future?

On another note:

In my previous column (SMDP, Dec. 2, page 4), I described past Democratic presidential aspirants as white men over 50 who were Protestant. Though I made exceptions, I unintentionally neglected Rev. Al Sharpton, Sen. John Kerry and Rep. Dennis Kucinich. My apologies.

This is my last column. I want to thank Carolyn Sackariason and the Santa Monica Daily Press. It has been a privilege to contribute to the paper over these past two years and to be able to express my views so freely.

My best wishes for the paper’s continuing success.

(Lara M. Brown, Ph.D., is a political scientist from Los Angeles.)



CRIME WATCH

By Daily Press staff

Alleged prowler looks for a place to crash

At 12:45 a.m. on Dec. 6, Santa Monica police responded to the 900 block of Second Street regarding a prowler investigation. When officers arrived at the scene, they spoke to the reporting party, who said they heard some noises outside some residences and looked outside the window and saw the suspects looking into various neighborhood windows. Officers searched the area and contacted the subject and when questioned, the suspect said he was at the location and did not want problems because he was just looking for a place to sleep. Demond Jones, 22, a transient, was placed under arrest for prowling and a probation violation. Bail was set at \$10,500.

At 9 p.m. on Dec. 6, Santa Monica police officers were checking the 500 block of Santa Monica Boulevard for subjects who were trespassing. They contacted a subject and during the investigation determined he had an outstanding warrant. Christopher Bay Brown, 32, of Los Angeles, was arrested for a parole violation. No bail was set.

At 7:57 on Dec. 7, Santa Monica police responded to the 100 block of Santa Monica Place mall, Robinsons-May, regarding a theft suspect in custody. When officers arrived at the scene, they spoke to the loss prevention officer, who said they saw the suspect enter the store, remove a bracelet from the shelf of the jewelry section and placed the bracelet in his pocket. George Issak Gabriel, 22, of Santa Monica, left the store failing to pay for the item and was arrested outside. Bail was set at \$1,000.

At 12:30 p.m. on Dec. 8, Santa Monica police responded to the 1600 block of Seventh Street and saw several subjects drinking in public. They detained the subjects and during their investigation determined one of them had an outstanding warrant. Michael Rene Jackson, 48, a transient, was arrested. The others were cited. No bail was set for Jackson.

At 6:25 p.m. on Sept. 30, Santa Monica police responded to the area of 10th Street and Montana Avenue regarding an assault investigation. When officers arrived at the scene, they spoke to the victim, who said that she was involved in a fight with three suspects after they got into an argument. The victim knew one of the suspects by his first name only and after the assault the suspects fled. The victim received a three-inch scratch on the left side of his jaw, just below his ear, as well as some scratches above his right eye. The victim also was treated for a possible broken bone. However, at the time of report he was being X-rayed. Guadalupe Lazero Mendez, 23 of Los Angeles, was arrested at 4 p.m. on Dec. 8 at Santa Monica police station after he was identified as the suspect during the investigation. Mendez was booked for assault with a deadly weapon. Bail was set at \$30,000.

At 6:44 p.m. on Dec. 8, Santa Monica police responded to the 1900 block of Wilshire Boulevard, the GAP store, regarding a theft investigation. When officers arrived at the scene, they spoke to the security guard, who said the suspect entered the store and picked up a pair of children's socks and placed them on the counter. The suspect left the store. Five minutes later he returned and once again went to the children's section and removed a sweater. The suspect rolled the sweater into a small bundle and placed it in his shirt. He then left the store, failing to pay for the item. Once outside, the suspect was arrested by security and during an interview, the suspect told the security guard he had taken items of clothing and they were inside his vehicle. At the vehicle, the suspect removed two jackets, five shirts and one dress with a total value of \$206.89. Alexander Castillo, 38, of Los Angeles, was arrested for commercial burglary. Bail was set at \$20,000.

This police report was prepared by Daily Press staff writer Ryan Hyatt.



WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF?

**Flying? Public Speaking? Doctors? Exams?
Auditions? Spiders? Heights?**

We can make them disappear!

John McGrail C.Ht.

Clinical Hypnotherapist

(310) 235-2883 www.hypnotherapylosangeles.com

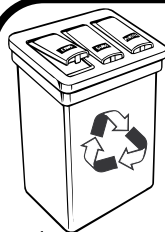
Got Mexican?

Tastiest Mexican Fare and Margaritas
in Santa Monica since 1965



2500 WILSHIRE BLVD., SM * 310/828-1315 * LUNCH & DINNER

**CASA
ESCOBAR**



RECYCLE NOW!

WE PAY THE BEST RATES!

Aluminum Plastic Glass Bi-Metal Cardboard
White/Color/Computer Paper Copper & Brass Newspaper

Santa Monica Recycling Center
2411 Delaware Avenue • (310) 453-9677



SPORTS GRILL
Next door to 14/Below

Available for Private Parties
Lunch Time Delivery Available
1333 Santa Monica Blvd.
[Corner of 14th and Santa
Monica Blvd.]
(310) 899-0076

**YOUR SM HEADQUARTERS FOR
THE NFL AND NCAA FOOTBALL.**

**\$2.50
DRAFTS**

**BUD, BUD LIGHT, HEFEWIEZEN, RED HOOK
DURING ALL NFL AND NCAA GAMES.**

**NHL HOCKEY
IS BACK!
WATCH IT HERE!**

Since 1993
Available for private parties

14 | BELOW

Corner of 14th and Santa Monica Blvd.
www.14below.com

Upcoming Headliners

**Happy Hour
Mon-Fri, 5-7pm**

HALF PRICE DRINKS AND APPETIZERS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2005

**\$6 Cover
Spoken Soul**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2005

**\$10 Cover
Hellride**

Featuring: Mike Watt, Stephen Perkins and
Peter Dinklage

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2005

**\$10 Cover
Young Dubliners**

For Band Booking Info Call (310) 360-9635



our edition is one click away
log on to smdp.com and subscribe to receive
the Daily Press daily to your inbox



Expo should be ready to roll by 2010

EXPO LINE, from page 1

approved, construction may begin as early as next year on the \$640 million Expo Line project, which will run from its outset between downtown LA and Culver City.

The project is expected to be completed by June 2010. A future second phase will extend all the way to Santa Monica.

"This signals the start of a much-needed transportation project that will serve thousands of Westside residents," said City of Los Angeles Mayor and Metro Board Chairman Antonio R. Villaraigosa.

In certifying the EIR, the board also adopted a locally preferred alternative that was approved in June of 2001. The light rail will run from downtown Los Angeles, at Seventh Street and the Metro Center, to Culver City, at the corner of Venice and Robertson boulevards, by way of Flower Street.

The Expo Line will use local funding instead of federal money, thereby keeping the project on an accelerated schedule. Almost all of the \$640 million for the project has already been secured through sales taxes, according to Rick Jager, MTA spokesman. Only \$40 million is still needed, and the MTA hopes LA will be willing to pay it.

Jager said the MTA will now seek federal environmental clearance. The MTA hopes to award a construction design con-

tract by February with a ground breaking to take place in March or April.

Santa Monica City Councilwoman Pam O'Connor agreed with Mayor Villaraigosa the approval of the EIR is an important milestone in the project. O'Connor said the MTA board on Tuesday also decided to allow the preliminary planning for the second phase of the project.

"Our goal is that once we're finished with the first phase construction we can continue right on with the second phase, which will bring the Expo Line all the way to Santa Monica," O'Connor said.

The first phase of the Expo Line will be approximately 9 miles in length and will share common track and two stations with the Metro Blue Line as it leaves downtown LA.

Just south of downtown, the line will proceed west on the Metro-owned right-of-way on Exposition Boulevard, which parallels the heavily congested I-10 Freeway, with a terminus at Venice and Robertson boulevards.

Approximately eight new stations will be constructed between downtown LA and Culver City.

The board's action on the environmental report came after a 45-day public circulation period that concluded on Nov. 28.

The Exposition will include design options like: an undercrossing between Jefferson Boulevard and Trousdale Parkway; La Brea aerial station and

grade separation; La Cienega station parking facility on the southeast corner; Jefferson Boulevard north-side widening at La Cienega Boulevard; Jefferson Boulevard grade separation near

Ballona Creek; Venice/Robertson inter-im station located east of National Boulevard within the Metro-owned Exposition right-of-way; and a Venice/Robertson aerial station.

Digging deep



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Nat Trives (left), the MC for Red Kettle Day and a Rotarian, and Edward Guerboian (right), a Kiwanis and current Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce president, rally the troops to dig deeper for pledges as they compete to raise the most money.

SANTA MONICA PUBLIC LIBRARY



Ignite your imagination at the Santa Monica Public Library!

Read Connect Relax and Learn!

Please join us on
Saturday, January 7, 2006
to celebrate the Grand
Opening of the new
Santa Monica Main Library.

The celebration begins at
10:00 a.m.
at 601 Santa Monica Blvd.
in Santa Monica.

For a calendar of events
please log on to
www.smpl.org



LOCAL



Edelman gearing up

EDELMAN, from page 1

date the homeless population. As a result, the homeless put a drain on the system using money that would have been better spent putting roofs over their heads.

"Taxpayers are paying the cost of people living on the streets and not having shelter," Edelman said. "These people often have to be arrested because they have done something wrong, or they collapse because they don't have access to medical attention.

"From a taxpayer standpoint, I believe it's wiser to give them shelter and treatment than having to pay for ongoing incarcerations and expensive hospital stays."

Edelman has a workplan in place, developed by former City Manager Susan McCarthy, that includes helping to create a regional mental health court, whereby certain homeless individuals may be removed from the criminal justice system in exchange for their willingness to undergo treatment.

City Councilman Bobby Shriver — who proposed the concept of the homeless czar — is excited about Edelman's appointment. Edelman's well-connected and respected, Shriver said, with a history of championing homeless causes.

Edelman served as a Los Angeles county supervisor from 1974 until 1994, during which time he was responsible for creating the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority. That agency, charged with providing homeless services for the county, is expected to release in coming weeks the most up-to-date demographic information on the down-and-out.

That demographics are expected to be used to better address homelessness in the

region, officials said.

Edelman also is known for establishing the Skid Row Mental Health Center in downtown Los Angeles, as well as creating the detox program at the Weingart Center and the first drug court in LA County.

He has also assisted U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Harry Pregerson in expanding services to homeless veterans at the West LA Veterans Administration facility.

In addition to his service as county supervisor, Edelman served on the LA City Council from 1965 to 1974 and held many intergovernmental posts, including chairing the Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board in 1994 and the Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee, which he founded.

Shriver admits he's coming to the belief that homelessness in California is so out of control there may need to be new laws enacted to require that cities pay their fair share to address the problem.

He said part of Edelman's task will be to determine the feasibility of a regional or state homeless authority.

"The concept of a regional homeless authority is a great idea, but it's also the 800-pound gorilla," Shriver said. "It needs to have legal authority, and Edelman will hopefully find out if that's possible."

Edelman said what drew him to the position was the opportunity to help the down-and-out and the challenges associated with it.

"It's a daunting task," he said. "But when I read the (job description), I thought to myself, 'Hey, that sounds like something I might be qualified to do.'"

Turn Your Closet into Cash!

L.A.'s hottest resale store!

Great Labels

DESIGNER RESALE

**ACCEPTING
NEW CONSIGNERS**

WANTED:

LOUIS VUITTON
CHANEL
GUCCI
HERMES
ST. JOHN
PRADA
JUDITH LEIBER
MISSONI
DOLCE & GABBANA



1126 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica

(310) 451-2277

www.greatlabels.com



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

LIFE'S A BEACH AND THEN YOU DINE

FOR INCLUSION IN THIS GUIDE, PLEASE CALL (310) 458-7737

BENIHANA-For more than 40 years Benihana chefs have been cooking up a feast on the hibachi grill. Steak, chicken, seafood and vegetables are all prepared teppan-style "right before your eyes". Start your meal with a sushi appetizer, then relax and enjoy the show while sipping exotic cocktails served in collectible ceramic mugs. Open every day for lunch and dinner, valet parking nightly at the corner of 4th and Broadway. 1447 4th St., between Broadway and Santa Monica Blvd. (310) 260-1423.

BIG DEAN'S CAFE-Where the 'locals' meet and the 'fun-loving' tourists always return! Come enjoy our highly acclaimed beach fare, beer, and wine at the best people watching place on the beach. Music, satellite sports, 2 outdoor patios, and smoking allowed. This nostalgic eatery has been here since 1902! The prices are reasonable and children are welcome. Now serving breakfast. Also serving lunch and dinner. 1615 Ocean Front, Santa Monica. (310) 393-2666.

