

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

FANTASY 5

17, 25, 31, 16, 5

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 6, 8, 9

Evening picks: 7, 1, 1

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 12, Lucky Charms

2nd Place: 3, Hot Shot

3rd Place: 8, Gorgeous George

Race Time: 1:42.43



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

In September, a government appeals board in Melbourne, Australia, changed its mind and ruled that organizers of a lesbian festival could not, after all, limit attendance to just those lesbians who were born female, because that discriminates against transsexual lesbians. The female-born organizers had said they needed to exclude ex-males in order to affirm their identity and "consolidate our culture."



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"When something good happens it is a miracle and you should wonder what God is saving up for you later."

— Marshall Brickman



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John Wood/Daily Press

Hundreds fill the pews on Monday at First United Methodist Church for the annual Martin Luther King Day celebration.

Community leaders unite in honor of King

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

NORTH OF WILSHIRE — More than 600 people of all faiths and colors crowded into a Santa Monica church on Monday to celebrate the birthday of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and reaffirm their commitment to the struggle for civil rights.

"Martin Luther King was an apostle of love. But more importantly, he was an apostle of action — social action," said Dr. Robert Adams, vice president of Santa Monica College and one of several community speakers at the service.

The city's top educators, politicians, bureaucrats and religious leaders attended the event,

"I can't tell you how happy it makes me as a member of this community to look out at, literally, a rainbow coalition."

— NAT TRIVES

Treasurer

MLK, Jr., Westside Coalition

which was held at the First United Methodist Church on 11th Street and Washington Avenue. Speakers urged the assembled crowd to honor the past,

See MLK DAY, page 4

'Can you hear me now?' AT&T and Verizon sue city

BY JAMIE WETHERBE

Special to the Daily Press

CITY HALL — Cell phone users may soon get better reception in Santa Monica but first City Hall has to resolve a lawsuit filed against it by two companies who want the right to build antennas on public land.

AB Cellular — a subsidiary of AT&T — and Verizon Wireless have filed separate lawsuits against the city for the right to build telecommunication antennas in four locations within Santa Monica.

Company representatives say they've had complaints about gaps in service and poor cell phone reception in Santa Monica. The antennas would correct that prob-

lem, they say.

As a result of legal pressure applied by the cell phone companies, City Hall officials are changing Santa Monica's law. Currently it's illegal to erect cell phone antennas on public property. Communities have historically opposed that type of construction because antennas can be large and obtrusive, said Deputy City Attorney Cara Silver, who is handling the cases.

Telecommunications companies in the past have built antennas on private land, but now the preference has shifted to public spaces — including streets, sidewalks and alleys — because of

See LAWSUIT, page 5

Street performer cop says 'hasta la vista'

Steele Smith heads for the border

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN — After nearly five years of working the Third Street Promenade, the keeper of Santa Monica's street performers is packing up and heading south.

Steele Smith, 42, whose official title is "venue manager" for downtown, will step down from his post at the end of the month. He leaves behind a system of coordinating street performers on the Promenade that has become practically self-supporting.

Street performers — including musicians, artists and public speakers, among others — must apply for a \$37 permit from City Hall in order to work on the Promenade. Beyond that, the main rule for performers is that they move at least 120 feet every two hours.

It's a system that, thanks to



John Wood/Daily Press

After almost five years, Steele Smith will be leaving his post as the Promenade's 'venue manager.'

extensive planning and Smith's daily monitoring, runs practically by itself.

Because the Promenade has so many visitors each day, it attracts a wide array of performers — everything from skilled blues musicians to magicians, artists and

See SMITH, page 4

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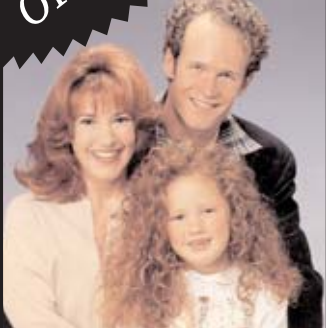
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FACE-to-FACE with the Women & Children of Iraq

Local resident Kelly Hayes-Raith visited Iraq twice this year — once in February, just 5 weeks before the U.S. bombings and invasion, and in July, where she found some of the children and women who touched her so deeply during her first visit. She saw firsthand the impact of the bombings and invasion on innocent people's lives, homes and hearts.

She will be speaking about the people she met — and remet — in Baghdad, Hillah, Babylon, Fallouja, Basra and Umm Qasr.



Thursday, January 22nd
11:00 am - 3:00 pm at Palms Middle School
10860 Woodbine Street in Mar Vista

A political consultant and dynamic speaker, Kelly Hayes-Raith has addressed over 100 audiences, including religious congregations, state conferences, school classes, community clubs, large peace rallies and small neighborhood meetings. To address your group, call (310) 581-4421 or e-mail C2CCampaigns@aol.com. Photos may be viewed at www.CommunityCampaigns.com/Iraq.

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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ With the Sun pushing you along, you are an unbeatable force. Whether you must make a stand, appear at a public event or manage your career, you can do it all. Work with an associate you care a lot about. Tonight: A must appearance.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ As you seek solutions, your instincts help you draw out the best in a partnership, or each individual you relate to. Perhaps your ability to read between the lines and understand others adds to your success. Tonight: Do something mentally stimulating.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Others come toward you, but each person wants all of your attention. At first you could be confused about what might work best. Distance yourself from the immediate, and you'll come up with strong answers. Tonight: Enjoy a loved one.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Your popularity mounts, allowing you many different options. You might lie back and explore what could work. Take care of your happiness by asking for what you want. Others will respond positively. Tonight: Just don't be alone.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You could feel challenged in the next few weeks by people in general. Your ability to read between the lines and understand what someone wants will help you. Indulge a loved one you care about. This person could even be you. Tonight: Easy does it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Though you are a hard worker, your mind could be drifting to more interesting topics. If possible, spice up your day-to-day life by adding some of this imaginative streak to your work. Watch your sweet tooth! Tonight: Let love take over.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Your strong imagination and creativity add to whatever you choose to do. Make it OK to vanish for the day and do something you have wanted to do for a long time. You don't have to spill the beans and tell anyone. Tonight: Happily vanish.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Say what you mean, and mean what you say. Your ability to carry through could make all the difference in the next few weeks, but especially right now. Ultimately, you build others' confidence in you and who you are. Tonight: Ever playful.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Extremes hit where you least expect them. You might want to think carefully about how you are juggling your work and personal life. Are you really happy with what is going on? Make changes accordingly. Tonight: Your treat.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ You're a force to deal with in the next few days. The Moon makes you the king or queen of the zodiac. You can have what you want, especially with someone at a distance. Your ability to absorb information comes through. Tonight: As you like it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Knowing when to play it low-key is as important as understanding when to claim your power. Though you might feel semi-energized, you would be well advised to let others put their cards on the table. Tonight: With a favorite person.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Focus on long-term commitments, both professional and personal. You could discover that a friendship is instrumental in your ability to make a difference. Work with someone or several people who really admire you. Tonight: Out on the town.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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LOCAL



How to mend broken hearts

BY JAMIE WETHERBE

Special to the Daily Press

For women who are the victims of recent break-ups, a pair of local authors have some advice for them — dream up how to get even while eating ice cream in between naps.

"The process of healing can be wonderful ... like the feeling after a really good pee. So satisfying," begin authors Janice MacLeod and Marni Kamins in their first book, "The Breakup Repair Kit."

"As you heal from your breakup, you will develop useful tools you will have for the rest of your life."

