



NO GUILTY PLEASURE ROLES  
PEOPLE IN THE NEWS P29

WEEKEND EDITION



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# Santa Monica Daily Press

December 23-24, 2006

Since 2001: A news odyssey

Volume 6 Issue 35

**DAILY LOTTERY**

**MEGA MILLIONS**  
5 12 15 25 34  
Meganumber: 43  
Jackpot: \$50M

**Super LOTTO PLUS**  
6 12 21 26 36  
Meganumber: 10  
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**Fantasy 5** 1 7 23 29 35

**DAILY 3** MIDDAY: 6 5 5  
EVENING: 8 4 2

1st: 07 Eureka !  
2nd: 05 California Classic  
3rd: 04 Big Ben  
RACE TIME: 1:40:31

**DAILY DERRY**

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 at <http://www.calottery.com>

**NEWS OF THE WEIRD**  
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ The Powys County Council in Wales warned the maker of Welsh Dragon sausages in November that it must label its product better, such as by marking it "pork sausages" (so as not to mislead about the type of meat it contained). And in October, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services sought to extend its abstinence education program (which currently gives grants to states for programs for teenagers), to start reaching unmarried people up to age 29.

■ The magazine Time Out New York reported in September on the "artistic palettes" of the Sprinkle Brigade of artists who dress up dog droppings on New York City streets with glittering candy bits and colorful toothpicks, for "urban beautification."

■ British performance artist Ian Thorley, working on grants from several local councils, did a week's stint on an Ashington street in October, stepping onto and off of a doormat while wearing a badge identifying him as a government doormat tester.

## WORD UP!

**fliibertigibbet** \FLIB-ur-tee-jib-it/, *noun*: A silly, flighty, or scatterbrained person, especially a pert young woman with such qualities.

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Fabian Lewkowicz [fabianl@smdp.com](mailto:fabianl@smdp.com)  
**TOTEM APPEARANCE:** A resident-inspired cultural development plan will soon be in front of City Council.

## There's no place like your home

BY MELODY HANATANI

Daily Press Staff Writer

**CITYWIDE** — With the feel of a small town, where it seems everybody knows your name and everybody knows if you're out of town, Santa Monica can be a pretty safe place to leave your home alone, according to the Santa Monica Police Department.

With pricey presents sitting under the tree and people leaving their homes alone for the holidays, the months of November and December can also be the most wonderful time of the year for burglars to cash in.

But that's not necessarily the case in Santa Monica.

Regardless, police officers say residents should be vigilant this time of year if they're leaving town and take extra precautionary steps to ensure the safety of their homes to prevent a real life version of the movie "Home Alone."

See HOME ALONE, page 16

## Clinging to culture

### Plans are afoot to keep arts thriving

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press Staff Writer

**CITYWIDE** — With the highest concentration of creative employment in the United States, and quite possibly the world, Santa Monica continues to be both destination and haven for artists, as it has for more than 100 years.

But that may be in jeopardy as the cost of living here continues to rise, pushing artists, musicians and other

creative minds out in search of more reasonable rents.

To combat this possible exodus of talent, residents have suggested developing policies and laws that encourage, and even mandate, the creation of affordable artist live/work and day studio spaces in new residential and industrial developments, as well as enhancing current arts uses at the Santa Monica Pier, Bergamot Station, the Santa Monica Airport and the 18th Street

Arts Complex — the largest housing complex for artists in the city.

"Being in La-La land, home of the movie and music industry, we've got a tremendous number of creative people and (those industries) are great revenue producers, making it so many people can afford to live in Santa Monica," said Elena Allen, a member of the Arts Commission for the past eight years. "We have a great combination of people who love and support the arts, but the other side of that is we have to make sure we maintain a balance

See ARTS, page 18



## A mighty wind

Nicole Gutierrez, 7, and her mom, Ebony, bundle up to face the cold weather down by the Santa Monica Pier. Winds were gusting in excess of 30 mph on Friday.

Fabian Lewkowicz [fabianl@smdp.com](mailto:fabianl@smdp.com)

## LOCAL

### Honk if your orneriness: Traffic takes its toll

BY MAYA MEINERT

Special to the Daily Press

**DOWNTOWN** — With only two shopping days left before the big day, many people are heading to downtown-area retail stores to get those last-minute gifts, and they're paying a price — not necessarily from their wallets, but in their cars.

Traffic gets worse around the holidays, especially since many people procrastinate in regards to buying gifts. A survey released last Monday by the National Retail Federation showed that about 15 percent — or more than 33 million shoppers — had

See TRAFFIC, page 21



Fabian Lewkowicz [fabianl@smdp.com](mailto:fabianl@smdp.com)  
**BUMPER CROP:** Lunch-hour traffic creeps along Ocean Avenue on Thursday.

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Eddie Guerboian

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## Calendar

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WEEKEND EDITION, DECEMBER 23-24, 2006

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

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## WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



### Caroling at Hotel Casa del Mar

1910 Ocean Way, 6 p.m. — 7 p.m.

Locals are invited to listen to the Harmonies Girl's Choir. There is  
no fee, but regular valet parking rates will apply.

### Santa Monica Rotary

1250 Capri Drive, Pacific Palisades, noon — 1:30 p.m.

Guests are welcome for lunch. For more information, contact  
June M. Doy at (310) 922-6274 or (310) 917-3313.

### Fitness Class (Mambo Mania)

1711 Stewart St., 7 a.m. — 8 a.m.

For more information, call (310) 515-4840.

### Enchanted Lunchtime Theatre

1211 Fourth St., 11:30 a.m. — 1 p.m.

### Brentwood Country Mart's Holiday Events

225 26th St., noon — 2 p.m.

### Taijiquan

Santa Monica, 7:30 a.m. — 9:15 a.m.

### Self-Healing Class with Dr. Kaneko

2309 Main St., 5:30 p.m. — 6:45 p.m.

### Santa Monica Fitness Group for Women

Santa Monica, 6:30 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.

### Saturday, Dec. 23, 2006

### Holiday Storyteller at Hotel Casa del Mar

1910 Ocean Way, 4 p.m.

Storyteller Michael D. McCarty will perform holiday stories that  
are non-denominational and multicultural. The event is free, but  
space confirmation is required.

### Mar Vista Farmers' Market

Grandview Boulevard at Venice Boulevard,  
9 a.m. — 1 p.m.

For more information on any of the events listed, log on to smdp.com and click the "Events" tab for the given day's calendar.



# Where horsing around is just fine with locals

BY NOAKI SCHWARTZ

Associated Press Writer

**NORCO** — Tucked in a region of galloping suburban growth is a town where the sidewalks are horse trails and there's a ride-through McDonald's.

Locals hunker down at the Saddle Sore Saloon. New commercial development must be western themed. The application is in to trademark the name locals already consider official: Horsetown USA.

Yet despite its trappings and swagger, Norco is struggling to make sure its new slogan — "city living in a rural atmosphere" — doesn't become a hollow promise. A new strategic plan discusses how to guard — and capitalize — on the city's equine identity.

The town is under tremendous pressure to develop along with the one of the nation's fastest growing areas, the Inland Empire east of Los Angeles. Mansions have been sprouting on nearby hills and the average new home price hovers around \$850,000, according to city calculations. A denser population forces the issue of what to do with all that manure.

Residents have seen new homes and office parks supplant ranches and miles of trails winding through fields and orchards elsewhere in Southern California.

"People who didn't own horses moved in and bit by bit there was pressure and horse owners were pushed out," said Debbie Smith, who manages an online community of horse owners and their businesses. "There are people who want to live in the country but they don't want the reality of the country — they want to look at horses grazing on the hillside but don't want to smell them."

And the people keep coming. Census numbers show that Riverside County was the nation's second-fastest growing county in 2005. More than 1.9 million residents live there now, and 2.7 million are projected by 2020. In 1980, the county claimed only 663,000 residents.

"Norco is completely surrounded by a lot of development," said City Manager Jeff Allred, "and that's what's fueling the desire to trademark the city and to ensure that people know that this is a different place."

Norco, less than 50 miles east of LA's skyscrapers, is certainly that.

See GALLOP POLL, page 6



## None of the bells and whistles

Students from Santa Monica High School leave campus on Friday, the final day of classes until after the New Year. Santa Monica schools will resume classes districtwide on Monday, Jan. 8.

Fabian Lewkowicz [fabianl@smdp.com](mailto:fabianl@smdp.com)

# Cart before the course

## Promenade cookies, hot dogs in making

By Daily Press Staff

**THIRD STREET PROMENADE** — While it will most likely be months before visitors here can snack on chocolate chip cookies, hot dogs and shaved ice, a food-cart program proposed by retail-cart operator Provenzano Resources Inc., moved closer to becoming a reality earlier this month when a commissary passed inspection by the Los Angeles County Health Department.

Now, those interested in operating a food cart must submit designs to county

healthy officials for approval. Once that is done and the designs approved, merchants can then build their carts and have them reviewed and approved, said Theresa Johnson, a county health inspector who has been working with Provenzano officials for roughly 10 months on the program.

"The commissary has passed inspection and is very clean," Johnson said. "We hold it to the same standards we would a restaurant and we inspect it as such."

Provenzano is currently looking for vendors interested in working on the promenade, said Deborah Kravitz, a president and principal for the Los Angeles- and San Diego-based management company.

"We have quite a few applications, so I don't think getting the remaining merchants will be difficult at all," Kravitz said.

An entrepreneur who sells gourmet cookies has already signed on, as has a young couple interested in selling churros, according to Kravitz.

"We stopped leasing carts because we didn't feel comfortable until we passed inspection," Kravitz said. "Now we feel much more comfortable, but until I have the commissary certificate in hand, we are not going to get too excited. It's been a very long process."

"We certainly thought we would be much farther along than we are now."

Vendors are limited as to what types of food they can sell. County health officials prohibit cooking any raw foods on the carts.

[news@smdp.com](mailto:news@smdp.com)

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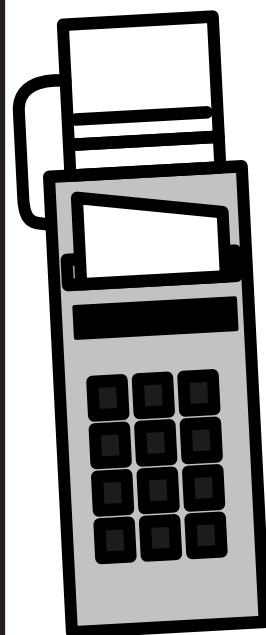
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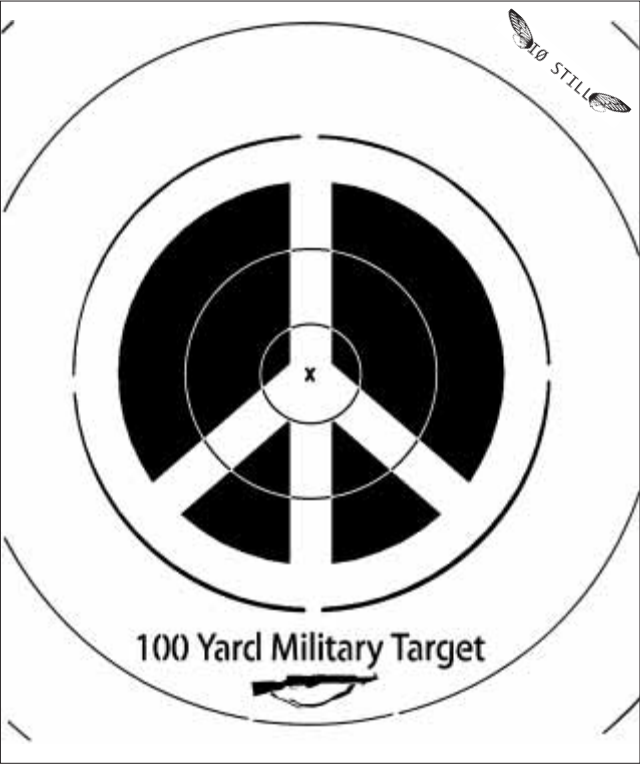


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The Q Line

LAW & ORDER OF PRIORITIES

This past week, Q-line asked:

What should Chief Jackman's priorities be in addressing crime in the City of Santa Monica. Where is more focus needed?  
Here are your responses:

“Unfortunately, Chief Jackman and the SMPD will continue to have their hands full because of crime-contributing factors outside of their control — an increasing local transients (population) from across LA County, if not the United States, many of whom are sex offenders, parolees, multiple offenders and the mentally unstable, whom are drawn to Santa Monica for City Hall’s liberal views enabling anyone who has an outstretched hand. Non-resident homeless troublemakers also spill into our school system as well. Whether it be by district permit or otherwise. I will be satisfied, if not, pleasantly surprised if Jackman and the SMPD can keep the crime rate where it is. Good luck.”

“Chief Jackman has inherited an escalating mess in Santa Monica. The bum-transient criminal population is way out of control ,and all thanks to the creeps in our city administration. And it is not politically correct anymore to try to undo their determined efforts to turn Santa Monica into a slum. We need the bum population off our streets and gangs, drugs and crime under control.”

“They should concentrate on two main things — the gangs and the graffiti taggers, and start throwing them in jail with the drunken bums and vagrants. Lock them up. If they have to shut down liquor stores, do it.”

“It’s funny that the two most important things in the chief’s resume is that the council most cares about was bums and gang violence. The chief is going to need a large amount of Chapstick around this politically correct council. There is crime, or the potential for crime, on every street in this town. The amount of bums is the result of misguided council policy and gang violence is the result, again, of the weak knees on the council, and the Pico Neighborhood not taking responsibility for its own problems — pregnancy and ignorance. Exporting gang activity through low income housing multiplies the chief’s problem to every area of Santa Monica. Good luck.”

“The LA Times’ interview of Chief Jackman said — in regards to our voters’ overwhelming wishes to have pot as the lowest police priority — Jackman replied that, ‘My officers have a lot more important things to spend their time on, like tracking down murderers and rapists.’ Go get ‘em, Jackman, and let us all have a very merry pot Christmas.”

“We need traffic cops. We need them to enforce the traffic laws. We have 10 million stop signs in the city, it seems, and nobody uses them.”

Online shopping:  
The new humbug?



MODERN  
TIMES  
BY LLOYD GARVER

You probably know at least a couple of people who impress you — or more likely, annoy you — when they smugly announce in November each year that they have finished their holiday shopping. These days, there is a sub-group of these early bird shoppers: those who finish all their shopping weeks — or months — ahead of time and do it all online.

I read about a woman who boasted that she did all her Christmas shopping on the day after Thanksgiving without ever leaving her home. To me, this is a dubious accomplishment. Why is it necessarily a good thing to spend the holiday shopping season without ever leaving your home? Is the current holiday slogan “’Tis the season to avoid other people?”

Online holiday shopping can be a great convenience. If you definitely know what you want for that person who lives far away, and you want it wrapped and delivered, the Internet is wonderful. And for people who aren’t able to leave their homes, e-shopping is a blessing.

I’m just suggesting that for those who are capable of getting out there, they’re missing out on something if they do all of their shopping from their computers. Don’t you want to feel how soft that Teddy Bear is, or browse through that art book you’re considering? Doesn’t it make sense to actually smell that perfume you’re buying instead of just clicking on a picture of it?

I know what some people consider the big negatives of holiday shopping, especially last-minute shopping: It’s hard to find a place to park. Stores are crowded, and they may no longer have that thing in stock that you’ve been buying “in your head” for months.

But these things aren’t necessarily negatives. What a great sense of accomplishment I get after people tell me that I’ll never find a place to park two days before Christmas when a big parking space opens up just as I pull in front of the store. And as for those stressed-out shopping crowds, try thinking of them as a community with a “we’re all in this together” attitude. Complaining to each other about shopping is certainly within the concept of holiday sharing. And if the store is out of

what you had planned on buying, isn’t it a great feeling when you discover something else that’s even better?

OK, maybe you think I’m being ridiculously naïve. You’re not the kind of person who could ever see other shoppers as a “community;” rather, you feel they are the hated enemy that’s keeping y

ou from buying what you want, getting out of the store and getting home to put your feet up. I still think it’s important that you at least experience holiday shopping in person. Even if it’s just for a little bit. Even if it puts you in a bad mood. Honk at that car that stole your parking space. Yell at that person who cut in front of you in line. Angrily insist on seeing the manager if a salesperson has been rude to you. But interact with real people at this time of year! I kind of think that’s what we’re supposed to do during this season.

When I was a kid, my parents would take us downtown to see all the decorations. We would watch those magical displays in the windows until we got cold enough to need hot chocolate. It was a nice tradition. Today, public decorations are even more inclusive, since more and more often, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa are represented. To hear some of the rigid Christmas-only-ites tell it, so many holidays and groups are represented, that they are making it hard to see the downtown Christmas trees. So, you’d think that this tradition would be flourishing.

But I’m afraid it will die out. That’s why I think people should put up with the inconvenience of old-fashioned shopping, even if it’s just for one outing. If not, traditions like taking kids to see decorations, or listening to carolers, or running into people while shopping whom you haven’t seen for years will be as outdated as, well, as a black-and-white computer monitor.

I can imagine in the not-too-distant future a family having a “tradition” like this: Everybody will be in their holiday pajamas when the parents call out: “Come on kids, gather around. It’s that magical time of year again. Let’s do what we always do, and look at that Web site that has the animated Santa, juggling a screwdriver set.”

Lloyd Garver has written for many television shows, ranging from “Sesame Street” to “Frasier.” He writes the “Modern Times” column for CBSnews.com's Opinion page and can be reached at [smdp@lloydgarvermoderntimes.com](mailto:smdp@lloydgarvermoderntimes.com).

MUSM: miss you so much  
BF: boyfriend  
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POS: parent over shoulder  
WTGP: want to go private?  
LMIRL: let’s meet in real life  
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Santa Monica Daily Press  
A newspaper with issues

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Santa Monica, CA 90401  
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)  
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Visit us online at [smdp.com](http://smdp.com)



The Santa Monica Daily Press is published six days a week, Monday through Saturday.  
  
19,000 daily circulation, 46,450 daily readership. Circulation is audited and verified by Circulation Verification Council, 2006. Serving the City of Santa Monica, and the communities of Venice Beach, Brentwood, West LA.  
  
Members of CNPA, AFCP, CVC, Associated Press, IFPA, Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce.  
  
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## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Schwarzenegger taps Santa Monica to combat trafficking

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has appointed Kenneth Chuang, M.D., 39, of Santa Monica, to the California Alliance to Combat Trafficking and Slavery Task Force.

