

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues



NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

BBC News reported in September that Sandra Luchian, 15, from Moldova, managed to hand-copy the 607-page "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince," filling five notebooks, after borrowing it from a friend in the U.K. (since it was not available anywhere in Moldova and she couldn't afford to have it shipped to her). She said it took her about a month.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 31st day of 2006.
There are 334 days left in the year.

Four hundred years ago, on Jan. 31, 1606, Guy Fawkes, convicted of treason for his part in the "Gunpowder Plot" against the English Parliament and King James I, was executed.

In 1797, composer Franz Schubert was born in Vienna, Austria.

In 1865, Gen. Robert E. Lee was named General-in-Chief of all the Confederate armies.

In 1945, Private Eddie Slovik became the only U.S. soldier since the Civil War to be executed for desertion as he was shot by an American firing squad in France.

In 1956, the creator of "Winnie-the-Pooh," British author A.A. Milne, died at age 74.

In 1958, the United States entered the Space Age with its first successful launch of a satellite into orbit, Explorer 1.

In 1971, astronauts Alan B. Shepard Jr., Edgar D. Mitchell and Stuart A. Roosa blasted off aboard Apollo 14 on a mission to the moon.

Ten years ago: In one of the worst attacks in Sri Lanka's civil war, a truck packed with explosives rammed into the central bank and exploded, killing 88 people and wounding 1,400 others. The last Cubans held in refugee camps at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base boarded a plane for Florida.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The third-rate mind is only happy when it is thinking with the majority. The second-rate mind is only happy when it is thinking with the minority. The first-rate mind is only happy when it is thinking."

A.A. MILNE (1882-1956)

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Keeping his nose to grind stone



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Andrew Norris, 19, from Venice, grinds away the day under overcast skies at Venice skateboard park on Monday.

Homeless delegates return in New York state of mind

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE — The delegation of officials who traveled to New York last week returned optimistic that the Los Angeles metropolitan region can similarly address and alleviate its homeless problem.

The delegation — including representatives from Santa Monica — attended 10 meetings and tours last Thursday and Friday to glean information on how New York is running its homeless programs.

The 30 homeless advocates who attended represent a cross-section of regional government entities and social service providers. In light of the trip, they hope to reconvene in a month to plan ways to bring a community court to the region. In addition, they hope to create greater collaboration among organizations so

Los Angeles County can combat homelessness as well as New York City seems to have managed.

"It made me very optimistic — the way New York has taken itself back," said Ed Edelman, Santa Monica's homeless czar, one of three officials from City Hall who attended. "The city has gone from a bad situation eight to 10 years ago and has turned itself around."

"It made me realize we can do it here, too."

The trip was organized by California Sen. Gil Cedillo (D-22) and the Los Angeles Police Department. The 30 officials who participated in the trip had their travel expenses paid

by the government bodies they represent, including airfare, meals and two nights' stay. The delegation stayed at the New York Grand

See HOMELESS, page 7

LOCAL

Police: Be on lookout for scheming burglars

Daily Press Staff Writer

FRANKLIN AVENUE — Police are looking for suspected gypsies who were involved in a burglary over the weekend at the home of an elderly woman.

At approximately 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 28, the Santa Monica Police responded to the 1700 block of Franklin Avenue regarding a burglary investigation involving apparent gypsies.

The suspects — claiming to be with the water company — knocked on the elderly resident's door and said they had to enter to check the water pressure. After the suspects entered, one suspect went to the kitchen and looked under the sink, while the other suspect was continually receiving

See BURGLARS, page 6

Parents, students let minds wander

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press Staff Writer

PICO BOULEVARD — Tear down the fences and make schools into community centers. Convert vacant retail stores in Santa Monica Place into classrooms to ease overcrowding. Plant community gardens in elementary schools so youth can learn about nutrition and establish healthy eating habits. Hold classes in local businesses to teach finance.

These are just some of the progressive ideas put forth by residents here and the city of Malibu on Saturday during the first of several community meetings that will shape school use and construction over the next 20 years.

With the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District's top decision-makers in attendance, roughly 100 parents, students and concerned community members gathered at the Sheraton Defina Hotel for a day of free-flowing discussions in which participants were encouraged to "think big, bold and 'brizany,'" — a combination of brilliant and zany — a term created specifically for the brain-storming session.

While many found it difficult to think outside the box without worrying about the consequences, overall, the meeting was "a great first start," said Bobbie Hill, a partner with Concordia, LLC, an urban design firm working with the district in molding the Facilities Master Plan (www.our-schoolplan.com) — a guide for school upgrades, land purchases and new school construction in the district.

"People have to find their comfort zone, and that doesn't happen in one meeting," Hill said. "Some

See MASTER PLAN, page 6

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COLDWELL BANKER



Attempted murder suspect behind bars

BY RYAN HYATT
Daily Press Staff

DOWNTOWN — Police on Sunday arrested a homeless man wanted for attempted murder.

At 9:01 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 29, the Santa Monica police responded to the 1600 block of Seventh Street regarding a stabbing. When officers arrived at the scene, they found a male victim lying on the sidewalk unconscious.

Statements from witnesses led officers to the suspect's location and he was arrested. The suspect is identified as Chester Cornelius White, 55,

transient. White was booked for attempted murder and his bail was set at \$527,500.

The victim was transported to a local hospital and is listed in stable condition. His injuries included seven stab wounds to his face, arms, torso and a punctured lung.

Anyone having additional information regarding this incident is encouraged to contact the Robbery-Homicide Unit of the SMPD at 310-458-8451. Callers who wish to remain anonymous, yet still become eligible for a reward may also call the "We Tip" national hotline at 1-800-78-CRIME (27463).

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Two go where Eagles dare

By Daily Press staff



Two high school students have achieved the rank of Eagle scout.