The authors will have a reading and signing tonight at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 1201 Third St. Promenade.

Though MacLeod, 29, and Kamins, 27, lack professional counseling experience, they say their 176-page romp of own break-ups and encouragement could help a broken heart heal. And the \$14.95 price tag would likely beat out a psychologist's bill.

The book — geared toward 20- and 30-something women — describes what to expect post-boyfriend and the eight stages of a break-up, including shock, denial, fear and acceptance.

"These stages are normal parts of the healing process so the healthiest thing for you to do is let them run their course rather than using your energy to try to fight them off," the book reads. "Or, if you want, you can ignore all your feelings, push them away, keep dating the same type of loser over and over, and sit in your own crap. Your choice."

The authors also encourage revenge fantasies, naps and Chunky Monkey ice

cream as women prepare to move on to more fish in the sea. And to avoid drastic behavior like shopping sprees, tattoos and haircuts.

The book isn't about ex-boyfriends, it's about the healing process, MacLeod said.

As for authors' ex-boyfriends, "I still talk to some of them. In fact, I spoke with my very first boyfriend recently. We dated for six days in the ninth grade," MacLeod said. "I think we held hands twice during our entire courtship, and the lone kiss was gross."

Both MacLeod and Kamins are now single, "but we're taking applications," MacLeod said.

As for dating in Santa Monica, she added that "it's a town of egos, but there are really sweet people out there ... We quite enjoy dating California boys."

The duo first met at a book signing, later forming their friendship while hiking in Malibu.

"We had both recently broken up with our boyfriends so we talked a lot about how we were dealing with our new singlehood," they say. "We made each other laugh so much that we decided to write it down."

And so they began the book about their healing process, mostly in their pajamas.

Kamins, a self-proclaimed magazine whore and believer in fairies, grew up on the Malibu shores and now resides in Venice. She holds an English degree from Tufts University and a master's degree in spiritual psychology.

MacLeod — originally from Clear Creek, Canada — says she has always wanted to be a writer.

"I have always been attracted to pens and paper. Even as a child, when I walked into a department store I went to the office supply section. I loved the potential of the newborn pads of paper, the rainbow of pens and the potential flight patterns of envelopes."



Janice MacLeod (top) and Marni Kamins.



That monstrous surf we've been enjoying is going to be smaller today but will gradually build back up on Wednesday, which will last into the first part of the weekend.

Today expect three to four-foot waves, waist- to shoulder-high with occasional seven-foot headers. Conditions should be fair.

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Resident complaints have been trickling in to the Daily Press newsroom for months about dog owners' blatant disregard for their neighborhood and the environment. The crime they are apparently committing is that they fail to pick up their pet's poop.

The problem is especially foul smelling for resident north of Wilshire Boulevard, where people are tip toeing around piles while taking their afternoon strolls.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "What can be done about the poop problem here? If pet owners aren't going to pick it up how should City Hall deal with it?"

Call (310) 285-8106 with your response before Thursday at 5 p.m. We'll print them in Friday's paper. Please limit your comments to a minute or less. It might help to think first about the wording of your response.

Mystery photo winner

Sabrina Sutherland is the winner of this week's mystery photo, which was taken on Pacific Avenue between Ocean Avenue and Neilson Way. Look for a new mystery photo in this Saturday's paper. The first person to identify the location of the photo will win a prize.



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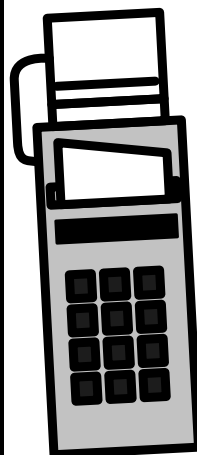


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LOCAL

Promenade music 'manager' headed for Mexico

SMITH, from page 1

a mini Elvis. But that doesn't mean a few oddballs haven't tested the system now and again, Smith said. One person wondered why they couldn't lie down in a box filled with glass. Another wanted to juggle bowling balls on the Promenade.

Smith said the reward has been seeing performers, merchants, free speech activists and people who experience the outdoor mall like a park use the Promenade cooperatively.

"When it all works together like that, it really is amazing and a lot of fun," said Smith, a local resident who makes \$42,000 a year working for the Bayside District Corp., a nonprofit organization that runs downtown with City Hall.

Smith, who got into the business after working as a court reporter and getting to know the city attorney and other local political players, seemed a good match for the job, which required he deal regularly with the street performers but also report back to the Bayside board of directors and other bureaucrats.

"I was a good mix," Smith said last week. "Both my parents are artists. I had

"Sometimes you realize — life is short, you've got to take advantage of those opportunities."

— STEELE SMITH

Venue manager, Bayside District Corp.

long hair. Yet I knew all the cops, the municipal issues. I had a foot in both worlds."

Before he came on scene, musicians and other performers downtown would stake out certain areas and stay put all day. And because anyone with \$37 can get a permit to perform, the less-skilled performers were causing some problems, Smith said.

"It was essentially a free-for-all in 1999, and that first year was intense," said Smith, who at first had to physically move performers to break the old patterns they'd grown used to. "We cannot control the quality of what we have. You can see if you're a merchant with a limited view corridor, looking at the same performer all day — you'd go nutty."

Nearly 1,000 people got permits from

City Hall to perform last year. But on an average weekend night, about 22 will perform, said Smith, who often makes his rounds during that time.

No one has been hired to replace Smith — police officers will monitor the Promenade in the interim, Smith said.

Asked what it was like to work with Smith, street performers said Smith has developed a relationship that won't easily be replaced. The performers said for the most part they rotate by themselves according to the rules, but added that it's helpful to have Smith around.

"He's really our only liaison," said Kiko Montecillo, 28, who's been playing the keyboard on the Promenade for three years. "There are times when he's really stepped up and been able to do that ... But

with nobody here to enforce the rules, (some of the performers) will just sort of set up and stay in the same place for a long time."

City Councilman Kevin McKeown said he was proud of the system Smith helped put in place.

"Santa Monica's made a conscious effort to sustain an organic community of creative street artists, providing the Promenade with a vitality you can't get with predictable, booked acts," he said. "By rotating performance spaces and encouraging cooperation rather than enforcement, we've matched that vitality with a good vibe."

Once he finishes up at Bayside at the end of the month, Smith isn't planning on sticking around. He and his girlfriend intend to move just a day or two later to the small town of Todos Santos on the tip of Baja Calif., where they'll help Smith's mother manage a handful of rental properties she owns.

"Sometimes you realize — life is short, you've got to take advantage of those opportunities," Smith said. "It all happened so quick. It's scary, but what the hell."

Funding for Martin Luther King Day event in jeopardy

MLK DAY, from page 1

appreciate the present and continue to work until every-body shares in basic civil rights.

Keynote speaker, United States District Judge Terry J. Hatter, who oversees the Central District of California, called the decision by the U.S. Supreme Court to desegregate schools the most important judicial ruling of American history.

Hatter, who recited lines from King's famous "I have a dream" speech given in Washington, D.C., on Aug. 26, 1963, also quoted some of the master writer and speaker's lesser-known lines. Before walking off stage to a roaring standing ovation, Hatter recited this poem: "I sought my soul, but my soul I could not see. I sought my God, but he eluded me. I sought my brother, and I found all three."

Monday's event marked the 19th annual celebration in Santa Monica and one of the largest of its kind in

Southern California. It was hosted by the Martin Luther King, Jr., Westside Coalition.