In 2004, Chuang founded the Venice Family Clinic Program for Trafficking Victims and currently serves as program coordinator. Chuang also has served as the geriatric program medical director and an attending psychiatrist at the Edelman Mental Health Center since 2000. In addition, he is an assistant clinical professor of psychiatry at the University of California, Los Angeles, School of Medicine. Chuang serves as a diplomat for the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology and director of the Refugee Trauma Clinic Rotation at the UCLA, School of Medicine.

This position does not require Senate confirmation and there is no salary.

DAILY PRESS

### Red Cross Santa Monica winter drive set

The American Red Cross will hold a special Santa Monica Winter Community Blood Drive on Thursday, Dec. 28, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Blood donations will be taken at the Santa Monica Red Cross chapter at 1450 11th St.

The American Red Cross Blood Services, Southern California Region provides approximately 1,200 units of blood to more than 150 area hospitals each day. There is a real need for blood, especially during the holidays when supplies are low.

Persons in good health over the age of 17 and who weigh more than 110 pounds can donate blood. Bring your I.D. A photo identification is required for blood donations. The American Red Cross asks potential donors to be sure to drink plenty of water and eat normally before donating blood.

The American Red Cross advises making an appointment to donate blood. You can sign up on-line at [www.givelife.org](http://www.givelife.org), sponsor code: SantaMonicaChapter. Or call 1-800-GIVELIFE.

DP

### The moon takes center stage

With NASA's announced plans for a return to the moon – and the establishment of a lunar base in the coming two decades – Santa Monica College's John Drescher Planetarium is turning an eye to mankind's past and future lunar exploration missions.

In January, the planetarium's feature show will be "Returning to the Moon: Part I," which will take a look at the first era of lunar exploration, including robotic missions, Apollo landings and the learning experiences they provided.

• "Returning to the Moon: Part I" is scheduled for Jan. 5, 12 and 19.

A special program, "Eyeballs on the Moon!," which will focus on what can be learned about our lunar neighbor from a backyard telescope, will be offered on the last Friday of January and February. If weather permits, telescope lunar viewing will be offered.

• "Eyeballs on the Moon!" is scheduled for Jan. 26 and Feb. 23.

The feature show and special program are at 8 p.m. Each is preceded by "The Night Sky Show" – which re-creates the night sky and provides the latest information on space exploration – at 7 p.m.

The astronomy shows are held in the John Drescher Planetarium, which features the state-of-the-art Digistar projection system. It is located on the second floor of Drescher Hall, 1900 Pico Blvd.

Tickets are \$5 each or \$9 for the "double bill," with discounts for children and senior citizens. For information, call (310) 434-4223 or (310) 434-3000.

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## Happy Holidays



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# In a state of disarray

## Governor to tackle broken prison system

BY DON THOMPSON

Associated Press Writer

**SACRAMENTO** — Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said Thursday he will seek a review of California's prison sentencing guidelines, a politically risky undertaking that is part of a wide-ranging plan to address the state's burgeoning prison crisis.

The governor also is proposing an \$11 billion building program to add space for thousands of additional inmates and changes to the state parole system.

Schwarzenegger characterized the state's prisons as in crisis and "in deep need of reform."

"My administration inherited a system that was dangerously overcrowded, poorly managed and out of control," he said during a Capitol news conference to release his plan. "Now we are at the point where if we don't clean up the mess, the federal court is going to do the job for us. As governor, I cannot let that happen."

His proposals come as pressure is mounting on the administration to fix a system widely seen as dysfunctional and dangerous to both inmates and guards.

Federal courts have taken authority over many aspects of prison operations, from inmate health care to treatment of the mentally ill. Judges have threatened to

reach into the state treasury if lawmakers fail to fix the problems.

Last week, a federal judge gave the administration a June deadline to ease crowding that is aggravating violence, suicides and poor inmate health care. If it fails to meet it, the courts could order inmates to be released early or cap the prison population.

"Either we do it or the federal courts are going to step in and do it," said Sen. George Runner of Lancaster, the Senate's Republican Caucus chairman.

But he said many conservatives are concerned about Schwarzenegger's call to create a commission to review sentencing. Legislative Republicans generally favor longer sentences, not shorter ones, said Runner, who appeared with the governor at the news conference.

"We must not weaken California's sentencing laws, which will lead to the release of felons before they have paid their debt to society," Assembly Minority Leader Mike Villines, R-Clovis, said in a statement.

Schwarzenegger proposed a 17-member commission that would include four legislators, the attorney general, the corrections secretary, a judge and representatives of law enforcement and crime victims' groups. They would serve four-year terms.

Commissioners would spend their first year examining whether California's mandatory three-year parole period could be safely shortened for some ex-convicts.

Critics questioned whether the commission would be capable of proposing significant reform because it will not have author-

ity to make changes in the law and its membership tilts heavily toward police, prosecutors and victims' relatives.

California has ignored previous sentencing reform reports and doesn't need another study group, said Rose Braz, a spokeswoman for Californians United for a Responsible Budget. The coalition of 40 prison reform groups sees Schwarzenegger's plan as nothing more than another "building extravaganza" that does nothing to ease crowding immediately, Braz said.

Senate Majority Leader Gloria Romero, D-Los Angeles, said sentencing and parole reform should be part of any prison construction package. If some inmates are allowed to leave prison earlier, sentences for other crimes could get lengthier, she said.

"This is where the debate does get tough," Romero told reporters.

Another pillar of Schwarzenegger's reform effort is creating more space for state prison inmates and those being housed in county jails.

The prison system is designed for about 100,000 inmates but houses 174,000. Many convicts are being held longer at county jails, overwhelming that system, as well.

Schwarzenegger already has implemented an emergency plan to transfer nearly 2,300 inmates to private prisons in other states. He now wants to add 28,000 beds at state prisons and 50,000 at the county level.

His proposal includes \$4.4 billion for state prison construction and \$4.4 billion in borrowing to help counties build jails and juvenile facilities.

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GALLOP POLL, from page 3

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Even those who don't own horses are expected to support the lifestyle. City Council members recently discussed including a horse manure rake as part of the welcome wagon to new residents.

Berwin Hanna helped create the Norco Horseman's Association, the city's most powerful lobbying group. Here, a rumor that a local candidate isn't into horses can be enough to kill a campaign.

Hanna recalled one instance: "His platform was sidewalks and street signs," Hanna said in a deep Texas drawl. "He didn't get elected."

These days, animal-related matters need a supermajority vote in council chambers, where cowboy hats and boots are the norm. Local planners are including horse arenas in new neighborhood parks and now every home development must reserve some land for animal keeping — even if the residents don't have horses.

One potential threat is a byproduct of the lifestyle — manure. A 1,000-pound horse produces 50 pounds of manure a day. Meeting stringent state water quality regulations can be tough.

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STATE BRIEFS

SANTA ANA

Judge was a decided bully

A retired Superior Court judge was permanently barred from courtrooms after a state investigation concluded she had been “abusive and demeaning” toward defendants, attorneys, witnesses and a prospective juror.

In its judgment Thursday, the state Commission on Judicial Performance handed Susanne S. Shaw, who left the bench in September after 21 years, the maximum penalty for a retired judge.

The commission reviewed five criminal cases presided over by Shaw in 2003 and 2004 and found 42 instances of misconduct.

In one example from a December 2004 aggravated-assault trial, Shaw said the defense counsel was acting like “a bunch of babies” when one of them told her she had a doctor’s appointment in two days that couldn’t be rescheduled, according to the commission.

In another she ordered a juror who had returned late from lunch to her courtroom to be in court the following morning for a meeting with her, which the commission called an abuse of a judge’s authority.

Before Thursday’s action, Shaw has been rebuked three times by the commission and repeatedly admonished by the Court of Appeal for her courtroom conduct.

Shaw’s attorney, Edith R. Matthai, did not immediately return a phone call seeking comment Friday.

Retired judges are often called upon to hear cases or act as court arbitrators.

DAILY PRESS

VENTURA

Insurance agent had imaginary friends

An insurance agent pleaded guilty in Superior Court to submitting more than 50 fraudulent life insurance applications to Prudential Life Insurance Co., prosecutors said.

Andrew Sean Korotzer, a licensed agent and owner of Andrew Korotzer and Associates Ltd. in Moorpark, acknowledged this week that he collected commissions for writing the bogus policies, the district attorney’s office announced Thursday.

Prudential paid Korotzer, 40, more than \$45,000 for the bogus applications, which were submitted using the names of people who didn’t exist or clients who didn’t intend to pay for them.

If Korotzer pays restitution, he faces up to one year in jail and could be placed on probation for up to five years, prosecutors said. Otherwise, he could face up to three years and eight months in prison.

Sentencing is scheduled Feb. 21.

DP

LOS ANGELES

Computer expert to be monitored ... electronically

A 24-year-old computer security expert was sentenced to six months of home detention under electronic monitoring for hacking into University of Southern California’s application system and accessing personal information about prospective students.

U.S. District Judge Percy Anderson said during Thursday’s sentencing that he was accepting the terms of a plea bargain, which includes paying \$36,761 in restitution to USC, because defendant Eric McCarty’s agreement with the government was “reasonable.”

McCarty, of San Diego, pleaded guilty in September to a felony count of accessing a protected computer after federal investigators found information on seven different people on McCarty’s home computer.

McCarty’s lawyer Omar Figueroa insisted after the hearing that his client did not profit from the hacking, and said he did not have malicious intent. He said McCarty was trying to draw attention to a so-called security flaw in the USC database.

“The messenger is being punished,” Figueroa said.

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# Speaker wants children, poor to have coverage

BY LAURA KURTZMAN

Associated Press Writer

**SACRAMENTO** — Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez on Thursday outlined a health plan to cover all the state's children, make employers cover their employees and cover the rest of the more than 6 million uninsured Californians in five years with subsidies.

The proposal puts Nunez, D-Los Angeles, to the left of Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata, D-Oakland, who offered a proposal last week to cover about two-thirds of California's uninsured by asking both employers and employees to share the burden of paying for it.

Perata's plan does not cover all children. Nunez would cover them all, including illegal immigrants.

"When it comes to children in this state, the only document I care about is a clean bill of health," Nunez said.

The two Democratic leaders are maneuvering to get out in front of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who will introduce his own health care plan next month.

Last year, Schwarzenegger vetoed a bill to expand children's health care, saying there was no money to fund it. But he says he wants to cover all children, including those of illegal immigrants.

Schwarzenegger said in a statement that he was "pleased that more ideas are being brought to the table." But he was silent on Nunez's proposal to force employers to cover their employees or pay a percentage of their payroll into a state insurance pool.

Nunez's plan goes even further than a 2003 law that was pushed by unions and signed by Gov. Gray Davis during the recall election. Voters repealed it the next year, after Schwarzenegger joined businesses to defeat it.

Under Nunez's proposal, any firm with two or more workers or with a payroll of more than \$100,000 would have to offer insurance or pay into the state pool. There would be an exemption for some firms in business less than three years.

Nunez also wants to stop insurers from refusing to cover people for all but the most serious health conditions. The sickest people who cannot buy insurance privately would

be covered by expanding an existing state program. That will be paid with a new surcharge on health insurance premiums.

The state's main business lobby reacted negatively to Nunez's plan, saying it would place an unfair burden on small businesses.

Allan Zaremborg, head of the chamber of commerce, said that unless the state offered subsidies, health insurance would be too expensive for companies that pay low wages and employ part-time workers. He said payroll taxes would not be enough to pay the premiums, since the workers earn so little.

"If you don't have a subsidy for them, you'll be taxing them at 100 percent," he said. "It doesn't add up without a subsidy."

Assembly minority leader, Mike Villines, R-Clovis, said neither of the Democratic proposals dealt with the real causes of the health care crisis.

"So far, we have not seen any proposals that address the root of the problem — the high cost of health care," Villines said in a statement, promising that the Assembly Republicans would propose "free market solutions" to deal with it.

Nunez's plan assumes that because of its size, the state purchasing pool will be able to negotiate cheaper health insurance and therefore small businesses will be able to afford it.

The poorest residents who do not qualify for state and federal programs, mostly adults without children, would be covered within five years through a subsidy. Nunez is hoping to get a waiver from the federal government to cover the adults under Medi-Cal. If not, the costs would be borne by the state.

Some, such as the spouses of working people whose insurance does not cover dependents, could be covered as employers expanded their coverage.

Poor children would be covered by expanding the Medi-Cal and Healthy Families programs to 300 percent of the federal poverty line, or \$60,000 a year for a family of four. Children in families earning more than that would be covered through their parents' employer-based insurance.

But the federal government does not pay for children who are in this country illegally, so the state or counties would have to pay the cost of insuring them.

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# Immigrants bounced from canyon country

BY ELLIOT SPAGAT

Associated Press Writer

**SAN DIEGO** — The worshippers who for 20 years have prayed at the cement altar that sits — for now — in a canyon below multimillion-dollar homes are illegal immigrants who sleep nearby under plywood and plastic tarps and bathe in a stream.

Around Christmas, the church plans to destroy the outdoor, tree-covered place of worship. The landowners are expelling the church and its worshippers because new homes, roads and shopping malls have made it impossible to live in the shadows. Anti-illegal immigration activists have found a battle cry; police and landowners want the eyesores gone.

Some squatters have already moved to nearby canyons; others sleep in the tomato fields where they work. Some decided to chip in about \$100 a month to share an apartment, which goes a long way in rural Mexico.

The evictions have left Our Lady of Mount Carmel worshippers wondering where it will gather for Sunday Mass. The Catholic church also has a permanent building, where it serves 2,800 well-to-do families. It built the makeshift canyon altar during the mid-1980s in an effort to reach out to the migrants — the same worshippers who are getting evicted.

“We’re wandering pilgrims once again,” Monsignor Frank Fawcett told about 75 people at Mass held this month. The service was held in a dirt parking lot at the top of the canyon because rain turned the dirt path leading to the altar into thick mud.

The simple altar of blue, gold and pink tiles portrays the Virgin of Guadalupe and sits in front of four rows of wooden benches and six picnic tables. A stream runs along one side.

The canyon showdown is one of the latest flashpoints in the nation’s battle over illegal immigration and also an extreme example of how urban growth is putting the squeeze on migrant squatters. With fewer places to hide, it is harder to go unnoticed.

Migrants live in ramshackle huts elsewhere in the country but few also live next to exquisite homes. Just north of the canyons lies ultrawealthy Rancho Santa Fe, where the median home price is \$2.8 million.

Most San Diego canyon dwellers walk to work — typically to a tomato farm or a day laborer site, where homeowners hire them for landscaping and other work.

Juan Ramirez is typical. After paying a smuggler \$2,000 to sneak him across the border through the mountains east of San Diego last summer, he took a job making \$6.75 an hour plucking tomatoes six days a week. He sends two-thirds of his wages to his wife and three children in Mexico and sleeps under a tarp tied to trees.

Sharing an apartment would mean less money to send home, he said.

“My children are studying, and they need pencils,” Ramirez said. “They don’t have enough money.”

Canyon squatters — estimated to have numbered in the hundreds, even thousands, in the 1980s — are losing ground to developers elsewhere in San Diego County, where the median home price this year is \$575,000.

In Carlsbad, 35 miles north of San Diego, police closed a migrant camp of about 20 huts in June as big homes, a new golf course and new trail system made it impossible for them to stay, said police Cpl. Kevin Lehan. He estimates squatters in the city have dwindled from 300 in 1996 to less than 100.

Carlsbad, a city of 100,000 people that is home to a Legoland park and a Four Seasons hotel, is watching its agricultural roots disappear.

“The landowners and farmers are selling out because it’s a lot more lucrative to sell your land for multimillion-dollar homes than to grow poinsettias,” Lehan said.

Many homes and strip malls that surround the makeshift chapel in San Diego’s McGonigle Canyon are just a few years old. A new freeway bridge stretches across the canyon — which developers were required to preserve as open space to win permission to build.

San Diego police Capt. Boyd Long invited canyon landowners to his station in August — including homebuilders D.R. Horton Inc. and Pardee Homes — and decided the squatters had to go. As a condition to build, developers are required to maintain the canyons as open space.

“This is a 25-year-old problem, but now that new housing projects are right on top of them, it has brought more attention to it,” said Long. “This is just scratching the surface of a much bigger problem: immigration, which is something our nation is struggling to deal with.”

Police-installed fences block cars from driving into the canyons. D.R. Horton, based in Fort Worth, Texas, has peppered huts with signs that warn migrants their belongings may be hauled away anytime.

Anti-illegal immigration activists have tried to accelerate the evictions. They collected pay stubs in the canyons and called a boycott of the companies listed on them — nurseries, farms, a landscaping company. A sticker on a sawed-off wooden pole that once supported a basketball rim reads, “No Amnesty to Illegal Aliens.”

Julie Adams, a homeowner and outspoken critic of the squatters, said the huts pose fire and safety risks.

“It’s a transient camp in the middle of the community and that shouldn’t be allowed,” said Adams, whose husband and son stopped mountain biking in the trails because they felt unsafe.

Other homeowners are sympathetic. “They get kicked out of one place and go to another,” said Barry Martin, 54, a retired airline pilot. “As long as people are willing to hire them, as long as there are jobs, they’ll be around.”

Last week, about three dozen canyon huts — made of plywood and plastic tarps — appeared abandoned, littered with empty propane cans, blankets, empty water jugs and dirty sleeping pads. Some were so well hidden under chaparral trees that they were difficult to see from a few feet away.

Fawcett said the altar will be destroyed as soon as the ground is dry, but he told the parishioners at Mass that he would follow them.

“Even though you find yourselves strangers in another land, we pray that you will still feel welcome from some,” he said.

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# Off-roaders, environmentalists vie for canyon

BY GILLIAN FLACCUS

Associated Press Writer

**BALLARAT** — Whoever named Surprise Canyon got it right. Mere miles from bone-dry Death Valley, the canyon cradles two unexpected jewels: a gushing mountain stream and what's left of a once-bustling silver mining town.

These treasures have attracted visitors for decades — and now they're at the heart of a legal battle between off-road drivers and environmentalists.

Five years ago environmentalists successfully sued to get the narrow canyon and its spring-fed waterfalls closed to vehicles, arguing that the federal Bureau of Land Management was not carrying out its duty to protect the land.

In response, more than 80 off-roaders purchased tiny pockets of private land at the top of the canyon, and now they're suing the federal government for access to their property, arguing that the canyon is a public right of way.