BRITANNIA PUB-This English pub has a traditional charm with a Californian flair. Traditional British breakfast is served all day along with all your American favorites. Fish & Chips (our biggest seller) is a must try along with Bangers & Mash and Shepherds Pie or go American with our assortment of appetizers, burgers, salads, soups and sandwiches. We also serve our own hand cut fries. Join us after the restaurant closes for Quiz night, Karaoke, and DJ nights. We now have a late night menu available 10pm-1:30am. Outdoor patio, pool table, full bar, Gold Award from Guinness. Hours: 11am-10pm Monday-Friday, 9:30am-10pm Saturday and Sunday. 318 Santa Monica Blvd., Santa Monica. (310) 458-5350.

BUCCA di BEPPO-gets to the heart of Southern Italian cooking with authentic, family-style recipes like Chicken Parmigiana, Shrimp Scampi, and Tortelloni. Dishes are available in Buca Small portions for 2 or more people, and Buca Large for 4 or more. The full menu is available for curb-side take out; we'll deliver your order right to your car! Located one block off the Promenade at 1422 2nd St, Santa Monica. Call 310-587-EATS for reservations and take out.

CASA ESCOBAR-This family owned institution in Santa Monica has been serving excellent food since 1965. A friendly bar and dinner house frequented by the "locals" and tourists alike. We feature the best Mexican dishes in town. Among the favorites are the crispy beef tacos, spinach enchiladas and our house-cut NY Strip steaks on the grill. Our full bar is home of the famous Casa Escobar Margarita-a winner! While at the bar, enjoy our classic piano bar along with cable TV. Valet Parking available. All major credit cards. Open lunch and dinner. 2500 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica. (310) 828-1315.

GLADSTONE'S MALIBU-One of SoCal's busiest seafood restaurants; a million visitors each year. A landmark known for its fresh seafood, live lobsters and crab, and its famous Mile High Chocolate Cake. Gladstone's ocean-front location offers diners huge portions and a casual atmosphere. Dine inside or on the outside deck with unbelievable views and waves of fun. Gladstone's "Good Vibrations" Live Music, 6pm-8:30pm every Friday night, all summer long. Lunch, dinner daily; Saturday and Sunday brunch. 17300 Pacific Coast Highway, Malibu. (310) GL4-FISH.

JOHNNIES-The Best Little Neighborhood Italian Restaurant. Come in to our new location and enjoy Traditional or Stuffed pastas, Mile High Salads, Grinders, Roman Style Sandwiches, Hearty Calzones, and New York Style Thin Crust Pizza, in a relaxing neighborhood setting. When you're looking for a reasonably priced, traditional Italian meal with authentic New York attitude, Johnnies delivers. Hours: Sunday-Thursday 11am-10pm and Friday and Saturday 11am-11pm. Dine In, Take Out and Delivery. 1456 Third Street Promenade, Santa Monica. (310) 395-9062.

JULIANO'S RAW-"Welcome to RAW!" Flourish on raw gourmet delights. Unbelievably rich and decadent, we only taste sinful. The experience is waiting for you. Increase energy, stamina & vitality. Everything is certified organic from the earth and delectable. Julianio's RAW offers an assortment of appetizers, soups, main courses and salads. Raw Food with Rejuvenating Power. Six blocks from the beach, enjoy our outdoor patio or sit at the RAW Food Bar. Totally raw restaurant...upscale, artsy, and gourmet in one. All major credit cards accepted, reservations for six or more only. Open 7 days/ week. Visit www.planetraw.com for directions and full menu. 609 Broadway, Santa Monica. (310) 587-1552.

OVERUNDER SPORTS GRILL-Located on the corner of 14th Street and Santa Monica Blvd., OVERUNDER features 12 draft beers and a fine selection of wine making it a great place to watch any and all of your favorite teams. The house specialty is the Philadelphia cheese steak. OVERUNDER also offers great burgers, salads, Mexican food and more. OVERUNDER is the viewing home for the Cleveland Browns and strongly supports the Lakers, Clippers, Dodgers, and Kings. Frequent food and beer specials are also offered at OVERUNDER Sports Grill. All football, baseball, and basketball games are televised via satellite for every team. 1348 14th Street, Santa Monica. (310) 576-9913.

PANINI GARDEN-This authentic European eatery serves traditional Italian and French style food. Panin style sandwiches grilled on a cast-iron panini grill that seals all the savory flavors inside a bread envelope of your choice, from very soft and thin like the tramezzini, soft and crispy for the al forno and crusty for the rustico. A large selection of meats and cheeses, organic produce, fresh and healthy combinations of menu items to enjoy everyday have made PANINI GARDEN the local's favorite. In addition, delicious crepes are served all day, for breakfast or just dessert, it is always a treat. The setting is quiet in the lavender garden with the bubbling fountain. Hours: 8am-9pm Sunday-Thursday, 8am-10:30pm Friday and Saturday. 2715 Main Street, Santa Monica. (310) 399-9939.

THE OMELETTE PARLOR-For 28 years The Omelette Parlor has been offering the finest in breakfast fare. With high fluffy omelettes, super sandwiches, and the freshest of salads, it's more than breakfast. Enjoy your day on our garden patio and experience the friendliness of service. Quality and value prevail forever at The Omelette Parlor. We open everyday at 6am. Come early! Hours: 6am-2:30pm Monday-Friday, 6am-4pm Saturday and Sunday. 2732 Main Street, Santa Monica. (310) 399-7892.

THE GALLEY-Rediscover Service - Rediscover The Galley. Visit Captain Ron at what Zagat Guide refers to as the place to go for "marvelous" steaks and "stiff drinks". NOW OPEN FOR LUNCH ON THE WEEKENDS AT NOON featuring 1/4 lb. Kosher hot dogs with fries served at the bar for \$2.00 until July 31st. GREAT PATIO DINING. All fresh fish from Santa Monica Seafood and the best tuna salad sandwiches you will ever get at any restaurant! Capt. Ron will walk the plank if you don't agree! Hours: 5pm-until Capt. Ron gets tired Monday-Friday, noon until the party stops Saturday and Sunday. 2442 Main Street, Santa Monica. (310) 452-1934.

THE SLICE-A true neighborhood pizzeria serving authentic New York pizza & buffalo wings. We also offer a selection of hot & cold subs, pastas and salads. You can also create your own calzone. Eat in, take out, or delivery. Catering is available. Hours: open daily 11am-9pm. Visit one of our three locations: 915 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica (310) 451-7542, 1622 Ocean Park Blvd., Santa Monica (310) 399-4060, 13151 Fountain Park Drive, Playa Vista (310) 437-7499.

VIOLET-At Violet restaurant the atmosphere is casual, comfortable, and, like its cuisine, is uncluttered. Chef Jared Simons' flavorful small plate fare has something to suit everyone, from light eaters to those with a taste for a more robust fare. The Braised Short Ribs with Shallot Potatoes (\$14.50) melt apart while the Multi-Colored Beet Salad with Eel delights with Kumquat and Ginger Vinaigrette (\$9) and the favorite among the regulars is the Baked Macaroni and Gruyere Cheese with Serrano Ham (\$7.50). Unique selection of new and old world wines by the bottle, glass or flight as well as an impressive list of domestic & imported artisan beers. Hours: Lunch: Tuesday-Friday, 11:30am-2pm. Dinner: Tuesday-Friday, 6pm-10pm & Saturday and Sunday, 5:30pm-10pm. 3221 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica. www.violetrestaurant.com (310) 453-9113.



Judge dismisses Idaho county's suit

BY REBECCA BOONE

Associated Press Writer

BOISE, Idaho — A federal judge on Wednesday tossed out a southwest Idaho county's lawsuit against local employers accused of hiring illegal immigrants. The suit was an attempt to recoup money the county says it has spent on the workers.

The judge said Canyon County's claimed higher expenses for social services such as indigent medical care, schools and jails were simply the costs of being a government entity.

The lawsuit marked the first time a government tried to use the federal Racketeering and Corrupt Organizations Act to demand damages from businesses for the costs of allegedly illegal employees.

The county filed the lawsuit in July against four businesses: Syngenta Seeds, Sorrento Lactalis, Swift Beef and Harris Moran Seed, as well as against the former director of the nonprofit Idaho Migrant Council.

The four companies, which together employ hundreds of people in Canyon County, were accused of knowingly hiring hundreds of illegal immigrants, partly through agreements with worker recruiting companies.

In dismissing the case, U.S. District Judge Edward Lodge said the county's contention that the hiring of illegal aliens posed a "public nuisance" was not grounded in state law. The judge dismissed the case with prejudice, which means it cannot be refiled.

In addition, as a plaintiff in the RICO action, the county was not acting in a governmental capacity but as a private party to a civil lawsuit, Lodge wrote.

"Instead, by its own admission, it is asserting 'claims for the costs of municipal services,'" Lodge wrote. "This type of 'general injury' to a county's 'ability to carry out its functions' is not an injury to 'business or property.' Therefore, Canyon County does not have standing to bring this action."

Republican Robert Vasquez, a county commissioner and congressional candidate, had championed the lawsuit as part of his battle against illegal immigration in Idaho.

"I've often said, when you step into a court of law seeking justice, all you will find is the law," Vasquez said. "I'm not making a legal analysis here, but from my prospective, the cost of indigent welfare and other costs increase because of the presence of illegal aliens. As those demands increase, businesses and property owners will see an increase in the cost

of taxes to pay for it. That, to me, would indicate a damage to them. But I'm not Judge Lodge, in his infinite wisdom."

David Chambers, the vice president and general counsel of Sorrento Lactalis, said the company was happy about the ruling. Like all the defendants involved, Sorrento Lactalis argued that Canyon County's basic premise — that the companies were conspiring to hire illegal immigrants — was false.

"It was a bit of a concerning case for us because it was so novel," Chambers said. "It's a novel issue of law as to the appropriateness as to the application of RICO as to alleged damage encountered by government. That question could possibly have gone either way."

Albert Pacheco, the former director of the Idaho Migrant Council and the only individual named in the lawsuit, said he was celebrating Lodge's decision. The lawsuit accused Pacheco of creating a policy of "willful blindness and harboring," providing medical and housing assistance for illegal immigrants.

"There was really no basis in fact in terms of this lawsuit," Pacheco said. "(The ruling) sends the message that what our problem is around immigration really can't be solved in this manner. It has to be solved in a way that is going to be fair and

just for all concerned. Instead of grandstanding, basically."

Richard Leasia, the San Jose, Calif.-based attorney representing Harris Moran Seed, said he wasn't surprised by the ruling, even though it's unusual for a court to dismiss a lawsuit with prejudice so early in the case.

"I'm hopeful that it will discourage government entities from attempting to use civil damages actions as a way of protesting federal immigration policy, which is kind of what I think this was," Leasia said.

Vasquez promised he would push the county to appeal to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, but said the decision would be made by the county commission as a whole.

"For my part, I will press to appeal based on the discussion I've had with our attorney, Howard Foster," Vasquez said. "We are confident we will prevail on appeal to the 9th District Court, and we are confident the RICO statute does in fact apply to this case."

Canyon County is largely agricultural and many of its Latino residents work in that industry. About 19 percent of the county's 131,000 residents identify themselves as Hispanic, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Be in the middle of it all!

Professional office space available on the Third Street Promenade.



950 square feet of office space conveniently located downtown, a walk away from shops, restaurants and the beach. Bright office space with high ceilings, natural light, two large private offices and a spacious reception area. Quiet location with a shared kitchen. New paint and carpet. Parking. Available now.

Call (310) 458-7737 ext. 104

STATE



Air regulators mulling developer pollution fees

BY JULIANA BARBASSA
Associated Press Writer

FRESNO, Calif. — Regulators working to clean up one of the nation's dirtiest air basins want developers to pitch in — or pay up.

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District were scheduled to vote Thursday on a rule that would require developers to reduce air pollution coming from new projects by including features such as bicycle lanes, sidewalks and energy-efficient heating and cooling systems.

If they don't do enough to preserve air quality under the proposed rules, they'd have to pay a fee of up to \$780 per house, though regulators say that's not their preference.

"We'd much prefer that they build pollution-reducing features into their projects," said Tom Jordan, an air district administrator. "The fee is almost a backstop."

If approved, the rule would take effect on March 1 and become possibly the nation's most stringent air pollution regulation on new developments, air regulators said.