On Sunday, Feb. 5, Troop 2 will celebrate the achievement of two young men: Nathaniel Miller, a junior, and Devon Pratt, a senior at Santa Monica High School, who have reached Eagle Scout status.

Both selected projects at Lincoln Middle School. Miller's project involved cataloguing all of the stage and production equipment in the auditorium. Pratt did work in the lighting and sound room. Based on their extensive involvement with the SMMUSD music program, they chose to pursue projects that would benefit future musicians and performers.

Free your mind, and the rest will follow

By Daily Press staff

A local organization wants to help you reach a state of heightened awareness.

The Center for Increased Consciousness (CIC) announced the next in its planned series of open-to-the-public training programs. The three-hour sessions show people a fast, easy way to expand and enhance their well-being through consciousness. The CIC's method for achieving a safe state of heightened awareness, sensitivity, and interconnectedness requires no charismatic leaders or substances, and doesn't conflict with or depend upon any established religious or philosophical doctrines or dogma.

Attaining this state can be its own reward, or participants can use it to improve such important aspects of their personal lives as relationships, creativity, career, abundance, health and body image, as well as such global issues as consciousness itself or world peace. The training sessions are scheduled for Feb. 12 and Mar. 5 for a suggested donation of \$10 per person. For more information, call (800) 643-2035.

CORRECTION — In the Monday, Jan. 30, issue of the Santa Monica Daily Press, the article "Woodlawn case draws to a close" should have indicated that Woodlawn Monument, a monument making business, received 90 per cent of its revenues by providing monuments to Woodlawn Cemetery.

SNOW AND SURF REPORTS

CONDITIONS

DATA PROVIDED BY ONTHESNOW.COM

BEAR MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW	BASE DEPTH	LIFT HOURS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
(24 Hrs) 0"	12"-36"	8:30am - 4:00pm	15	10/12

CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Groomed, Hard Packed

JUNE MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW	BASE DEPTH	LIFT HOURS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
(24 Hrs) 0"	96" - 120"	8:00am - 4:00pm	35	6/6

CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Groomed

MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW	BASE DEPTH	LIFT HOURS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
(24 Hrs) 0"	144" - 168"	8:30 am - 4:00 pm	150	25/28

CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Groomed

MOUNTAIN HIGH

NEW SNOW	BASE DEPTH	LIFT HOURS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
(24 Hrs) 0"	12"-30"	8:30 am - 10:00 pm	16	8/16

CONDITIONS: Machine Made, Machine Groomed, Hard Packed

MT. BALDY

NEW SNOW	BASE DEPTH	LIFT HOURS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
(24 Hrs) 0"	12"-12"	8:00 am - 4:30 pm	4	2/4

CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Made

SNOW SUMMIT

NEW SNOW	BASE DEPTH	LIFT HOURS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
(24 Hrs) 0"	12"-36"	8:30 am - 4:30 pm	18	14/14

CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Groomed, Hard Packed

SNOW VALLEY

NEW SNOW	BASE DEPTH	LIFT HOURS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
(24 Hrs) 0"	24"-12"	8:30 am - 4:00 pm	11	5/11

CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Groomed

CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 57°

DATA PROVIDED BY WETSAND.COM

SWELL FORECAST (3-5 FT)

Today the peak day of this swell with size running in the chest high zone for most west facing breaks, shoulder high or so at standouts when the tide is right. Note that AM sessions may have a bit of lump on the surface from winds that are expected to blow in the outer waters and some onshores around 5+ mph are likely, even around dawn that may put some light texture on the surface.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

NW swell picks up a tad Monday...

Small to moderate bursts of NW swell this week...

TIDE FORECAST FOR SANTA MONICA

SATURDAY	LOW TIDE: 1:22AM HIGH TIDE: 7:42AM	2.1FT 6.8FT	3:01PM 9:29PM	-1.8FT 4.0FT
SUNDAY	LOW TIDE: 2:11AM HIGH TIDE: 8:28AM	1.7FT 7.0FT	3:38PM 10:03PM	-1.8FT 4.2FT
MONDAY	LOW TIDE: 3:00AM HIGH TIDE: 9:14AM	1.42FT 6.8FT	4:15PM 10:38PM	-1.6FT 4.5FT
TUESDAY	LOW TIDE: 3:52AM HIGH TIDE: 10:00AM	1.2FT 6.3FT	4:52PM 11:16PM	-1.2FT 4.7FT
WEDNESDAY	LOW TIDE: 4:47AM HIGH TIDE: 10:49AM	1.1FT 5.6FT	5:28PM 11:56PM	-0.5FT 4.9FT
THURSDAY	LOW TIDE: 5:50AM HIGH TIDE: 11:43AM	1.1FT 4.6FT	6:04PM N/A	0.2FT N/A
FRIDAY	N/A			

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



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The Q Line

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An emboldened tourism industry, surging real estate sales and some unexpected money courtesy of the state have pumped an additional \$5.5 million into the city coffers, leaving council members with more money to spend when they approve the mid-year budget next month. While some of the cash is already accounted for — to cover increased costs for employee salaries — roughly \$2.5 million will be left up to the discretion of the council, which will debate the issue at a meeting scheduled for Feb. 14.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, **"How do you think the council should spend the budget surplus?"**