It is one of several recent cases that could unlock thousands of miles of roads in federally protected parks around the West.

The fight over Surprise Canyon boils

down to whether the rights of private property owners trump the protection of a fragile oasis on public land. The off-roaders have dusted off a Civil War-era mining law that places the public access rights of local governments and private individuals above the rights of the federal government.

Environmental groups allege that, before they won protection for the area in 2001, off-roaders destroyed the canyon by cutting trees, dumping boulders in the water and using winches to drag their Jeeps up the waterfalls. They are seeking to intervene in the off-roaders' lawsuit.

Since 2001, the canyon has regenerated, with new vegetation attracting wildlife.

"It's almost unbelievable what's up there. It's precious, it's pristine," said Tom Budlong, an activist who regularly hikes the canyon about 200 miles northeast of his Los Angeles home. "I shudder to think of the extreme four-wheelers getting back into the canyon and making a road where there is now no road."

Once there was a road — a 130-year-old gravel route that flash floods washed away nearly two decades ago. Off-roaders continued driving up the rugged canyon stream bed to reach the ghost town of Panamint City, which has easily

explorable mine shafts, the remains of a smelter, some mine carts and a few cabins.

The canyon grows from an arid plain just north of the one-house desert outpost of Ballarat and climbs 3,700 feet over five miles to Panamint City, inside Death Valley National Park. Most of Surprise Canyon is outside the park boundary.

Flycatchers flit among thick stands of willows and cottonwood trees that crowd along the stream. Less common birds have been spotted since the area was closed to vehicles, notably the endangered Inyo California towhee, said Chris Kassir, an Arizona-based biologist with the Center for Biological Diversity. Other sensitive species such as the Panamint daisy and the Panamint alligator lizard also are flourishing, she said.

Kassar and others believe the canyon's ecosystem could crumble if the off-roaders prevail in their lawsuit, filed in August.

The off-roaders argue that, under an 1866 mining law, the canyon still is a public right of way even though the road is long gone.

"The issue is not off-roading and environmental issues. The legal issue is access," said plaintiffs' attorney Karen Budd-Falen. "If the road was once there

and it's eroded out it's still a public access. The fact that it has been flooded out doesn't make the legal issue go away."

Similar arguments are being used in right-of-way lawsuits elsewhere in the West.

In 2004, San Juan County in Utah sued the National Park Service, claiming a creek in Canyonlands National Park was once a county road. Environmental groups have sought to intervene in that case, which is before the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Inyo County recently sued the same agency over four dirt roads in Death Valley National Park, and San Bernardino County sued over 14 roads in the Mojave National Preserve. Both suits allege the roads were county property before the federal government closed them.

Off-roaders say they just want to visit their property and explore the ghost town.

"I respect what was there and I want it to be there for my kids to see," said Dale Walton, a member of the Bakersfield Trailblazers off-roading club and a property owner.

"I resent people who go in and destroy things, but I resent more people that say 'You just can't go in there because we don't want you to go in there,'" he said.



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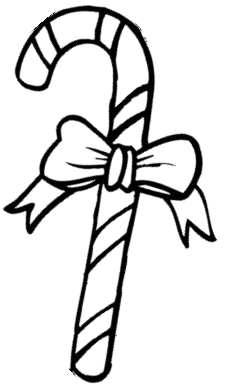
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# Search missions often come up empty

BY JEFF BARNARD

Associated Press Writer

**GRANTS PASS, Ore.** — Three high profile searches in Oregon — climbers stuck in a blizzard on Mount Hood, a family stranded in their car on a remote logging road, and a boy lost on foot in Crater Lake National Park — show that where people get lost has a lot to do with the nature of searches to find them.

But even highly organized searches don't guarantee happy endings.

In each search — one run by county sheriff's departments, one that mixed efforts by city and state police, counties, and the victims' families, and one run by a top National Park Service crisis management team — people died or were never found.

The search effort that has drawn the most scrutiny, for the family of James Kim deep in a national forest near the Oregon coast, has prompted calls for better information management by searchers and coordination among state and country agencies.

Gov. Ted Kulongoski has said he wants to look at reviews of the recent searches to see where the state can offer help, particularly on funding.

The vast majority of search and rescue missions end successfully, and do not draw public notice. Only when things go awry or people die do people start to question the system.

"It's kind of like a seat belt. It doesn't come into the public's eye until you need it," said John Miller, search and rescue coordinator for Lane County, which conducted 115 of the 996 search and rescue missions in

Oregon last year — the most of any county in Oregon.

Few last more than a day, Miller said. "Those are the ones you have the least opportunity to participate in and you probably have the least experience dealing with because they are so infrequent. Consequently, those are the ones with the most potential for loss of life, too."

Miller feels training and funding around the state are inconsistent, and could be improved. That view is not fully embraced by state search and rescue coordinator Georges Kleinbaum.

"Those of us at the state don't feel there is any lack of competence," Kleinbaum said. "I know we've got three high-profile missions very recently. There are still another 800 or 900 this year alone that weren't high profile."

The state offers advanced training but does not require it for coordinators, who usually have other duties to juggle, Kleinbaum said. His office requires volunteers and coordinators to go through a basic training course, which includes map reading, survival skills and the structure of the incident command system that is now standard for wild-fires and emergencies. But the agency does not keep track of what training each county coordinator has, figuring someone with experience but no training is better than no one.

The situation varies from state to state in the West, and from county to county within many states.

Throughout the West, county sheriffs traditionally have jurisdiction over search and rescue operations, except in national parks,

and the priority each sheriff gives search and rescue funding, training, equipment and personnel ultimately determines how good they are.

In Oregon, state law put sheriffs in charge, and they often delegate the responsibility to a search and rescue coordinator, who may also be a deputy or emergency services director. Many rural counties are strapped financially, looking at cutting sheriff's patrols, closing libraries and reducing road maintenance. Federal timber payments have helped them build up search and rescue equipment, but expired this year, leaving funding in doubt. Search programs are almost exclusively staffed by volunteers.

"The trick is, if you want to get lost in a state that uses a sheriff's coordinator, you want to pick your county to get lost in," said Rick Goodman, the retired head of search and rescue for New Mexico state police and a training consultant. "Some counties are up to the state of the art. Other counties don't have a lot of missions and could use some expertise."

After problems with some searches, New Mexico took authority away from county sheriffs in 1978.

"Everywhere I go, almost, I think, 'Boy if I wanted my kids to get lost, I'd have them do it in New Mexico,'" said Goodman, who helped write the law.

In New Mexico, searches on the scale of the three recent high-profile Oregon cases would have required what is called Type I management, run by an experienced and highly trained team vetted by state police.

A search and rescue advisory board

reviews searches, and in cases involving injury or death sends their findings to the attorney general. State police can require coordinators to get more training, or pull their certification.

"Somewhere there needs to be a body that can review these things and make some findings of fact and recommend or mandate that changes are made so you have better coordination, better resources allocation," said Goodman.

In Oregon, state officials can review the conduct of a search, but have to enforcement power if they find negligence or incompetence.

The three recent searches in Oregon are marked by differences.

The most recent one, for three out-of-state climbers lost on Mount Hood, was run by the Hood River County sheriff's department, which conducts 10 to 20 per year on the state's highest peak.

Hood River and neighboring Clackamas County, which cover Mount Hood, have developed a "play book" based on the many searches, and when they were notified three climbers were missing earlier this month, went right to the book, said Hood River Sheriff Joe Wampler.

"Between them and us we opened that book, and page by page went down through there. It makes us feel good that all that practice and planning works," said Wampler, himself an experienced climber and licensed pilot.

Wampler's department was able to call on mountain rescue teams from Portland, Eugene and Corvallis, and Army National Guard helicopters.

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# Students tune in for astronaut chats

BY RACHEL D'ORO

Associated Press Writer

**ANCHORAGE, Alaska** — Space shuttle Discovery astronauts took a break from their hectic schedule Thursday to talk to Alaska students during a video conference viewed by participants across the state, including some of the most isolated native communities.

The seven astronauts sat two rows deep, smiling into the camera as welcoming cheers erupted in the Challenger Learning Center in Kenai where local students posed questions to the crew during a live 10-minute interview. Students in several dozen other communities tuned in to watch the exchange on the crew's last full day in space.

The first question, naturally, was directed at shuttle pilot Bill Oefelein, a former Alaskan. The 13-day mission is the first space flight for Oefelein, 41, who began his aviation career in far humbler aircraft, including the floatplanes he flew to favorite fishing spots as a teenager living in Anchorage.

Matthew Morse of Kenai Middle School noted Oefelein's aviation beginnings, then asked what is the best thing about flying the shuttle and being in space?

"The views are spectacular. It's just incredible," Oefelein said. "In the first 20 minutes I was up here, I saw lights from cities, thunderstorms from above and a beautiful sunrise."

Each of the astronauts was asked a question or two: What colors of Earth are visible from space? What has been the most exciting and most difficult part of the mission? What do they eat in space? What happens in case of a medical emergency?

Brent Shelton of Sterling Elementary School wanted to know how long it would take for German astronaut Thomas Reiter to walk regularly and feel normal after coming back to Earth. It was a particularly appropriate question for Reiter, who is returning on the Discovery after living on the international space station since July. On the shuttle he replaces U.S. astronaut Suni Williams, who stayed behind on the orbiting space lab for a six-month stay.

Reiter said it took him a week to recover from a previous mission.

"You know, I hope that it doesn't take too long, maybe within three, four days. I hope not more," he said. "I trained lots and very hard on the space station to realize this time that I can feel normal and walk and hopefully start jogging again. I'm very curious to see

how much time it will actually take."

The Discovery crew bid farewell to inhabitants of the international space station Tuesday after an eight-day stay. During their visit, the Discovery crew successfully rewired the orbiting space lab, giving it a permanent power source from a temporary one.

The astronauts also accomplished three spacewalks. Then during a fourth impromptu spacewalk they folded up a stubborn, accordion-like solar panel array that was part of the station's temporary power source — one of the biggest challenges of the mission, they said Thursday. The 6 1/2-hour endeavor, conducted without benefit of the ground training they had for the other spacewalks, delayed the shuttle's return to earth, which is now scheduled for Friday.

The crew's interview with Alaska students ended with a laugh during a discussion about food. Astronaut Joan Higginbotham caught a floating piece of candy then flicked it behind her. With a twist of his neck, Oefelein caught the candy.

"Hey, good catch, Billy," Kenai Peninsula Borough Mayor John Williams said from the Challenger Learning Center. Williams then congratulated the crew for a successful mission.

"We especially want to say thank you to

Billy O, our own astronaut," he said, prompting applause from the Kenai crowd and Oefelein's crew mates.

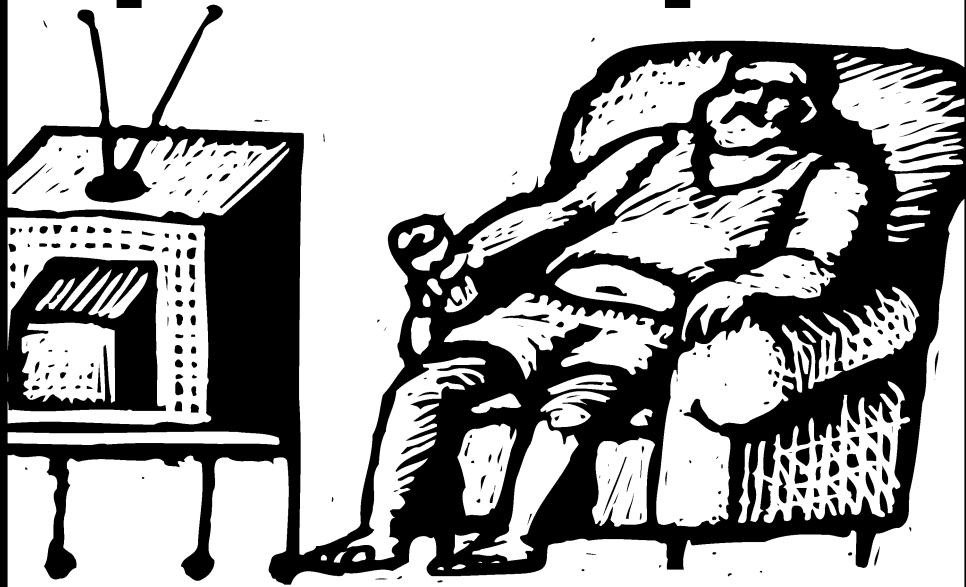
In his NASA bio, Oefelein says he still considers Anchorage his hometown. He has visited Alaska schools since becoming an astronaut and has been invited to visit again as part of a distance learning program sponsored by General Communication Inc., an Anchorage-based telecommunications company with statewide services and some customers outside the state.

As part of the same program, GCI sponsored Thursday's shuttle linkup and follow-up video exchange between students across the state and Ralph Grau, a NASA expert at Johnson Space Center in Houston.

Using the same technology, GCI also created a virtual news conference between local reporters and students. Among the students was Jon Ganechuk, a teenager in the Yupik Eskimo village of Manokotak. He didn't actually participate in the dialogue with the shuttle crew, but felt represented as he listened in.

"We feel lucky to be speaking to the astronauts," he said. If given the opportunity, he would have asked "about their experiences being up there and being the first Alaskan to be up there in space."

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# Higgs denies a role in murder of his wife

BY SANDRA CHEREB

Associated Press Writer

**RENO, Nev.** — The husband of former Nevada state Controller Kathy Augustine pleaded not guilty Friday to a charge that he murdered Augustine last summer by injecting her with a hard-to-detect paralyzing drug.

In a brief arraignment, Chaz Higgs, 42, stood beside his lawyer and answered "not guilty" when asked by Washoe District Judge Steven Kosach how he wanted to plead.

Kosach then set a tentative July 16 trial date, and acknowledged it may be changed to accommodate expert witnesses.

Afterward, defense lawyer David Houston said he plans to challenge a justice court finding that prosecutors presented sufficient evidence for Higgs to be tried.

He said that while Higgs, a nurse, had intended to separate from Augustine, he did not try to hide it and never showed ill will toward her.

"Chaz Higgs loved his wife," Houston said, though Augustine's political life created "unfortunate" aspects in the relationship and "emotional difficulty."

"Neither money nor property was at issue," Houston said. "That to me is not a recipe for murder."

He also said he would argue that the conclusions of a forensic pathologist were based on a suspect FBI laboratory analysis that said succinylcholine and succinylmonocholine, a byproduct of the drug, were found in a urine

sample before Augustine died.

"With all due respect to the FBI lab, I think we can all agree they've had their difficulties in the past," Houston said.

Succinylcholine, called "sux" by medical workers, paralyzes respiratory muscles to allow breathing tubes to be inserted while patients remain conscious.

During a preliminary hearing earlier this month, a nurse Kim Ramey said she was "sickened" when Higgs talked about the drug while the two were working at a Carson City hospital on July 7 — the day before Augustine was brought unconscious to a Reno hospital.

Besides talking about divorce, Ramey said Higgs talked about a highly publicized June 12 knifing death of a Reno woman whose estranged husband, Darren Mack, now faces a murder charge.

"That guy did it all wrong," Ramey quoted Higgs as saying. Ramey said Higgs then stated the best way would be to "just hit her with a little sux."

Augustine, 50, died July 11, three days after Higgs said he found her unresponsive from a massive heart attack. An autopsy showed no signs that Augustine suffered from heart disease.

Three days after Augustine died, Higgs attempted suicide in Las Vegas. He was released from a hospital later that day and didn't attend his wife's funeral.

He was arrested Sept. 29 in Hampton, Va., after toxicology tests were complete.

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# Blizzard shuts Denver down, strands thousands

BY KIM NGUYEN  
Associated Press Writer

DENVER — Government offices and schools were closed and mail delivery suspended for a second day Thursday after a powerful blizzard dumped more than 2 feet of snow along Colorado's most populous region and stranded travelers.

Denver, Colorado Springs and other cities along the Rocky Mountain Front Range were virtually ghost towns, with cars and SUVs slipping, sliding and crawling through thick snow toward the suburbs Wednesday.

Some 4,700 people hunkered down overnight at Denver International Airport, where flights in and out were canceled, spokesman Steve Snyder said.

"It feels like I'm a refugee," said Lisa Maurer, a graduate student at the University of Wyoming who was stuck at the airport while on her way home to Germany.

Bus and light rail service in a six-county region was suspended. The State Patrol reported a rash of collisions, some involving several vehicles, but no fatalities.

More than 30 inches of snow fell in the mountains and up to 2 feet fell in the

Denver metro area, with snow expected to let up by noon Thursday. Winds cut visibility and whipped up drifts several feet high on the plains.

Gov. Bill Owens declared a state of emergency and activated the National Guard, which assisted dozens of motorists on the highways around Denver and delivered diapers, formula and bottled water to the airport.

Long stretches of Interstates 70 and 25, the main east-west and north-south routes through the Mountain West, were closed. Interstate 76 was closed from Denver to Nebraska.

"They pulled everyone off the highway," said Leon Medina, manager of a truck stop on Interstate 25 in Walsenburg, about 130 miles south of Denver. "Cars are all around the building. Trucks are all over, trucks and cars pulled into ditches."

At least 270 people took refuge at seven American Red Cross shelters in the metro area, though that number was expected to rise as motorists arrived by the busload early Thursday, said Robert Thompson, spokesman for the Mile High chapter.

"It's just amazing how many people are still out there," Thompson said.

Shelters also were open in Fort Collins and Colorado Springs, and the Red Cross provided 140 cots for nearly 350 people stranded at a Greyhound bus station in downtown Denver, Thompson said.

Weather Service program manager Byron Louis said it was the most powerful storm to hit Colorado since March 2003, when a massive blizzard dumped up to 11 feet of snow and was blamed for at least six deaths.

Major malls closed early Wednesday, and one, Flatirons Crossing Mall in Broomfield, northwest of Denver, offered warmth for motorists stranded along U.S. 36, the major link between Denver and Boulder.

Mail service was canceled in the eastern half of the state because roads were impassable for mail carriers getting to work and for trucks delivering mail four days before Christmas.

"We don't want to take the risk of clogging up the system just by being out there," said Al DeSarro, a U.S. Postal Service spokesman in Denver. "We're considering delivering on Sunday to make up for what's sure to be a backlog of mail."

Denver International Airport was closed to all flights at mid-afternoon Wednesday, and more than 1,000 flights were canceled

through Thursday. No time was set for runways to reopen.