Business leaders, developers and local officials say the measure could discourage industry from coming to the region and push the cost of housing out of reach for low-income families.

"Any time you impose new fees on businesses you create an uneven playing field," said Nathan Magsig, the mayor of Clovis, on the outskirts of Fresno.

He's also a member of a coalition of more than 80 developers' associations, chambers of commerce, businesses and others opposed to the fee.

"It's a disincentive for people to come here," Magsig said.

Air district officials are under federal and state mandate to clean the air. The region has missed several previous federal deadlines to conform to standards set by

the Clean Air Act, and it stands to lose federal funding for highways if it doesn't comply.

Poor air quality has also been blamed for ever-increasing childhood asthma rates, heart disease, and even early death.

According to the state Air Resources Board, about 1,100 people die prematurely each year in the valley because of long-term exposure to particle pollution — tiny specks of soot, dust and other airborne chemicals.

The district's ultimate goal is for new housing or business developments to reduce by 33 percent emissions of nitrogen oxide, which mixes with sunlight to form ozone, and to cut back by 50 percent emissions of particle pollution.

Officials estimate the proposed fees will bring in about \$103 million in three years. The money would be used to mitigate pollution elsewhere, such as providing funds for communities to purchase clean-burning buses.

Air district officials are also clamping down on other pollution sources.

Residents with fireplaces are banned from burning wood on days when particle pollution levels are high. Farmers, long exempted from the air regulations that applied to industry and municipalities, now are asked to replace old diesel engines with cleaner models, and cut down on dust and chemicals floating from their land.

"Ag stepped up to the plate," said Manuel Cunha, president of the Nisei Farmers' League. "Now the building industries have to do their part for local communities."

The region's population is booming, and without getting developers to pitch in, "we'll never get healthy air in the valley," said Sierra Club activist Kevin Hall.

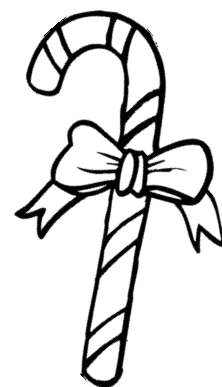
The district on Thursday also was set to consider five other rules, including imposing the nation's first air quality control on wineries.

Your Convenient Holiday Shipping Headquarters

Under New Ownership!



- FedEx & UPS Authorized Shipping Center
- Packing & Shipping
- Business Cards/Letterhead
- Color & Black/White Copying Faxing
- Mailbox Rentals (24-hour access)
- Newspapers & magazines



SANTA MONICA MAILHOUSE
★★★★★★★★★★★★

1247 Lincoln Blvd., (Between Arizona & Wilshire)

Santa Monica (310) 451-3006

Hrs: M-F: 7:30am-6pm Sat. 8am-4pm

Sure you rent, but it's WHAT'S INSIDE that makes it your home.

Your landlord's insurance covers the building, not your stuff inside. For around the cost of a DVD a month, you can get Renters Insurance and protect the things that make your place your home.



David B. Rosenberg, Agent
Insurance Lic. #0618319
1220 Lincoln Blvd., Santa Monica CA 90401
Bus: 310-458-3400

LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR



STATE FARM IS THERE.®

Providing Insurance and Financial Services

State Farm Fire and Casualty Company, State Farm General Insurance Company-Bloomington, IL; State Farm Florida Insurance Company-Winter Haven, FL • statefarm.com

P03835 12/04

GAIN AWARENESS

COPIA CREATIVE

... creativity knows no boundaries

www.copiacreative.com

info@copiacreative.com • 310.8.Copia.C (826.7422)

MARKETING • BRANDING • DEVELOPMENT • CONSULTING

Pre-Holiday

Sale

www.myrebe.com

Entertainment



Make way for the new 'King' Marketers of 'Kong' lost out on opportunities

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press



THE MOVIE: King Kong
THE DIRECTOR: Peter Jackson

THE STARS: Naomi Watts, Jack Black, Adrien Brody, Andy Serkis

REVIEW

With "King Kong," Peter Jackson has created a monster that is destined to shatter all sorts of box office records ...

and rightfully so. This remake of the 1933 classic is one of those extremely rare works of art powerful enough to change the way people view a medium. Not only is "Kong" the most complete cinematic experience of the year, in this observer's opinion it is one of the best movies ever produced. Jackson dedicated two years of his life and spent upwards of \$200 million of Universal's money making "Kong," and the effort has yielded three hours of intoxicating entertainment unlike anything seen before. It's a spine-tingling adventure, heart-melting romance and devastating tragedy all edited into one beguiling package. There simply isn't a single element of filmmaking — from the groundbreaking production design to James Newton Howard's score — that fails to impress, and it is the attention to detail and supreme commitment to craft

that sets this picture apart. In short, wow!

In adapting the script, Jackson and long-time collaborators Fran Walsh and Philippa Boyens have "adrenalized" many of the elements from the original picture. Set in the exquisitely recreated Great Depression era, "Kong" features estimable talent Naomi Watts as Ann Darrow, the out-of-employ vaudeville actress whose lucky break turns out to be anything but when she's cast by shady film producer Carl Denham (Jack Black) in a purported travel picture being shot in Singapore. Instead, Denham's crew — which includes writer Jack Driscoll (Adrien Brody) and B-movie star Bruce Baxter (Kyle Chandler) — venture to the aptly-named Skull Island where they encounter murderous aborigines, rampaging dinosaurs and the titular beast — all 25 roaring feet of him. Just as they did with the Gollum character in "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy, Jackson and his special effects wizards have rendered a computer-generated Kong that seems as real as any flesh and blood actor (Andy Serkis "plays" Kong, using motion-capture technology). The chemistry between Watts and the artificial ape is the stuff of legendary Hollywood pairings. I'm not merely recommending you run out and see "King Kong" this weekend ... you should see it twice.

(RATED PG-13. RUNNING TIME: 187 MINUTES)

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

I received an e-mail recently from the folks at Chase encouraging me to "APPLY NOW to capture KONG-sized benefits with the Limited Edition King Kong Universal Entertainment MasterCard®." There's no annual fee for this card, and with the great low introductory rate I can afford to buy lots of "King Kong" merchandise on credit — everything I never imagined I needed, from the official video game to action figures to a special edition chess set. There are Kong T-shirts, hats, ties, books, posters, even coffee mugs. And if all that shopping makes me hungry, I can swing by Burger King and order something off of their new "Kong"-themed menu, or grab myself a Nestle Crunch bar in a colorful "Kong" wrapper. Take a look around, and you'll find that big ole' ape is everywhere.

Well, almost everywhere.

Sure, the gorilla-sized marketing blitz for Peter Jackson's latest movie is impressive (Kellogg's, Volkswagen and Toshiba also are partners in promotion), but it appears Universal Studios neglected to take advantage of some rather obvious money-making opportunities.

They could have teamed with Samsonite, for instance, to put a new spin on those classic television ads that fea-

tured an angry gorilla vigorously mistreating a piece of a luggage. Imagine Kong doing the monkey-stomp on an indestructible carry-on bag. Heck, I'd buy it. Throw in one of those surly TSA agents (into the cage with Kong, that is) and I'd commit to a whole set of new luggage.

The Trojan company could have made millions offering a "Kong-dom" that promises to turn any man into a savage beast who can score with the likes of Naomi Watts. The "King Kong Bong," probably wouldn't go over very well stateside, but no doubt would have been a tremendous hit in Amsterdam.

CBS might very well have struck ratings gold with an episode of "Survivor" featuring the enraged giant ape. Wouldn't it have been a gas to see the looks on the contestants face at that immunity challenge? Come to think of it, why stop at one episode when "Survivor: Skull Island" has the potential to be the best season ever? Better yet, King Kong could dance with the stars!

And finally, covetous consumers probably would have liked to have used their Limited Edition King Kong Universal Entertainment MasterCard® to buy a new King Kong iPod (featuring Bono, of course), but alas there's no Apple in KK's eye this Christmas.

Oh well, there's always the sequel.

Speakers of the House to raise voices at Viper

By Daily Press staff

Speakers of the House, a Santa Monica-based rock band, will be throwing a party this Saturday to celebrate the release of their first CD, "Think Tank Television."

The party will be held at midnight at the Viper Room. Revelers will receive a free copy of the CD when presenting their \$8 ticket stub for the show. The four-man band is expected to run through songs from "Think Tank Television" as well as a few new ones yet to be recorded.

"Come sing and dance with us, party with us and get naked with us ... yeah, get naked with us," said Andrew De Lucia, a.k.a., "Lucius," the band's front man who plays guitar and produced the album.

With influences that range from Lou

Reed, George Clinton and the Beastie Boys, the Speakers' new 12-track album includes "Shaved," a scintillating song recently made into a video that celebrates shiny bald anatomical parts. "No more locks and no more rough, 'cause you know I can't dive if the water's too tough." Stylized as a Burlesque comedy, the video features knife-throwing, shaved sheep, pigs, jesters and dancing dames, one of whom, dressed as a clown, is caught bathing in an antique tub. Directed by Tom Oesch, the "Shaved" video was filmed in March at the CIA Lounge in Hollywood, owned by an ex-mortician and freak show enthusiast.

Web sites that play the video often include musicplustv.com. For more information, log onto www.speakersofthehouse.tv.



THE IMBIBER

BY DAN DUNN

Using your noggin'

There's only two weeks remaining in 2005 so it's high time we clean out the ole' reader mailbox here at Imbiber Headquarters:

Dear Imbiber,

I'm hosting a Fourth of July barbecue and several people from my office will be in attendance, including my new boss. With my annual review coming up in August, I'm really hoping to make a good impression. Can you please suggest some Independence Day-themed cocktails?

— Brad

Dear Brad,

Let's pretend I didn't blow you off for six months and assume that you weren't fired for serving something awful like red, white and blue Jell-O shots (You weren't fool enough to serve tri-colored Jell-O shots, were ya, Brad?) OK, so Fourth of July's a wash, but there's still an opportunity to impress at the Christmas party, and I've found that nothing says, "Hey boss, I'm special," more effectively than a full-color photocopy of your butt. I did it several years ago at a booze-soaked Yuletide shindig, and promptly got promoted to West Coast bureau chief ... though the paper didn't even have a West coast bureau then.

Dear Imbiber,

Any tips for avoiding eye injuries when opening champagne bottles?

— Michael

Dear Michael,

You may want to let the nurses at the institution you're in do it for you. Just kid-

ding, sparky! I'm sure you're sharp as a tack, just like the rest of my readers. Besides, statistics say lots of people maim themselves every year popping corks and not all of them can be lamppost lickers. Best way to avoid damaging a peeper is to make sure your sparkling wine is chilled to at least 45 degrees before opening. The cork of a warm bottle is more likely to pop unexpectedly. Plus, chilled bubbly tastes better.

Dear Imbiber,

What's your favorite "spiked" eggnog recipe?

— Loretta

Dear Loretta,

Here ya go ...

- 1 liter Maker's Mark
- 1 quart milk
- 1 quart heavy cream
- 2 dozen eggs
- 1 1/2 cups sugar

Separate eggs and beat yolks until creamy. Whip sugar into yolks. Beat whites until they stand in peaks, adding 1/2 cup additional sugar, if desired. Beat yolks and Maker's Mark together, add whites. Beat cream. Add cream and milk to mixture. Add nutmeg to taste and garnish each cup with nutmeg. Makes 2 1/2 gallons.

(Thirsty for more Imbiber? Pull up a barstool at www.TheImbiber.com)

'Family' a funny affair, if also a bit disappointing

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press



REVIEW

THE MOVIE: The Family Stone

THE DIRECTOR: Thomas Bezucha

THE STARS: Diane Keaton, Sarah Jessica Parker, Luke Wilson, Rachel McAdams, Clare Danes, Dermot Mulroney, Craig T. Nelson

Like so many Christmases past, I found director Thomas Bezucha's ("Big Eden") Capra-esque holiday reunion dramedy "The Family Stone" to be alternately joyous, sad and in the end, somewhat disappointing. The movie expectedly targets bourgeois white folks, the titular clan being a tightly-knit pack of well-meaning liberal academic-types from New England. Bezucha satisfies the diversity requirement by including a deaf son who's gay AND has a black life partner. Both, of course, are quickly rele-

gated to being glorified extras.