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

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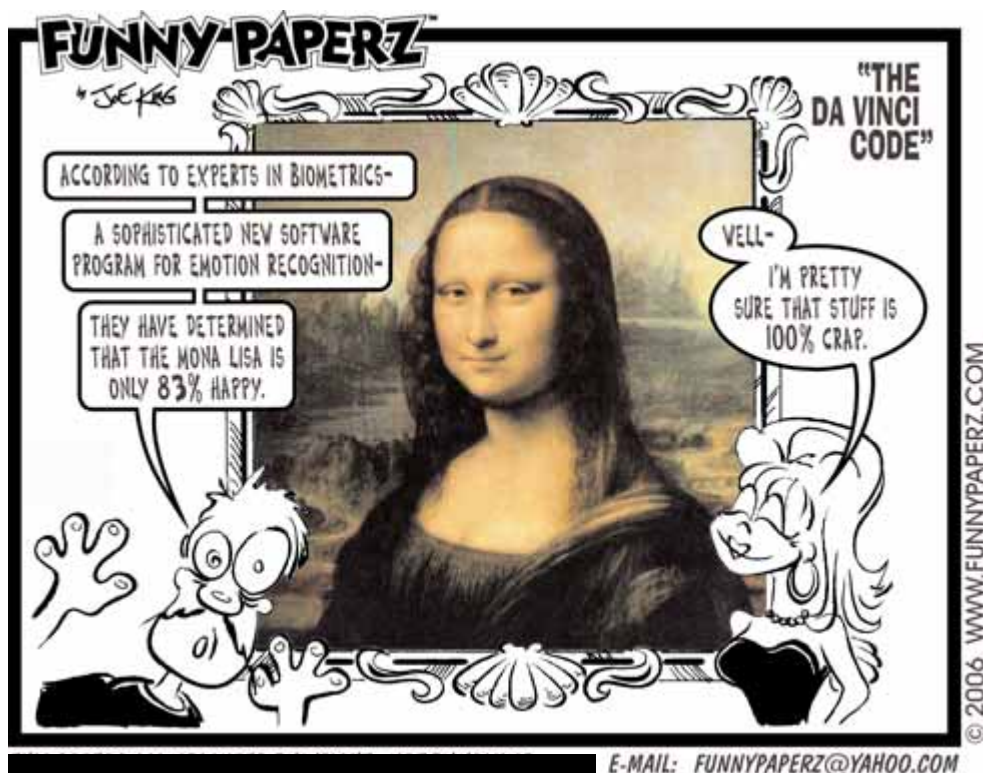
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OPINION



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Anti-abortionists only practice hypocrisy**Editor:**

About 30 years ago I was in the Auckland, New Zealand, abortion clinic with my loudly vocal pro-choice friend whom I was visiting. There in the waiting room with about 20 other women awaiting counseling and service was a media high-profile woman with the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) and her 14-year-old daughter, there to take advantage of the abortion services.

And therein lies the total hypocrisy of all anti-abortionists, making laws for us that they can self-righteously break. After all, unlike reckless liberals, anti-abortionists don't believe in it; they only do it when they need it.

Even then-President George H.W. Bush and Vice-president Dan Quayle gave most equivocal responses when asked if they would allow their daughters to have an abortion. Both said they were sure their daughters would make the right choice. Choice. There's that liberal word again. 'Choice' is good for anti-abortionists, but not good nor permissible for the rest of us.

We are already in the process of losing too many of our American rights. Don't let them take this right away from us too.

Flo Ginsburg
Santa Monica

Keep 'King George' from taking throne**Editor:**

The Democrats absolutely must vote for a filibuster of Samuel Alito's nomination to the Supreme Court. His position on granting unfettered power to the president presents us with a second King George; the "unitary president" gives the president the complete power to decide to eliminate the SEC, to order torture, to abolish enforcement of the Helping America Vote act, to order persons to be arrested and held without their family knowing where they are and not giving them the right to an attorney and to confront their accuser and have their day in court. This represents a final chapter in the radical right's efforts to gain unitary control over our government.

Geri Kenyon
Topanga

Put Alito on a train to Toledo**Editor:**

Putting Judge Alito on the Supreme Court is the next worst thing to putting George Bush in the White House.

Ben Martin
Los Angeles

Let's remind leaders we chose them to lead



WHAT'S THE POINT?

BY DAVID PISARRA

Earlier this month, the Supreme Court took a stand on right-to-die legislation. They said that, essentially, each state should be allowed to determine for itself the regulation in this hotly contested area of the law and ethics. That led to some of the California legislators indicating that they would be reviving (pardon the pun) our own right-to-die legislative attempts. The Governor, in campaign mode now, has strongly indicated that he would veto any bill that the legislature passed on the matter, saying that this is a topic that should be put to "the people."

He sidestepped, disclosing his own views on the issue by doing so. Again.

I find it curious that a man who so loves to be in charge, and who wanted to be a leader, has, on the major issues to come before him, abdicated his role, downplayed the significance of the legislature, and continues to attempt to make the citizens of the state do, what we sent the legislators to Sacramento to do.

The public votes for politicians to do the work that they, as citizens, have neither the time, nor the desire to do. Frankly who wants to spend hours each day listening to lobbyists extol the benefits of some new waste treatment system, or sit in those endless hearings where they each blather on, solely to make that one sound bite that will be their next campaign slogan? No, we send people to Sacramento, the same way we send people into our sewers, to get a job done, and please don't tell us about it, just that the problem is solved.

When the governor refuses to sign a bill, or veto it, on its merits, he is sending a message to the public that he doesn't really want to be nailed down on a particular topic. The reason why is, he's running for re-election and doesn't want it used against him. It's chicken manure, and we should remember it at the polls.

He did this with the Gay Marriage act. It was the first time in this country's history that a legislative body had taken such a positive step towards equality for gay people. The Governor abdicated his responsibility again, only this time he said the courts should decide if gay people should be treated equally in this state. When is he going to do his job?

The second thing that happened last week was the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committees vote on Judge Samuel Alito's nomination to the Supreme Court. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, a lady who generally I agree with, voted against confirming Judge Alito. Her vote was one of eight votes against the judge. This was a strictly partisan vote, as all Republican senators voted for, and all Democratic senators voted against, confirming Alito.