United Airlines canceled more than 670 flights into Denver and 160 that had been scheduled to take off before noon on Thursday. Frontier Airlines canceled up to 190 flights.

"I'm just happy to be alive. It was a terrifying drive," Sara Kelton said of her two-hour slog over slick, snow-clogged roads to get to the airport.

Thirteen hours after he left his Denver office for a bus ride home to Boulder, Alan Barr was stuck at a Red Cross shelter in Denver, barely closer to home than when he left for work.

He trudged into the shelter at about 12:25 a.m. Thursday with other discouraged riders faced with the prospect of spending the night in a college gymnasium.

"Days like today are an exception," he said. "I believe in public transportation."

Fellow rider Matt Notter of Boulder summed it up:

"It was comical for a while," he said. "Then we realized, this is an all-night thing."

Associated Press writers **Colleen Slevin, Eric Daigh, Dan Elliott, Jon Sarche, Judith Kohler, Steven K. Paulson, Sandy Shore, and Chase Squires** contributed to this report.

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# Monster pig weed has officials on alert

BY ELLIOTT MINOR

Associated Press Writer

**TIFTON, Ga.** — The cotton industry is concerned about a herbicide-resistant weed that spreads easily, can grow an inch a day and could force farmers to return to growing methods that were harsher on the environment.

Palmer amaranth, a type of pig weed, grows 6 to 10 feet tall. If someone were trying to design a particularly nasty weed, Palmer amaranth could be the model, said Alan York, weed scientist at North Carolina State University in Raleigh.

"It's an extremely competitive weed," he said. "It's extremely prolific. It's an efficient ... bad weed."

Amaranth that resists the most common herbicide used in cotton, glyphosate, has been confirmed in 10 of North Carolina's 100 counties, four of Georgia's 159 counties and is suspected in Tennessee, South Carolina and Arkansas.

"It is potentially the worse threat since the boll weevil," said York.

York was referring to the voracious beetle that devastated Southern cotton crops in the early 1900s and forced farmers to switch to alternatives such as peanuts.

The boll weevil was eradicated in some states in the late 1970s and early 1980s, paving the way for the return of cotton as one of the nation's major crops, worth \$4.7 billion. It is grown in 16 states from coast to coast.

In Georgia, where amaranth has been confirmed in 48 fields, the weed took over some fields and the cotton had to be cut down, rather than harvested, said University of Georgia weed scientist Stanley Culpepper.

The weed can damage cotton pickers, the huge machines that pluck the world's leading natural fiber from the cotton bolls.

Glyphosate is sold under several brand names, but the leading product is Roundup, made by Monsanto.

The company revolutionized cotton growing in the 1990s when it introduced BT cotton — a genetically engineered cotton with its own built-in pest defenses.

Monsanto also introduced Roundup Ready cotton — plants that wouldn't perish with the weeds when a field was sprayed with a glyphosate herbicide.

"It had everything everyone would need," he said. "But when you rely too heavily on one technology, resistance will eventually develop."

Before Roundup Ready cotton, farmers often had to plow the field to bury weeds and their seeds and then protect the crops from pests with heavy chemical applications.

Now, many use conservation tillage, which barely disturbs the soil.

"If we lost conservation tillage in the Southeast the financial and environmental consequences would be nothing short of catastrophic," said Eddie Green, who grew 1,750 acres of cotton on a family farm near Unadilla.

Green suspects he may have some of the resistant Palmer amaranth.

Monsanto posted a letter in April alerting growers to the problem. The company has worked with the Memphis-based National Cotton Council to develop an online course on weed control and is assisting Culpepper, York and others with the resistance problem.

Monsanto has suggested that using Roundup in combination with other herbicides known to kill the resistant weed. Culpepper and others also recommend alternative herbicides.

"Is it going to put us out of the cotton business? I hope not, but it's going to make it more challenging," York said.

# Hawaii gains new residents, despite losses to mainland

By The Associated Press

**HONOLULU** — Hawaii continues to lose residents to the mainland, but foreign immigrants and births more than make up for the loss, according to Census Bureau data released Friday.

The Census estimates that 3,136 Hawaii residents moved away from the islands in the year prior to July 1, while about 6,720 people moved here from other countries.

In all, Hawaii's population increased by 12,220 people as its total population rose to 1,285,498.

"This has been happening in the last few years. We lost people to the mainland, but we gained more from the foreign countries in migration," said Eugene Tian, research and statistics officer at the state Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism.

Hawaii's growth rate has remained at about 1 percent for the last four years, Tian said. It is the 42nd most populous state, ahead of Rhode Island and trailing New Hampshire.

Nearly twice as many people were born than died in Hawaii — 17,782 to 9,189 — resulting in a net increase of 8,593 people, according to the Census.

Many of the people who leave Hawaii for the mainland are in the military or move in search of a more affordable cost of living, Tian said.

The Philippines remains the largest source of immigrants to the state, and that trend is expected to continue because new U.S. citizens among the islands' large Filipino population likely bring more family members to the islands in coming years, he said.

One potential problem is that Hawaii isn't seeing a higher population growth rate despite its booming economy.

"With the economy now we are the lowest state in terms of unemployment rate, so we actually are in need of labor, in need of workers," Tian said. "I feel this 1 percent is not enough to reduce our shortage problem in the labor market. We should have more people moving in to fill the gaps."

Nationwide, the population increased by 1 percent, or 2.8 million, to reach a total of 299,398,484 as of July 1, according to the Census. As of Friday, the U.S. population exceeded 300,449,000.

The Census also reported that Arizona is now the fastest-growing state in the nation, while Texas gained the most in population with 579,275 new residents.

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# Don't change that answering machine

HOME ALONE, from page 1

"Santa Monica is a small community, so people tend to look out for each other," said SMPD Lt. Alex Padilla. "We tell people to be more alert and aware of what is going on in the community."

The most important precaution residents can take is to make their home appear as though someone is there, said Padilla. Make sure to suspend newspaper and mail deliveries. Overstuffed mailboxes and newspapers littering a driveway scream "I'm not home."

"Notify a neighbor or a friend that can come by and check on the residence to make sure everything is secure," Padilla said.

Many home burglaries in Santa Monica are opportunistic, not premeditated crimes where burglars plan elaborate schemes to break-in.

Statistics show that burglaries occur primarily between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. during the months of July and August, according to Ann Lindstrom, of the home and business security company ADT.

Still, residents should take as many precautionary steps as possible when leaving

town. This includes measures like investing in high-quality deadbolt locks for exterior doors, putting up security system decals and signs, and using bars to secure basement or garage doors, Lindstrom said on Wednesday.

**"PEOPLE HAVE PARTIES AND HAVE PACKAGES THAT MIGHT BE DISPLAYED OPEN IN THE FRONT WINDOW THAT IS INVITING FOR SOMEONE TO DO CHRISTMAS SHOPPING THE EASY WAY."**

**Suzie Kim**

Crime Prevent Coordinator, Santa Monica Police Department

"Never leave an answering machine message indicating you're not at home," Lindstrom said. "Instead, just say you 'can't come to the phone.'"

The SMPD Crime Prevention Program instructs residents how to prevent crime in their neighborhoods through groups like the neighborhood watch.

"People have parties and have packages that might be displayed open in the front window that is inviting for someone to do Christmas shopping the easy way," said Suzie Kim, Santa Monica Crime Prevention Coordinator.

Around the holidays, members of a Sunset Park neighborhood watch group that covers 26th Street, between Pico Boulevard and Pearl Street, are extra vigilant.

"When we realize someone might be going out of town, we share that information," said Siobahn Schenz, co-president of the neighborhood watch group. "We would

be vigilant knowing there would be new property in their homes with nice gifts."

Though burglaries are not too common in this neighborhood around the holidays, it doesn't mean burglaries don't happen at all.

"We had a woman's purse snatched right out of a car while she was sitting in it," Schenz said. "She's about 85 years old."

Twice a year, the Ocean Park Association invites a representative from the police department to come speak about crime in the neighborhood. The biggest crime in Ocean Park is home burglaries, said Ted Winterer, spokesman for the Ocean Park Association.

OPA member Joel Brand has lived in the neighborhood for about nine years and has neither seen nor heard of any suspicious activity around the holidays.

"Ocean Park is a tight-knit community," Brand said on Friday. "We know when people are out of town. We definitely look carefully, especially with all those presents under the tree."

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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## PAL rider

Fabian Lewkowicz [fabianl@smdp.com](mailto:fabianl@smdp.com)

Ericson Monsalud, co-owner of Bike Attack, assembles bicycles at the Main Street store on Friday afternoon for the Police Activities League. The bike shop donated 13 BMX-style bikes to PAL at cost, which will then be donated to area children this Christmas. 'What comes around goes around,' said Monsalud on Friday. 'The community has been good to us, so we want to take care of our community.'

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# City's alleys could get an artful makeover

ARTS, from page 1

where we support artistic people in our community, in particular those who cannot make the kind of money that music and film provide.

"We need to make sure we keep opportunities for those artists to live and work here."

To accomplish that, residents have been working with City Hall over the last year to create a community cultural plan called "Creative Capital: Culture, Community, Vision," a blueprint for the city's continued cultural development that is now before the Arts Commission and could come before the City Council for formal adoption in February or early March (the draft plan is available online at [www.smgov.net/creativesantamonica/](http://www.smgov.net/creativesantamonica/)).

Through a series of town hall and neighborhood meetings, a broad array of workshops, interviews and surveys, community members have expressed a desire to create a plan that interweaves the arts, cultural activities, entertainment and education throughout their lives, work, cityscape and neighborhoods, according to the draft plan.

"Santa Monicans clearly view culture as an inseparable component of what makes Santa Monica exceptional, desirable and economically competitive," the draft plan states.

For many, culture literally sustains them, with 43 percent of residents making all or part of their living in arts-related fields. Residents also show high levels of participation in cultural activities and an understanding of their role in the community. Residents visited an art museum or gallery at a rate that is twice the national average and believe having public art in

a community to be nearly as important as good public schools.

To ensure the arts are ever-present in the city for years to come, residents have suggested a wide range of ideas that include everything from a county-wide marketing program and enhanced collaboration with Santa Monica College and the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District to developing more arts and cultural festivals, such as the Santa Monica Festival and Jazz on the Lawn, which are free for the public.

"People really wanted to see more free cultural opportunities in parks, as well as smaller, more intimate venues, and better information on what's going on in the community," said Jessica Cusick, manager of the Cultural Affairs Division at City Hall. "Residents have really identified an incredibly exciting vision for the future. It's dynamic and, of course, it will be an awful lot of work."

## IT'S ABOUT ALLEYS, CATS

Some other ideas being considered include establishing "Santa Monica Arts Alleys," in which artists can create in underutilized spaces along the city's alleys, which have long been a source of frustration for merchants who have been begging City Hall to beautify the heavily-traveled arteries.

As part of the alley program, residents have suggested City Hall negotiate with downtown property owners and merchants to use space fronting the alleys in exchange for property tax abatements.

"I think the arts alleys idea is a unique organic opportunity because of the (Third Street) Promenade and the alleys flanking it," said David Plettner of Cultural +



Fabian Lewkowicz [fabianl@smdp.com](mailto:fabianl@smdp.com)

**IN TRANSITION:** A woman takes a breather atop the public art sculpture 'Ocean Park Segue' located at the beach and Barnard Way. Residents have been working with City Hall over the last year to create a blueprint for the city's continued cultural development.

Planning Group, the consultant hired by City Hall in February for \$90,000 to help draft the plan. "When we were walking around (downtown), it just jumped out at us that the alleys could be a great space that could be claimed by artists and for artists and arts activity and be really accessible to the public."

Residents have also suggested shrinking the Arts Commission from 13 members to seven members to make it more effective and flexible, as well as diversifying its member-

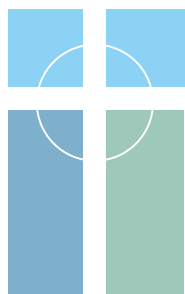
ship to be more reflective of the community.

While the plan has not yet been finalized, the City Council has already moved forward with some of the recommendations by imposing a fee on developers; money which will be used to fund public art projects.

"That is a wonderful new development and very appropriate for Santa Monica," Plettner said. "It's a great step towards enhancing the arts."

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## Christmas at First Presbyterian Church



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## Two sheets to the wind

Fabian Lewkowicz [fabianl@smdp.com](mailto:fabianl@smdp.com)

The flags atop City Hall on Main Street flitted about on Friday, when winds gusted up to 33 mph, according to weather.com. Overnight temperatures were forecasted to dip below 50 degrees.

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## Christmas at First Presbyterian Church

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# Shoppers expected to be out en masse

TRAFFIC, from page 1

not even started their holiday shopping. The average person had only completed about half of his or her shopping by Dec. 18.

This means more cars on the road and more headaches trying to get through traffic and find parking.

By 10:30 a.m. on Friday, downtown-area parking lots were already filling up. City garage No. 2, near Second Street and Arizona Avenue, was more than two-thirds full, and No. 3, near Fourth Street and Arizona Avenue, was almost 90 percent full.

But Santa Monica's downtown, a busy retail shopping area, has proven a mixed bag when it comes to holiday traffic.

"This is one of our busiest times," said Lucy Dyke, the city's transportation planning manager. "[But] our downtown is busy most of the year ... I was downtown earlier today [Thursday], and I didn't notice a lot of traffic congestion, even though a lot of people are parking and shopping.

"We do anticipate extra demand in the downtown area ... but there aren't that many more people," she said. "It's an increase and we plan for it and try to be accommodating, but it's incremental over other busy times, [like] summer, the Farmers' Market and weekends."

People who come to the area often have seen varied traffic flows.

"Yesterday, it took me 20 to 25 minutes to get to the top of the [Santa Monica Place parking] structure," said Shana Stewart, 21, a part-time sales associate at Rip Curl on Third Street Promenade. "Today, it took me like five minutes."

Shoppers and promenade employees reported a discernible increase in traffic as it gets closer to Christmas.

"I always try to get out by 3 p.m. for sure, just to get on the 10 [freeway]," said Rip Curl regional manager Wendy Widhalm.

Stewart and Widhalm acknowledged the increase in parking structure traffic, but wondered where those people were going.

"People are walking around and looking, but they're not carrying bags," said Widhalm. "[Foot traffic] has been slower than last year. Stores just aren't full."

## THERE'S MORE IN STORE

Despite the many people driving to and parking at downtown retail areas, stores may not have seen as many shoppers this year, at least not yet.

"With Christmas falling on a Monday this year, retailers have one more weekend to bring in those holiday procrastinators," said National Retail Federation President and CEO Tracy Mullin in a press release. "In the predictably chaotic days before Christmas, retailers will be ready and waiting for the final rush of the season."

Dyke said that to ensure maximum traffic flow during the holidays, the city doesn't approve any permits to close lanes in downtown.

"We are trying to avoid some of the things that really do put us over the edge with congestion," she said.

Dyke also said that traffic officers also help out when traffic gets heavy.

"When it gets to be very congested, automated traffic signals are less effective, especially when you have balanced traffic flow in both directions," she said. "That's when the police are out."

While the city doesn't have any special plans for traffic this holiday season, there is a traffic signal timing plan in the works for the future. The city has just hired a consultant to come up with timing patterns for traffic lights on Fourth Street, between California Avenue and Pico Boulevard, according to Gerald Tom, Santa Monica's transportation engineer. He said that timing on the Fourth Street lights in this area will be finished in the next few months, with plans to expand the project to downtown by early 2008.

"We're working with the police department to determine traffic patterns during the holidays and summer," Tom said. "[The Fourth Street lights are] not going to be as effective, but they will help. Once we have downtown, it will be much better."

Those looking to avoid such traffic headaches are being encouraged by the city to make use of the Holiday Shoppers' Shuttle — Big Blue Buses wrapped up like presents that offer discounted rates for shoppers. The buses service the downtown area and parking structures.

"An interesting thing about Santa Monica is ... we have a downtown where people can walk," said Dyke. "A lot of the residents do walk, and a lot of them take the bus and employees take the bus. It's a good alternative to having to drive."

Visit [parkingspacenow.smgov.net](http://parkingspacenow.smgov.net) to see how many parking spaces are left in downtown parking structures in real time.

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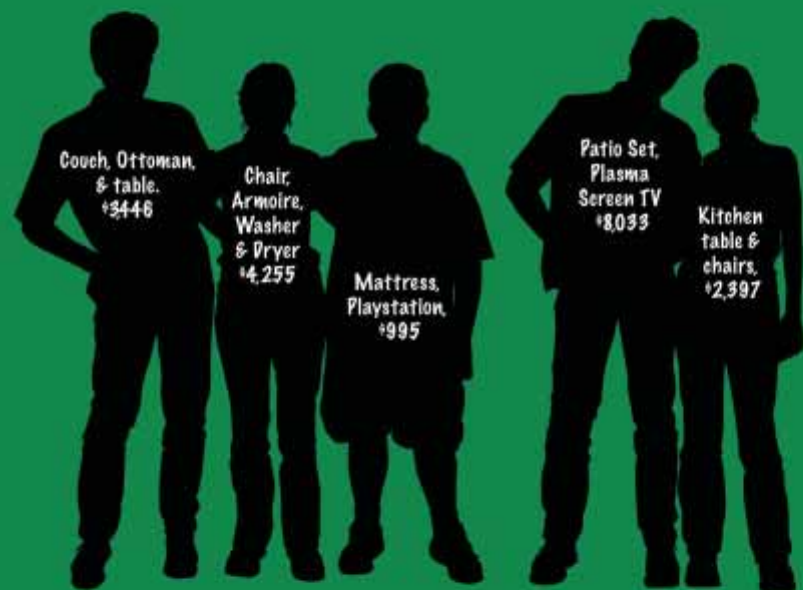
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# Rice says U.S. is ready for black president

BY ANNE GEARAN

AP Diplomatic Writer

**WASHINGTON** — America is ready to elect a black president, says Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

The nation's highest-ranking black government official, Rice has said repeatedly she will not run for president despite high popularity ratings and measurable support in opinion polls.

"Yes, I think a black person can be elected president," Rice said in an Associated Press interview Thursday.

The top U.S. diplomat also said Iraq is "worth the investment" in American lives and dollars. She said the United States can win in Iraq, although the war so far has been longer and more difficult than she had expected.

She made the remarks at a time when President Bush is under pressure from the public and members of Congress to find a fresh course in the long-running and costly war, which has shown no signs of nearing an end and cost the lives of more than 2,950

American troops.