The star here is Diane Keaton, who steals/saves the movie as the dynamic matriarch, Sybil Stone. At first, the outspoken Sybil comes off as a bit of a virago, especially in her dealings with eldest son Everett's (Dermot Mulroney) tightly-wound Manhattanite girlfriend, Meredith (Sarah Jessica Parker, unfortunately, far too good at being awful in this film). But Sybil's not really a bitch — as it turns out, she's carrying around a terrible secret that explains and forgives her erratic behavior. Meredith fares better, though for reasons one might not expect, after her gorgeous artsy-fartsy sis (Clare Danes) shows up and steals the Stone's hearts. "The Family Stone," while platitudinous, is likable enough at times and benefits from strong performances by Craig T. Nelson, the lovely Rachel McAdams (proving, yet again, she is Big Star material) and Luke Wilson, as good as he's ever been employing big bro Owen's cuddly stoner shtick.

(RATED PG-13. RUNNING TIME: 102 MINUTES)

INTERESTED IN YOUR DAILY FORECAST?
CHECK OUT THE HOROSCOPES ON PAGE 2!

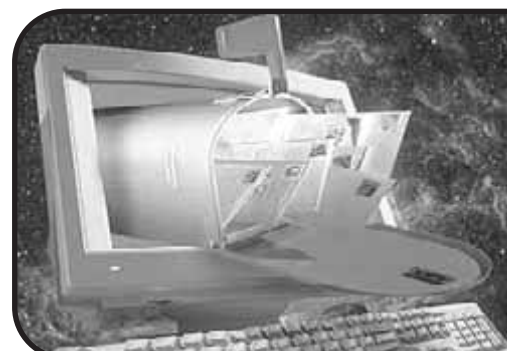
MOVIES AND MUSIC IN YOUR POCKET!



SONY

Available at: [i]³

11906 WILSHIRE BLVD
(SUITE 26/UPSTAIRS) LA
Besides KFC, past Brockton
866-MY-ICUBE
TOLL FREE 694-2823
www.icube.us



Santa Monica Daily Press
Has an 'E-dition!
Home delivery by E-mail

Check the day's headlines, news stories, classifieds, comics, horoscopes and ads all before you leave the house!

FREE SUBSCRIPTIONS AVAILABLE!

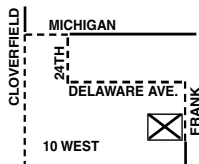
For more information, please call:
310.458.Press (7737) or sign up on
our Web site @ www.smdp.com



STATE

Southern California
Transfer Company

PUBLIC DUMP IN SANTA MONICA



310-828-6444

1908 Frank St. Santa Monica



Holiday Cleaning Special!



HONEST, DEPENDABLE, THOROUGH,
EXCELLENT REFERENCES



Call for rates!
Quality Cleaning
(323) 605-7197

Congressman defends plan to give military use of National Park

BY ERICA WERNER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The chairman of the House Armed Services Committee defended his plan to give the military use of a National Park island off California, saying he wants to help disabled veterans and save deer and elk — not give the island to the Pentagon or keep the public out.

“I’ve heard that there is discussion or rumor that DOD was going to take ownership of Santa Rosa Island. That is not what we want to do,” Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., said in an interview Wednesday. “I want to see two things. One is to allow our paralyzed veterans to hunt and fish at Santa Rosa Island as a special place for them, and No. 2 is to stop the extermination plan of deer and elk.”

Hunter contended a court-ordered settlement that says a private hunting business must be off 53,000-acre Santa Rosa Island by 2011 would result in the game being shot from helicopters once that deadline comes. “Why aren’t the environmentalists concerned about exterminating the little fawns?” he asked.

The court settlement does specify the use of “trained professionals and helicopters,” but opponents disputed the notion of a large-scale extermination of deer and elk, saying the settlement envisions a gradual reduction so most of the animals would be gone by 2011 anyway.

Santa Rosa Island, about 40 miles off the coast of Santa Barbara, is the second-largest of the five islands that make up Channel Islands National Park. The federal government bought it for \$30 million in 1986 from the local Vail ranching family. Litigation among the Vails, an environmental group and the National Park Service resulted in the 1998 court deal to end the Vails’ hunting concession by 2011. There are now more than 400 deer

and more than 700 elk on the island.

The deer and elk are not native to Santa Rosa. Efforts have been under way to restore the islands to their natural state and save native species.

Hunter’s proposal, circulating as an amendment to a pending defense bill, would give the military use of Santa Rosa Island effective Jan. 1, 2009, as a “morale, welfare and recreation operation” for members of the Armed Forces, dependents, veterans, guests and others. The island also would be available for use as a training area for special operations forces.

The proposal would be part of a wide-ranging defense bill that many lawmakers want to use to outlaw cruel or inhumane treatment of terrorism-related detainees. The detainee language is still being worked out, but congressional leaders hope to get final votes on the bill in the House and Senate this week and send it to President Bush.

Hunter’s comments didn’t silence concerns from environmentalists and Democrats, who fear his plan could amount to putting the island under military control and barring public access. Critics also oppose overturning the court settlement, an outcome they fear could result in environmental harm to the island.

Rep. Lois Capps, D-Calif., whose district includes Santa Rosa, noted that the island, which the public can visit by boat, is now open to everyone — including veterans. Santa Rosa draws 5,500 visitors a year, according to a Channel Islands National Park spokeswoman.

“As to the future of the animals on the island, especially after 2011, this is an important public policy issue that deserves full and open discussion over the next several years with all the relevant stakeholders. It is ridiculous to ram this provision through behind closed doors as Congress is racing to get of town for Christmas,” Capps said Wednesday.

WHAT

can get the power of email working for your business?

greatbignoise www.greatbignoise.com

www.sushimon.net
MONDAY-FRIDAY
LUNCH SPECIALS
FROM **\$7.95**



Eat Fresh fish plentifully...

DINNER
FROM \$12.99



since 1992
Sushi MON
Japanese Cuisine

Santa Monica

401 W. Santa Monica Bl | 310.576.7011

Beverly Hills

8562 West 3rd Street | 310.246.9230



Got News?

If you see news happening
or have something to report, call
the Santa Monica Daily Press
at our NEW tipline!

Call 310.285.TIPS (8477)



Students file suit over break in fees for illegal immigrants

BY JULIET WILLIAMS
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — A group of out-of-state college students filed a class-action lawsuit Wednesday challenging a law that lets some illegal immigrants who graduate from California high schools pay lower in-state fees at the state's public colleges and universities.

The 2002 law allows students who attend at least three years of high school in California to qualify for the same in-state fee break given California citizens, regardless of their immigration status.

The lower fee levels can save students thousands of dollars a year. For example, out-of-state students pay nearly \$24,000 a year to attend the University of California, about \$17,000 more than California residents.

The lawsuit was filed in Yolo County on behalf of 42 plaintiffs, including two children of a former San Diego congressman. Attorneys for the plaintiffs said the discriminatory policy affects 60,000 out-of-state students who pay higher fees than in-state illegal immigrants and will be seeking damages.

"The class becomes bigger each year because each year thousands of law-abiding freshmen enter our system," said Redwood City attorney Michael Brady.

At issue is a federal law the plaintiffs claim specifically bars states from offering benefits to illegal immigrants without also making them available to U.S. citizens.

California is one of nine states with laws allowing undocumented students to qualify for lower in-state tuition rates. A lawsuit filed in federal court in Kansas challenging that state's law was dismissed, but is being appealed.

But spokespeople for the state's largest public universities said they believe they are complying with federal and state laws.

About 70 percent of the UC students who benefit from the California law are American citizens in unique circumstances, such as those who attended boarding school in California despite having a legal address in another state, said University of California spokeswoman Ravi Poorsina.

She said 1,339 of the system's roughly 208,000 students received the fee break in 2004-05.

"When we adopted the policy, it really had nothing to do with illegal immigrants. We were conforming the university's policies with state law," she said.

The California State University system does not record how many students there are using the law to save the \$10,170 a year in out-of-state fees, said CSU spokeswoman Clara Potes-Fellow.

"Part of the law is that this is confidential, so we don't gather names, we don't gather numbers," she said.

To qualify for the in-state rate, students must have attended a California high school for at least three years, must graduate from a California high school and must sign an affidavit declaring that they will seek to become legal residents as soon as it is feasible.

Suzanne Kattija-Ari, 23, a UC-Davis veterinary student from Hawaii whose father immigrated from Thailand in the 1970s, said the fee break is unfair to those who follow the law but end up paying more than their illegal counterparts.

She said she has had to work several part-time jobs and take out student loans to pay her high out-of-state fees.

Council bucks up for its workers

MINIMUM WAGE, from page 1

More than 60 people, ranging from religious leaders and politicians to business owners and students, lined up to support the city's minimum wage and the increase.

Five people spoke in favor of Pfeffers proposal to postpone the increase to \$9.50.

The capital city's "living wage," in effect since July 2004, requires most companies with 25 or more workers to pay \$8.50 an hour, and set the next two scheduled increases — the \$9.50 wage effective next year and the increase to \$10.50 in 2008.

Last month, the state Court of Appeals upheld Santa Fe's minimum wage. It affirmed a lower court ruling that the city had the power to set a minimum wage for private employers that is higher than the \$5.15 minimum mandated by the state.

Colin Holmes, who has Down syndrome, told the council that Santa Fe's minimum wage has allowed him

to work as a grocery store bagger while taking art, fashion and karate courses.

"In the future, I would like to get an apartment and to get married," he said, reading from notes. "That's why I need the living wage of \$9.50, just like everybody else."

Business owners who spoke in favor of going to \$9.50 included developer Dennis Branch — who said people need to make at least \$15.50 an hour to afford the least expensive houses in town.

Pfeffer's was the sole vote against letting the increase take effect as scheduled.

Pfeffer, a candidate for the Republican nomination for U.S. Senate next year, said he worked three jobs in college and cannot afford to buy a house in his Santa Fe council district.

"It's nobody's fault except my own that I ain't got the bucks," he said.



Is your
COMPUTER
running too slowly?

www.LANerdSquad.com

Home or Business
Any Computer Problem
100% Satisfaction Guaranteed
Request Help by Phone or Online



(800) 231-5164
15 Years of Service to Southern California

CRIMINAL DEFENSE

The Law Offices of Clifford C. Nichols

A Law Firm Dedicated To Defending Those Charged With CRIMES

*All Felonies and Misdemeanors
Juveniles and Adults*

*Offices Currently Located in the Searise Tower at
233 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 400
Santa Monica California
(Directly Across from The Promenade)*

For An Appointment Call: (310) 917-1083

*In The Case Of An Emergency, To Speak With An Attorney
Immediately Call Our 24 Hour Hotline: (310) 909-9024*

www.cliffnicholslaw.com




Goes Photography.com
310.393.7274

Kids, Headshots, Weddings



Shutter Rate: 1/1250 - 1/500
Available for hire: 1.25 per hr. \$100 up

FIVE ACES PHOTOGRAPHY

FOR ALL OF YOUR DIGITAL AND PRINT NEEDS
NO EVENT TOO BIG OR TOO SMALL WE COVER IT ALL

20% DISCOUNT FOR DAILY PRESS READERS

FiveAcesPhoto.photorefect.com

310 963 0636



TEAM24-7
Keller Williams Realty/Marina - L.A.



Fred Nabati



Glen Michaelsen

1-800-931-6436 x699
4079-B REDWOOD AVE.
LOS ANGELES, CA
Email: info@team24-7realty.com
Web: www.team24-7realty.com

IN ESCROW



3212 Maplewood Ave \$949,000

Beautiful Mar-Vista Hill location w/ unobstructed ocean views & a 2nd story addition! Hardwood floors, large yard & lot, with 360 degree view potential. Quiet family St. Do Not miss this Great Opportunity! Please don't disturb tenants.

REDUCED!



1811 19th St., SM \$1,950,000

7 Units (2+1) VERY MOTIVATED SELLER- Present all offers. 4 units delivered vacant. Positive cash flow. Drive by only. Please don't disturb tenants.



6000 Canterbury Dr. #D208 \$409,000

Quiet Culver City unit. Bright & Sunny west facing condo in desirable Pines Complex. New Carpet, Paint, & Kitchen Flooring. Needs TLC. 2 car S/S. Low HOA. Priced to Sell Quick! Call for details! 2+2, 1,029 sq. ft.

REDUCED!



1021 Michigan Avenue \$1,800,500

Income property and single family residence. Santa Monica SF HM on 11th st (2+1) & 6 units (all Sngls) on Michigan. 2 props. great for owner/user or investor opport. Live in the main house & collect rent! Drive by only! Do Not Disturb Tenant! Seller motivated-present — all offers.