Again, this is not leadership, this is

pandering to an electorate. I find it impossible to believe that of the eight votes against Judge Alito, not one person felt that the judge was qualified to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. This man, who is already a sitting Federal Appeals Court Judge, clearly has the knowledge, experience and temperament to be a Supreme Court Justice. To oppose him, based solely on his perceived politics, and how those play out against ones constituents, is cowardly. Senator Feinstein voted in lockstep with the rest of her Democratic colleagues, and I think that she did a disservice to the State of California by doing so. By representing that we, as a State, do not want someone who is so completely qualified, she is making us look like an unthinking, dogmatic bunch of yokels.

I can guarantee that I will not agree with everything that Justice Alito will do. But I will never say he is not qualified to hold the position.

All of this politicking makes me think about the qualitative differences between having a lifetime appointment like a Supreme Court Justice, and the need of a politician to constantly be in campaign mode. Politicians become shark-like in their need to always be moving towards food to stay alive. In the elections game, food equals money. To get money, a politician must be liked, which is why they are always sucking up to groups and never want to take a position on a topic.

The Supreme Court Justice with the lifetime appointment, on the other hand, is free to make decisions based on their experience, and according to their interpretation of the law. They have no constituency once they are in their respective offices. That is what is good about lifetime appointments, it is what allows them to change their minds, review matters and do what is right.

No one wants to give a politician a lifetime appointment to anything. But the converse of that might be better. If politicians were only elected once to an office, and then faced a lifetime ban on holding that office again, perhaps they would vote their conscience and do what is right.

I want a leader to lead, to show me that they have a vision beyond that of the masses. The point of being in charge is to get things done, not pass the responsibility to the courts when you don't like facing the consequences of a decision, or putting it back on the electorate to decide life and death issues. These people are paid to educate themselves on the issues far beyond what the general population can or ever will do. It is their job to make the hard calls, and if they can't do it, then we should get someone in there who will.

The Governor said he would, but the facts speak for themselves. He won't lead.

(David Pizarra is a business development lawyer in the Santa Monica firm of Pizarra & Grist. He welcomes your questions and comments. He can be reached at dpizarra@pizarra.com or 310/664-9969.)

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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COMMENTARY



An unexpected journey



ANY DAY IN LA

BY HEIDI MANTEUFFEL

While it's always nice to have a chance to go back home, a funeral was not the respite I was imagining.

All right, I'll come clean — I'm a planner and usually book my trips home 3-4 months in advance. I have procrastinophobia, fear of last-minute planning.

And I always figure out my plane tickets and who I'm going to see while I'm in Chicago way ahead of time. It's pretty easy since I have only one friend still there.

My mom takes meal requests from me like it's my last cooked dinner as a free person, before I go back to my low security middle-class prison. I tell her Santa Monica isn't that bad.

However this last trip was planned in the span of one morning. I got the call Thursday around 8:30 a.m. that my uncle Johnny had passed away. The funeral was to be Friday evening and my sister booked me a flight for 4:30 that very afternoon.

The rest of the day was a whirlwind of finishing projects, packing in 30 minutes and making my flight while knowing what airlines I was actually taking all before 2:30 p.m. airport arrival. And, of course, trying to grieve at more appropriate times instead of when they ask if I wanted extra pretzels from the snack cart.

But the tornado finally touched down at 10:30 that night. A sleepy-eyed sister and her boyfriend came to pick me up with Starbucks refreshments in toe. One of the unexpected things about funerals is that you often can finally start to get some rest.

The hard part for my family and I is knowing someone you love and care about is suffering so terribly, and there is nothing we can do about it.

In advanced stages of Alzheimer's, which often occurs to those with Down Syndrome, Johnny became completely frightened from the change of scenery when being ambulated to the hospital. He already hardly recognized the place and people where he currently lived.

In this last week, Johnny got to the point where he was aspirating food into his lungs, making a death from pneumonia basically inevitable. They'd put an oxy-

gen mask on his face, pushing down on him supported breaths with the force of a brick.

That doesn't always give someone pretty ribbon dancer and rainbow unicorn thoughts when going to bed.

But being surrounded by the people that care for him and my family at the service definitely brought me a bit of peace.

These last couple of days I have been so tired from everything that I have been doing some pretty out-of-the-ordinary type things. Like, I don't know, applying cork grease (for woodwind instruments) on my lips like ChapStick. It didn't go on so well, kinda sticky.

Or maybe wiping makeup remover all over my face like a face wash. For your information, make up remover with intense oils has the exact opposite effect of a cleaning astringent.

It was nice to see how many people cared about him, though. We had only been expecting ourselves to come and a friend here and there, but nearly 50 people showed up in a day's notice.

Guests looked at the photo boards we had heaped together with all of five minutes to spare before the family viewing. They showed a younger, happier, and more-himself Johnny. A Johnny who even at the age of 3, wasn't afraid to smile at pretty girls.

Johnny was a person who loved people (much better than I do), and the simple things like the words bubblegum, pickle and 23 skidoo! He was a huge fan of Mad Libs, kicking pine cones and any kind of wildlife he could say "hello" to.

He showed great concern for his parents when they were failing in health, and was dutiful in doing everything he could do to take care of them.