"I know from the point of view of not just the monetary cost but the sacrifice of American lives a lot has been sacrificed for Iraq, a lot has been invested in Iraq," Rice said.

Bush would not ask for continued sacrifice and spending "if he didn't believe, and in fact I believe as well, that we can in fact succeed," Rice said.

Rice was asked whether an additional \$100 billion the Pentagon wants for the Iraq and Afghan wars might amount to throwing good money after bad in Iraq. Bush and Congress have already provided more than \$500 billion for the two conflicts and worldwide efforts against terrorism, including more than \$350 billion for Iraq.

"I don't think it's a matter of money," Rice said. "Along the way there have been plenty of markers that show that this is a country that is worth the investment, because once it emerges as a country that is a stabilizing factor you will have a very different kind of Middle East."

She said the first successful black candi-

date will be "judged by all the things that Americans ultimately end up making their decision on: Do I agree with this person? Do I share this person's basic values? Am I comfortable that this person is going to make decisions when I'm not in the room that are very consequential?"

She said, "we should not be naive. Race is still an issue in America. When a person walks into a room, race is evident. It's something that I think is going to be with us for a very, very long time."

Rice declined to say whether she would like to see her predecessor, Colin Powell, become a candidate. Powell is a fellow black Republican.

"I'm not going to give Colin any advice and he's not going to give me any advice on this one," Rice said.

Democratic Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., is the most prominent black politician to emerge as a potential candidate for the 2008 presidential race. Rice was asked whether, watching Obama's rise, she thinks Americans are willing to put a black in the

White House.

Rice said the Bush administration should be remembered for far more than the Iraq war. She ticked off foreign policy commitments or accomplishments including increased aid to fight AIDS and malaria in Africa and a peace deal ending two decades of North-South warfare in Sudan.

In a wide-ranging interview, Rice also said she has no reason to believe North Korea is serious about dismantling its nuclear weapons. "That's what we're testing," in disarmament talks this week that a Japanese envoy described as deadlocked.

"They're signed on to denuclearization," in an agreement last year that was never implemented. "We'll see whether or not they follow through," Rice said.

On Iran, she said a watered-down United Nations sanctions resolution against the country would have more than symbolic value. But said she has no assurances that Russia will vote for the resolution this week despite long efforts to satisfy Moscow's misgivings about sanctions.



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# Missing climber tackled Internet

BY JULIA SILVERMAN

Associated Press Writer

**PORTLAND, Ore.** — Months before embarking on his fateful climb up the North Face of Oregon's Mount Hood, Brooklyn resident Jerry "Nikko" Cooke, a regular presence in online climbing forums, was posting questions about the route he planned to take, accompanied by two new friends from Texas.

Cooke, along with Texas resident Brian Hall, is missing on the mountain, while the body of their climbing companion, Texan Kelly James, was airlifted off the mountain on Monday.

At a news conference this week, Hood River County Sheriff Joe Wampler acknowledged that time was growing short to find Hall and Cooke alive. Officials fear the two were buried by an avalanche on Hood's treacherous slopes.

To the climbing enthusiasts who frequent web sites like CascadeClimbers.com and Summitpost.org, Cooke was known as "fuggedaboutit," the name clearly a fond nod to his Brooklyn address.

In posts on the forums, Cooke described his climb to the summit of Washington's Mount Rainier from last June, adding at the end a now-bittersweet personal note to Hall and James: "Met a

strong pair of climbers from Texas, Brian and Kelly, you two are gentlemen."

But it is his brief posts on the Hood attempt that have prompted much scrutiny in online mountaineering forums, suggesting that the three climbers — though experienced veterans who among them could claim climbs in the Andes and Alaska — had plenty of questions about their Hood ascent attempt.

On Sept. 17, Cooke began a post on CascadeClimbers.com with an apology, writing, "Since I've never been there before, pardon what may be stupid questions in advance. I tried to buy the guidebook but it's out of print."

His post continues with questions about the routes up Hood: about distances from the Cloud Cap Inn, at 6,000 feet, to climbing landmarks on the mountain, about park fees and special permits.

In another post, from November, Cooke asks about distances from a basic shelter at 7,000 feet up the mountain, noting that such an option would, "allow us to get there the day before and get an early start the next day. It also allows us to carry minimal sleeping gear."

At the news conference Tuesday, Wampler said evidence suggests that the three had been "lightly equipped," adding later, "I think that they knew where they

were at, but, you know, at nighttime, not ever being there before, there was some disorientation involved in this."

But he said the three climbers had "the basic knowledge and equipment to get this done in the time periods they had planned on," until an injury to James's shoulder, and the onset of bad weather, threw their plans into jeopardy.

As the dramatic search and rescue operation unfolded on the mountain over the past week, much of it televised live and coast-to-coast, mountaineering forums have been deluged by those offering sympathy to the families of the missing climbers, searchers reporting back on conditions on the mountain, and plenty of speculation about what exactly might have happened to the three.

A few posters even reported encounters with James, Hall and Cooke, one telling of meeting the three in a Mount Hood warming hut on Thursday, Dec. 7, in a post that suggests that just a day before they were to attempt their climb, the three were still gleaning information about their route.

"They never really said exactly what line they were climbing, but they asked for any beta (information) on the routes," wrote the poster. "They asked for any info on how to get down onto the Eliot (glacier) since they would be doing it in the dark, asked how safe I thought it was traveling on the glacier, and

wanted a guess on how long it would take them to reach the schrund (the crevasse where a glacier pulls away from an icecap) at the base of the (North Face) gullies."

But the three seemed confident about their trek, the poster continues, writing, "I had the impression the routes were well within their abilities...They seemed like great guys. Offered to fill my water bottle and offered all of us cocoa. Had the cabin fired up and warm and seemed very enthused about their climb."

It's not unusual for serious climbers to post questions about their routes, looking for the most current information from other climbers, officials with Portland's Mazamas mountaineering group and others said.

"They had done more than I usually do," said Benjamin Ruef, co-author of Rock Climbing Oregon, who said it took him 23 hours to complete the summit attempt on the route chosen by Hall, Cooke and James, after being caught in an early fall blizzard.

Familiarity with the route up Mount Hood might have helped the climbers, Ruef said, but only to a point.

"It's a very difficult route, and a bad time of year to be attempting it," he said. "They had a window, and when you are at that level, you try to push your limits, and I think that is what they were doing."





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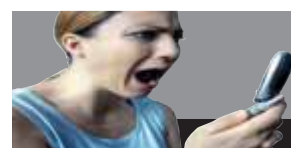


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# Gates won't hint at Iraq report for Bush

BY LOLITA C. BALDOR  
Associated Press Writer

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** — Defense Secretary Robert Gates said Friday that he hopes to give a report to President Bush this weekend on what he learned during his three days of meetings with military and political leaders here.

Gates declined to say whether he plans to recommend a short-term increase in U.S. troop levels. But he said he believes the U.S. and Iraqis have “a broad strategic agreement between the Iraqi military and Iraqi government and our military.”

“There is still some work to be done,” Gates said. “But I do expect to give a report to the president on what I’ve learned and my perceptions.”

Speaking to reporters at Camp Victory, with the sounds of artillery fire and jet aircraft in the background, Gates said that “clearly there are more discussions that need to take place in Washington and more specific recommendations.”

He said Gen. George Casey, the top U.S. commander in Iraq, was continuing to work with Iraqi officials, with more details expected in the days ahead.

Gates said he is “quite confident that what I’ve heard from the Iraqis of their plans this week, that we will be able to together, and with them in the lead, we will be able to make an improvement in the security situation in Baghdad.”

Gates also said that he does not believe there is a large split among Iraqi leaders about whether there should be an increase in U.S. troops. The issue, he said, is how the Iraqis assert their own leadership in taking charge of their own fate.

The new defense chief, who was sworn in on Monday, traveled to Iraq with a mandate to scope out a new war strat-

egy, as the Bush administration continues to search for a way to bring the violence in the embattled country under control.

To that end, Gates shuttled back and forth across Baghdad over the last three days meeting with his military commanders and Iraqi government officials, and gathering input from U.S. troops.

On Iran, Gates told reporters there has been an increase in Naval forces in the Persian Gulf. But he denied that it was a direct reaction to any movements by Iran to pursue a nuclear program.

Instead, Gates said, the message to the Gulf countries is that the United States is going to be an enduring presence in the region.

“We’ve been here for a long time and we will be here for a long time,” he said.

Gates’ visit comes as President Bush is reassessing U.S. policy in the war, which is widely opposed by the American public after 3 1/2 years of bloodshed. Among the president’s options is whether to quickly add thousands of U.S. troops to the 140,000 already in Iraq, in hopes of staunching the escalating violence in Baghdad and elsewhere.

Flanked by Casey and Gen. Peter Pace, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gates said he has asked Casey to confer with Iraqi military leaders and the prime minister to make specific recommendations on how to improve the security situation.

“Clearly success will only be achieved by a joint effort with Iraqis taking the lead,” he said.

Gates has said he did not talk about specific numbers of U.S. troops with the Iraqi officials. During his meetings here, Gates assured the Iraqis of “the steadfastness of American support.”

Gates said he discussed with the Iraqis how their government could reverse the deteriorating security problem.

Besides an unrelenting insurgency, killings and kidnappings between Sunnis and Shiites are approaching civil war dimensions with U.S. and civilian casualties rising.

“One of the strong messages I received today was the desire of the Iraqi government to take a leadership role in addressing some of the challenges that face the country, above all the security problem here in Baghdad,” Gates said Thursday during a news conference with Iraqi Defense Minister Abdul-Qader al-Obaidi.

Gates said there are several approaches that could be used to improve security, yet offered few details.

Gates started his day Friday having breakfast with six Army soldiers with the 10th Mountain Division to discuss their mission training Iraqi troops in southern Iraq. The group is part of Task Force 2-15, which has about 400 soldiers embedded with the 4th Brigade of the 6th Iraqi Army Division.

Lt. Col. Bob Morschauser, a soldier from Fairless Hills, Pa., who was among those who met with Gates, said the Iraqis are improving and gaining confidence. He said the U.S. troops are hoping the Iraqis will be able to operate on their own in less than a year.

Gates also spent time Friday walking at Camp Victory, looking over an exhibit of Humvees and other equipment used to defeat improvised explosive devices, which are the top killer of U.S. troops in Iraq. He later got a briefing from the leaders of the Task Force Troy, the IED task force working in Iraq.

He had planned to go to northern Iraq and meet up with troops and commanders in Mosul. A heavy fog blanketed the Baghdad area for most of Friday morning, prompting the cancellation of the flight to Mosul.

# Officials look to alleviate fears that Nevada blast is harmful

BY JENNIFER TALHELM  
Associated Press Writer

**WASHINGTON** — Federal officials again insisted Friday that a proposed non-nuclear explosion at the Nevada Test Site would not harm people living downwind.

Officials also said they would discuss the test at public meetings in Las Vegas on Jan. 9, Salt Lake City on Jan. 10, and St. George, Utah, on Jan. 11.

The blast, called “Divine Strake,” would send a mushroom-shaped dust cloud high over the Nevada desert.

The Defense Threat Reduction Agency released a new environmental report Friday to respond to fears that radioactive material from decades of previous weapons tests would be released by the blast and scattered across Nevada and southern Utah.

Although there is radioactive material in two locations about a mile from the proposed blast site, it is “extremely unlikely” that the material would become “resuspended” and cause harm, the report said.

“Because the nearest member of the public resides approximately 12 miles from the (test site) boundary, this individual would receive only a minute fraction of the modeled dose,” according to the report, which exceeds 250 pages.

Two Utah Republicans, Rep. Jim Matheson and Sen. Orrin Hatch, and others were reading the report to look for information that would address their concerns about possible health and safety risks if the blast takes place.

The test of bunker-buster bombs was postponed in June. “We found a number of problems with the first analysis, and we want to make sure that those have been corrected and that there aren’t any other concerns that need to be addressed,” Hatch said in a statement.

Robert Hager, a Reno, Nev.-based lawyer representing an Indian tribe and people living downwind, had not seen the report but was skeptical.

He said the government acknowledged the danger in the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act of 1990.

“It issued an apology to downwinder Americans for causing tens of thousands of cancers with the same material that’s in the soil at the test site,” he said.

“The downwinders I represent are terrified at the prospect of history repeating itself,” Hager said. “Yet this government seems committed to this very thing.”

Public comments on the report will be accepted until Jan. 24.

Associated Press reporter **Ken Ritter** contributed from Las Vegas.

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# Taste the future — cooking ahead to 2007

BY J.M. HIRSCH  
AP Food Writer

Serving up some foie gras and pomegranate spritzers sometime soon?

Prepare yourself for some serious eye-rolling from hipster foodies. As they'll no doubt inform you, fatty livers and anything pomegranate are so 2006. Bury them alongside the long dead turkey fryers, chocolate fountains and gaudy wine glass charms.

For a taste of 2007, you'll want to let your palate wander south, way south. But no matter where you go, don't wander far. You'll also want to spend some time studying up on the esoterica of meat. And be sure to avoid any food prefaced by "super."

To spare you further food foibles, some thoughts from the trend-watchers and setters on what the new year will bring.

— If you thought beef — and steaks in particular — were big last year, brace yourself. "We will see the unabashed growth in the steak craze. I thought it had peaked. I really did," says Dana Cowin, editor-in-chief of Food & Wine magazine. "And then it turns out there is no peak to steak. It keeps going."

And not only will people eat more steak, they also will know more about it. Whether for reasons of ecology or flavor, consumers

want to know where their meat is from, how long it was aged, what the animal ate, how it was slaughtered.

"You can really educate to an extreme if you're obsessive," Cowin says.

As part of this growth, steakhouses will get a feminine touch, say the folks at the Food Network. The push will be for a more contemporary look that emphasizes romance and ambiance over wooing clients.

— Seafood will continue to confuse, but a few stars will swim to the top.

Seems like every other week, another eco- or health-minded group releases a new list of which seafood you should and shouldn't eat. And the government's efforts to clarify have been anything but clear.

But as the editors of Bon Appetit magazine say in their January 2007 issue (which touts "feel good fish" as a top new trend), there are a few fish that can be warmly welcomed to your table, including tilapia, mahi-mahi, sturgeon and striped bass.

— The natural foods industry will grow, but pay more attention to its offspring, the hard-to-define local foods movement.

Restaurants everywhere already use their menus to boast of which local farm or cheesemaker your meal began with. Now mainstream grocers — even the big chains

— are picking up the trend.

— Speaking of local, the new must-drink wines won't be. At least not for Americans.

For those, head south. As in, Australia (still hot, though starting to fade), New Zealand (getting hotter), South Africa (really hot) and South America (blazing). And as a bonus, Southern Hemisphere wines tend to be really affordable.

— For an exciting new taste, think Greek. We're talking feta and dolmades and baklava and spanakopita.

"The interest in Greek everything has exploded," says Cowin. And that means people not only have their pick of restaurants, but also a wide selection of ingredients and cookbooks.

Tourism to Greece has been growing, and there are plenty of cooking schools to cater to the many foodie travelers who want to return home with recipes in addition to snapshots.

"You can't pronounce the names of any of the grapes down there, but once you get over that and realize pointing is OK, you can have some really great Greek wines," Cowin says.

— The nation is overdue for a diet fad.

There are no contenders in sight, but it's been a while since carbs were demonized. Anyone care to revive the grapefruit diet?

— Food TV will get real.

Well, not really. Having done everything possible from behind a six-burner island cooktop in a fab kitchen set, food television will push itself further afield. Prepare yourself for barely real reality television — as in dropping chefs onto barren islands.

— Superfoods won't be quite so super.

Not because they aren't super healthy, but because they've now been thoroughly myth-busted. Much as people want to believe otherwise, good health isn't had by megadosing on blueberries or pomegranates or broccoli.

— For something different, consider the foods of Africa.

African foods are phenomenal, and Americans are catching on. Watch for Ethiopian foods, which are pungent with cinnamon and cloves, and so seductively blur the line between sweet and savory. And South Africans give cured meat a whole new meaning.

— It's all about the provenance of the food.

It's way beyond coffee, which can now be purchased with a little story about who grew it and where. You'll also know where your chocolate and honey and even some of your sugar was harvested. You'll know how it was harvested. For a premium, you'll probably even get to know who harvested it.

## Upgrading beans and toast beyond the post-pub grub

BY J.M. HIRSCH  
AP Food Writer

Every Friday and Saturday night, it was beans on toast at 2 a.m. Sometimes later.

It was the standard post-pub grub for me and my housemates during college. I usually spiked my beans with a bit of canned pineapple. They thought it was gross. These days, so do I.

And I can say with some relief that it's been more than a decade since I've felt the urge to crack a 2 a.m. can of beans.

But as the start of the new year turns attention to the making over of everything from diets to wardrobes, I wondered how this classic fodder of the poor student would fare in a top-to-bottom remake.

First, there would be no pineapple. And the beans would not be the baked variety we bought at five cans for \$1. And though the dish would still need to be quick, it needed also to be dignified, perhaps even worthy of eating at a more reasonable dinner time.

I considered spiking kidney beans with a bit of bacon, but it seemed too much like baked beans — albeit flavorful ones — and too overpowering. The toast needs to be part of the package, but likely would get lost under that combination.

Having been impressed with the more gentle pairing of calamari and cannellini beans in Italian cooking, I started there. Both have subtle, yet delicious flavors. The seasonings would need to be equally subtle to complement rather than mask those.

I settled with a bit of garlic, some rosemary and — for fresh notes — lemon zest.

Assembly was easy. The calamari, which cooks in just minutes, picked up the other flavors wonderfully. But there still was something missing. A sauce for the toast to soak up. This always had come as part of the package with baked beans.

To create a sauce, I added a bit of wine to

the skillet. This was good, but not thick enough. Rather than add a thickener, I relied on the natural starches in the beans by draining, but not rinsing them. This left just enough starch on the beans.

The result was a speedy and satisfying meal I wouldn't have dreamed of making a decade ago. And that was just right.

CALAMARI AND CANNELINI TOASTS

(Start to finish: 15 minutes)

2 thick slices sourdough bread

2 tablespoons olive oil

1 medium yellow onion, thinly sliced

2 cloves garlic, finely minced

2 teaspoons chopped fresh rosemary

1 pound raw calamari rings

1/4 cup white wine

Zest of 1 lemon

1 cup canned cannellini beans, drained but not rinsed

Salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste

Toast the bread and place each slice on a serving plate.

Meanwhile, heat the olive oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add the onion and saute 4 minutes, or until just tender. Add garlic and rosemary and saute another 2 minutes.