"I can't tell you how happy it makes me as a member of this community to look out at, literally, a rainbow coalition," said Nat Trives, treasurer of the event. Later, as ushers prepared to pass around collection plates, Trives added, "As the Honorable Judge Terry Hatter speaks, be very quiet — and only put very quiet things in the plate."

A total of \$1,889.50 was raised, Trives later announced.

But organizers will need to raise much more if City Hall doesn't kick in its usual \$9,000 donation this year. When the projected budget was worked on last year, City Hall staffers recommended cutting funding for all nonprofit events. More is expected to be known next week at the preliminary budget sessions and a final decision will be made by officials when the budget is adopted this summer.

"It's a fabulous event and clearly we're all intent on

preserving it," City Manager Susan McCarthy said after the service. "We just need to find the funding."

Also part of the program was music from the SMC Emeritus Gospel Choir, the John Adams Middle School Norsemen Honor Choir and singer Tracy Kennedy. In addition, three SMC students — Hyun Joo Chung, Nehasi Ronald Lee and Mark A. Mayfield — were granted scholarships for their essays on civil rights. Matthew Williamson, a senior at Venice High School, was given the Youth Achievement Award for his involvement in academics, sports and church.

Using the imagery of an exhausted civil rights marcher whose feet are tired but heart is full, Rabbi Neil Commess-Daniels closed the event by urging everyone to continue the struggle — and work towards ending violence and war.

"Let's march those feet away from the moon and Mars, and towards affordable, government-provided healthcare for every individual," Commess-Daniels said to booming applause. "Let's march away from taking another penny away from our schools ... Let's march away and walk away from the lie of a minimum wage, and towards a true, livable wage ..."



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CALIFORNIA BRIEFS

Caltech makes green off the red planet

By The Associated Press

PASADENA — The California Institute of Technology is making a little green off the red planet.

Caltech, which runs the Jet Propulsion Laboratory for NASA, patented the twin rovers it sent to investigate the surface of Mars and is licensing their images for commercial use.

Models of the six-wheeled Spirit rover are already on store shelves. Caltech has inked three deals so far and expects perhaps three more.

Officials of the private university didn't say how much money they hope to make, but pledged to donate half to educational outreach programs and the rest for Caltech research.

"We did it more for publicity than as a commercial hit," said Frederic Farina, assistant director of Caltech's office of technology transfer.

Danish toy maker Lego Co. was one of the first companies to sign an agreement and is already selling a build-it-yourself toy version of Spirit, the rover that arrived on Mars on Jan. 3 and has wheeled away from its lander to explore the landscape. Its twin rover, Opportunity, is scheduled to touch down Jan. 24.

First female police chief to run San Fran

By The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Making good on a campaign promise to reform the city's embattled police department, Mayor Gavin Newsom announced this past weekend that he had replaced Chief Alex Fagan with a 26-year veteran and first woman to run the department.

At a Vietnamese New Year's festival in the city's Little Saigon neighborhood, Newsom appeared with Assistant Chief Heather Fong, 47, who will take over for Fagan as acting chief.

"It's time to move this department in a new direction," Newsom said Sunday, with Fong standing in uniform at his side.

Newsom had vowed to bring new leadership to a department still reeling from months of turmoil following the so-called "fajitagate" scandal which began in November 2002. The scandal stemmed from a street brawl over a bag of steak fajitas involving three off-duty officers, including Fagan's son. Allegations that the department blocked an investigation into the brawl led to the indictments of Fagan, who was then assistant chief, as well as former Chief Earl Sanders and five other top commanders last March.

The indictments were quickly dropped, but Sanders stepped down for medical reasons and Fagan was named acting chief.

Hearing will air concerns over cell phone antennas

LAWSUIT, from page 1

customers' demand for better reception, Silver said.

With 15 million wireless users, California is by far the state with the most cell phones, and the additional antennas would help companies accommodate customers' needs, according to officials.

State law already allows gas and electric companies to build on public land. The City Attorney's office in the process of updating Santa Monica's policy so elected officials can vote on it as soon as next month.

AB Cellular's antenna would be on the corner of San Vicente Boulevard and 17th Street, while Verizon seeks to build three of them on the bluffs near Pacific Palisades Park, off of San Vicente Boulevard and Montana Avenue.

While city councilmembers said they didn't know enough about the case to comment, the issue in February will be brought before the City Council for a pub-

lic hearing, allowing for industry and community comment.

Silver said she expects some public opposition on the controversial and aesthetic issue because older technologies have in the past produced "monster antennas" in Santa Monica, Silver said.

But current technology might be able to offer Santa Monica a more subtle variety.

Silver said the cellular companies would likely install "stealth" operations — which use smaller and more camouflaged equipment — making the antennas easier on the eye.

Verizon spokesman Keith Karpé said the company tries to balance the need for cellular service with the need to preserve the communities' aesthetics.

Karpé said though he couldn't speak directly about Santa Monica, throughout Southern California Verizon typically adds a small antenna to existing phone equipment or places equipment underground.

"Unless you're staring up (at the antenna), you wouldn't see it," he said.



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HOROSCOPES ... PAGE 2

Santa Monica Daily Press

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LETTERS

City Hall a victim of deep pockets

Editor:

I find it unfortunate that Brian Gray, a Santa Monica resident, belittled city attorney Jeanette Schachtner for her defense of Santa Monica's non-liability in the Farmers' Market crash (SMDP, Jan. 16, page 6). This lawsuit is being brought against the city primarily for one reason. Santa Monica has insurance policies, and thus "deep pockets." But a successful suit against the city could result in monetary damages far above the city's current coverage, and cripple Santa Monica financially for years to come.

The reason the law firm of Greene, Broillet, Panish and Wheeler are not suing Mr. Weller, the driver of the car, or his family, which could be considered culpable for not taking Mr. Weller's license away despite proof of his driving ineptitude, is that they obviously do not have the insurance coverage Santa Monica has.

If sawhorses clearly mark a street as closed, a competent driver should be able to recognize that in time so he doesn't run through them, but instead does what competent drivers do. Turn around. Or, don't turn into the street in the first place.

It would make just as much sense to sue the Department of Motor Vehicles for continuing to let Mr. Weller drive a car.

I have sympathy for the victims, and wish the city would contribute generously to a fund for them, and even hold events to raise money for them.

But I resent a law firm accusing Santa Monica of "acting egregiously" when it's simply a ruse to go after the city's insurance money, and ultimately the money of the citizens who live here, if insurance doesn't cover the damages.

Carmen Finestra
Santa Monica



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SM is a city that has nothing to complain about



THE FLORA FILES

By Todd Flora

I began last week a small series of points highlighting what I feel works in Santa Monica — both in our natural advantages and city governance. There is a lot to be proud of in Santa Monica. I regret that so much negativity toward people of need, and to our city and community leaders is expressed in the pages of local newspapers. I hope you will visit www.smdp.com, and see the Jan. 13 issue for the introductory piece.

I'm no Pollyanna. When something needs reform, I'll say so. But as you're considering your bitter letters to the editor about a range of issues in the coming days, I hope you'll consider the following random sample of strong decisions, wise policies, geographical and commercial

advantages, and personalities that help make this city wonderful.

■ Third Street Promenade and the Pier: Wonderful places not only for tourists, but also for residents. Don't leave town. Put your weekend entertainment, dining and shopping dollar back into Santa Monica through your patronage of these gems.

■ Montana Avenue: Who can beat these stylish boutiques and coffee haunts, Father's Office, or one of America's last great neighborhood movie theaters? And with that elegant feel, you know it's only a matter of time before "Montana Ave." becomes the title of an addictive one-hour TV drama. How many cities can boast of such a street? Speaking of which ...