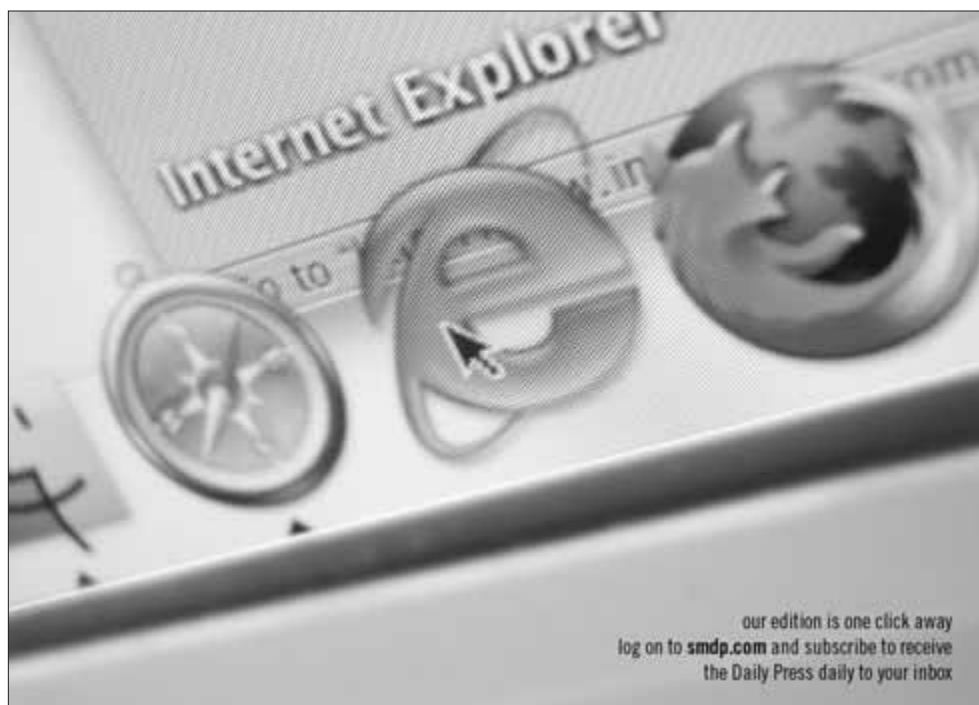
By the numbers of eyes welling up through the service, it was obvious how much Johnny had been loved. My mom told me she would be looking for him at the grocery store and find some stranger hugging him.

Johnny was the kind of person nearly anyone could like.

While I'm sad that Johnny is gone, I will never forget the great impact he had on my life and the prince of bubblegum and knock-knock jokes.

Johnny, you were a "groovy" uncle, and will forever be missed.

(Heidi can be reached at anydayin-la@gmail.com.)



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Lessons in thinking outside the lunchbox

MASTER PLAN, from page 1

may have some ideas and be timid about sharing them. We see that time and time again. We just have to get people comfortable with more meetings and get others to jump on the bandwagon."

Generating interest in the Facilities Master Plan is as important as generating creative ideas, school Superintendent John Deasy said.

"People are here to inform us so it is important to get as many people involved as possible. We need to get everyone

engaged in the remaining four sessions we have scheduled throughout the year," Deasy said. "I know this community enough to count on there being some fabulous thoughts and ideas. ... We (the district) are not predisposed to anything."

Following an introduction from Concordia, those in attendance, including several school board members and students from Santa Monica and Malibu high schools, broke off into groups led by education professionals in areas of educational programs, school site construction and community outreach. Attendees worked

around the district's Strategic Plan, developed in 2002, and its set of goals, including lower class sizes, equal access to child care and afterschool programs, and a standards-based curriculum.

A concept that seemed to fit the Strategic Plan's requirements as well as utilize scarce open space was Community Schools, a land-use formula that brings the community onto the campus by incorporating senior centers, public libraries and performing arts centers into the school site. It is a mixed-use concept that is gathering steam across the country.

Concordia has helped build several of these schools, including the Henry Ford Academy in Dearborn, Mich., a high school/museum where students learn in a working environment. The intent is to utilize space as much as possible while providing students with the best access to materials in a learning environment that sparks critical thinking.

Samohi senior Jesus Contreras, 18, said he would prefer attending schools where there are no walls that close off the outside world.

"We need to make schools more welcoming instead of a jail where you must stay in the fences," he said. "The gates make you feel like you're forced to stay inside for six hours. It's like a lock up."

Teacher Pam Finn was in support of moving schools out into the city, a model known as extended learning communities.

"We could have a main campus and then a group of satellite campuses that would focus on particular subjects like art or math and science," she said. "Maybe we could hold the campuses, say, in a hospital for a few years and when that program becomes less desirable, maybe the kids will want to move over to an art museum for another course. By having the

classes in businesses we could increase internships, lower class sizes."

But what about security? What about college requirements? Despite being known as an enclave for forward thinking, some parents were not ready to charge into the 'brizany' without a discussion on consequences.

"It's not surprising," said Mike Fox, author of "Exploring The Nature of Creativity," and a lecturer at the International Center for Studies in Creativity. "As we get older, we tend to lose our creativity because we are more inundated with reality and all the responsibility, and regrettably, the limitations that come with it. We are simply no longer care-free, so it's hard to get back into the mindset of thinking 'out of the box' as everyone says."

Concordia's Hill stressed that the brainstorming session was geared toward hearing from the entire community, but admitted the students usually are the most creative, not because of their age, but because of their day-to-day experiences at school.

"They are there every day and know what works best and what doesn't," Hill said. "They are also the customers, so they know how to be served best."

The concept of mixed-school sites, Hill said, while seemingly practical, is progressive. Not so 'brizany' after all.

"When we first introduced this whole idea of small schools spread out in the community, people thought that was outrageous," Hill said. "Now that's becoming common conversation, but the reality is it's still not happening as common practice. We are so wrapped around this old idea of how school should be built that something as practical as community schools is thought of being weird."

Con artists on the run

BURGLARS, from page 1

phone calls. The suspects left saying they would return.

After the suspects left, the victim noticed money was missing, as well as her bank statement and canceled checks.

According to SMPD Lt. Frank Fabrega, it's common for groups of one to four suspects to select a home for target, usually because an elderly person lives there. One of the suspects will typically go to the door and tell the homeowner that he/she needs to check the utility. One suspect will talk to the homeowner and distract him/her while the other suspect(s) go through the house and take jewelry, money and small items, Fabrega said.

In those few minutes, the suspect steals the victims' property and leaves. Santa Monica Police Chief James Butts, Jr., encourages all residents to ask for company photo identification from workers before they enter a residence. It's also important to be sure they are driving a

company truck.

If the worker doesn't have identification or refuses to provide identification, residents are encouraged to call the police.