Add the calamari, wine and lemon zest and saute, stirring constantly, 2 minutes, or until the calamari rings are just firm. Add the beans and cook, stirring, until heated through, about another minute.

Remove the pan from the heat and season with salt and pepper. To serve, ladle half of the beans and calamari over each slice of toast.

Makes 2 servings.

BY J.M. HIRSCH  
AP Food Writer

This will be the year you get serious, right?

You're ready for a major dietary overhaul. Sugar, fat and carbs are out; fresh produce, whole grains and lean protein — not to mention plenty of exercise — are in. Everything you've been meaning to do all year.

Too bad you and millions of other Americans are doomed to fail. Blame the lure of instant gratification. The desire for immediate results reliably obscures some of the most sound and oft-repeated dietary advice — major makeovers rarely stick.

So maybe this year try a more novel — and more likely to succeed — approach: small changes that are easy to live with, but that cumulatively can have significant and lasting effects on your health. Never mind your pants size.

"People hate to admit the fact that it took them 10 years, 20 years, 30 years to get from a size they are comfortable with to a size they are miserable with," says Jeanne Goldberg, a professor of nutrition science at Tufts University's Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy.

"They want to turn that around in 10 minutes," she says. "That's totally unachievable."

Where to begin?

It helps to equate food with physical activity. A new book by nutrition expert Charles Stuart Platkin, "The Diet Detective's Count Down," lists thousands of foods and how long it takes to burn them off by walking, running, biking, swimming, dancing and doing yoga.

That glazed Krispy Kreme is less tempting when you know you have to add almost an hour of walking to your day to counteract it.

Knowing what to change in your diet also is easier when you know what your habits are. Most people wildly underestimate how much food they eat. That's why Platkin urges

## Simple steps are key to big changes in diet

people to keep a food diary for several days before attempting any changes.

A food journal helps track all those spare nibbles and extra sodas people tend to gloss over when tallying how much they eat. With a few days tracked, it's easier to find less painful ways to trim.

Start by looking at beverages, especially soda and juice, which account for many of Americans' excess calories. Swapping out even just one high-calorie drink a day can have a remarkable effect. Consider diet drinks or water as substitutes.

"Over a year, that 100 calories a day is a 10-pound weight loss," says Leah McLaughlin, an editor at Prevention magazine.

Smoothies, which often masquerade as health food, are another dangerous drink. The sugar in all that fruit adds up quickly. Goldberg suggests diluting them with water, using skim milk instead of whole, and adding fat-free dried milk for creaminess with fewer calories.

And don't forget the cream in your coffee, especially the fancy coffees (some of which pack hundreds of calories). Try halving the sugar or switching to skim milk. Once you get used to that, try doing both.

Snacks are another area where people don't realize how much they eat, often involving foods with lots of calories and little nutrition.

Rather than trying to skip snacks, think of them as small meals, says McLaughlin. That will make you less likely to grab a candy bar and more likely to eat something not only healthier, but more filling. And that means you're less likely to snack again later.

And as with smoothies, fruit as a snack can be problematic. A large apple isn't one serving; it's two or three. Pick smaller pieces.

That goes for other snacks, too. Though prepackaged single servings of snacks such as popcorn and cookies cost more, the dietary benefit is worth the price.

NFL  
Fields of broken dreams: DT is done for season with injury

BY GREG BEACHAM  
AP Sports Writer

**SANTA CLARA, Calif.** — Ronald Fields didn't even realize he had broken his arm during the San Francisco 49ers' practice until a day later, when his season ended because of the injury.

The 49ers put their starting defensive tackle on injured reserve Thursday, forcing yet another personnel change late in their surprisingly successful season.

San Francisco re-signed defensive tackle Lance Legree to replace Fields, who apparently was hurt during a drill in Wednesday's practice. He didn't think anything about the injury until Thursday morning, when X-rays revealed the break.

"It was kind of a freak accident," said Fields, his right arm in a sling. "It happens all the time. It just happened wrong for me."

Fields will undergo surgery Friday to put a metal plate in his arm.

Isaac Sopoaga and Anthony Adams are among the candidates to replace Fields in the starting lineup for Sunday's home finale

against Arizona. San Francisco usually rotates several players through its lineup at defensive tackle, so both veterans already know the role.

Fields missed the first three weeks of the season with a right shoulder injury, but returned to provide a steady presence alongside Marques Douglas on the interior of the 49ers' line.

He has started San Francisco's last nine games since the club switched to a 4-3 defensive alignment, making 28 tackles. The second-year pro, a fifth-round draft pick from Mississippi State last season, grew into an increasingly prominent role alongside rookie defensive end Melvin Oliver, another late-round pick.

Legree, who spent the previous five seasons with the Giants and Jets, signed with the 49ers in August, but failed to make the roster. He went to work for a securities company in New York City until the Giants re-signed him last month, but was waived again on Dec. 3.

The 49ers have put five players on injured reserve in the last two weeks, including starting center Eric Heitmann and backup defensive backs Sammy Davis and Donald Strickland.

NFL  
Raiders aiming to avoid second straight winless season in division

BY JOSH DUBOW  
AP Sports Writer

**ALAMEDA, Calif.** — Randy Moss was still in Minnesota, Art Shell was working in the NFL offices and six Oakland starters were in college the last time the Raiders won a division game.

Oakland's last chance to avoid a second straight winless season against its AFC West rivals comes Saturday night when the Raiders (2-12) host the Kansas City Chiefs (7-7).

"It's definitely a big step in where want to go as far the team goes. Of course you're not going to do anything until you can beat the teams in your division," safety Stuart Schweigert said. "It's definitely a step in the right direction with a victory this Saturday."

The Raiders have lost 13 straight division games since beating Denver 25-24 on Nov. 28, 2004, winning on a touchdown pass from Kerry Collins to Jerry Porter in the final minutes of a snow-filled game.

Since that win there have been blowouts and blown leads, dumb penalties and questionable calls, and all sorts of ways for a team to lose.

Those losses can eat away at a team's confidence and boost that of the opposition, especially when a game is close down the stretch.

"They tend to always commit a foul or do something to mess something up at the end of the game," Kansas city defensive end Jared Allen said. "We're confident. We know we can beat them at the end of the game because we've done it the last seven times."

Many of the Raiders' division losses have been heartbreakers, especially against Kansas City. They have dropped seven straight against the Chiefs, all the games decided by

seven points or fewer.

That includes a 17-13 loss at Kansas City on Nov. 19, when Aaron Brooks threw an interception into the end zone on Oakland's final drive. That loss was the second of three in three weeks in the division, all in games Oakland led in the fourth quarter.

The previous week against Denver, the Raiders blew a 13-7 fourth-quarter lead when Chris Carr was called for a personal foul for running out of bounds on punt coverage, negating a Denver fumble.

In the last of the three straight losses San Diego rallied from a seven-point deficit to win 21-14. That comeback was helped out by another obscure call. San Diego's Vincent Jackson made a diving catch of a 13-yard pass from Philip Rivers, rolled to the ground untouched, then stood up and spun the ball forward in celebration. Oakland's Fabian Washington jumped on the ball for what appeared to be a gift fumble, but instead it was called an illegal forward pass, allowing the Chargers to keep the ball and drive for a tying touchdown.

In all, Oakland has lost 21 of 23 division games since going to the Super Bowl following the 2002 season. The Raiders have dropped seven straight to both San Diego and Denver, matching the longest losing streak they've ever had against a team.

"We've had a lot of close ones with the teams in our division," Schweigert said. "Our division is very good, also. The fact that it's Kansas City and we felt that we should have won the game last time we played them there, so it would be very nice to finish off this season 2-0 and to get at least one win in our division. It would definitely be a positive going into next season."



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**SURF REPORT**



**SURF CONDITIONS**      **WATER TEMP: 60°**

**SWELL FORECAST ( 6-9 FT )**  
NW swell is expected to back down a tad towards chest to head high for west facing breaks. The winds are expected to turn NE'erly and calm in some locales by early morning. Tide is still a bit of an issue though.

**LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS**  
BIGGER NW DUE TUESDAY...

**TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA**

**TIDE FORECASTS NOT AVAILABLE**



**NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY**

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of **December 5, 2006**

HEAL THE BAY - 1444 9th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401 - [www.healthebay.org](#) - [brc@healthebay.org](#) - 800 HEAL BAY

**QUICK STATS**  
(for the last 28 days)

Number of sewage spills -- 0  
Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 8  
Number of wet days -- 4  
Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 37 / 31  
Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 10 / 13

The Beach Report Card is made possible by a grant from 

Heal the Bay reminds you not to swim or surf within 100 yards of any flowing storm drain or for 3 days after a rainstorm. After a rain, indicator bacteria counts at beaches throughout California usually far exceed health criteria in the state's Beach Closure and Health Warning Protocol.

| LOCATION                                                             | DRY | WET | LOCATION                                                          | DRY | WET |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|
| Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth                     | A   | A+  | Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence      | A+  | F   |
| Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth                    | A+  | A+  | Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain               | A+  | A+  |
| El Pescador State Beach, between Lachusa and Los Aliso creeks        | A+  | A+  | Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain                  | A+  | F   |
| Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach                             | A+  | A+  | Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua) | F   | F   |
| Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth                                   | A+  | A+  | Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain                          | F   | A+  |
| Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth                                       | A+  | A+  | Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain                        | D   | D   |
| Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)                   | A+  | A+  | Santa Monica Municipal Pier                                       | F   | A+  |
| Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth                     | F   | F   | Santa Monica Beach at Pica/Kenter storm drain                     | A   | F   |
| Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach                  | A+  | A+  | Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms)      | A   | A+  |
| Latigo Canyon Creek mouth                                            | A   | F   | Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain                            | A   | A+  |
| Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach                          | A   | A+  | Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain                   | A+  | A+  |
| Puerto State Beach at creek mouth                                    | A+  | A+  | Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain                                 | A   | A+  |
| Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerto Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.        | F   | F   | Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain                               | A+  | B   |
| Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence                               | A+  | A+  | Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south                              | A+  | A+  |
| Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily                             | A   | F   | Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St.                           | A+  | A+  |
| Malibu Pier - 50 yards east                                          | A+  | A+  | Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower                   | C   | A   |
| Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon                                    | A+  | ns  | Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth                     | A   | F   |
| Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)              | A+  | A+  | Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain                      | A+  | D   |
| Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs                                   | F   | A+  | North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach           | A+  | F   |
| Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach                                 | A+  | A+  | Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty)          | A+  | A+  |
| Tuna Canyon                                                          | ns  | A+  | Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain                      | A+  | D   |
| Topanga State Beach at creek mouth                                   | A   | A+  | Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant               | A+  | A+  |
| Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach                          | F   | ns  | Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain                        | A+  | A+  |
| Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach                          | F   | ns  |                                                                   |     |     |
| Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain) | A+  | A+  |                                                                   |     |     |

**LEGEND**

**DRY** -- each location is graded on an A - F scale based on bacterial pollution levels present in the surf zone

**WET** -- grades for days of recorded rainfall and the following 3 days

**ns** -- no sample taken



Heal the Bay is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to making Santa Monica Bay and Southern California coastal waters safe and healthy for people and marine life.

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Heal the Bay's Beach Report Card™ is based on weekly water quality monitoring data provided by the City of Los Angeles' Environmental Monitoring Division and the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. Data is analyzed as soon as it is made available to us by the public agencies. Beaches are graded on an A-F scale based on the risk of ocean users becoming ill. Samples are analyzed for bacteria—enterococcus, total and fecal coliforms—that indicate biological pollution. A fact sheet detailing the exact methodology used in determining grades for each location is available from the office or on our web site. The report is not designed to measure the amount of trash or toxins found at local beaches.

The Beach Report Card is an indication of past water quality and is not a warranty of the current safety of those areas surveyed. Our lawyers are happy.

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# Stoke the fires, Cancer

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

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



## ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ Your ideas convert into actions. Your actions let others know just how much you care. You have a strong sense of direction. A call or news might encourage you to bring a new person or two into your plans. Tonight: Where you are, the party is.

## TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ You might be overwhelmed by a key loved one's or friend's requests. Yet you might not be willing to say "no." Please don't complain. You express your unique qualities in your choices. Others like it when you do. Tonight: A must appearance.

## GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Do make an effort to understand what someone else is thinking. Make a point of calling or reaching out to those at a distance. You find your interest in others can illuminate your life. Tonight: Put on a favorite piece of music.

## CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Togetherness is the theme right now. Find that special friend or associate who you can talk to and share with. You might be delighted by what goes on. Take a walk or go see Christmas decorations when you can. Tonight: Stoke the fires.

## LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Others cannot stay away, no matter what. Don't worry about what is going on; just enjoy it. Someone has a different perspective from you. Are these differences worth a toasty disagreement? We think not. Tonight: Respond to another's suggestion.

## VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Get a head start on what you might like to accomplish. You find that handling the details and must-do's immediately will help you relax. You'll want to clear out as much free time as possible. Touch base with key people in your day-to-day life. Tonight: Mosey on home.

## LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ You cannot hold yourself back. You might want to ask yourself why you need to. Let your enthusiasm and bubbly flow. Others appreciate your lightness. Don't stand on ceremony. Make a call. Tonight: Fun and games.

## SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ You want to head home early. All this nesting might be fine and well, but still some people would like to visit and see you. Try to fit in others' needs. It isn't all about you. Honor changes within a key relationship. Tonight: How about some eggnog?

## SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ You have plans. How you approach others can determine the success or failure of the next few days. You will naturally choose the right direction. File down a touch of abrasiveness, and you are a sure-bet winner. Tonight: Share holiday tidings.

## CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Be careful about last-minute impulsiveness. You could cause yourself a problem when you least expect or want it. Don't allow a perceived slight to mar the moment. Don't let this issue impact what could be a very special few days. Tonight: Play Santa. Give out treats!

## AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Clearly, you are on top of your game. Certain friends could be very demanding. How you deal with these people might make a big difference. Allow more give-and-take with your special people. Tonight: Don't be shy. Share a dream.

## PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Get extra sleep while you can, because before you know it, you will be the lead actor. Think in terms of completing a personal matter or talk. This person might seem bellicose at first. That, too, can change with your special touch. Tonight: Get ready!

## Born Today

**Model, actress Estella Warren (1978)**  
**Emperor of Japan Akihito (1933)**  
**Zionist leader Avraham Stern (1907)**

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>  
(c) 2006 by King Features Syndicate Inc.



## Happy Birthday!

This year, much perks up in your life, emotionally, intellectually and in life events in general. What might be important and instrumental to your life's success is to weigh the pros and cons of a situation more carefully before leaping in. Sometimes you get so frustrated you cannot hold yourself back. Be more direct and open with close friends. Learn, also, to express uncomfortable feelings. If you are single, check out someone you are interested in very carefully. You could be stunned by what you find. If you are attached, a common goal or achievement will draw you closer.

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# Fit to be tied

## Sutherland gives credit for roping skills to horses

KIEFER SUTHERLAND is an Emmy award winner for his role as agent Jack Bauer on “24,” but he also holds another prestigious title: rodeo champion.

“What I lacked as a roper and a cowboy I could make up for in horses,” the 40-year-old actor says in the January/February issue of Men’s Vogue magazine, on newsstands Tuesday. “Roping is one of those sports like polo where you get infinitely better the better your horses are. I had some great horses.”

Sutherland, who has starred in such films as “The Sentinel” and “A Few Good Men,” learned the basics of

horseback riding in 1994’s “The Cowboy Way.” He took time off from making movies in 1998, and wound up winning the national team roping competition twice.

“Those two years on the ranch were my college years,” Sutherland recalls. “Three or four guys riding around in a truck from rodeo to rodeo. It was fantastic.”

The eagerly anticipated sixth season premiere of his hit Fox series, “24,” airs in two-hour blocks on Jan. 14 and 15. Sutherland, who has been married twice, says it’s hard to date while shooting the series.

“There are some people that are great loners, but it

is certainly not how I wanted to live my life,” he says.

“When you have five 16-hour days back to back, though, it is tough to tell someone, ‘The only way you can spend time with me is to live with me.’ It’s certainly a weird question to ask on a first date.”

ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Pink ‘Elephant’: Van Sant gets busted

Filmmaker GUS VAN SANT has been arrested here on a drunken driving charge, police said.

Sgt. Brian Schmautz, Portland Police Bureau spokesman, said Van Sant, 54, was arrested at 1:48 a.m. Thursday. A breath test showed a blood-alcohol level of 0.19 percent, Schmautz said. That’s more than twice the state limit, 0.08 percent.

An officer saw that the headlights on Van Sant’s vehicle weren’t on, Schmautz said. Van Sant, who lives in Portland, had bloodshot eyes and slurred

speech, smelled of alcohol and failed the sobriety tests, Schmautz said.

Calls to his film company seeking comment were not immediately returned.

Van Sant directed such films as “My Own Private Idaho,” “Drugstore Cowboy,” “Good Will Hunting” and “Finding Forrester.” Several of his films have been set in Oregon, including “Elephant,” about a high-school shooting, which won the top prize at the Cannes Film Festival in 2003. He has been filming “Paranoid Park” in and around the city.

AP

# J-Lo and Judd bracing for a dance-off

CRIS JUDD has a new dancing show. So does Jennifer Lopez. So how does Judd feel competing with his ex-wife?

“I would never wish for something to be a failure,” the 37-year-old dancer-choreographer told AP Television in a recent interview.

“Everyone’s trying to get by and everyone’s trying to do their best and you can only hope for the best and you can wish for the best for someone,” he continued. “So, hopefully both shows will be successful and they can both coincide and we’ll have a great time.”

Judd’s show is the reality competition “Dirty Dancing” on the Women’s Entertainment cable channel, airing Wednesdays at 10 p.m. EST. Lopez is producing MTV’s “DanceLife,” about six aspiring dancers struggling to make it. The eight-episode series premieres Jan. 15 at 10:30 p.m.