NATIONAL

House moves to tighten law at border

BY JIM ABRAMS
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — House Republican leaders scrambled to bring their own ranks in line Thursday as a plan to make it harder for illegal immigrants to cross the border and get jobs ran into resistance.

"There's kind of a left-right coalition against it," Rep. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., said of the border and workplace security bill as his party's leaders delayed a vote on a procedural measure needed to advance the legislation.

Supporters of the legislation defended their approach of acting to cut off the flow of illegal entrants before turning to the tougher issues of a guest worker program, backed by President Bush, or other means to fill the jobs that now attract millions of undocumented workers.

"Until the borders are protected we cannot have any kind of meaningful immigra-

tion reform," Homeland Security Committee Chairman Peter King, R-N.Y., said.

But almost all Democrats, and several border-state Republicans such as Flake and fellow Arizonan Jim Kolbe, pushed for a more comprehensive package that dealt with the estimated 11 million illegal immigrants already in the country. Other Republicans were unhappy that the border security measures weren't tougher.

The GOP bill "does nothing to solve the real problems of illegal immigration," Kolbe said. "In fact it's worse than nothing."

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., says the guest worker issue will be on the table when the Senate takes up immigration reform in February. The main controversy is over whether the estimated 6 million illegal workers should have to leave the country before applying for a temporary worker program.

The House bill combines the work of

King and Judiciary Committee Chairman James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis.

The border security aspects, King said, include requiring the Homeland Security Department to employ the personnel and technology needed to secure the border, ending the "catch-and-release" policy for non-Mexicans and requiring the Pentagon and Homeland Security to come up with a common plan on the use of military technology to stop illegal crossings.

The bill also outlines increased penalties for smugglers and those re-entering illegally, authorizes police along the border to enforce immigration law, makes illegal presence in the United States a criminal offense and, most significantly, requires all employers to check on the legal status of workers.

Randel Johnson of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce said in a telephone news conference Wednesday that the House bill was unacceptable to the business community because of "huge concerns" that the requirement to submit Social Security numbers and other vital statistics to a central database was unworkable. Companies that don't verify the legal status of workers would be subject to penalties.

"We would be more comfortable if it was just applicable to new hires for several years," he said.

Acting House Majority Leader Roy Blunt, R-Mo., said Republicans would work with their business allies on the verification program but added, "this is an issue that really they don't get to determine."

Critics of the bill also predicted that increased penalties and provisions for expedited removal of illegal entrants would drive those in the country illegally further underground.

Bishop Thomas Wenski of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, in the telephone news conference, questioned whether criminalizing illegal presence could implicate the good Samaritan who gives an illegal immigrant a glass of water.

The House Rules Committee on Wednesday was deciding which of more than 120 proposed amendments would be accepted for debate.

Among the proposals were limiting birthright citizenship to the children of U.S. citizens or permanent legal aliens, requiring proof of citizenship for federal elections, cutting foreign aid to countries that don't cooperate on immigration laws, building a fence along the border, using military personnel to help secure the borders and barring entry to pregnant women seeking to give birth in the United States.

Global census of marine life shows diversity, but also declines

BY WILLIAM MCCALL
Associated Press Writer

PORTLAND, Ore. — A massive census of all the fish and other marine life in the world's oceans has reached the halfway point with new evidence of the rich diversity under the sea along with warnings about the alarming decline of many species.

The 10-year international project that began in 2000 has already tracked the migration of tuna from Japan to California and back, along with the movement of endangered British Columbia salmon with implanted computer chips.

"We're sending animals out with the equivalent of cell phones and they're telling us where they are," said Ron O'Dor, senior scientist for the Census of Marine Life.

"What those animals are sending back is a picture that shows what seems like a blue uniform ocean to us on the surface is really very complicated," O'Dor said.

The data from the tracking program could help researchers and fishery managers conserve stocks of many species of large fish that have declined by about 90 percent over the last 50 years, O'Dor said.

"This gives us an idea about where fish go, the rate at which they migrate, and tells us where these animals live and where they die so we can understand quantitatively what happens to fish stocks so we can manage them better," he said.

Dave Fluharty, a marine policy analyst at the University of Washington, said the data likely will change international treaties on fishing rights as researchers find out how fish are distributed in the ocean.

"It's going to be easier to detect international violations, and I think that's going to change a lot of what we do over the next 10 to 20 years," Fluharty said.

Jane Lubchenco, an Oregon State University marine biologist and president of the International Council for Science, said the census will help raise awareness about the urgent need for international cooperation to preserve marine life.

"I think there's definitely increasing recognition that we can no longer think about the ocean as infinitely vast, infinitely bountiful and infinitely resilient," Lubchenco said. "There are problems everywhere."

But she said she was encouraged by the amount of biological diversity the census has found in the first five years.

"The expectation was there would be new discoveries," Lubchenco said. "What's blown us away is how much there is out there that we didn't know about before. It's big stuff, it's little tiny stuff that's been coming in from this project. It's been pretty sobering."

Other highlights at the midway point of the census include the discovery of tiny carnivorous sponges found in the Southern Ocean abyss, an underwater dead zone at the epicenter of the 2004 Indonesian tsunami and the first life recorded at smoking seafloor vents south of the equator in the Atlantic.

The census also is studying polar regions and the deepest reaches of the oceans. Scientists recently used the German icebreaker Polarstern to tow an underwater sled over the Southern Ocean floor near Antarctica to photograph life at the bottom.

"The old way was to drop a bucket and maybe collect one sea cucumber," O'Dor said. "But when you tow the photo sled you could see the sea cucumbers for miles and miles across the bottom."

But O'Dor noted the cost of such research is very expensive, estimated at about 1 euro — or more than a dollar — per second to operate the Polarstern.



DEVON MEYERS PHOTOGRAPHY
Award winning photojournalist.
Specializing in:
Weddings, Family Portraits
and headshots.

Wedding specials starting at \$1,050
Headshot sessions available.
(310) 422-9380. email me:
devoart@netzero.com
devonmeyers.com

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL AT THE EASTON GYM

1Month Membership
w/5 Training Sessions \$275

Ask for Kim
(310) 395-4441

THE EASTON GYM









Private Fitness Studio
Specializing in:
Custom Fitness Programs
Bodybuilding-Shaping
Strength Training
Weight Management
Free Fitness Consultation
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
216 Pico Blvd # 17 ~ Santa Monica Beach
Fabian@Fitbyfabian.com or 310-399-7049



Heavy Sunni turnout as Iraqis take to polls

BY BASSEM MROUE

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iraqis voted in a historic parliamentary election Thursday, with strong turnout reported in Sunni Arab areas and even a shortage of ballots in some precincts. Several explosions rocked Baghdad throughout the day, but the level of violence was low.

The heavy participation by the Sunnis, who had shunned balloting last January, bolstered U.S. hopes of calming the insurgency enough to begin withdrawing its troops next year.

Because of the large turnout, the Iraqi election commission extended voting for one hour, until 6 p.m. (10 a.m. EST) as long lines were reported in some precincts, said commission official Munthur Abdelamir. The commission said results will be announced within two weeks.

Policemen guarding a polling place in eastern Baghdad's Zayouna neighborhood fired shots in the air to celebrate the end of voting there.

When the polls opened, a mortar shell exploded near the heavily fortified Green Zone, slightly injured two civilians and a U.S. Marine, the U.S. military said. A civilian was killed when a mortar shell hit near a polling station in the northern city of Tal Afar, and a grenade killed a school guard near a voting site in Mosul.

A bomb also exploded in Ramadi, a mortar round struck about 200 yards from a polling place in Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit, and a bomb was defused at a voting site in Fallujah, despite promises by major insurgent groups not to attack such places.

Violence was light overall and did not appear to discourage Iraqis, some of whom turned out wrapped in their country's flag on a bright, sunny day, and afterward displayed a purple ink-stained index finger. One jubilant Shiite voter in Baghdad proudly displayed all 10 of his fingers with the purple ink.

"The number of people participating is very, very high and we have had very few irregularities," U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad told The Associated Press. "It is a good day so far, good for us, good for Iraq."

The Bush administration hopes the new parliament will include more Sunnis to help establish a government that can lure other Sunnis away from the insurgency. Such a development might make it possible for the United States and its partners to start to draw down their troops in 2006.

"The Iraqi people are showing the world that all people _ of all backgrounds _ want to be able to choose their own leaders and live in freedom," said White House spokesman Scott McClellan.

With a nationwide vehicle ban in effect, most Iraqis walked to the polls. Streets were generally empty of cars, except for police, ambulances and a few others with special permits.

An alliance of Shiite religious parties was expected to win the most seats, but not enough to form a new administration without a coalition with rival groups. That could set the stage for long and possibly bitter negotiations.

The mood among voters varied with the community. Sunnis were defiant as if to assert their rights against the Shiites and the Americans. Shiites and Kurds seemed more hopeful that the new government would be more successful than the outgoing one in restoring security and providing basic services. Shiites also appeared confident of retaining their leadership role.

Up to 15 million Iraqis were electing 275 members of the first full-term parliament from among 7,655 candidates running on 996 tickets, representing Shiite, Sunni, Kurdish, Turkomen and sectarian interests across a wide political spectrum. Iraqis do not vote for individual candidates, but instead for lists that compete for the seats in each of the 18 provinces.

Sunnis appeared to have turned out in large numbers to try to curb the power of Shiite clerical parties now in control.

"I came here and voted in order to prove that Sunnis are not a minority in this country," said lawyer Yahya Abdul-Jalil in Ramadi. "We lost a lot during the last elections, but this time we will take our normal and key role in leading this country."

Fallujah teacher Khalid Fawaz said he also took part "so that the Sunnis are no longer marginalized."

Many others who turned out in Fallujah, which was overrun by U.S. forces in November 2004, saw the election as a way to get rid of the Americans and the Shiite-dominated government.

"It's an extremist government. We would like an end to the occupation," said Ahmed Majid, 31. "Really the only true solution is through politics. But there is the occupation and the only way that will end is with weapons."

The big turnout in Fallujah also caused problems, with voters, election officials and the mayor complaining of a shortage of ballot boxes and ballots.

Mayor Dhari Youssef al-Arsan, who put turnout at about 45 percent, said 11 out of 35 polling stations did not get ballot boxes and some ran out of ballots early.

"Three sites stopped because they ran out of ballots," he said. "We had an administrative problem opening polling sites in some of the centers."

He said some of the voters told him that "they thought it was done purposely."

Shiite parties had urged a large turnout, too. Iraq's leading Shiite cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, told

Shiites to support candidates who defend their principles.

"They are clerics, and clerics do not steal our money," said Abbasiya Ahmad, 80, of Baghdad, as she voted for the Shiite religious bloc, the United Iraqi Alliance. "We want people who protect our money."

In January, insurgent threats and boycott calls kept many Sunnis at home despite a national turnout of nearly 60 percent. That enabled Shiites and Kurds to dominate the legislature, sharpening communal tensions and fueling the insurgency. This time, more Sunnis Arabs were in the race, and changes in the election law all but guaranteed strong Sunni representation.

Security was tight. Tens of thousands of Iraqi soldiers and police guarded polling stations, with U.S. and other coalition forces standing by. U.S. troops and bomb-detecting dogs checked thousands of polling stations before handing over control to Iraqi police.

From Our Family To Yours...

PAUL'S TRANSMISSION

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

✓ Free Inspections & Test Drives

SANTA MONICA: 825 Olympic Blvd. **(310) 450-6873**

CULVER CITY: 11526 Washington Blvd. **(310) 391-0533**

MONDAY-FRIDAY 7:30AM - 5:30PM

FREE \$60 FACIAL
when you buy 3 \$60 Facials

FREE LIP & EYEBROW WAX
with a \$60 Facial

Gina Marchese

COMPLETE SKIN CARE

Gift Certificates Available • One offer per customer

310 562-1592 • 320 SANTA MONICA BLVD. • SANTA MONICA

*You're a divine being.
an absolute angel.
a magnificent mother.
and a loving wife.
You bring a ray
of sunshine to
everyone you
meet.*

Happy Birthday Nikki You Goddess!