Police are looking for the two suspects believed to be involved in Saturday's incident. One of the suspects is described as a male Hispanic, 35, approximately five feet five inches tall and weighing 130 pounds, and clean shaven. The second suspect is described as a male Italian, 22, five feet six inches tall, weighing 140 pounds and wearing a white T-shirt, jeans and a gray cap.

The victim states the suspects were conversing in a language that was neither Spanish nor European. No vehicle was identified.

Anyone having additional information regarding this incident is encouraged to contact the Santa Monica Police Department at 310-458-8491. Callers who wish to remain anonymous may also call the "We-Tip" national hotline at 1-800-78-CRIME (27463).



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Community court appeals to delegates

HOMELESS, from page 1

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Of particular interest to the delegation was New York's community court, through which certain homeless individuals may be removed from the criminal justice system in exchange for their willingness to undergo treatment. The delegation hopes to meet within a month to see where such a court could be placed in the metropolitan region.

The court could be located in downtown Los Angeles, serving the more than 20,000 homeless individuals who live there.

In addition, the delegation may discuss creating a second court on the Westside, Edelman said.

Santa Monica City Councilman Richard Bloom said the community court seems to have been crucial in addressing homeless and other concerns and cleaning up New York's streets. Another component that's been needed to make New York's homeless efforts successful is its affordable housing and job training programs.

"It's one thing to have a court which provides alternatives to jail for relatively minor crimes," Bloom said. "It's another thing to actually have the funding for those programs offered, so they are actually available."

Bloom said one of the greatest challenges facing Los Angeles County, as compared to New York City, are the sheer number of entities involved in the governing process. New York has five boroughs and a strong mayoral form of government whereby that city's lead official also has significant control over its purse strings.

On the other hand, Los Angeles County is comprised of more than 88 municipal jurisdictions. Trying to mandate homeless funding for a region in which there are so many ruling bodies has been difficult, Bloom said. However, he also feels after the New York trip that establishing some method by which cities will be required to contribute their fair share to address homelessness is more needed than ever.

"It's a complicating factor we have here, but clearly we have to do something about it," Bloom said.

The delegation in future meetings will begin to explore options which would provide better regulation of homeless programming and funding, Bloom said. He said that people must keep in mind that seriously addressing homelessness will likely be an extensive endeavor.

New York City spends \$750 million a year to address its homeless problem. That money goes toward providing the homeless with a variety of services, as well as housing them. Meanwhile, the Los Angeles Services Authority — the county agency charged with addressing homelessness within the region — operates on a much smaller budget of less than \$50 million, according to spokesman Scott Ito.

LAHSA funds homeless social service programs, but it doesn't house homeless individuals directly, Ito said. That responsibility is handled through the Los Angeles Housing Authority, a separate entity with its own budget.

It was not known at press time what the Housing Authority's budget is. However, since there are more than 93,000 homeless individuals living in the Los Angeles region, according to recent studies, it's

fair to say the Authority's budget is not enough to address the problem, officials said.

"It's fair to say New York puts substantially more funding toward its homeless programming compared to Los Angeles," Ito said.

Shannon Murphy, Sen. Cedillo's spokeswoman, said the senator plans to introduce legislation, called the Community Reunification Act, with several provisions aimed at combating homelessness downtown. The legislation calls for making the Skid Row area a "narcotic

zone" in which there will be tougher penalties for drug dealing within 1,000 feet of treatment centers.

In addition, the legislation will seek to require that municipalities throughout the state do their fair share to address their homelessness. Murphy said this element of the legislation would aim to limit the homeless "dumping" that goes on in downtown Los Angeles, in which some cities relocate homeless people after they commit infractions within their city limits, she said.

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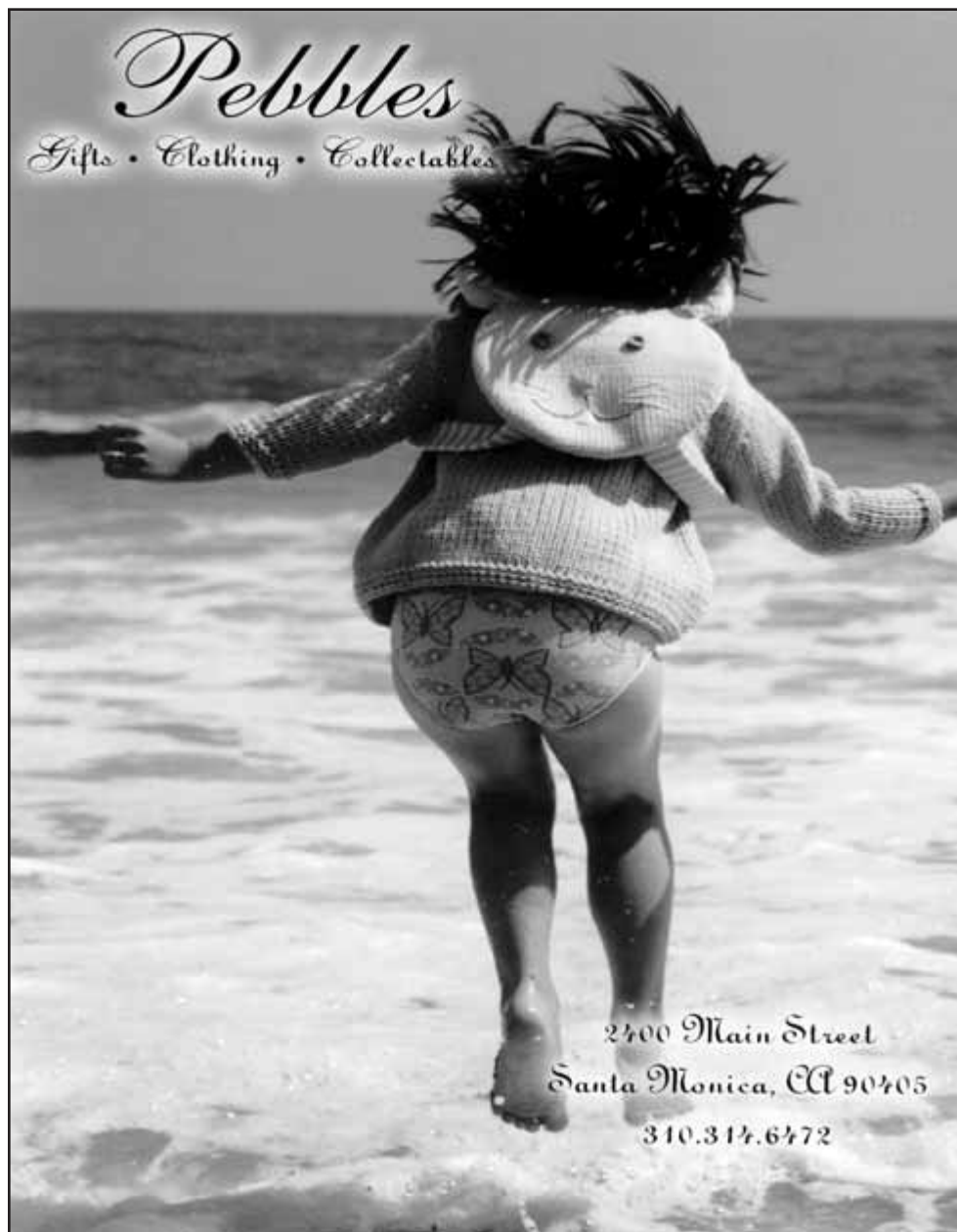
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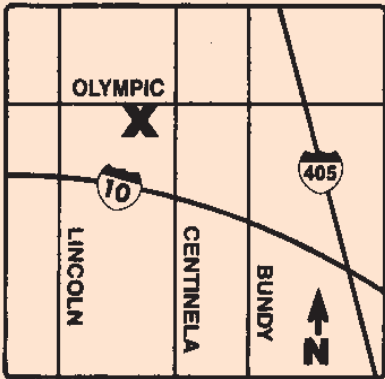
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DEAR DORIE

