

**BRIEFLY IN PUBLIC SAFETY**

**Man indicted in tax-dodge scheme**

A 37-year-old Glendale man was indicted Thursday in an alleged cigarette trafficking scheme, officials said. Avedis Djerredjian allegedly conspired to buy nearly 500,000 cigarette cartons from North Carolina and other states with low cigarette taxes from January 2002 to June 2005.

The cartons were then shipped to California, where Djerredjian allegedly only purchased enough California tax stamps for 1,200 cartons, officials said.

California reportedly lost more than \$4 million in cigarette tax evasion as a result.

**Jury continues deliberations**

Jurors will continue de-

liberating for the eighth day Tuesday in the trial against a Glendale man accused of setting fire to his grandmother's room and killing her last March.

Antranik Khajarian, 38, faces one count of murder with special circumstances of arson, one count of arson causing great bodily injury, one count of arson to an inhabited structure and one count of possession of flammable material, said Sandi Gibbons, spokeswoman with the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office.

Khajarian allegedly doused his 94-year-old grandmother's room with gasoline March 1 and then set it on fire. Arpine Demerjian died of smoke inhalation and burns.

The jury will continue deliberations on Tuesday.

**OBITUARY**

**Successful horse race owner dies**

By Tania Chatila  
News-Press and Leader

Bob Lewis, one of the most successful owners of thoroughbred race horses in a career that spanned nearly 20 years, died in his Newport Beach home Friday of heart failure. He was 81.

Lewis, who was born in Minneapolis but raised in Glendale, ran a successful race horse operation with his wife, Beverly, who he married in 1947.

The two owned some of racing's greatest champion horses including Kentucky Derby winners Silver Charm and Charismatic.

"He's owned hundreds of horses," said Sherwood Chillingworth, executive vice president of Oak Tree Racing Assn., which runs a meet at the Santa Anita Park. "He was extremely successful and one of the few people that came into the business and was successful immediately with top horses."

Lewis was a member of the Jockey Club, and was a board member with the Oak Tree Racing Assn., the National Thoroughbred Racing Assn., the Thoroughbred Owners of California and the Breeders' Cup.

"He was the most upbeat, optimistic person you could ever meet," Chillingworth said. "He was always smiling. When you came in the room, you knew he was there."

Aside from his success in

horse racing, Lewis also proved successful in the beer business.

Lewis started the Foothill Beverage Co. in 1956 and was, for many years, the largest Anheuser-Busch distributor west of the Mississippi, said Mike Willman, director of publicity at Santa Anita Park.

"He's always been incredibly self-effacing and gracious, and he and his wife are just outstanding people," Willman said. "He never looked down his nose on anybody."

**WRITING**

Continued from A1

they were to finally meet face-to-face.

After brief chit-chatting and small talk, silence fell, as the in-laws-to-be stopped conversing for at least a minute. A comment about the living room décor broke the silence.

When refreshments were served, the families broke up into groups and began socializing among themselves.

My mother achieved her goal of making a positive first impression and despite the awkwardness of the situation,

everything went smoothly.

After the wedding, the families got together in more informal settings.

The last in-law get-together was for Armenian Christmas.

Dinner conversation started with a discussion of what was being served. The in-laws went into details as to how the meal was prepared and what ingredients were used to give it that zest in flavor. My mother reciprocated the conversation and went into details of her own, explaining how she would prepare the same meal.

All of a sudden, silence once again fell in the room. My mother was the first to break it by making a comment about the

crystal chandelier.

The first part of the evening consisted of repetitive talk about food and meal preparation. The remainder of the evening, which was concluded with dessert, was followed by small chit-chat and more talk about food.

Clearly, the only thing the in-laws had in common, besides the marriage of their children, was food.

Despite the not-so-amusing conversation topic, the families got through the evening and managed to keep the lines of communication open.

Conversations between the in-laws is more like competition for the right words that express how they feel about each other's new-found togetherness as one family.

Both parties attempt to please by engaging in as much conversation as they can. Even the silence is a signal that there is a need to talk and socialization more.

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**DISASTER**

Continued from A1

Shelley Regoli, mother of 11-year-old Hope, watched the drill as it took place and said she felt more reassured by the school's action.

"My daughter was a little bit apprehensive about the drill," Regoli said. "Even though you know it's just a drill, your heart just starts pumping."

"Hopefully this is something they can take with them for the rest of their lives so if it ever does happen later in life, they will know what to do."

Regoli's daughter played one of the students who was supposed to go missing during the drill.

Staff members and students were carefully trained on what to do during the drill, but were not told exactly when the drill was going to take place, Burroughs said.

A talk on Internet safety will also be given to middle school students later in the week, said Burroughs, as part of the school's safety program.

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It is the News-Press' policy to promptly correct all errors of substance. Please call (818) 637-3220.

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**Times COMMUNITY NEWS**

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**Obituaries**  
**Ken Stiles**  
Ken Stiles passed away February 12, 2006 at Huntington Memorial Hospital in Pasadena, CA. He was 53.  
Ken was a long time Glendale resident who worked for the City of Glendale for thirty-four years. He was a graduate of Glendale High School and enjoyed camping, off-roading, water sports and golf. Ken was an accomplished mechanic, tradesman, and a do-it-yourself kind of guy. He was a proud father and fan during his daughters' sporting activities.  
Ken loved his family and friends very much. He will be missed by all who loved him including his wife, Erin; his daughters, Shelley and Jessie; his extended family; and many friends.  
A memorial service will be held 10:30am on Saturday, February 25, 2006 at La Crescenta Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 4550 Raymond Ave, La Crescenta.  
In lieu of flowers, the family requests a contribution in Ken's name be made to the City of Hope in Duarte, CA.  
For directions to the service and more information, please visit [www.kendalroberg.com/ken](http://www.kendalroberg.com/ken)

**Michael E. Gebel, PhD.**  
As a result of a seizure, Michael E. Gebel, PhD, fell down the stairs of his home and sustained severe trauma to his head. He underwent emergency brain surgery, but the damage was too extensive and he passed away on Tuesday, February 7, 2006 in the presence of his family. He was 36.  
Michael is survived by his wife, Jennifer; his sisters, Amy and Erin; his mother, Sandy; and his father Earl.  
A service will be at 11:00am on Thursday, February 23, 2006 at Descanso Gardens, 1418 Descanso Dr., La Canada-Flintridge.  
Interment will be at sea.  
In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to a scholarship fund established in Michael's memory: Michael E. Gebel, PhD, Memorial Fund c/o Stacie Tibbetts, University of California, Irvine, Department of Chemistry, 1137 Natural Sciences II, Irvine, CA 92697-2025

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