*Love,
Mike and Oliver Cole*



COMICS

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



edge city by TERRY & PATTY LABAN



Garfield® By Jim Davis



Speed Bump® By Dave Coverly



Natural Selection® By Russ Wallace



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Hexa-hedron
- 5 Planets
- 9 Starts the bidding
- 11 Component
- 13 Key
- 14 Permit
- 15 Race part
- 16 Briskly, in music
- 18 Sup-presses
- 20 Squid's squirt
- 21 Light lunch
- 22 Young girl
- 23 Constant complainer
- 24 ATM code
- 25 Eastern sight
- 27 Tourney makeup
- 29 Thurman of "Kill Bill"
- 30 "Crazy in Love" singer
- 32 Sup-presses
- 34 Boulder, for one
- 35 Woodard of "Desperate Housewives"
- 36 Practical
- 38 Graf rival

- 39 Jeremy of "Entourage"
- 40 Ball holders
- 41 Uncool fellow

DOWN

- 1 Spring feature
- 2 Surprise wins
- 3 Fair treat
- 4 Compass dir.
- 5 Lustrous gems
- 6 Irritate
- 7 Salad green
- 8 Derides
- 10 Prison camp
- 12 "Return of the Jedi" critters
- 17 Headed
- 19 Custard dessert
- 22 Long ride
- 24 Settles a debt
- 25 D'Artagnan's creator

C	R	O	P			V	O	T	E	S
H	E	X	E	S		E	V	E	N	T
A	G	E	N	T		R	A	N	T	O
R	A	Y			O	N	A	L	A	R
O	N	E	D	G	E			B	E	E
			A	I	D	S		L	E	D
	R	I	M	E		T	O	E	S	
G	E	T		S	P	E	D			
O	D	S			S	A	D	D	L	E
O	N	A	W	H	I	M		R	A	M
F	O	L	I	O		E	L	I	T	E
U	S	I	N	G		R	O	V	E	R
P	E	E	K	S			S	E	X	Y

Yesterday's answer

- 26 Charm
- 27 "Aw, shucks!"
- 28 Mountain-er
- 30 Conse-crate
- 31 Improve copy
- 33 Un-fettered
- 37 Foil material

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	
9				10		11			12
13						14			
15				16	17				
18			19					20	
	21					22			
		23			24				
25	26				27			28	
29				30					31
32			33				34		
35					36	37			
38					39				
	40					41			

12-16

CLASSIFIEDS

CALL NOW!

ALL CLASSIFIEDS \$2.50 A DAY UP TO 15 WORDS
20¢ PER WORD THEREAFTER 12 DAY MINIMUM

310.458.7737

IS YOUR RETIREMENT PLAN AGING GRACEFULLY?
WE LIVE WHERE YOU LIVE.®

Keep your money hard at work, with 401(k) rollovers, TSAs, annuities and more. Call me to get started today.

Troy Wilson Lic.#: 0D75687
2451 Santa Monica Blvd.
Santa Monica, CA
310.315.1955

LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR STATE FARM IS THERE.®

Providing Insurance and Financial Services • statefarm.com®

State Farm Life Insurance Company; In NY and WI - State Farm Life and Accident Assurance Company; Bloomington, IL. Annuities and other products offered by State Farm affiliates are not FDIC insured, not guaranteed by State Farm Bank, and are subject to investment risk, including possible loss of principal. Consult your tax or legal advisor for specific advice.

\$3⁵⁰ per day. Up to 15 words, 20 cents each additional word.

Call 310-458-7737 and promote your business opportunities to our daily readership of over 38,600.

CLASSIFICATIONS:

Announcements
Creative Employment
For Sale
Furniture
Pets
Boats

Jewelry
Wanted
Travel
Vacation Rentals
Apartments/Condos for Rent
Houses for Rent
Roommates
Commercial Lease

Real Estate
Real Estate Loans
Storage Space
Vehicles for Sale
Massage
Services
Computer Services
Attorney Services

Business Opportunities
Yard Sales
Health and Beauty
Fitness
Wealth and Success
Lost and Found
Personals
Obituaries

Employment

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/RECEPTIONIST for SM CPA firm. 40 hrs/ week. Good people skills. Word/Excel. 45 wpm. Good work enviroment. Fax resume to (310) 576-1080

ADVERTISING SALES

Work with clients to figure out their message, package it cleverly, get results. Must be persistent and willing to make the calls, knock on doors, network fiercely. One third selling, one third PR and Marketing, one third keeping yourself organized. This can be fun for the right person, misery for the wrong person. Front loaded commission program enables you to start making money right away, if you have what it takes. Great long term potential for the right personality. Energetic office full of resources to help you grow as a professional. Must be a self starter, high energy and computer literate. Send resume and cover letter to ross@smdp.com

BOOKKEEPER-- SMALL FAMILY law firm located in Santa Monica is looking for a bookkeeper (20-25 hours per week). Duties include client billing, receivables, payables, and Quickbooks. Knowledge of Tussman billing system a plus. Please fax resume to Stefanie Hall, Polin & Hall, at (310) 449-0014.

CITY BAKERY of California is hiring counter servers, bussers, line cooks, bakers, and dishwashers. Fax resume or apply in person (310) 656-3050, The Brentwood Country Mart, 225 26th St., Corner of San Vincente.

FRONT PERSON, Bartender, Kitchen Helper & Dishwasher.

BENIHANA
(310) 260-1423
1447 4th St., Santa Monica,

Employment**★ ADVERTISING SALES ★**

Seeking: Self-Motivated, Energetic, Experienced Professionals.

Well established Co.
50+ years in L.A.

• High Commissions • Paid Weekly
• Leads Furnished
Newspapers - Magazines
Classified & Display: Real Estate, Ethnic, Entertainment, Military, Business, Finance...

Call: **Paul 213-251-9100, Ex-25**
and/or Please visit:
www.theglobalmediagroup.com/jobinfo.htm

COOPORTUNITY- NATURAL Grocer-Membership Asst- 32hrs. Eves/wknds. Apply at 1525 Broadway.

COUNTER HELP needed. Cafe near 3rd Street Promenade on Broadway. Must be experienced. Apply afternoons in person. 215 Broadway, SM. (310) 396-9898.

DENTAL FRONT office and back office with experience. Santa Monica dental office FT/PT (310) 393-9706.

FEMALE REAL estate broker needs personal assistant ASAP. agent lic/female preferred. P/T \$184/week+commission. (310) 820-6059

FIT FEMALE MODEL WANTED FOR FIGURE DRAWING BY ARTIST. No experience necessary call. (818) 501-0266

SANTA MONICA - Est. 1960, one of nation's largest precious metals/coin co. seeks sales pros. Top Reps earn \$60k-\$400k+ full benefits. No cold calling, no license req, paid training. Goldline.com, (310) 319-0313.

PART TIME caregiver-driver wanted for elderly lady in the Santa Monica area. Have own car and cellphone. Peter (310) 902-0807

Your ad could run here!

☎ Call us today at (310) 458-7737

Employment**INSURANCE**

Large Regional Broker in Santa Monica

TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

(PART-TIME 20 to 25 hrs per week)
Resp for clerical support for a dept of three. Must have a positive attitude and work well in a team environment. Excellent verbal and written skills. Computer proficient. Min 1 yrs ins or customer services exp. \$13 to \$15 per hr.

Check out our web site at
www.sanderkessler.com
Please fax resume to: Gail at
310-309-2588
Or E-mail to
gail@sanderkessler.com
EOE M/F/H/V

MARKET ON Main St. Stock person, cashier, and juice bar person needed part-time. Tony (310) 392-4501.

Nurses RN/LVN home health visits, SM/WLA. Great office/pay. P/T-F/T, (310) 793-1616.

PHYSICAL THERAPY aid on UCLA campus. Fax resume to (310) 698-5414.

SALES
SALES of cruise and tour packages. Paid training, flex 30 hrs/ week. Base + comm. No cold calls. Near LAX (310) 649-7171.

For Sale

SPA/HOT TUB 2005 Model. Neck Jets. Therapy seat. Warranty. Never used. Can deliver. Worth \$5750, sell for \$1750 (310) 479-3054

**YOUR AD
COULD RUN HERE!
CALL US
TODAY AT
(310) 458-7737**

Vehicles for sale

	'01 ES300 \$18,988 Leather, Moonroof, ChromeWhls (280188) (800) 579-6047 TOYOTA SANTA MONICA
	'01 RAV4 \$14,988 Cert, 42Kmi, PwrPkg (024808) (800) 579-6047 TOYOTA SANTA MONICA
	'02 4RUNNER \$15,988 SRS, Cert, White (227662) (800) 579-6047 TOYOTA SANTA MONICA
	'02 CAMRY LE \$13,988 CERT, Power Pkg (053848) (800) 579-6047 TOYOTA SANTA MONICA
	'96 CAMRY LE \$6,988 Auto, P-Pkg, Stereo (825699) (800) 579-6047 TOYOTA SANTA MONICA
	'97 JETTA Only \$5,988 5 Spd, Black, Nice Cond. (048951) (800) 579-6047 TOYOTA SANTA MONICA

HONDA CIVIC '89 \$1300. Great condition. All power. 192k miles. A/C, stick shift. (646) 924-6421

Vehicles for sale


VOLKSWAGEN
SANTA MONICA
AS ALWAYS
#1 SALES & SERVICE
LARGEST INVENTORY
HOLIDAY TIME SPECIALS

NEW JETTA **NEW 2006**

DOWN PAYMENT 1ST SECURITY
YOU PAY ONLY TAX, TAG & DOC FEE AT SIGNING
LEASE FOR **\$219** + tax PER MO
Only 39 Months 1 AT THIS PAYMENT
On Tier 1 approved credit. 10K miles/yr. 12¢ excess. VIN696362

NEW PASSAT **NEW 2006**

DOWN PAYMENT 1ST SECURITY
YOU PAY ONLY TAX, TAG & DOC FEE AT SIGNING
LEASE FOR **\$299** + tax PER MO
Only 39 Months 2 AT THIS PAYMENT
ON APPROVED CREDIT. 10K mi. per year. 12¢ per mile excess. (VIN 165579, 165587)

NEW PHAETON **NEW 2006**
✓ BENTLEY CHASSIS
✓ VOLKSWAGEN TECHNOLOGY
MANAGER'S SPECIAL THIS WEEKEND
LEASE FOR **\$799** + tax PER MO
Only 39 Months 1 AT THIS PAYMENT
On approved credit. \$5,000 + tax, tag & doc fee total due at signing. \$0 security deposit. 10K miles/yr. 25¢ per mile excess. (vin000677)

THIS WEEKS PRE-OWNED SPECIAL

'02 BEETLE GLS Lo Miles Certified and Loaded! (Vin460004)	\$14,777
'02 GOLF 4DR GLS Loaded, 30 MPG (047202)	\$14,977
'01 JETTA GLS Lo Miles Certified, Loaded! Must See! (Vin194471)	\$15,777
'01 GTI GLS Turbo Lo Miles Certified, Mgr's Special, Auto (Vin058938)	\$15,777
'02 JETTA GLS Low Miles, Loaded (163422)	\$15,977
'02 CABRIO GLS Lo Miles Automatic, Transmission, CD & More! (802394)	\$16,777
'02 JETTA GLS 9K miles, Loaded, Mint (166433)	\$16,977
'00 EUROVAN GLS Lo Miles Mint Cond., Great MPG EUROVAN (Vin033865)	\$16,977
'04 PASSAT GLS 1.8T Lo Miles Silver/Black-Leather Certified, Mint Cond. (Vin058841)	\$20,977
'02 PASSAT GLX Wagon Super Low 12k Miles, Leather, xint (Vin216371)	\$21,995
'04 BEETLE GLX Conv't Cert. Sil/Blk Lthr, 8K Mi. Lrd (Vin333895)	\$22,777

WE WANT YOUR BUSINESS WE WILL EARN IT... SO BRING ANY COMPETITIONS AD WITH YOU TO COMPARE!
Drivers wanted. 

CALL NOW TOLL-FREE
866-VW-DEALS
2440 SANTA MONICA BLVD.
Sale ends 12/12/05 close of business. All vehicles exclude government fees and taxes, any finance charges, \$45 dealer document preparation charge, and any emission testing charge. On approved credit.

**YOUR AD
COULD RUN HERE!
CALL US
TODAY AT
(310) 458-7737**

Vehicles for sale


THE NEW MITSUBISHI
Santa Monica

GRAND OPENING
CELEBRATION SAT. 12-17-05

1997 Audi Quattro AWD Wagon

Black, Loaded
\$10,995 VIN# VN001994

2004 Ford Focus Zx5

Only 16K Loaded
\$12,995 VIN# 4R109335

2001 Mitsubishi Eclipse GT

Spyder, Convertible, 52K Miles
\$11,995 VIN# 1E085890

2005 Mitsubishi Lancer EVO 8

AWD, 2K Miles, Perfect!
\$26,995 VIN# 5U016502



1100 Santa Monica Blvd.
Santa Monica, CA 90404
866-925-3333

Instruction

DIEGO FENTON GUITAR INSTRUCTION
Rock, Blues, Jazz Fusion
Bachelors Degree Musicians Institute
(310) 403-8954.