It's a small world after all

Dear Dorie,

I am a working parent and I have to travel a lot. I am called to Europe at least twice a year. I'm considering bringing my family with me on the next trip. My husband would be able to sightsee with the children during the day and I'll be done by late afternoon. I have a preschooler and a second-grader that would miss a week of school. Is it worth it?

Traveler Trial

Dear Traveler,

There are two camps of response regarding the benefits of international travel for young children — one believes that disrupting a regular schedule of sleep, meals, school, etc., is counter-productive to healthy development and should be avoided at all costs. The other believes that exposure to different cultures, worlds, routines, etc., is a valuable opportunity and helps teach adaptability.

Here's the thing. Most children can be categorized as flexible, fearful or feisty. This kind of huge trip (and Europe is huge for a little one) is a great opportunity for a flexible or feisty child. However, a fearful little one will need to be older to make it worthwhile.

Given that, you should go for it BUT give yourself a few ground rules. If the children get upset because of jet-lag or water changes, etc ... you may not lose it. If your nights are disrupted and that throws your workday routine off ... you may not lose it. Finally, if the whole family has a wonderful time and asks to do this every trip ... you may not lose it. Good luck.

Dorie

Praising the goodness of your child

BY LINDA MILO

Special to the Daily Press

Praise can be a word, an expression on your face, a gesture, or a statement that encourages pride, joy and accomplishment in your child. When you give praise you are giving your child a feeling of positive feedback, which increases their sense of confidence, self-worth and competence.

Not bad, huh! When you praise your child, you are pointing out the significance of their abilities, achievements or traits. When your child looks good, tell him so. When your child does anything that pleases you, let him know. And when your child tries hard to do something, even if he doesn't do it well, always praise the effort involved. In other words, praise your child daily.

There are two areas where parents use praise. One area is called praise for doing and one area is called praise for being.

The highest form of praise is praise for being. It tells your child that because they are your son or daughter, they have value and are worth your praise. Praise for being lets your child know that you value them just as they are.

Some examples of praise of being are: "I just really love you, Thank you for being my wonderful son/daughter, What a really special child you are, What a pretty smile you have on your face." These words generate a child's inner feelings to expand with joy and appreciation. When you praise your child for just being, you are also letting him know that he doesn't have to do anything to earn it.

The other form of praise is praise for doing. This lets your child know that you appreciate and value their behavior and their effort. Children just love to be thanked by their parents for whatever tasks they attempt. Children want to please their parents. When you give your child praise for doing something, you let them know that they pleased mom and dad. Praise should be given for something a child tried to do, as well as for something they tried to do but didn't quite finish or succeed. When

you acknowledge your child's effort, they are more likely to try it again.

Some examples of praise of doing are: "You did a really good job making your bed/or cleaning your room. I'm so proud of the way you cooperated today, You dressed yourself completely alone today, I am so proud of you, What a great job you did painting the fence." These words also create a feeling of expansion and joy within your child's inner feelings. When you praise your child for doing something, you are also letting him that he is pleasing you, which is very good!

Try not to use "conditional love" when praising your child. This means when your child does a good job cleaning their room, parents tend to say, "What a nice job you did cleaning your room. Mommy really loves you." This statement to your child is actually telling your child that love has to be earned. Your child will quickly learn to resent such love because they know if they don't "do something," mom or dad won't love them.

Some parents use their praise as a weapon to get something they desire. Parents use this weapon so that it conveys they can take something away any time they want to. For example, "If you don't behave today, I'm not going to love you anymore." This is a horrible thing to say to a child! Threatening to take away your love causes a child to suffer unbearable loss of security and dependency. Your child is very dependent on your love and your good feelings, so watch your words of praise to your child. Remember to praise the being or the doing of your child's actions. Don't allow your child to feel that love can be a threat, as this will only reinforce teaching your child that it is not good to love someone because when they mess up, they won't be loved. This makes it difficult to get close to others if they're fearful of the consequences.