■ Main Street: Tell your friends that this kitschy-cool part of the city is in Santa Monica, NOT Venice. Get out and support your Main Street merchants and their eclectic offerings.

■ Santa Monica's emerging young leaders: Between school board members Shane McLoud and Oscar de la Torre, rent control board member Jennifer Kennedy,

and planning commissioner Terry O'Day, Santa Monica has some bright and talented leaders emerging in the "under-35" crowd.

■ The Pico Youth and Family Center: Speaking of Oscar de la Torre, who heads the center, this tremendous resource has given young people in our city a safe place to congregate, create and educate. The center's programs address some of the cultural inequities and violence that plagues sectors of our city. The City Council deserves praise for recognizing the center's worth and effectiveness, and for channeling funds to support its programs.

■ Preservation of landmarks and historic spaces: Santa Monica earned an "A" grade on the Los Angeles Conservancy's recent "Preservation Report Card." It was one of only six cities in the entire county to earn the distinction. The City Council again deserves recognition for improving the city's landmark's ordinance and historic preservation policies to better insure that Santa Monica's character will be saved.

■ Education: Despite budget woes, a

Santa Monica public education is still one of the best around. Kudos to voters for passing Proposition S to provide needed funds in these troubled times. And hats off to Santa Monica's well-regarded "AVID" program (Advancement Via Individual Determination). Voters should always remember that businesses locate and remain where schools are strong.

There are more things to feel good about and I plan to offer more soon. YOU CAN HELP. What do YOU see as working in Santa Monica? In this era of complaining about the city's every move, what is one decision you particularly like or agree with?

Please e-mail me using the address below. I want to include YOUR suggestions next week (anonymously if you prefer).

(Todd Flora is a government relations manager and six-year resident of Santa Monica. He is active in Heal the Bay, the Democratic Party, and the living wage movement in Santa Monica). To respond or reach Todd, e-mail him at:

reformadvocate@yahoo.com.

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

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OPINION



Iraqi nation becoming more American every day

Good things are happening in Iraq. Haven't you heard?

It's not that peace has broken out. Missile attacks, bombings and shootings are up. Helicopters are coming down. As in, huge fireballs exploding in the sky. Democracy is, well, still a joke.

But there's good news. No, great news. According to the Los Angeles Times, used cars and Pringles are flooding the market of the new Iraq.

This is a great development for that country. See, the government of Saddam Hussein had not been importing a lot of cars since 1980, when we — I mean they — started that war against Iran. Since then, people took the bus, walked and even rode bikes to get around.

"Iraqi people have been prevented from buying new cars for almost 30 years," an Iraqi told the Times. He went out and bought his son a 1990 BMW as soon as

Saddam ducked into the spider hole. It's one of 114,000 used cars that have been registered in Baghdad since "the war's end," Times wrote. I mean, since the guerilla war started. Wait, where was I? Where are we again?

Oh, yeah, the new Iraq. Anyway, if the Iraqi DMV is anything like ours, you can imagine how many cars are out there semi-officially, so to speak. There's no car tax yet. Just wait!

The fact that Iraq is getting clogged with hundreds of thousands of ratty cars is actually a great thing. Cars make people feel good. A 24-year-old man from a wealthy agricultural family stroked the buttery leather seats of a luscious 1995 Mercedes in front of a Times reporter. "I feel like a king," he said, reaching a state

of ecstasy as he sat in the driver's seat. The car wasn't even moving.

Cars are a status symbol. Even a homely, two-bit criminal can look like a keeper in the driver's seat of a late-model C-Class. That's a Mercedes. Like Uday and Qusay drove. Bigger and better than the E-Class. Those are for, like, dentists.

Yes, Iraqis have a bright future ahead, which the new cars clearly demonstrate. Nice long commutes, parking meters, traffic jams in the scorching desert — all of this is now within reach, even for the average Joe ... I mean Josef. And don't let me forget the Pringles.

Pringles potato chips, cell phones and blenders are flooding the market. Coca-Cola — the classic kind — is as ubiqui-

tous as water. Actually more so, since the taps still don't work. And one of these days, the electricity will be back on to power up those blenders. Margarita time!

So if anyone had any remaining doubts, let the word go forth: The invasion — I mean, the liberation — has been good news for the Iraqi people.

There are a few small details to be worked out — an entrenched guerilla insurgency, a handpicked governing council that meets in a U.S. bunker, and a society "awash in crime, poverty and terrorism," as the Times put it.

But all of this will be solved by June 30, when L. Paul Bremer III turns over the reins to the locals, and we can go home. Things will be fine then. Don't laugh!

And then we can all sit around the new blender and have a cold one — with salt.

(Beth Solomon is a freelance writer and Los Angeles resident.)

Guest Commentary

By Beth Solomon

Laws don't apply to only those who can pay the fines



LEGAL VIEWS AND NEWS

By David Pizarra

I borrowed a friend's dog to go for a walk yesterday. Walking a dog is a great form of relaxation for me. It allows me to stroll, pause temporarily on a very frequent basis and learn a few lessons. I used to have a standard dachshund, 25 pounds of fur, energy and personality that taught me about responsibility, love, being in the moment and the joys of running on the beach with your shoes off.

I bring this up because it reminded me how much I loved having a dog, but also how there are responsibilities involved in ownership. The city of Santa Monica Municipal Code §4.04.170 — licensing of dogs — won't let a dog play in the park unless it has a license and City Hall charges for that license. This is a rational law I suppose. It guarantees that all resident dogs have their shots, that dogs can be identified should they be lost, and provides income to offset the costs of police officers who patrol the parks, the parks themselves, the animal shelter and the staff who work there.

The law also requires that I must have in my possession, and visible to a police officer, material to remove any solid substances left by any dog in my care and control, or I am guilty of an infraction and shall be fined not less than \$50. That is Santa Monica Municipal code §4.04.385 — material to remove dog feces. Failure to clean up after your pup is covered in §

4.04.370 — dogs to be controlled so as not to commit nuisances:

"No person having the right and ability to prevent the same, shall knowingly, carelessly, or negligently permit any dog to commit any nuisance upon any public property, including, but not limited to, public parks, streets, sidewalks, parkways, gutters and drains, or any improved private property other than that of the owner of said dog or person who has consented thereto. Any person violating this section shall be guilty of an infraction, which shall be punishable by a fine of not less than \$100 per violation."

Frankly, I think the fine for not cleaning up after your dog should be about the cost to replace my shoes. Somewhere between \$150 and \$300. If you have a dog, you have responsibilities.

But my real problem with the municipal code is that it, like so many other laws on the books, punishes the wrong behavior and is not enforced fairly. The current municipal code does punish those who do not clean up after their dogs, but they also punish those who are simply not carrying visible materials to clean up afterwards. That strikes me as a patently unfair law.

One of the joys of little dogs is little messes. The way I handled the situation was to go to the 99¢ store and buy a box of sandwich bags. They made the perfect receptacle for my clean up chores. Every jacket and most of my pants had little plastic bags stuffed in them and you could not see them. If you just looked at me yet I would be guilty of an infraction.

The good news is that this municipal code, like most of them, are not enforced. How do I know that the laws are not enforced you may ask? I'm sure the police

chief would jump at the assertion that laws are going unenforced, but all it takes is one look at the parks and littering laws, and then the general condition of the streets and it becomes quite clear that many laws are going ignored.