Judd’s show was inspired by the ‘80s classic

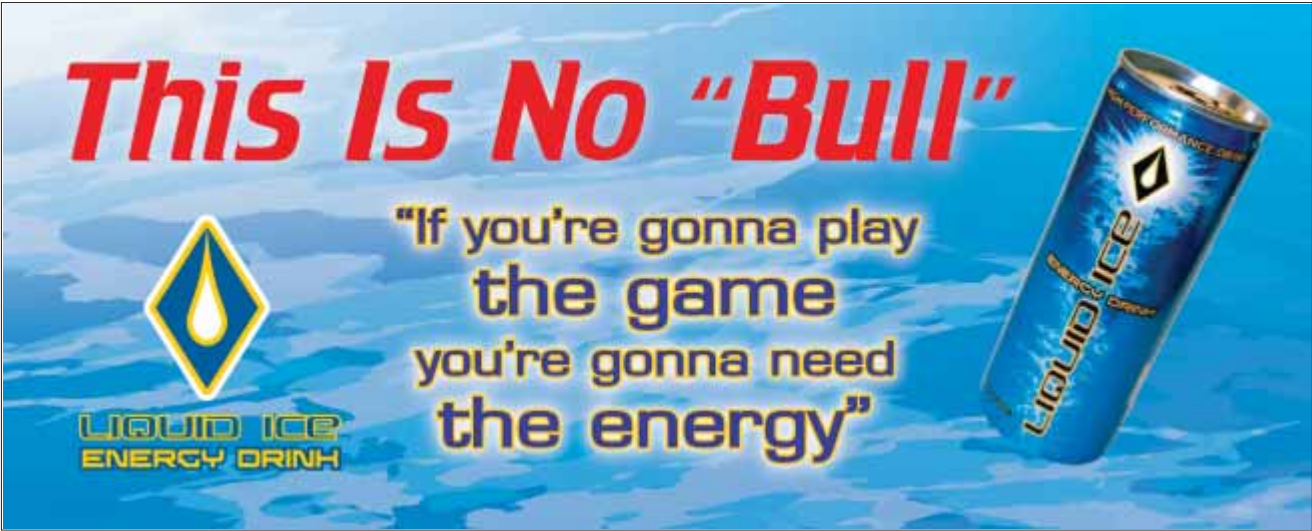
“Dirty Dancing,” starring Jennifer Grey as rich girl Baby and Patrick Swayze as poor dance instructor Johnny. The premise: Eighteen women compete at a summer camp for a dance contract and the right to play Baby – to whichever professional ballroom dancer becomes Johnny – during the finale.

Judd said things can get steamy on the dance floor.

“It can get sexy,” he said. “You’re with this person almost 24 hours a day and you’re doing everything together and dancing can get heated especially when you dance with a partner and you’re dancing sensual...”

Lopez, 38, married first husband Ojani Noa in 1997 and divorced a year later. Her second marriage to Judd in 2001 lasted for nine months. In 2004, she tied the knot with singer Marc Anthony.

AP



# Walking to the nearest newsstand increases circulation.

## Santa Monica Daily Press

## MOVIEGUIDE

AERO THEATRE  
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**Friday**  
White Christmas  
7:30  
**Saturday**  
Lawrence of Arabia

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**Babel (R)**  
10:15am, 1:10, 4:10, 7:15, 10:20  
**Deja Vu (PG-13)**  
8:00, 10:45  
**The Good German (R)**  
10:45am, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45  
**The Good Shepherd (R)**  
12:00, 3:45, 7:30, 11:00  
**Happy Feet (PG)**  
10:00am, 12:30, 3:00, 5:30

AMC 7 SANTA MONICA  
**1310 3rd Street**  
**(310) 289-4262**

**Apocalypto (R)**  
10:20am, 1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 10:45  
**Blood Diamond (R)**  
10:05am, 1:20, 4:20, 7:30, 10:40  
**Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan (R)**  
7:00, 9:15  
**The Holiday (PG-13)**  
10:50am, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, 11:00  
**Night at the Museum (PG)**  
10:30am, 12:00, 1:30, 2:35, 4:00, 5:20, 8:20, 10:50, 11:45  
**The Pursuit of Happyness (PG-13)**  
10:10am, 11:40am, 1:10, 2:20, 4:10, 5:30, 7:10, 8:30, 9:50, 11:20

LANDMARK NUWILSHIRE  
**1314 Wilshire Blvd**  
**(310) 281-8228**

**Bobby (R)**  
12:45, 4:00, 7:10, 9:55  
**Little Children (R)**  
12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 9:50

LAEMMLE'S MONICA FOURPLEX  
**1332 2nd Street**  
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**Curse of the Golden Flower (Man cheng jin dai huang jin jia) (R)**  
1:35, 4:25, 7:20, 10:10  
**Letters From Iwo Jima (R)**  
12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 10:15  
**The Queen (PG-13)**  
1:20, 4:15, 7:10, 9:45  
**Volver (R)**  
1:45, 4:35, 7:30, 10:15

MANN'S CRITERION THEATRE  
**1313 3rd Street**  
**(310) 395-1599**

**Casino Royale (PG-13)**  
12:30, 3:50, 7:20, 10:40  
**Charlotte's Web (G)**  
11:40am, 2:00, 4:20, 6:50, 9:30  
**The Departed (R)**  
11:50am, 3:10, 6:30, 9:50  
**Eragon (PG)**  
11:10am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40  
**Rocky Balboa (PG)**  
11:30am, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10  
**We Are Marshall (PG)**  
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00

Janric Classic Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle. The difficulty level ranges from Bronze (easiest) to Silver to Gold (hardest).

Difficulty  
GOLD

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   | 9 |   | 1 |   |   | 6 | 2 |
|   |   |   |   |   | 4 |   |   |   |
| 3 |   | 2 |   | 6 |   | 4 |   |   |
|   | 6 | 7 |   |   | 9 | 8 |   | 3 |
|   |   |   | 1 |   | 7 |   |   |   |
| 8 |   | 4 | 3 |   |   | 1 | 5 |   |
|   |   | 5 |   | 3 |   | 6 |   | 8 |
|   |   |   | 7 |   |   |   |   |   |
| 9 | 1 |   |   | 5 |   | 7 |   |   |

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GETTING STARTED

There are many strategies to solving Sudoku. One way to begin is to examine each 3x3 grid and figure out which numbers are missing. Then, based on the other numbers in the row and column of each blank cell, find which of the missing numbers will work. Eliminating numbers will eventually lead you to the answer.

SOLUTIONS TO LAST PUZZLE

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 4 |
| 8 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 1 | 7 | 5 |
| 9 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 6 |
| 2 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 1 |
| 5 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 7 |
| 1 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 3 |
| 6 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 8 |
| 4 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 9 |

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Opening Lines, Pinky Probes and L-Bombs: The Girls & Sports Dating Playbook is available at: [www.girlsandsports.com/book](http://www.girlsandsports.com/book). Mention this newspaper for a free gift!

The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



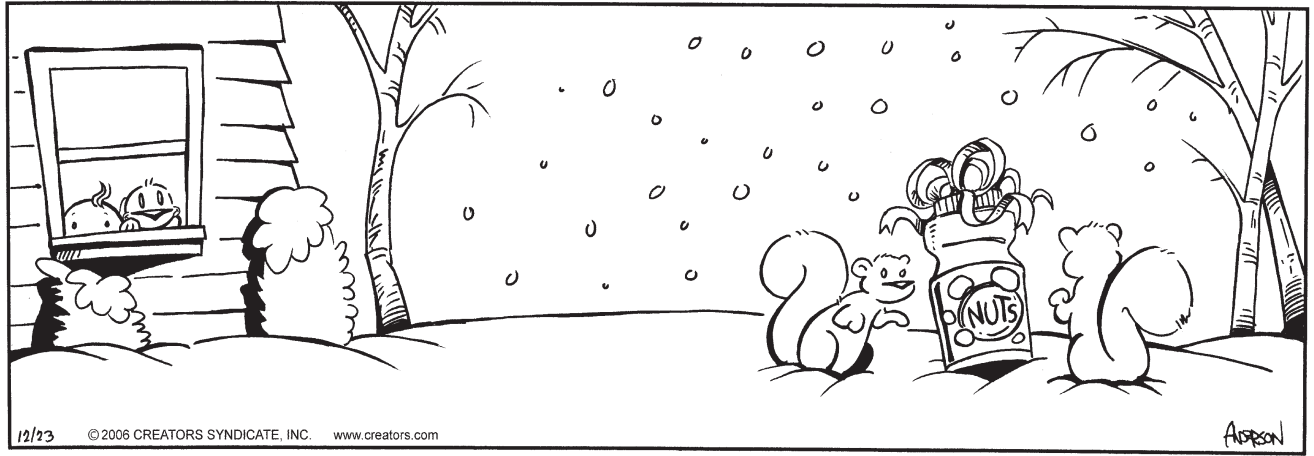
Garfield

By Jim Davis



Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson



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YOUR AD COULD RUN TOMORROW!\*

Some restrictions may apply.

(310) 458-7737

\*Please call our Classified Sales Manager to reserve your ad space. Specific ad placement not guaranteed on classified ads. Ad must meet deadline requirements. See complete conditions below.

CLASSIFICATIONS:

Announcements

Creative

Employment

For Sale

Furniture

Pets

Boats

Jewelry

Wanted

Travel

Vacation Rentals

Apartments/Condos

Rent

Houses for Rent

Roomates

Commercial Lease

Real Estate

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Storage Space

Vehicles for Sale

Massage

Services

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Attorney Services

Business Opportunities

Yard Sales

Health and Beauty

Fitness

Wealth and Success

Lost and Found

Personals

Psychic

Obituaries

Tutoring

All classified liner ads are placed on our website for FREE! Check out [www.smdp.com](http://www.smdp.com) for more info.

Announcements

AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPEN  
Community Corporation of Santa Monica announces the opening of the 2007 Marketing List. To be considered for an affordable housing unit in Santa Monica, you must pick up an appointment card at 1423 2nd St. #B, Santa Monica between Dec. 11th and Jan. 4th, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. M-Th – Closed Dec. 22, 25, 29 and Jan. 1. EOH

Employment

College radio music promoter (310)998-8305 xt.85

COOPPORTUNITY-NATURAL GROCER-GROC. Asst., other positions, too! Apply at 1525 Broadway.

COUNTER HELP needed. Cafe near 3rd St. Promenade on Broadway. Must be experienced. Immediate openings, day and evening shifts. Apply afternoons in person. 215 Broadway, SM. (310) 396-9898.

Customer Service/Full Time- starting up to \$12.00 per hour. 22 year old telephone services company in WLA with free secure parking. Experience preferred but will train. Good language skills and reliability a must. Call 310-281-3079 for recorded details.

Employment

FORMAL WAITER  
SANTA MONICA LOCATION, TUE-FRI 10A-4P, SAT-SUN 8A-4P. \$8.34/HR. GREET DINERS/PRESENT MENU/SUGGEST COURSES, WINES. ENTER MEAL INTO COMPUTER, EXPLAIN DINER REQUESTS TO CHEF. ENSURE ORDER CORRECT/SERVE DINERS FROM CHAFING DISH/CARVE MEATS, FISH/FOWL. PREPARE SPECIAL BEVERAGES & SUGGEST, DECORATE & SERVE DESSERTS. TOTAL BILL & ACCEPT PYMT. SUPERVISE BUSBOY. HS DEG./ 6 MOS EXP. IN FORMAL REST. GOOD CONVERSATIONAL SKILLS/MULIT-LINGUAL PREFERRED. EMPLYR TRAINS. SANTA MONICA LOCATION. ALL APPLICANTS REF: AJB JOB ORDER #35844029 & ETA CASE #D-05124-91567. FAX OR MAIL RESUMES, INCLUDING AJB ORDER # & ETA CASE # TO: ATTN: 05124-91567 TRO2-RW, 700 N PEARL ST., STE. 510, DALLAS, TX 75201, FAX 214-237-9116

IMMEDIATE POSITIONS available in the environmental service department of St. John's Health Center. Looking for housekeeper/floor tech. PT/FT. Hospital experience preferred. Call (310) 829-8431 for interview

IMMEDIATE POSITIONS open in the housekeeping department/transporters of Century City Doctors Hospital. All shifts available, PT/FT. Hospital housekeeping preferred. Call (310) 557-7194 for interview.

Salesperson needed for dental services and promotion. Aggressive commission plus \$15/hour. Local sales in Venice Beach. Call Dr. King at 310-391-0699.

Employment

OFFICE COORDINATOR  
Salary: \$45k - \$50K w/ Benefits!  
College degree preferred, 5+ years experience in administrative assignments. Work independently, highly developed organizational/problem-solving skills, multi-task in faced paced environment, excellent communication skills. Detail oriented essential. Bookkeeping a plus! Send resume to: candidateseek@yahoo.com or by fax 310-564-0408.

RADIO INTERVIEW campaign sales person p/t flexible SM (310)998-8305 \* 84

Employment

SALES  
SANTA MONICA  
Earn \$60K - \$400K.  
One of the nation's oldest/largest precious metals co. seeks sales pros. No cold calling or license required, paid training & full benefits. [www.Goldline.com](http://www.Goldline.com). 310-395-0762

P/T RETAIL SALES  
Work for the world's most trusted source of travel supplies! Popular Santa Monica retailer specializing in travel supplies & clothing seeks

For Rent

BEAUTIFUL MONTANA GARDENS  
401 Montana Avenue  
Your home away from home.  
Daily meals, laundry, housekeeping, utilities, and cable. 1 Bdrm, 1 Bath + Full Kitchen. Seniors and all ages welcome.  
IMMEDIATE OPENINGS  
\$2,500/MO  
(310) 245-9436

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

HOWARD MANAGEMENT GROUP (310) 869-7901  
2bdrm/1bath \$2200/mo  
2103 Oak Unit C  
Refurbished.  
PLEASE visit our website for complete listings at: [www.howardmanagement.com](http://www.howardmanagement.com)

MAR VISTA 11924 Courtleigh Dr. unit 9, stove, fridge, carpets, blinds utilities included, parking, no pets,\$995/mo (310)737-7933 [www.jkwproperties.com](http://www.jkwproperties.com)

MAR VISTA 12450 Culver Blvd. Unit 211 1bdrm/1bath, gated parking, intercom entry, stove, fridge, utilities included, laundry, parking, no pets. \$1075/mo (888)414-7778 [www.jkwproperties.com](http://www.jkwproperties.com)

MAR VISTA/Culver City Adj. \$1725 2 Bdrms, 2 Baths. "Twnhs-Apt." Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, 2-Car garage. No pets, 12048 Culver Blvd #202. Open Daily for Viewing 9am-7pm, Additional info in unit. Mgr. #101

SANTA MONICA \$1175/mo 1 bdrm/1Bath, quiet, large unit, walk-in-closet, cozy kitchen, community courtyard, (310)395-RENT [www.westsiderentals.com](http://www.westsiderentals.com)

SANTA MONICA \$1213/mo 1brm/1bath- Charming/private, patio, mini blinds, a short walk to cafes. (310)395-RENT [www.westsiderentals.com](http://www.westsiderentals.com)

SANTA MONICA \$1500/mo 2bdrms/1bath, Carpet Floors, Garage parking, laundry on site, AVAILABLE NOW!!!, (310)395-RENT [www.westsiderentals.com](http://www.westsiderentals.com)

SANTA MONICA \$1050/mo bachelor/1bath, North of Montana, Hardwood Floors, quiet neighborhood, refrigerator, balcony. (310)395-RENT. [www.westsiderentals.com](http://www.westsiderentals.com)

SANTA MONICA \$1275/mo 2bdrms/1bath, hardwood floors, dishwasher, yard, beautiful hardwood cabinets in kitchen (310)395-RENT [www.westsiderentals.com](http://www.westsiderentals.com)

WLA: 2BDRM/1BATH. \$1500/mo. Great location, new carpet, tile, clean, quiet, parking, patio. Brenda (310) 991-2694.

For Rent

SANTA MONICA \$1325.00 1 Bdrm, 1 Bath, Stove, Refrigerator, Parking, No Pets, 2535 Kansas Ave., #203 Open Daily for Viewing 9am-7pm, Additional info in unit. Mgr. #101

SANTA MONICA \$1400/mo 2 bdrms/1bath, hardwood floors, yard, ceramic tile floors in kitchen/bath ( 3 1 0 ) 3 9 5 - R E N T [www.westsiderentals.com](http://www.westsiderentals.com)

SANTA MONICA \$1650/mo 2 bdrms/2baths, Carpet Floors, pool, spacious, bright unit, gated entry/parking ( 3 1 0 ) 3 9 5 - R E N T [www.westsiderentals.com](http://www.westsiderentals.com)

SANTA MONICA \$2300/mo 3bdrms/2baths, Will consider pet with deposit, Carpet/Hardwood Floors, Carport parking, (310)395-RENT. [www.westsiderentals.com](http://www.westsiderentals.com)

For Rent

Your ad could run here!  
Call us today at (310) 458-7737

SANTA MONICA \$795/mo Studio/1bath, New Carpets, quiet neighborhood, refrigerator, stove, electric heater ( 3 1 0 ) 3 9 5 - R E N T [www.westsiderentals.com](http://www.westsiderentals.com)

Apartment Wanted

Fantastic 26 year old female looking for a guesthouse/ 1 bedroom/ studio with lots of light and great neighbors. Great references. Positive Influence. (805)455-1115.

Ideal Tenant. Filmmaker/writer female seeks West Side guest house. I am clean, quiet, responsible, and working. Call if you have a clean place in a quiet neighborhood! Great references. (310)717-6086

Roommates

SENIORS—COOPERATIVE AFFORDABLE HOUSING  
(Age 55+) Live in a great location—unit in Beverly/Fairfax for \$430/month—includes utilities!  
323-650-7988 M-F 9-5

SHARE 2 private bdrm/ 2 private bath apt on ocean. pool. Very reasonable rent (310)395-1047

Commercial Lease

SANTA MONICA 2941 Main Street. Small single room offices \$825-\$890/month. Parking available. PAR Commercial (310)395-2663

SUNSET PARK 2 professional, commercial spaces, creative environment, ground floor, approx. 1050 sq. ft. Second floor, approx 850 sq ft. (310)450-9840

Don't be a statistic . . .

be Emergency Prepared Now !

Personalized Analysis, Plans & Supplies

We all know we should be prepared, but is your family or business really ready if an earthquake hit today?

310 993 2727 CALL NOW

[www.ePrepNow.com](http://www.ePrepNow.com)

CALL TODAY FOR SPECIAL MONTHLY RATES!

There is no more convincing medium than a DAILY local newspaper.

Prepay your ad today!