For Rent

2 BEDROOM + 2 Bath, gated building with a subterranean parking, AC, newer building with courtyard area, quiet neighborhood. Laundry rm., 1 year lease, no pets. \$1595. (310) 396-4443 x 2002 ellynesis.com

349 5TH Ave. Quaint bungalow in garden setting. Very private and quiet. 1 year lease. No pets. \$1700. (310) 396-4443 x 2002 ellynesis.com

BEAUTIFUL 2 bedroom apartment close to Beach and Venice commercial centers. Very spacious unit with lots of light. 1 year lease. No pets or smokers. \$1800. (310) 396-4443 x 2002 ellynesis.com

CHARMING SINGLE, Full Kitchen. 1 block from beach on quiet walk street, Craftsman Building. 1 year lease, no pets. \$950. (310) 396-4443 x2002. ellynesis.com

CHARMING VENICE Beach craftsman style complex in a quaint and quiet area. 3 blocks from the beach. 1 year lease. No pets. \$1450. Call (310) 396-4443 x 2002. ellynesis.com

BEST RENTALS
ELLY NESIS Co. Inc
(310) 396-4443
ellynesis.com

MDR ADJACENT. Single, fireplace, new gated building with gated parking, courtyard area, quiet neighborhood. Laundry rm. 1 year lease, no pets. \$995. (310) 396-4443 x 2002 ellynesis.com

FREE RENTAL Lists & No Fee Rentals. Sullivan-Dituri Company. 2111 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 90403.

For Rent

ROQUE & MARK Co.

2802 Santa Monica Blvd.

310-828-7525

SALES • RENTALS
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

RENTALS AVAILABLE
NO PETS ALLOWED

SANTA MONICA

1047 19th St., \$1100

Lower single, fridge & stove, Updated – new fixtures, new Pergo floors

943 6th St. \$1350

Lower 1 bed, new carpet, Fridge & stove, fresh paint

918 11th St. \$1795

Upper 2 bed, 1 3/4 baths, high Ceilings, balcony, parking

VENICE/WLA/PALMS

1721 Westgate, WLA, \$1450
Lower 2 bed, 2 bath, remodeled: New carpet, linoleum, stove & blinds

21 S. Venice Blvd, \$1475 & \$1550
Lower & upper 1 bed, steps to beach, gas stove, parking

11856 Rochester, WLA, \$1595
Upper 2 bed, 2 bath, new Granite counters, new berber carpet

3632 Greenfield, Palms, \$1450
Lower 2 bed, hardwood floors, New kitchen & bath linoleum

1518 Centinela, WLA, \$2200
Townhouse style, 2 bed, 2 1/2 bath, Pergo floors, washer & dryer, dishwasher

FOR MORE LISTINGS GO TO
WWW.ROQUE-MARK.COM

Your ad could run here!

☎ Call us today at (310) 458-7737

HOWARD MANAGEMENT GROUP
(310) 869-7901

1214 Idaho Unit 1
2+1 w/ patio \$2095
1214 Idaho Unit 7
2+1.5 townhouse \$2325
1835 7th 1+1 \$1295

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE
FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AT:
www.howardmanagement.com

MAR VISTA 11924 Courtleigh Dr #5.
1+1 \$925/mo. Stove, fridge, carpet, laundry, blinds, utilities included, parking, no pets. (310) 737-7933 jkwproperties.com

Your ad could run here!

☎ Call us today at (310) 458-7737

ONE LARGE bedroom 12x15, den 12x6, full bath, hardwood floors, independent entry. \$900. (310) 828-6931

LacarGUY is seeking
AUTO SALES REPRESENTATIVES
for our Santa Monica Locations

Potential to earn \$70,000+ a year.
401K and health benefits, paid vacations.
Must have own transportation.

Fax resumes to
310-453-6089

Or e-mail to
jobs@LacarGUY.com



LacarGUY



CLASSIFIEDS

For Rent

PALMS/BEVERLYWOOD ADJ. \$995.00. 1bdrm/1bath. 2009 Pruess Rd., #4 Open for viewing: 9am-6pm

ROOM IN a house with a shared bathroom @ 52 Dudley Ave. All utilities included. Lots of charm. Has private balcony. 1 block from beach. 1 year lease, No pets. No smoking. \$745 (310) 396-4443 x2002 ellynesis.com

SANTA MONICA \$1,100.00/mo. 1bdrm/1bath. CHARMING Hardwood Floors, Upper, refrigerator, laundry, close to SMC. (310) 395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA \$1213.25/mo 1bdrm/1ba cottage new carpet/ linoleum, courtyard, laundry, refrigerator, mini blinds (310) 395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA \$1295/mo 1bdrm/1ba duplex with garden patio, hardwood floors, close to beach! (310) 395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

YOUR AD

COULD RUN HERE!

CALL US TODAY AT

(310) 458-7737

SANTA MONICA \$1325/mo 2bedrooms/1bath bright apartment. No pets, Carpet Floors, Upper Corner, Parking. (310) 395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA \$1500/mo 2bedrooms/1bath, New Carpets, laundry, stove, washer/dryer hookups, new vinyl flooring. (310) 395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA \$1500/mo 2bedrooms/1bath, carpet/tile , freestanding, parking, quiet neighborhood, courtyard, ceiling fans, (3 1 0) 3 9 5 - R E N T www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA \$1695/mo 2bedrooms/1.75Bath, Cat ok, Hardwood/ Carpet Floors, Lower Corner, Parking, laundry. (310) 395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

Advertise!

Call us at (310) 458-7737

SANTA MONICA \$2300/mo 3bedrooms/1.5Bath, upper, garage parking, laundry, refrigerator, crown molding, private deck. (310) 395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

Santa Monica \$750/mo. Bachelor/1Bath, pet ok, hardwood floors, laundry, refrigerator, yard, microwave. (310) 395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

Your ad could run here!

Call us today at (310) 458-7737

SANTA MONICA 1244 11th St., #H. 2+1.5 large lower. Stove, carpets, blinds, laundry, parking, no pets. \$1575, \$300 off move-in. (310) 393-6322 jkwproperties.com

For Rent

Santa Monica \$850/mo Studio/1Bath, new carpets, quiet neighborhood, refrigerator, parking, small full kitchen (3 1 0) 3 9 5 - R E N T www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA 1+1, 1833 16th St, Unit 8. \$875/mo \$300 off move-in. Stove, fridge, carpet, blinds, no pets. (310) 578-7512 jkwproperties.com

YOUR AD

COULD RUN HERE!

CALL US TODAY AT

(310) 458-7737

SENIORS- AFFORDABLE HOUSING Live in a BEAUTIFUL apt/ suite in Beverly/ Fairfax or Santa Monica: **\$400-\$560/month** (323) 650-7988

STORAGE SPACE located just off North Venice Blvd. Highly desirable location. \$150 (310) 396-4443 x2002 ellynesis.com

STORAGE SPACE located just off North Venice Blvd. Highly desirable location. \$250 (310) 396-4443 x2002 ellynesis.com

SUNNY LARGE 2bdrm, 1bath w/2 balconies and unbelievable ocean views! 1/2 block to beach with 1 car garage parking. 1 year lease, no pets. No smoking. \$2250 (310) 396-4443 x2002 ellynesis.com

Sunny studio. 1 block from the beach. Hardwood floors and full kitchens. Clean, controlled access building. 1 year lease, no pets, no smoking. \$975. (310) 396-4443 x 2002 ellynesis.com

YOUR AD

COULD RUN HERE!

CALL US TODAY AT

(310) 458-7737

VERY LARGE 2bdrm/2bath in Venice. Lots of closets, laundry on premises. Small friendly building. Off street parking. \$1850/mo (310) 399-1476, (310) 476-2724

WESTCHESTER 6707 W 86th Pl. Unit E. 2bdrm/1bath. stove. microwave, dishwasher, carpet, blinds, laundry, gated parking, no pets. \$1375. (310) 578-7512 jkwproperties.com

Your ad could run here!

Call us today at (310) 458-7737

WLA: 2BDRM/1BATH. \$1600/mo. Great location, new carpet, tile, clean, quiet, parking, patio. Brenda (310) 991-2694.

Condos for Sale

2BDRM/1BATH CONDO in SM. Newly remodeled kitchen and bathroom. Hardwood floors. \$485k. (310) 644-9100.

Commercial Lease

DOWNTOWN SANTA MONICA Private Office Approx. 280 sq/ft, Windows/

Commercial Lease

A/C, 310-394-3645

AVAILABLE MONTH to Month until 5/31/06. Great office space located 1 block from beach and 1/2 block from Windward Avenue. All utilities included. Approx 365 sq.ft. 1 room with common area bathroom, concrete floors, exposed beamed ceilings. (310) 396-4443 x2002, ellynesis.com

1610 BROADWAY

1,000-5,000 SQ FT

Ground Floor

Creative Space

20 FT+ Ceilings

Available Now

Sid Friedman

310-526-0310

1617 BROADWAY

Individual Private

Offices with Windows

New building.

All services included.

Reception telephone answering.

High speed T-1 Internet.

Full use of conference rooms,

copier, printer, faxes...etc.

Parking. Flexible lease terms.

310-526-0310

NAI

CAPITAL COMMERCIAL

Christina S. Porter

Vice President

1,164 sf of creative office. Newly remodeled. Turn Key.

Roll up door. Phone system, furniture included. \$3.00/pkg

(310) 806-6104 cporter@naicapital.com

310-440-8500 x.104

PRIME INGLEWOOD

7,000 SQ. FT.

RETAIL/WAREHOUSE

\$1.00 PER SQ. FT.

307 CENTINELA

HIGH CEILING

CLOSE TO LAX

(310) 995-5136

MAR VISTA, 12240 Venice Blvd. Modern security building, 5 small offices. 120- 962 sq ft. from \$325- \$1635. (310) 390-7487

Commercial Lease

INCREDIBLE CAMPUS Entire Property inc. office, garden and parking areas! Historical 1919 Craftsman house which was torn down in 2005 and rebuilt from the foundation up. Everything is first class and authentic. The space has wood ceilings, brand new antique style moldings, windows, electrical, plumbing, ethernet, communication, DVR with cameras, gated parking, storage basement, central AC & Heat, incredible gardens, 60+' of Lincoln frontage, lots of street parking on San Miguel. 853 Lincoln Bl. \$6,500 NNN (310) 396-4443 x2006.

SANTA MONICA 1452 2nd Street. Very charming building, small offices. Between \$700/mo & \$1200/mo. Includes utilities & cleaning. (310) 614-6462

SANTA MONICA. Medical Building 2500 square feet, fourth floor, patio, dual elevators, 3 levels of underground secure parking. Will construct two specs upon acceptable lease. 9th and Wilshire. (310) 923-8521 or (310) 260-2619

SM OFFICE- Main St. 1581sqft-15268sqft. Creative space \$3.15-\$3.50 FSG. Parking available. Agent (310) 428-4086

SMALL OFFICE suites available for lease in WLA. 400-575 sqft, \$1.95 per sqft. Call (310) 826-5505.

Real Estate

AVOID

COSTLY

BUYER TRAPS

BEFORE

BUYING A

HOME

Free Report reveals how

to avoid them.

Free recorded message.

1-888-465-4534

www.matillarealty.com

FIXER UPPERS

Bargains

Call for a free list

Free recorded message.

1-800-969-8257 ID #4648

NO MONEY DOWN

Free computerized list of

properties available with no

down payment.

Free recorded message.

1-800-969-8257 ID #4643

YOUR AD

COULD RUN HERE!

CALL US TODAY AT

(310) 458-7737

Real Estate

PAC WEST MORTGAGE

2212 Lincoln Blvd in Santa Monica

1-888-FOR-LOAN

310 392-9223

VERY AGGRESSIVE

RATES

TIME FOR A 30

YEAR FIXED?