For example the Municipal Code Section 7.48.020 litter in public places reads:

(a) No person shall throw or deposit litter in or upon any street, alley, parkway, sidewalk or other public place within the city except in public receptacles or in authorized private receptacles for collection.

(b) Any person violating this section shall be guilty of an infraction, which shall be punishable by a fine not exceeding \$250, or a misdemeanor, which shall be punishable by a fine not exceeding \$1,000 per violation, or by imprisonment in the county jail for a period not exceeding six months, or by both such fine and imprisonment

Now a quick trip down any street in the city of Santa Monica will clearly show a huge amount of litter, cigarette butts, bottles of beer, and other assorted trash collecting in the gutters. Clearly the police department is not enforcing the no littering codes. There are codes that require an owner to maintain their property in litter free condition, but the streets are covered in cigarette butts, spit from pedestrians and broken beer bottles from the homeless drunks in the parks.

On a positive note, the parking enforcers almost never miss an opportunity to write a ticket. You can't be two minutes past a cut-off and the traffic officers are on the job to ticket your obviously morally delinquent, socially hazardous behavior of parking your car. Feel free to spit your way down Main Street, relieve

yourself all you want in the alleys, (so long as you don't have a home), smoke your heart out and drop the butts in the gutter. Just don't be parked where the city decides you shouldn't be.

Perhaps the reason the parking is enforced and the spitting isn't, is the quality of the criminal. A car owner has enough assets to be taken by the city, a homeless guy who spits has nothing. A resident who oversleeps by five minutes can afford a \$47 parking ticket, but a drunk in the park can't afford the fine, so why bother writing his ticket?

I think that the parking laws and dog laws, should both be enforced. I also think that the Santa Monica Police Department should be diligent in parking enforcement as they are in that business. I'd rather the city make sure that dog owners clean up after their pets, that a spitter have to pay a fine, and that the cigarette tossers pony up some cash. I don't think that only those who can afford the fines should be targeted for enforcement.

I'm sick of seeing the remnants of someone else's flu on the sidewalk. I don't care to wade through the spit covered filters of someone's cigarette. I think we should have city as clean as it is beautiful. Justice is supposed to be blind, which means that all laws apply equally. It doesn't mean that we ignore the infractions that are done by the homeless, and enforce the ones against those who can help pay for our new civic buildings.

(David Pizarra is a partner in the Santa Monica law firm of Pizarra & Grist, he welcomes questions, and can be reached at (310) 664-9969 or e-mailed at DPISARRA@PISARRA.COM).

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Santa Monica

A weekly look at events and programs for Santa Monica

Are you healthy enough to carry, give birth to your baby?

Guest Commentary

By Connie Agnew, M.D.
Saint John's Health Center

To make sure that both you and your baby are as healthy as possible, it's important that you get prenatal care throughout your pregnancy. At your regular visits, your general health and the health of your baby will be closely monitored. At these visits, there are several routine tests your health care provider will administer at specific times during your pregnancy, as well as several optional screening tests that may be recommended by your doctor.

At your first prenatal visit, you will receive a complete physical examination. Your urine will be tested for sugar, which is a sign of gestational diabetes. It also will be tested for protein, which is a symptom of preeclampsia, a potentially life-threatening condition, characterized by an extreme rise in blood pressure. Your

There are several routine tests your health care provider will administer at specific times during your pregnancy, as well as several optional screening tests that may be recommended by your doctor.

urine also will be tested for bacteria that may indicate a urinary tract infection (UTI), which is common during pregnancy. The infection can be present without symptoms, and if untreated, may lead to kidney infection.

During this first visit, you will have a blood test that will determine your blood type and Rh factor. If you are Rh-negative and the father is Rh-positive, your fetus may have Rh-positive blood. If this is the case, the mother's immune system may produce antibodies that can damage the fetus' blood. The danger of Rh sensitization can usually be prevented by an Rh immunoglobulin injection.

Your blood will be screened to see if you are anemic; have had exposure to the

hepatitis B virus and whether you are immune to German measles. Your doctor may recommend that your blood also be tested for the HIV virus and other sexually transmitted diseases.

In the first trimester, you will probably also receive an ultrasound that will show your baby's heartbeat and gestational age. The ultrasound also gives the doctor an opportunity to do a nuchal fold screening, where he will look for abnormal accumulation of fluid behind the fetus' neck, which can indicate an increased risk for chromosomal abnormalities. You may receive another ultrasound later in your pregnancy.

In the second trimester (between 15-20 weeks), you will have the option of taking the maternal serum triple screen. These

three tests look for protein in the blood that may indicate an increased risk for certain birth defects. The blood is checked for alpha-fetoprotein (AFP), human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG) and estriol. You will receive a glucose tolerance test (usually between the 24th and 28th weeks) to continue monitoring for gestational diabetes.

You can undergo other optional tests during your pregnancy to rule out certain genetic conditions and chromosomal abnormalities. Chorionic villus sampling (CVS) is a test done at week 11 or 12 on cells collected from the placenta. The amniocentesis, done around week 16, involves inserting a needle into the uterus to retrieve amniotic fluid. Both tests carry a small risk of miscarriage. An amniocentesis is sometimes done later in the pregnancy to provide information on fetal lung development, which can be important if you are at risk for premature delivery.

In the third trimester, near the end of your pregnancy, you will be checked for group B streptococcus, which can cause severe illness or even death to a newborn. If you test positive, you will be treated with antibiotics. If you tested positive for hepatitis B early in your pregnancy, your baby will receive the hepatitis vaccine and hepatitis B immune globulin within 12 hours of birth.

You will not need to ask specifically for any of these routine tests during pregnancy — your doctor will make sure you receive them. You should feel free to discuss the routine and optional tests in more detail with your health care provider. Since regular prenatal care, which includes the routine and optional tests outlined above, is so important, make sure you see your doctor as soon as you know you are pregnant so that potential risks or problems can be monitored and addressed.

(Connie Agnew, M.D., is a medical director of maternal/fetal medicine at Saint John's Health Center and a perinatologist in private practice in Santa Monica. For more information on Saint John's, contact the health center at (310) 829-5511 or visit www.stjohns.org.)

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CALENDAR:

SPECIAL EVENTS ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE - SANTA MONICA FAMILY YMCA

Saturday, January 24th, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., 1332 6th St., 393-2721. This is a great opportunity to check out this wonderful facility. In addition to the adult and senior facilities and classes, they offer many baby, toddler and youth activities including Parent/Baby Gym and Swim classes, Tumbling and Toddler Time. They also have "Child Watch" for babies/kids 6 months and older so parents can work out on their own (the fee is only \$3.00). At Open House you'll receive a guided tour and a pass for 4 complimentary visits. In addition, special programs and classes for all ages are scheduled throughout the day. Pick up a flier at the YMCA or call for more info. Definitely worth checking out!

J.P. NIGHTINGALE AT MCCABE'S GUITAR SHOP Sunday, January 25, 11:00 a.m. The delightful duo performs stories, songs, rhymes and mimes to capture the imagination of all ages. Be sure to bring your spoons so you can play along in the "spoon finale." \$6 adults, \$3 kids. 3101 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, 828-4497

THE PEKING ACROBATS - Sunday, January 25, 2:00 and 7:00 p.m. James Armstrong Theatre, 3330 Civic Center Dr., Torrance, 310-781-7171. Experience these breathtaking gymnasts, cyclists and tumblers performing the ancient art of Chinese acrobatics in a spectacular modern-day presentation. \$27 and \$24.

