

FREE

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

FANTASY 5
03, 04, 19, 29, 34

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 1, 0, 3
Evening picks: 1, 1, 3

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 08, Gorgeous George
2nd Place: 06, Whirl Win
3rd Place: 03, Hot Shot
Race time: 1:47.40



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

In February, Wesley Fitzpatrick applied to a Kansas City, Kan., judge for, and was granted, a temporary restraining order against a female whom he said was stalking him (making him "scared, depressed and in fear for my freedom"). However, the order was rescinded when Fitzpatrick showed up to ask that it be made permanent, in that the "stalker" was actually his parole officer carrying out her lawful supervision. In fact, Fitzpatrick was immediately arrested for not having met with her. (Temporary restraining orders are usually granted by judges without investigation.)



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The advantage of emotions is that they lead us astray."
— Oscar Wilde



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Rebecca Gross/Special to the Daily Press

Santa Monica Boy Scouts from Troop 2 evaluate victim Alex Blanco's condition at one of nine simulated disaster sites on Monday.

A bloody day for scouts

BY REBECCA GROSS
Special to the Daily Press

Dozens of people were the victims of several disasters that occurred on Monday including a serious car crash, a pool disaster, a drive-by shooting, medical emergencies, a biohazard terrorist attack and car that hit two bicyclists.

The day was dubbed "Bloody Monday" by Santa Monica Boy Scout Troop 2, which held nine simulated disasters as part of a training exercise for the scouts. About 85 boy scouts participated

in the training exercises held at locations north Montana Avenue.

The scouts attempted to use their first aid and emergency preparedness training to manage the disaster sites, identify the victims who were most seriously hurt and treat patients as necessary.

"It's a drill for the boys to become familiar with any type of disaster scenario," said volunteer Graham Wong, whose two adult sons are Eagle Scouts. "It's something they just can't do in the

See DRILL, page 7

SM City Council to spend \$2 million tonight

(Editor's note: This is part of an ongoing series that tracks the city's expenditures which appear on the upcoming Santa Monica City Council consent agenda. Consent agenda items are routinely passed by the city council with little or no discussion from elected officials or the public. However, many of the items have been part of public discussion in the past.)

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

The Santa Monica City Council is expected tonight to spend more than \$2 million on a host of items

including major renovations to two city park facilities, a new water truck, fire station improvements and consulting services for land use regulations.

The biggest ticket item on the council's agenda is a \$1.5 million expenditure to build new restrooms, concession stands and storage buildings at Los Amigos Park and Memorial Park.

The council in 2000 approved a series of improvements to eight of the city's parks as part of a master plan. The goal is to improve safety, maintenance, aesthetics, sustainability and make the facilities

See EXPENSES, page 6

Convicted felon charged with murder of Kristine Johnson

Suspect has a long criminal history

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

Capital murder charges have been filed against a convicted felon for the murder and attempted rape of a Santa Monica woman found dead in the Hollywood Hills in March.

Victor Lawrence Paleologus, 40, was charged by the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office on Monday for allegedly killing Kristine Johnson, a 21-year-old Santa Monica College student, in February.

The criminal complaint against Paleologus alleges he killed Johnson on or about Feb. 15, the day she disappeared. It alleges two special circumstances — lying in wait and murder during commission of an attempted rape. The DA's Office won't determine whether to seek the death penalty against Paleologus until he is ordered to stand trial.

Paleologus is currently in custody in Los Angeles County Jail for allegedly stealing a car from a Beverly Hills BMW dealership under a stolen identity. Paleologus

See CHARGES, page 5

Owner of surf shop found innocent of rape

Jury delivers verdict in under two hours

BY JOHN WOOD
Daily Press Staff Writer

The owner of Horizons West Surf Shop on Main Street was found innocent Monday in a civil rape lawsuit brought by a former customer and friend.

Both Randy Wright, the 41-year-old shop owner, and Stacy Peters, a 29-year-old freelance

graphic designer, sat motionless in their chairs as a Santa Monica jury delivered its verdict.

Peters, who accused Wright of raping her in her sleep in January of 2001 after she invited him into her bed, wept silently after the ruling.

Wright stared intently ahead, nodding his head in approval.

"This whole thing has been such a weight on my life," said Wright, who was congratulated by four friends that came to court for

See INNOCENT, page 6

The Midnight Special returns to downtown

BY JOHN WOOD
Daily Press Staff Writer

The Midnight Special Bookstore has found a new home in downtown Santa Monica.

Owner Margie Ghiz announced over the weekend the popular independent bookstore will reopen next month at 1450 Second St.

The new location is next door to Italian restaurant Buca di Beppo and across the street from Jinky's, a new breakfast and lunch cafe.

Ghiz said on Monday she will throw a store-warming party as soon as Midnight Special has moved in to its new 7,500-square-foot space, sometime between June 15 and July 1.