RATES AS LOW AS 6%	
30 YEAR FIXED	6.75%
10 YEAR/1 ARM	5.75%
7 YEAR/1 ARM	5.625%
5 YEAR/1 ARM	5.5%**
3 YEAR/1 ARM	5.5%**
1 YEAR/1 ARM	5.375%
6 MO./6 MO. ARM	3.375%
1 MO./1 MO. ARM	1.0%**

NEW CONFORMING

LOAN AMOUNTS

1 Unit \$417,000

2 Units \$533,850

3 Units \$645,300

3 Units \$645,300

4 Units \$801,950

ROB SCHULTZ

BROKER

LICENSED CALIFORNIA

BROKER #01218743

Massage

5'2" HOURGLASS Figure offers full -body sensual massage. Very private, very discreet. Incall/ Outcall special rate, Rachel (310) 339-6709

BLISSFUL RELAXATION! Heal your body, mind, spirit. Therapeutic, Swedish, Deep-tissue. Energy balancing. Strictly non-sexual. Introductory specials from \$50.00/1hr. Lynda, L.M.T. (310) 749-0621

EXQUISITE, INTUITIVE, strong and tender relaxing body work by mature European. Very Professional, Sonja (310) 397-0433.

HEALING MASSAGE by attractive, sensitive, young European female. (310) 806-0377 Laura

Advertise!

Call us at (310) 458-7737

THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE

Perform and Excel in your

Favourite Physical Activity

without pain & with ease

310-930-5884

www.nydoo.com

Your ad could run here!

Call us today at (310) 458-7737

LEARN TO SURF LA

Surf Lessons

Private and Group

Equipment provided

CPR certified

310-920-1265

Camp@learntosurfla.com

YOUR AD

COULD RUN HERE!

CALL US

TODAY AT

(310) 458-7737

Business Opps

WORK FROM home online! Start your own internet business free. Make money 24/7 with our full automated system. www.automaticbuilder.com/29706.

Personals

Talk to a Model 24hrs.

310-786-8400

818-264-1906

213-259-1902

949-722-2222

\$10-17 for 15 min.

ATM/CC/Checks by phone

www.USLove.com

Walking to the nearest newsstand increases circulation.

Santa Monica Daily Press

CLASSIFIEDS

PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS IN THE SANTA MONICA

SERVICE DIRECTORY

8 7 7 - WE - GET - EM

WE CAN FIND AND SERVE ANYBODY, ANYWHERE, ANYTIME.
Restraining orders & judgement collections our specialty.
lawhotline@aol.com

Services

PAINTING

Top quality A&A
Custom, Interior
and Exterior

Free quote,
call Jeff Arrieta
(310) 560-9864



Cleaning

Quality Cleaning

Thorough Cleaning
Houses & Offices
Competitive Rates
Dependable Personalized Service
Great References



**HOUSECLEANING SPECIAL
STARTING AT \$99**

Aury Bonilla (323) 605-7197

Entertainment

PRO VIOLINIST

Classy, elegant
entertainment creates
a memorable wedding,
party or event.

Award-winner, soloist
at prestigious music fests.



Classical,
pop, etc.

Call Sandra
(310) 433-9355

Services

Fitness

GET IN SHAPE
LOSE WEIGHT
FEEL GREAT
PROFESSIONAL PRIVATE
TRAINING FOR ANYONE

Upscale Private Gym in W/LA
Weight Training/Cardio
Boxing/Stretching and more!
Call Tibor (310) 477-0051
30 Years Experience

Your ad could run here!

Call us today at (310) 458-7737

Gen. Contracting

A/C CONSTRUCTION

General Construction
Commercial & Residential
Remodel & Add ons
Honest • Reliable
FREE ESTIMATES
— Sabbath Observed —



310.278.5380

Fax 310.271.4790

Lic# 804884 Fully Insured



4 SEASONS
ROOFING • REPAIRS
"LOWEST RESIDENTIAL
RATES IN SO. CALIF."

310-317-9595 ofc.

310-779-5265 cell

Your ad could run here!

Call us today at (310) 458-7737

Services

**The Level Goes On
Before The Spike Goes In**

Romero Rain Gutters
Seamless Aluminum Gutters
Custom Made Color Match
Your Home or Building

(310) 408-5900 or (310) 534-3075

Repairs • Cleaning
Copper Galvanized
Free Estimate

Ask for Jose Romero
Lic. #834699

Handyman

Evans Properties
HANDYMAN SERVICES

Expert plumbing
and instalations, all
household repairs.

Peter (310) 902-0807

**Handyman Services
To Fit Every Budget**



Carpentry • Plumbing • Electrical
Drywall • Painting • Kitchen & Bath
Decks • Flooring • Windows
and much more!

toll free 1.877.33.FIXIT
(1.877.333.4948)

302 West Grand Avenue, Suite 8, El Segundo, CA 90245
310.322.6975 (voice) 310.356.6990 (fax)
www.HandymanOnDemand.com



Licensed, Bonded, Insured, Guaranteed.
Lic 281148



Building Trust. Improving Life.

Advertise! Call us at (310) 458-7737

Services

WESTSIDE GUYS
Full Service Handymen

CARPENTRY, ELEC., PAINT, ETC...
TERMITE AND DRY ROT REPAIR
ROOF REPAIR AND WATER DAMAGE

BOB 35/HR (310) 266-6348
CALEB 25/HR (310) 409-3244

Insurance

**SELF EMPLOYED?
NEED INSURANCE?**

• GREAT RATES
• A+ RATED COVERAGE

DOUGLAS FURUKAWA
(619) 977-8559



**YOUR AD
COULD RUN HERE!
CALL US
TODAY AT**
(310) 458-7737

Moving & Storage



BEST MOVERS
No job too small

2 MEN, \$59 PER HOUR
Fully insured. We make it EZ.
Free prep. & boxes. Discount for
handicap & seniors!
Since 1975 Lic. T-163844
(323) 997-1193 (310) 300-9194

Painting & Tiling

**METICULOUS PAINTING
& DRYWALL**

Interior & Exterior • FREE Estimates
References Available.
10 YEARS EXPERIENCE
Call Joe: 447-8957



Services

Your ad could run here!

Call us today at (310) 458-7737

Pet Services



**PROFESSIONAL
PET SITTING
AND WALKING**

310/577-6137

www.fetchpetcare.com

SANTAMONICA@FETCHPETCARE.COM

Advertise! Call us at (310) 458-7737

Pool and Spa

**POOL & SPA
SERVICE & REPAIRS**

-Weekly service
-Drain & Cleans
-Spa Covers
-Electric spa repair
310-306-6970
FREE ESTIMATES

Retail

**NEPALI &
TIBETAN GIFTS,
CLOTHING &
STATUES**



KATHMANDA BOUTIQUE
1844 Lincoln Blvd., SM
(310) 396-4036
www.kathmanduimports.net

Services

Transportation

Please call:

Taxi! Taxi!

24 hours a day

7 Days per Week in Santa Monica
All Mercedes Taxi Service!

10% off meter
with mention of Ad

828-2233

Computer Services

CERTIFIED MAC Tech.
Affordable Repair/ Support/
Consulting/ Tutoring. (310) 980-
9254,
macnjinjas@mac.com

CALL US FIRST

PC/Laptop
Sales &
Service



We set up
remote offices,
DSL, Internet
& Wireless.

Computer cleanup our specialty
- viruses & spyware
Home or office.

Call us LAST
Amicus Technology
(310) 670-4962

**Need a
COMPUTER
Nerd?**

www.LANerdSquad.com

Home or Business
15 Years in Service
Any Computer Problem



(800) 231-5164

Advertise! Call us at (310) 458-7737



There are many printers, but can they
turnaround 3 million movie posters in
42 hours? Imagine 70,000 sheets per hour
and 6,000 boxes drop shipped. We did it
for Star Wars, we can do it for you.
We get the job done.

Positive Existence Print & Media Experts
High quality • High volume • High-speed turnaround

Call us today - we'll get you out of any printing bind

310-314-3537 or visit us online at www.peprinting.com

PRINTING

- Posters
- Outdoor
- Banners
- Sales sheets
- Brochures
- Stationary
- P.O.P. displays
- Standaes
- Packaging
- Statement stuffers
- Menus
- Rack cards
- Booklets
- Annual reports
- Press kits
- Ad film
- Pocket folders
- Direct mail
- Counter cards
- Labels
- Postcards
- Magazines

FULFILLMENT

- Folding
- Stitching
- Stapling
- Die-cutting
- Lamination
- Collating
- Numbering

MEDIA SERVICES

- Outdoor
- 8-sheets
- 30-sheets
- Bulletins
- Bus shelters
- Bus kings
- Bus benches
- Bus wraps



PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

MITSUBISHI MOTORS

New owners!! New Location!! Please join us for our Grand Opening Saturday from Noon to 6:30pm

1100 Santa Monica Blvd, Santa Monica

BEST BACKED CARS IN THE WORLD™

10-year/100,000 mile Powertrain Limited Warranty[§]

5-year/60,000 mile Bumper-to-Bumper New Vehicle Limited Warranty[§]

5-year/Unlimited mile Roadside Assistance[§]



2006 Galant GTS



2006 Eclipse



2006 Outlander



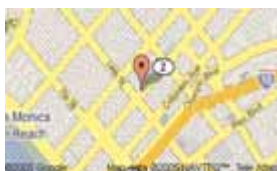
Driven to Thrill

1-888-MITSU2005

mitsubishicars.com

Grand Opening Saturday 12/17/05

Mitsubish Santa Monica
1100 Santa Monica Blvd.
Santa Monica, California
(866) 925-3333



Best Backed claim based on current OEM-published information for new Model Year 2005 U.S.-sold vehicles. §See participating Mitsubishi Motors Retailer for Limited Warranty and roadside assistance terms, conditions and restrictions. For details of the "Best Backed Vehicles" and other information, see your participating retailer or visit www.mitsubishicars.com.

For Britney, hits keep coming

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Britney Spears didn't release an album of new material this year, but the new mom is still No. 1 on Yahoo's annual list of the most-searched for terms on the Internet.

Spears, who has topped the list for three of the last four years, lost out to "American Idol" in 2004.

Although the 24-year-old pop star released an album of remixes, "B in the Mix, The Remixes," in November, it was the birth of her son, Sean Preston Federline, on Sept. 14 that brought her the most attention, Yahoo said Thursday.

Following Spears were, in order, 50 Cent, the Cartoon Network, Mariah Carey, Green Day, Jessica Simpson, Paris Hilton, Eminem, Ciara and Lindsay Lohan.

The list of overall top searches, all of which were entertainment related, "shows us that people are fixated on the activities of pop culture icons," Yahoo "Buzz Index guru" Erik Gunther said in a statement.

Yahoo Inc. has claimed that its search index spans more than 20 billion Web documents and images, though that figure is virtually impossible to verify because there is no official auditing system.

Of the top news searches, "tsunami" led all other stories, followed by "Iraq" and "Michael Jackson trial."

NEW YORK — Master P will fill the dancing shoes of his teen rapper son, Romeo, who has dropped out of ABC's reality competition "Dancing With the Stars" because of a basketball injury.

The hip-hop mogul, whose real name is Percy Robert Miller, is CEO of No Limit Records. In recent years, he has tried out for different NBA teams, including the Sacramento Kings and the Denver Nuggets.

He will be paired with professional dancer Ashly DelGrosso for the competition, the network announced Wednesday.

The second season of "Dancing With the Stars" premieres Jan. 5 (8 p.m. EST). Other contestants include Tatum O'Neal, Drew Lachey, Tia Carrere and NFL great Jerry Rice.

In the hit summer series, Kelly Monaco (ABC's "General Hospital") and her partner beat John O'Hurley ("Seinfeld") and his partner in the finals.

However, O'Hurley won the September dance-off rematch.

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Lawyers allowed juror Fantasia Barrino, the 2004 "American Idol" winner, to leave a case in mid-deliberations after learning the singer had to attend a benefit concert in New York.

Barrino, a High Point native who now owns a home in southeast Charlotte, was chosen Wednesday to serve on a Mecklenburg County Superior Court jury in a motor vehicle negligence case.

"People recognized her right away," said Charles Keller, a court system administrator. "Jurors started coming up to her taking pictures with their camera phones and getting autographs."

Testimony took less than a day, and Judge W. David Lee sent jurors out to deliberate late Wednesday, Keller said. But when it became apparent that deliberations would continue into Thursday, lawyers agreed that Barrino was free to go.

LUCERNE, Switzerland — Iggy Pop plays music too loud, according to officials in this Swiss city.

The 58-year-old punk rocker reached a decibel level of 102.5 while performing at July's Blue Balls Festival, criminal investigation authorities in Lucerne said Wednesday.

That exceeded the maximum volume allowed of 100 decibels, which had been raised as an exception for the concert from the normal limit of 93 decibels, authorities said in a statement.

A fine of \$1,155 was slapped on the producers of the music festival.