WHALE WATCHING Don't miss the Pacific gray whale's annual migration between Baja and Alaska. Take a whale-watching excursion with the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium and the American Cetacean Society. Boats depart from three locations: Redondo Beach, Long Beach and San Pedro. \$10 - \$18, Dec. 26 - March 30, 3720 Stephen White Drive, San Pedro, 310-548-8397. www.cabrilloaqua.org or www.acs-la.org. Tours are also available with Catalina Cruises in San Pedro - 310-410-1062.

CINDERELLA - January 10 - 25. The single most requested of all the Santa Monica Playhouse Family Theatre musicals returns. This delightfully romantic, original classic features the handsome prince, zany fairy godmother, silly stepsisters and a zealously well-meaning stepmother. Saturday & Sunday, January 10 - 25, 12:30 & 3:00 p.m., \$9 children, \$10 adults, Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 Fourth St., 394-9779, www.santamonicaaplayhouse.com
STORYTOLD - January 24 & 25. Birthday Party Celebration - 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Two days of activities hosted by popular local and national children's book illustrators. Enjoy continuous storytelling, art demos, performance, music and crafts. Plus, 10% off books by new artists. For all ages, 116 N. Robertson, Plaza A, LA, 310-358-2500, www.storytold.com

TUESDAY

Movies for Moms sponsored by:



"Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat" showing January 20th 11:00 a.m., Loews Broadway, 1441 3rd St. Promenade - for Moms and babies newborn - 1 year old. Doors open early for socializing and getting comfortable. Mike Myers stars in the title role of this highly anticipated film adaptation of the beloved literary classic. The story introduces two youngsters whose mother is away for the day. They're soon visited by a strange and silly animal who proceeds to cause all sorts of mischief in their house. Also starring Dakota Fanning and Alec Baldwin directed by Bo Welch. Rated "PG" for mild crude humor and some double entendres.

Storytelling

Main Library - Toddler Storytime at Reed Park; 10:00 & 10:30 a.m. Stories for two year olds with adult.

Fairview Branch Library - 2101 Ocean Park Blvd - 310-450-0443.

Cuentos Para Pequeños - 10:00 a.m., Jan. 6 - Feb. 10; six-week series in Spanish for 24 - 36 month olds with adult.

Cap Time - 11:00 a.m., Jan. 6 - Feb. 10; six-week series for babies 0-24 months, co-sponsored by the SMMUSD Infant and Family Support Program.

Tiny Tuesday Storytime at Storyopolis Themes change weekly; for ages infant to 3. 11:00 a.m. 116 North Robertson, Plaza A, LA, 310-358-2500, www.storyopolis.com
Barnes and Noble at the Grove - Storytime for ages 2 - 6. 10:00 a.m. 189 Grove Drive, LA, 323-525-0270

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381 - Mommy & Me (ages 0-5 years) - 10 - 11 a.m.; Pre-natal yoga - 7-8:15 p.m.

Yoga Works - 2215 Montana Ave., 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal - 12:15 - 1:40 p.m., \$15. Mommy & Me - 1:45 - 3:00 p.m. **Mommy Care** - 11870 Santa Monica Blvd., at the Dance Factory, West LA, 310-394-6711. Pregnancy Exercise - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m.; Post Partum Exercise - 10:15 - 11:15 a.m. (babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station - 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Other

Nature Walk (Children's Nature Inst.) - Will Rogers St. Park (Pac. Palisades) - 10:00am. Reservations required - 310-998-1151 or www.childrensnatureinstitute.org

WEDNESDAY

Storytelling

Fairview Branch Library - 2101 Ocean Park Blvd - 310-450-0443.

Preschool Story Time - 10:30 a.m., Jan. 7 - Feb. 11; six-week series for 3-5 year olds with adult.

Montana Avenue Branch Library - 1704 Montana Ave - 310-828-7081.

Cap Time - 10:00 & 10:30 a.m., Jan. 7 - Feb. 11. Six-week series for children up to 24 months of age with adult.

Toddler Story Time - 11:15 a.m., Jan. 7 - Feb. 11. Six-week series for 2 year olds with adult.

Ocean Park Branch Library - 2601 Main St. - 310-392-3804.

Preschool Twilight Story Time - 7:00 - 7:30 p.m. An ongoing story time for parents and their children ages 3 - 5.

Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion - 2 p.m. ages 2-5 - 310-475-4144

Borders's, Westwood - 11am - 310-475-3444.

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381 - Mommy & Me (ages 0-5 years) - 10 - 11 a.m.; (infants only) - 1 - 2 p.m. Pre-natal yoga - 11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Yoga Works - 2215 Montana Ave., 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal - 12:15 - 1:45pm, \$15

Ocean Oasis Day Spa - 1333 Ocean Avenue, 458-8190. Pre/Post Natal Yoga/Gentle Flow - 5:30 - 6:45 p.m.

Private sessions available; call Kate Thomas, RN - 408-1717

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station - 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

THURSDAY

Storytelling

Main Library - Toddler Storytime at Reed Park; 10:00 a.m. Stories for two year olds with adult.

Preschool Story Time at Reed Park; 10:30 a.m. Stories for 3-5 year olds with adult.

Fairview Branch Library - 2101 Ocean Park Blvd - 310-450-0443.

Toddler Story Time - 10:30 a.m., Jan. 8 - Feb. 19 (no program Feb. 12); six-week series for 24-36 month olds with adult.

Montana Avenue Branch Library - 1704 Montana Ave - 310-828-7081.

Toddler Story Time - 10:15 a.m., Jan. 8 - Feb. 12. Six-week series for 2 year olds.

Preschool Story Time - 11:15 a.m. Stories for 3-5 year olds with adult.

Ocean Park Branch Library - 2601 Main St. - 310-392-3804.

Cap Time - 9:20 & 10:20 a.m., Jan. 8 - Feb. 19, six-week series for babies 0-24 months, co-sponsored by the SMMUSD Infant and Family Support Program.

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381 - Mommy & Me (ages 0-5 years) - 10 - 11 a.m.; Pre-natal yoga - 7-8:15 p.m.

Yoga Works - 2215 Montana Ave., 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal - 12:15 - 1:40 p.m., \$15. Mommy & Me - 1:45 - 3:00 p.m.

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Ocean Oasis Day Spa - 1333 Ocean Avenue, 458-8190. Pre/Post Natal Yoga/Gentle Flow - 10:30 - 11:45 a.m.; Yoga for Fitness - noon - 1 p.m. Private sessions available; call Kate Thomas, RN - 408-1717

Preschool Twilight Story Time - 7:00 - 7:30 p.m. An ongoing story time for parents and their children ages 3 - 5.

Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion - 2 p.m. ages 2-5 - 310-475-4144

Borders's, Westwood - 11am - 310-475-3444.

Yoga & Exercise - 310-306-9381 - Mommy & Me (ages 0-5 years) - 10 - 11 a.m.; (infants only) - 1 - 2 p.m. Pre-natal yoga - 11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Yoga Works - 2215 Montana Ave., 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal - 12:15 - 1:45 p.m., \$15. Mommy & Me - 1:45 - 3:00 p.m.

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See Special Events section for details.

Storytelling

Tea and Books - January 24th, Fairview Branch Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd. 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. A special program - 4th and 5th graders are invited for tea and a book discussion of A View from Saturday by E.L. Konigsburg.

Children's Book World - 10580 1/2 Pico Blvd., LA - 10:30 a.m., 310-559-800K.

Kathleen Zundell and her puppet friends tell stories for ages 3 - 8, free.

Storyopolis - January 24 & 25, 116 N. Robertson, Plaza A, LA, 310-358-2500

Birthday Party Celebration - 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. See Special Events section for details.