"There are 5,000 people on our mailing list and we are going to invite every single one of them," she said enthusiastically. "It's going to be cheap wine, but we are going to have wine. And maybe some

See BOOKSTORE, page 7

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LOCAL



Midnight Special Bookstore to open on Second Street

BOOKSTORE, from page 1

carrot sticks and that'll be it — but we are going to have a party.”

Earlier this year, city officials and local residents rallied behind the bookstore after it closed its Third Street Promenade location it had been in for 10 years.

They worried Ghiz would take her bookstore, which regularly hosted political gatherings and poetry readings, to Hollywood or elsewhere and said the store was a unique feature of downtown Santa Monica.

Midnight Special opened in 1970 in Venice and moved to the first of two locations it held on Third Street in 1980. The store carries about 80,000 rare and difficult-to-find titles.

Ghiz said she was forced to close after the landlords at her Promenade location decided they could no longer afford to subsidize the rent at her 5,000 square-foot store.

She paid about \$12,000 per month in rent for a location that can command about \$50,000 at market value, her real estate broker Leslie Webster said.

Ghiz said the rising cost of rent on the Promenade makes it prohibitive for independent stores to survive there.

“It’s more than outrageous, it’s like we’ve all gone insane,” she said. “Most people in the United States don’t make that kind of money in a year. It’s like these companies are buying billboard space. I’m sure they just write off the rent as an advertising expense. Who can afford that?”

Ghiz will pay \$14,500 per month for the new location, a price Webster said is hard to beat.

“It’s a phenomenal deal,” she said. “I think it’s the best economic deal in the entire Bayside District.”

Webster, a retail leasing specialist for Metropolitan Pacific Real Estate Services, said residents can expect more retail growth on the streets surrounding the Promenade.

“I think it will really start a new trend that Margie and the Midnight Special will pioneer.”

— LESLIE WEBSTER
Real estate broker

“There are others that are going to follow her shortly that I know about,” said Webster. “I think it will really start a new trend that Margie and the Midnight Special will pioneer.”

Midnight Special is sub-letting its new space from Intervisual, an advertising and promotion company that has been in Santa Monica for about 10 years, its president Jim Richwine said.

Ghiz said she is not waiting for the new four-year contract to expire before looking for yet another space, though she’s hopeful the landlords of the new location will extend her contract when it ends.

She said she’s learned from the past few months, when she lost about \$200,000 in revenue by not being open.

“It isn’t just sales,” she said. “It’s continuity. And in a store like ours, that’s much more important. Much more tangible and much more important.”

Scouts evaluated and awarded based on efforts at each site

DRILL, from page 1

classroom.”

On 15th Street, scouts had to attend to two women and a child who were seriously injured in a simulated car wreck while hysterical bystanders explained that three victims were suffering from gunshot wounds on 22nd Street and a 15-year-old girl suffered from electrocution on 21st Place.

In the 1700 block of San Vicente Boulevard, scouts had to treat two victims who suffered major head injuries and a broken leg. The other victim had fallen into the pool and broke his back.

Ilan Ben-Meir, a Troop 2 scout, said the exercise helped him learn what to do in a disaster.

“The troop prepared me,” he said. “I didn’t think of anything, I just jumped in (to the pool) and helped.”

Bill Pullen, a 13-year-old 1st class scout, said he thought the events seemed realistic and felt his unit was prepared.

At a bicycle and car accident site on Georgina Avenue, scouts had to evaluate two injured girls and calm an upset driver.

Emily Ferrell, one of the bicycle victims, suffered a leg injury but was able to address the person who hit her.

“You’re going to jail,” she yelled at the driver, as scouts tried to control the situation. Scouts also had to treat Nicole Wong, the other bicycle victim who was an unresponsive victim bleeding from the head.

“It’s funny to see (the Scout’s) reactions,” Ferrell, 15, said. “Sometimes they’re really freaked out.”

Troops were given 15 minutes to get a handle on the situation and respond with first aid, said Tony Putzulu, whose son, Matthew, is a 2nd class scout. Scouts were then scored on how they responded to the disaster. Parents, troop volunteers, and Santa Monica police and firefighters offered advice on the situations.

“It’s funny to see (the Scout’s) reactions. Sometimes they’re really freaked out.”

— EMILY FERRELL
Simulated disaster victim

“The majority of your manpower needs to be helping the worse off,” said Santa Monica Firefighter and paramedic Fred Roberts. “It’s easy to get the guy with the arm scratch out (of the car), but he’s not the one who needs help the most.”

While at the electrocution site, assistant scoutmaster Dan Stirling stressed the importance of assessing each situation and then deciding what to do next.

“The main thing is to keep the person alive,” he said.

Eagle Scout Johnny Dahlem, 18, said one of the goals of the drills is to prepare people “for any kind of disaster and have people out there who can help others.”

At the end of the evening, the scouts were debriefed at Lincoln Middle School. They were awarded rankings based on their efforts.

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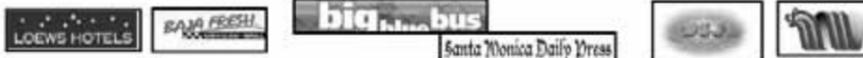


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