(310) 458-7737

Santa Monica Daily Press

HOURS MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00am - 5:00pm

LOCATION 1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite 202, Santa Monica, CA 90405

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING CONDITIONS:

REGULAR RATE: \$5.50 a day. Ads over 15 words add 20¢ per word per day. Ad must run a minimum of twelve consecutive days. PREMIUMS: First two words caps no charge. Bold words, italics, centered lines, etc. cost extra. Please call for rates. TYPOS: Check your ad the first day of publication. Sorry, we do not issue credit after an ad has run more than once. DEADLINES: 3:00 p.m. prior the day of publication except for Monday's paper when the deadline is Friday at 2:30 p.m. PAYMENT: All private party ads must be pre-paid. We accept checks, credit cards, and of course cash. CORRESPONDENCE: To place your ad call our offices 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, (310) 458-7737; send a check or money order with ad copy to The Santa Monica Daily Press, P.O. Box 1380, Santa Monica, CA 90406 or stop in at our office located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Ste. 202. OTHER RATES: For information about the professional services directory or classified display ads, please call our office at (310) 458-7737.

Santa Monica Daily Press

GET RID OF YOUR ROLLERBLADES. Sell your sports equipment to someone who will actually use it.

Classifieds

Prepay your ad today!



(310) 458-7737

CALL TODAY FOR SPECIAL MONTHLY RATES!

There is no more convincing medium than a DAILY local newspaper.

\$5<sup>50</sup> per day. Up to 15 words,  
20 cents each additional word.

## Real Estate

## HOME SELLERS

Free home evaluation. Free computerized list of area home sales and current listings. Free recorded message. 1-800-969-8257 ID #1041 [www.FreeListingPrice.com](http://www.FreeListingPrice.com)

ADVERTISE! CALL US (310) 458-7737

**Kate Bransfield**  
Estates Director  
Chairman's Circle - Platinum  
#1 Prudential Santa Monica Realtor

310.395.1133

What is Your Home Worth?  
Contact Me to Find Out.  
for local, current real estate info...

[SantaMonicaListings.com](http://SantaMonicaListings.com)

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

SELL YOUR  
CAR FAST!

Advertise your used car for sale in the only **LOCAL DAILY** newspaper in town.

FOR ONLY  
**\$45**

Run it until it sells!\*



1964 Pontiac Catalina  
New Transmission, new paint job. 150K original miles. Immaculate condition inside. Kept in garage for many years. Must see!  
\$3,000 (310) 458-7737

Ad shown actual size

## Package includes:

- Ad runs until your car sells. Period.\*
- Large format photograph.
- 20 word description.
- **FREE** online placement!

Call us today at  
**(310) 458-7737**

Take advantage of this great offer.

Santa Monica Daily Press



\*Terms and conditions. Ad will run for thirty (30) consecutive days. After 30 days, ad will expire and advertiser must call to schedule a free renewal. Ads are renewed for an additional 2 weeks. Advertiser must call within 5 days of ad expiration to renew. If renewal is placed after 5 days of ad expiration, advertiser must pay full price. Photographs must be submitted digitally in JPG or TIFF format. Email photographs to [annie@smdp.com](mailto:annie@smdp.com). Photographs only appear on print edition. 20 word description maximum; additional words 50 cents. Call for more details. Private parties only. Terms subject to change without notice.

## 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%      |
| 10 YEAR/1 ARM   | 6%      |
| 7 YEAR/1 ARM    | 5.75%   |
| 5 YEAR/1 ARM    | 5.75%** |
| 3 YEAR/1 ARM    | 5.5%**  |
| 1 YEAR/1 ARM    | 5.25%   |
| 6 MO./6 MO. ARM | 5%      |
| 1 MO./1 MO. ARM | 1%**    |

\*Rates subject to change

\* As of November 12, 2006

\*\* Denotes an interest only loan

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



## Real Estate Wanted

WE BUY HOUSES,  
APTS, & LAND!  
ALL CASH, AS-IS, FAST CLOSE  
David (310) 308-7887

## Business Opps

WANT TO own, start, or buy a restaurant, bar or club?  
[iwanttostartarestaurant.com](http://iwanttostartarestaurant.com)  
[iwanttostartabar.com](http://iwanttostartabar.com)  
[iwanttostartaclub.com](http://iwanttostartaclub.com)

Your ad could run here!  
Call us today at (310) 458-7737

## Health/Beauty

LOSE UP TO 30 lbs. in 30 days. Call for your free diet sample pack (310)281-6220

## Massage

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

HOLIDAY SPECIAL Head-Toe, light-strong, Relaxing Swedish, Deep tissue, TLC Footbackwalking, outcalls anytime. \*82-310-922-7434. \*82-702-787-2590, Dorothy

## Notices

## NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF GABRIELLA DI IORIO

Case No. BP101978

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of GABRIELLA DI IORIO

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Richard Di Iorio in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Richard Di Iorio be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on January 16, 2007 at 8:30 AM in Dept. No. 9 located at 111 N. Hill St., Los Angeles, CA 90012.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for petitioner:  
**ANDREW S GARB ESQ**  
**DAVID C. NELSON, ESQ.**  
**LOEB & LOEB LLP**  
10100 SANTA MONICA BLVD  
STE 2200  
LOS ANGELES CA 90067  
Santa Monica Daily Press  
CN766546 DI IORIO Dec 22,23,29, 2006

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE

(Secs. 6104, 6105 U.C.C.)

Escrow No. 01022780BW

Notice is hereby given to creditors of the within named seller that a bulk sale is about to be made of the assets described below.

The names and business addresses of the seller are:  
Kon Tung Bao and Ann Jen Bao, 2723

## Notices

Main Street, Santa Monica, California 90405.

The location in California of the chief executive office of the seller is: Same as above.

As listed by the seller, all other business names and addresses used by the seller within three years before the date such list was sent or delivered to the buyer are: None.

The names and business addresses of the buyer are:  
David Eli Mimoun and Jennifer Lynn Mimoun, 942 Jarvard Street, Santa Monica, CA 90403.

The assets to be sold are described in general as: Gift Shop and are located at: Cal Image 2723 Main Street, Santa Monica, California 90405.

The business name used by the seller at that location is: Cal Image.

The anticipated date of the bulk sale is January 11, 2007 at the office of Central Escrow, Inc., 225 W. Garvey Avenue, Monterey Park, CA 91754.

This bulk sale is subject to California Uniform Commercial Code Section 6106.2.

If so subject, the name and address of the person with whom claims may be filed is Beatrice Wang, Central Escrow, Inc., 225 W. Garvey Avenue, Monterey Park, CA 91754 and the last date for filing claims shall be January 10, 2007, which is the business day before the sale date specified above.

Dated: December 12, 2006  
DAVID ELI MIMOUN  
JENNIFER LYNN MIMOUN  
12/23/06  
CNS-1065179#  
SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS

## Vehicles for sale

**\$\$ CASH 4 \$\$**  
**\$\$ MERCEDES BENZ/BMWS \$\$**  
**1980-1995 Running or Not**  
**Any Questions Please Call**  
**(310) 995-5898**



'04 Dodge Dakota  
Maroon, automatic, V6 3.7L  
(P1480)  
\$12,494

Infiniti Santa Monica  
(866) 507-7253



'04 Chevy Malibu \$9,995  
Low miles, auto, a/c,  
p/w, cruise & more  
(4M603301)

Toyota Santa Monica  
(800) 579-6047



'03 Mercury Sable \$8,995  
Auto, 6 Cyl., P/W,  
P/L, Tilt, Cruise  
(3G608497)

Toyota Santa Monica  
(800) 579-6047



'00 Toyota Corolla \$9,995  
30K mi, auto, a/c  
ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN  
(YZ325514)

Toyota Santa Monica  
(800) 579-6047

## Vehicles for sale



'01 Audi A6 \$18,995  
Immaculate! Loaded!  
Best buy around!  
(1N063236)

Toyota Santa Monica  
(800) 579-6047



'05 Mini Cooper \$21,995  
Auto, Best Buy –  
Come See This One!  
(5TG95346)

Toyota Santa Monica  
(800) 579-6047

ADVERTISE! CALL US (310) 458-7737



'02 Honda Civic EX CPE \$10,989  
Auto, A/C, Moonroof,  
Full power package  
(2L016796)

Toyota Santa Monica  
(800) 579-6047



'99 Acura Integra LS \$9,995  
Auto, a/c, alloys, low miles  
Lots more!  
(XS011518)

Toyota Santa Monica  
(800) 579-6047



'04 Avalon XLS \$18,995  
Toyota Certified!  
Low miles, loaded  
(4U383719)

Toyota Santa Monica  
(800) 579-6047



'03 Highlander \$14,995  
Auto, A/C, P/W, Cruise, CD  
(30075121)

Toyota Santa Monica  
(800) 579-6047



'00 Toyota Corolla \$9,995  
30K mi, auto, a/c  
ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN  
(YZ325514)

Toyota Santa Monica  
(800) 579-6047

## Vehicles for sale



'05 Accord EX Hybrid \$24,900  
6 Cyl., leather, low miles  
(5C001873)

Toyota Santa Monica  
(800) 579-6047



'03 Honda Accord  
Red, 4 Cyl, 2.4L VTEC,  
Stock #: I524A  
\$13,994

Infiniti of Santa Monica  
(866) 507-7253



'05 Mazda 3 i Sedan  
Champagne, 4-Cyl., 2.0 L,  
5 speed, air bags, alloy wheels  
(P1481)  
\$14,993

Infiniti Santa Monica  
(866) 507-7253



'03 BMW 3 Series 325i Sedan  
6-Cyl., 2.5L, Premium pkg, leather,  
Moonroof, alloy wheels, air bags  
(P1476)  
\$19,994

Infiniti Santa Monica  
(866) 507-7253



'03 Audi A4 Sedan  
Silver, V6 3.0L, leather,  
Moonroof, alloy, airbags  
(I6038A)  
\$22,991

Infiniti Santa Monica  
(866) 507-7253



'05 Volkswagen Jetta GLI Sedan  
4-Cyl., 1.8L Turbo, A/C, CD,  
Air Bags, Moonroof, Alloy  
(I6311A)  
\$19,992

Infiniti Santa Monica  
(866) 577-7253



2001 Ford Escort SE  
4 DR Sedan, full power, 53k miles,  
26/35 MPG, Auto, AC \$4500.  
310.396.9621 or 310.392.9229

Automotive

SELL YOUR PRE-OWNED VEHICLE. The only directory for used vehicles in and around Santa Monica.

Prepay your ad today!

VISA

MasterCard

Discover

Card

(310)458-7737

CALL TODAY FOR SPECIAL MONTHLY RATES!

There is no more convincing medium than a DAILY local newspaper.

\$45 for two weeks.

\$20 every two weeks after.

Vehicles for sale



'04 Toyota Corolla Sedan  
4-Cyl., 1.8L Turbo, Alloy wheels  
(I6072A)  
\$13,992  
Infiniti Santa Monica  
(866) 507-7253



'02 Infiniti QX4 Sport Utility 4D  
V6 3.5 Liter, Automatic, Leather  
Stock #: P1458  
\$15,994  
Infiniti Santa Monica  
(866) 507-7253



'03 Audi TT Convertible  
Silver, 6 speed manual,  
4-Cyl., 1.8L HO Turbo  
Stock #: P1466  
\$22,994  
Infiniti Santa Monica  
(866) 507-7253



'03 Lexus RX 300  
Silver, V6 3.0L,  
Low Miles!  
(I6069A)  
\$23,994  
Infiniti Santa Monica  
(866) 507-7253



05 Hyundai Tucson LX 4 \$15,989  
Leather, CD, Pristine  
(5U051031)  
Hyundai Santa Monica  
(866) 309-6705



'04 Nissan Sentra \$10,900  
CD, 42K Miles, Very Clean  
Will Not Last  
(4L915794)  
Hyundai Santa Monica  
(866) 309-6705



'05 Santa Fe 3.5L \$15,850  
White/Grey, CD, only 16K Mi,  
2.7 V6, moonroof  
(950456)  
Hyundai Santa Monica  
(866) 309-6705

Vehicles for sale



'03 Sonata V6 White . . . \$11,500  
Low miles, pristine  
(3A744443)  
Hyundai Santa Monica  
(866) 309-6705



'02 Escape 2WD \$8,900  
R-Brds, Leather, CD, Pristine!  
Must See!  
Hyundai Santa Monica  
(866) 309-6705



'05 QX56 \$38,850  
Low miles, Navigation, DVD, tow,  
Running boards, Buy Wholesale  
(810914)  
Hyundai Santa Monica  
(866) 309-6705



'06 Town & Country \$15,980  
White/Grey, 7 Passenger  
11K Miles, Pristine  
(6B704117)  
Hyundai Santa Monica  
(866) 309-6705



'05 C230 Sport Sedan \$26,900  
1 Owner, Silver/Gray, Leather,  
Moonroof, 24K Miles. Like new!  
(SF727053)  
Hyundai Santa Monica  
(866) 309-6705



'00 Grand Cherokee Ltd. \$12,900  
Red/Tan, 4WD, Moonroof,  
Pristine!  
(VC223308)  
Hyundai Santa Monica  
(866) 309-6705

ADVERTISE! CALL US (310) 458-7737



'04 Santa Fe . . . \$14,900  
2 to Choose-Black or Silver  
Low miles, still has new  
car warranty.  
(U786948, U648625)  
Hyundai Santa Monica  
(866) 309-6705

Vehicles for sale



'06 Sonata GLS  
\$14,900!  
(065025)  
Hyundai Santa Monica  
(866) 309-6705

ADVERTISE! CALL US (310) 458-7737



'02 Santa Fe 4 x 4 \$12,400  
Low Miles, Pristine Condition  
(2U175332)  
Hyundai Santa Monica  
(866) 309-6705



'02 Honda Accord EX Cpe  
\$15,900  
Silver, 55K Miles, Pristine  
(2A017045)  
Hyundai Santa Monica  
(866) 309-6705

SELL YOUR CAR FAST!

Advertise your used car for sale in the only **LOCAL DAILY** newspaper in town.

FOR ONLY

\$45

Run it until it sells!\*

SAMPLE AD!



1964 Pontiac Catalina  
New Transmission, new paint job. 150K original miles. Immaculate condition inside. Kept in garage for many years. Must see!  
\$3,000 (310) 458-7737

Ad shown actual size

Package includes:

■ Ad runs until your car sells. Period.\*

■ Large format photograph.

■ 20 word description.

■ FREE online placement!

Call us today at (310) 458-7737

Take advantage of this great offer.

Santa Monica Daily Press

VISA

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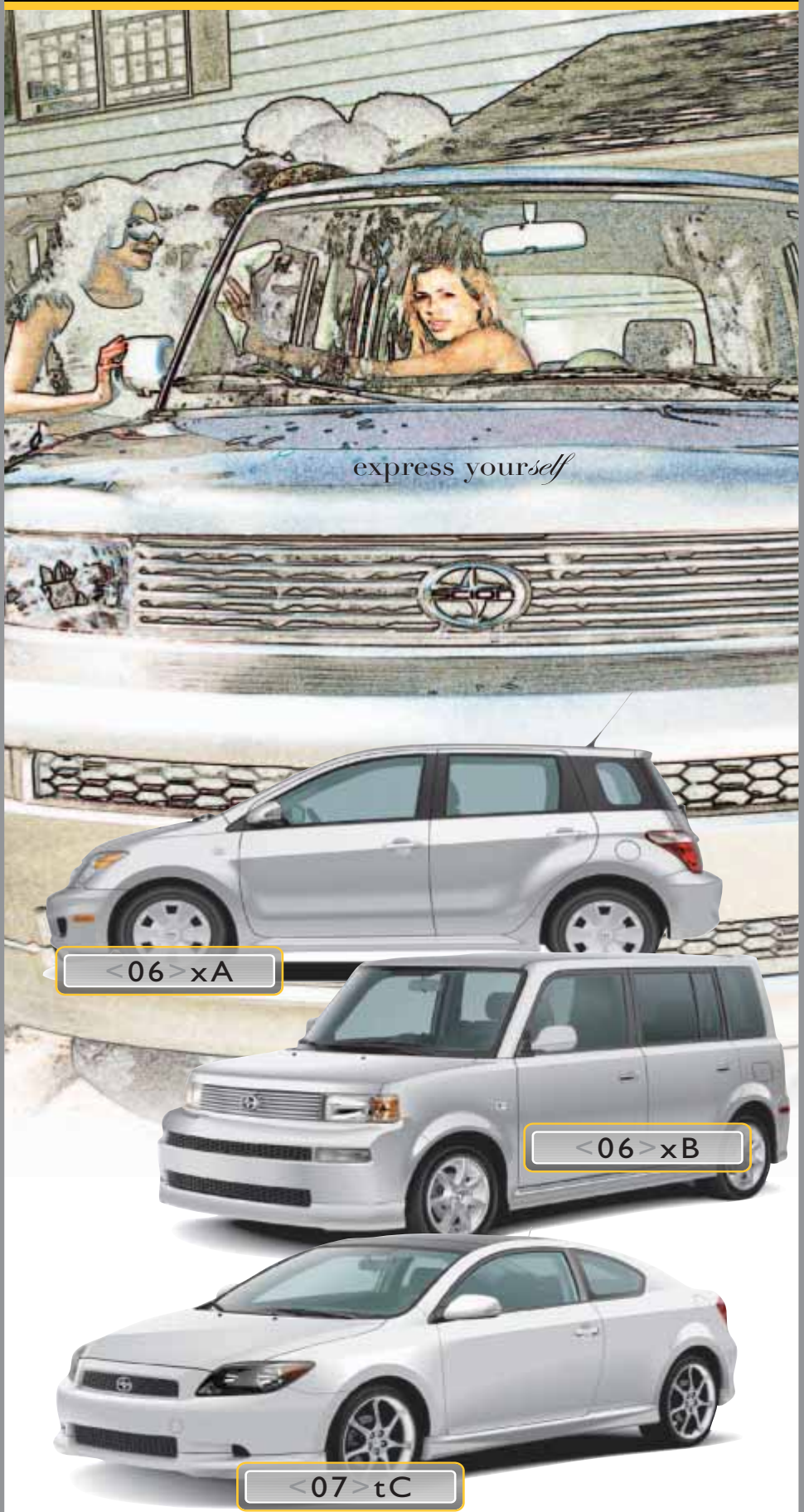
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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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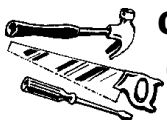
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 CALL US TODAY AT  
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FOR ONLY  
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Santa Monica Daily Press



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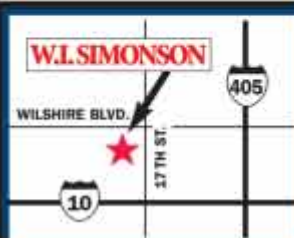
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