Birdwatching for Young Children and Parents - January 25, 10:00 a.m.

A short walk for children and families at Malibu Lagoon State Beach. Sponsored by the Santa Monica Bay Audubon Society. Binoculars provided; for all ages; free. Located on PCH a quarter mile west of Malibu Pier.

McCabe's Guitar Shop presents J.P. Nightingale - January 25, 11:00 a.m. See Special Events section for details.

THE PEKING ACROBATS - January 25, 2:00 and 7:00 p.m. See Special Events section for details.

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381; Prenatal yoga - 9:15 - 10:45 a.m., \$13

Mommy Care - 11870 Santa Monica Blvd., at the Dance Factory, West LA, 310-394-6711; Pregnancy Exercise - 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.; Post Partum Exercise - 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. (babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)

Ocean Oasis Day Spa - 1333 Ocean Avenue, 458-8190. Pre/Post Natal Yoga/Gentle Flow - 10:30 - 11:45 a.m.; Yoga for Fitness - noon - 1 p.m. Private sessions available; call Kate Thomas, RN - 408-1717

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STATE

Shifting of white-collar jobs overseas starts backlash

BY RACHEL KONRAD

AP Business Writer

SAN JOSE — Executives from Silicon Valley to Wall Street are adamant that shifting white-collar jobs from the United States to developing countries is good business, but a backlash is brewing.

Indiana's state government canceled a \$15 million contract with an Indian consulting firm in November. And eight states voted on bills last year that would ban the

use of taxpayer money on contracts with foreign workers. Though none of those measures passed, the states and several others are expected to consider similar bills this year.

Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry says he would require overseas call centers to disclose their location — the New Economy version of the "made in America" label.

The Massachusetts senator said he wouldn't ban outsourcing, but would pro-

vide tax credits to companies that maintain U.S. factories and "close every single loophole that gives companies incentives to move jobs abroad."

Outsourcing critics say Americans have been complacent about the loss of technology jobs to overseas workers since the trend began in the late 1990s. But with elections in both the United States and India, they believe 2004 could be a turning point.

"Politicians can't outsource the vote," said Scott Kirwin, founder of the Wilmington, Del.-based lobbying group Information Technology Professionals Association of America, which compiles data from nearly 100 anti-outsourcing Web sites. Kirwin, who launched ITPAA after a large investment bank asked him to train the Indian worker who then replaced him, says said only broad consumer revolt will reverse the trend.

"In the 1980s, many people boycotted companies that did business with the apartheid regime in South Africa," Kirwin said. "Many of those same people have more money today and don't like doing business with companies from countries that work against us politically, like France, or economically, like India and China. Consumer activism is an important part of putting the brakes on the outsourcing movement."

After his software development job was terminated in 2002, Florida's Mike Emmons decided to run for Congress on an anti-outsourcing agenda. His meager campaign funds come mostly from unemployed programmers who visit his Web site, OutsourceCongress.org. He is trying to get on the ballot for the Democratic primary this summer.

Fear of a backlash was a major issue at a technology summit this month in Hyderabad, India. Indiana's failed contract with Tata Consultancy Services, and customer complaints that prompted Dell Inc. to reroute some help desk calls from India to Idaho in November, worry Indians, who have received billions of dollars in outsourcing contracts.

"This is a matter of concern for all of us," India's info tech minister, Arun Shourie, told officials from 30 Asian countries at the summit. "We must come together to find a consensus approach to fight this backlash."

Business experts say India needn't worry; Indiana and Dell are high-profile exceptions to what has become the rule of outsourcing.

In a research report in mid-2003,

Gartner Inc. predicted that at least one out of 10 technology jobs in the United States would move overseas by the end of 2004. Forrester Research predicts at least 3.3 million white-collar jobs and \$136 billion in wages will shift from the United States to low-cost countries by 2015.

"The idea of a backlash makes for great press, and it makes for great rhetoric in an election year," said John C. McCarthy, vice president of research at Forrester. "But the reality is that every day there's a new customer with new cost savings from this. The economics are hugely compelling, and it's not going away."

The cost savings are tough to ignore — particularly for cash-strapped states. Connecticut, Florida, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, New York and North Carolina all saw anti-outsourcing bills introduced in 2003, but none passed, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

"This is the classic policy dilemma for legislators," said NCSL research analyst Justin Marks. "You've got a \$200 billion deficit for states, and they can save a lot of money by outsourcing. But the economy has lost a ton of jobs, and legislators are saying, 'I don't want to see more jobs in my district go away.'"

Indiana Gov. Joe Kernan said he'd like to see "preference" for companies from his state in government contracts. In an interview, Kernan said the contract that Tata won shouldn't have been such an omnibus. No single Indiana firm could have met all its requirements, which included everything from speedier unemployment claims processing to 24-hour accessibility to government records.

Tata's bid was about \$8 million lower than bids from two U.S. firms. Indiana officials subsequently restructured the contract, which is still open, to let Indiana companies partner with universities or other consulting firms and compete against multinationals.

Earlier this month, executives from Dell, Intel Corp., IBM Corp., Hewlett-Packard Co. and other companies urged the Bush administration to maintain its hands-off approach and not regulate outsourcing.

Executives say transferring highly paid, highly skilled jobs to foreigners allows companies to engineer products inexpensively and lets Americans focus on emerging fields such as nanotechnology. The average American programmer commands \$60 an hour; in India the rate is roughly one-sixth of that.

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WORLD BRIEFLY

Muslims march for their government

By The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Tens of thousands of Shiite Muslims marched peacefully in Baghdad on Monday to demand an elected government, as U.S. and Iraqi officials prepared to seek U.N. endorsement of American plans for transferring power in Iraq.

Secretary-General Kofi Annan has been reluctant to let the United Nations play a greater role in Iraq until he is convinced the country is safe.

Underscoring those dangers, 24 people were killed and about 120 were wounded Sunday when a suicide bomber blew up his pickup truck at a gate to the headquarters compound of the occupation authority in Baghdad, Iraq's Health Minister Khudayer Abbas said Monday.

Huge crowds of Iraqi Shiites, estimated by reporters at up to 100,000, marched about three miles to the University of al-Mustansariyah, where a representative of Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Husseini al-Sistani delivered a speech he said was directed at Annan, the U.S.-led occupation authority and its Iraqi allies.

Al-Sistani, the country's most influential Shiite leader, has rejected a U.S. formula for transferring power through a provisional legislature selected by 18 regional caucuses, insisting on direct elections instead.

Deadly weather turns rescue to recovery

By The Associated Press

KINGSVILLE, Ontario — Rescue workers battling heavy snow, shifting ice and low clouds gave up any hope of pulling survivors from the frigid waters of Lake Erie where 10 people were presumed killed in a single-engine plane crash.

"Unfortunately, this has changed from a rescue mission to a recovery mission," Constable Brian Knowler, of the provincial police in Kingsville, said Sunday.

The plane crashed in snowy weather late Saturday afternoon, and by Sunday was submerged in 24 feet of water about a mile west of Canada's Pelee Island, the Ontario Provincial Police said.

The Georgian Express plane, carrying eight hunters from Ontario, the pilot and a friend of the pilot, was bound for Windsor, about 35 miles to the northwest, when the pilot made a frantic call for help soon after taking off. The cause of the crash has yet to be determined.

The wreckage of the Cessna 208 Caravan was found Saturday evening in western Lake Erie, between Cleveland and Detroit.

U.S. soldiers wounded in Afghan attack

By The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Three U.S. soldiers were wounded in an attack on a southern Afghanistan base, a military spokesman said Monday.

One attacker was killed in the gunfight that erupted when about 15 insurgents assailed the base at Deh Rawood in Uruzgan province early Sunday, Lt. Col. Bryan Hilferty said.

The wounded soldiers were flown to the main U.S. base at Bagram, 250 miles northeast near the capital, Kabul. They were in stable condition, Hilferty said.

Prison guards become prisoners

By The Associated Press

BUCKEYE, Ariz. — Authorities were in marathon negotiations to free two state prison guards who were taken hostage by inmates and confined to an armed officers' tower.

The emergency began Sunday morning, when one inmate attacked a guard during breakfast preparations, then met up with another inmate in the prison yard and the two gained access to the tower.

The captives have been allowed to speak with negotiators and said they are not seriously injured, prison officials said early Monday.

"The negotiators have spoken with them directly, we know they are OK," said Cam Hunter, a state Department of Corrections spokeswoman.

Hunter said that despite the length of the negotiations, talks were progressing.

All other staff and inmates were accounted for, and the rest of the inmates were locked in their cells, authorities said.

King's B-day marked by anti-war protests

By The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday tribute last week was marked by discord, with hundreds protesting President Bush's visit to the slain civil rights leader's tomb.

Organizers of ceremonies honoring the federal holiday for King were hoping for a bit more harmony.

On Monday, thousands were expected to gather and listen as King's son, Martin Luther King III, president of the King Center for Nonviolent Social Change, kicks off the annual commemorative service at Ebenezer Baptist Church, where his father preached until his assassination in 1968.

On King's birthday Thursday, about 800 protesters rallied against Bush's visit to the tomb on what would have been King's 75th birthday.

Beating drums and chanting, "Peace, not war; that's what Martin stood for!" and "Bush, go home!" many of the protesters said Bush's policies on the Iraq war, affirmative action and social service funding directly contradicted King's legacy.

The anti-war message was to be prominent again on Monday.

King's widow, who urged world leaders to avoid an impending war in Iraq during her remarks at last year's service, said she would address the issue again. Coretta Scott King has continued to speak out in opposition to the war, promoting her late husband's principles of non-violence.

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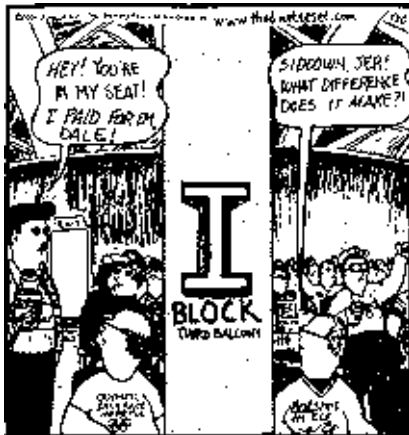
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30 Tell tales
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36 Boll's partner
37 Jump rope style
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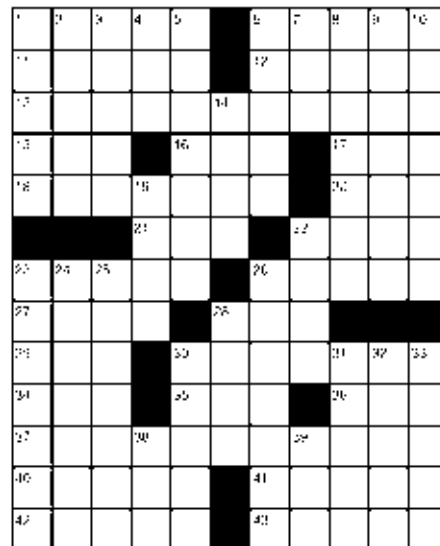
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6 Skiers' hangout
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Bette Midler 'mortified' by Grammy nomination

By The Associated Press

■ **BOSTON** — For most artists, getting a Grammy Award nomination is a welcome piece of news. Not for Bette Midler, not this year.

In a twist of fate, her CD "Bette Midler Sings The Rosemary Clooney Songbook" is up against an actual Clooney album, "The Last Concert." The other category nominees are Barbra Streisand, Rod Stewart, Tony Bennett and k.d. lang.

"I'm mortified. I'd really like Rosemary to win that Grammy. I can't believe I'm up against her," Midler told the Boston Globe. "I'm going to look into withdrawing. I just think it's bad form if I won. You know, she never won a Grammy."

According to Grammy historian Craig Beachloff, it's "probably unprecedented" to have a tribute album and an album by the actual artist in the same category.

Clooney died in June 2002 at age 74 from lung cancer complications.

The Grammy Awards will be handed out on Feb. 8.

■ **LOS ANGELES** — Charlie Sheen says he's having fun portraying a toned-down version of his former self on the CBS comedy, "Two and Half Men."

Sheen's character plays a hard-partying, womanizing bachelor — not too far from the actor's one-time single days.

"It's fun to embrace that guy that doesn't exist anymore," Sheen says. "If we pursued the themes as they were true to life, I don't even think we could be on cable."

He was a little suspicious when approached with the idea of the series, but said he was convinced when he saw the quality of the pilot's script.

"It's nice to be involved in the joke from its inception as opposed to just being the punch line," he says.

Sheen, who previously starred as the deputy mayor of New York on the former sitcom "Spin City," has appeared in "Platoon," "Wall Street" and other films. He's the son of actor Martin Sheen of NBC's "The West Wing."

In 2002, he married actress Denise Richards.

■ **SAN FRANCISCO** — Long before he found fame, actor Josh Duhamel did his homework.

Back in 1998, Duhamel, the star of the romantic comedy "Win a Date With Tad Hamilton!," found temporary employment at a talent agency in Los Angeles stuffing envelopes with other actors' head shots. An agent spotted Duhamel in the mailroom and began sending him out on casting calls.

The feedback was harsh, Duhamel tells the San Francisco Chronicle on Sunday.

"I started taking classes and became obsessed with actors like (Jack) Nicholson and Jack Lemmon, trying to figure out what separated the good ones from the bad. They keep it very simple."

After a steamy stint on "All My Children," Duhamel graduated to prime time last fall in NBC's series "Las Vegas." And this month, the actor makes his feature film debut.

Even so, Duhamel is still learning about acting.

"Alec Baldwin, who I got to work with last week on

'Vegas,' doesn't use his eyebrows unless he has to. It's all about confidence, and at the beginning, I had none."

■ **NEW YORK** — Sean Astin is ready to pack up his hobbit stuff as soon as he can.

"I've been ready to move on since we finished principal photography," Astin tells Newsday in Sunday's editions during a round of publicity for "Return of the King," the final installment of the J.R.R. Tolkien adaptation. "But the rest of the world won't let me."

In all three parts of "The Lord of the Rings," Astin plays hobbit Samwise Gamgee, the devoted sidekick to gallant Frodo Baggins, played by Elijah Wood. Astin, who previously charmed audiences in "Rudy," is being mentioned as a possible Academy Award nominee this year.

The buzz is something that Astin hopes to capitalize on.

"There's a direct correlation between the energy surrounding this interview cycle and the opportunities coming down the pike for me," says Astin. "My life right now is like ... when you look at a lava lamp, it's like the moment right before everything pours over."

Astin isn't altogether sure why his performance in the third film has generated so much acclaim.

"I'm guessing that a lot of people connect with Sam because he's the one who's obviously the most emotionally fragile and yet he carries on and, in the end, survives," he says. "Maybe he connects with the fragile part in all of us that we have to cope with when we're confronted with something bigger than we are."

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