Praise means to admire, honor, congratulate, pay tribute to, applaud and acclaim. Use praise lavishly with your child on a daily basis and watch the dynamics of your relationship change toward a healthier bond and connection.



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MOM CALENDAR FOR JAN. 31

SPECIAL EVENTS
FRI., FEB. 3 – ONGOING 10 WEEK SESSION – 3:30 p.m.
KID'S YOGA CIRCLE CLASS at EXHALE SPA, Santa Monica
Children will explore their bodies, minds and breath while learning the fundamental yoga principles of kindness, compassion, temperance, respect and nonviolence. Parents and caregivers can enjoy the spa for free during class. Taught by Darlene D'Arezzo. Ages 6-10. Call 587-3235, email yogaforkids@hotmail.com or visit www.kidsyogacircle.com or 213-680-0243 for more info.

SAT. & SUN. FEB. 4 & 5
CHINESE NEW YEAR with ANNUAL GOLDEN DRAGON PARADE
10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. Celebrate the Year of the Dog with a parade (2 – 4 p.m.) and festival including lion dancers, car show, children's activities and cooking demos. Canine events also planned. In Chinatown between Broadway and Hill Sts., LA. FREE!
www.chinatownla.com or 213-680-0243 for more info.

SAT. & SUN., FEB. 4 - 19
JUNIE B. JONES and A LITTLE MONKEY BUSINESS – 11:00 a.m.
Enjoy the antics of kindergartener Junie as she experiences the arrival of a new baby brother and tries to figure out what to take for show and tell. Ages 12 and under, \$7 adults, \$5 children. Morgan-Wixson Theatre, 2627 Pico Blvd., 828-7519.

AFRICAN AMERICAN ART FESTIVAL – 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Celebrate with Capoeira, hip-hop dancers, live music, spoken word, visual art and jewelry with vendors, crafts and food. \$7 adults, \$5 children, free tours of the station available. Star Eco Station, 10101 W. Jefferson Blvd., Culver City, 842-8060, www.ecostation.org.

SUN., FEB. 5
SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES FAIR – 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Explore high-quality camps, trips and programs for children and teens ages 8 – 18. Meet directors and talk with knowledgeable consultants. FREE! Marymount High School, 10643 Sunset Blvd., LA, 202-8448.

KID'S FLICKS: NATIONAL VELVET (1945) and THE BLACK STALLION (1979) - 2:00 p.m., FREE!
Enjoy screenings of these two horse classics. James Bridges Theatre, Sunset and Hilgard, UCLA Westwood campus, LA, 206-8013.

MONDAYS – ONGOING
FAMILY CONNECTIONS IS BACK! 10:00 a.m. at Joslyn Park.
Don't miss this opportunity to learn about child development, family relationships and many other parenting topics. This series is presented FREE! by the SMMUSD's Infant and Family Support Program and features well-respected experts in fields related to early childhood development and growth. This is also a chance for moms with young babies to socialize and meet other moms. For moms with babies up to age two. Come at 9:30 a.m. and enjoy Baby Time Storytelling. Joslyn Park Craft Room, 633 Kensington Rd. (does not meet 2/20).

WED., JAN. 31
BRAZELTON PRENATAL TOUCHPOINTS CLASS for NEW PARENTS
Noon. The class features a video on newborn behaviors and parent interaction in the first few days. Call for pricing, registration and location. The class is free to those who sign up for a Mom/Baby class session. Given by Eileen Escarce of Baby Attuned. Visit www.babyattuned.com or call 367-1155 for more info.

ONGOING CALENDAR BELOW

TUESDAY

Movies for Moms! 11:00 a.m., Loews Cineplex Broadway Theatre, 1441 3rd St. Promenade – for Moms and babies newborn – 1 year old. Doors open early for socializing and getting comfortable. Visit www.enjoytheshow.com/reelmoms for details.

Storytelling
Main Library – 601 Santa Monica Blvd. – 458-8621
Baby Time – 10:15 & 10:45 a.m., babies up to 2 years. Session dates Jan. 10 – Feb. 14.
Spanish and Bilingual Stories – 11:20 a.m. Ages 2 – 5.
Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 450-0443.
Toddler Story Time in Spanish – 10:00 a.m., ages 2-3.
Baby Time – 11:00 a.m., babies to age 2.
Session dates Jan. 3 – Feb. 7.
Twilight Story Time 7pm – an ongoing program for 3-5 year olds.
Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 829-7081.
Terrific Tuesdays – 3:30 p.m., Feb. 14. Stories and crafts for K to 2nd graders.
Family Story Time – 7:00 p.m., all ages.
Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St. – 392-3804.
Story Time for Twos – 10:00 and 10:30. Session dates Jan. 3 – Feb. 7 (registration required).
Tiny Tuesday Storytime at Storyopolis
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

Classes
YWCA – A Place for Parents – Toddler & Me Class - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. – 12 to 36 months; Infant & Me Class – 10:45 – 11:45 a.m. and 1:30 – 2:30 p.m., 0 – 12 months; 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.
BREAKTHROUGH PARENTING CLASSES – 7:00 – 9:30 p.m.
An advanced 10-week parent education course. Continuous enrollment. For info call Jayne A. Major, Ph.D., Breakthrough Parenting Services, Inc., 310-823-7846, jm@BPInAction.org.

Yoga & Exercise
Prenatal Aqua Aerobics at the Santa Monica YMCA 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.; Free for members, non-members \$90 for 10 classes. 393-2721for more info.
Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:30 – 1:55 p.m., \$15. Mommy and Me – 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.
Mommy Care – at the Dance Factory, 11606 San Vicente Blvd., Brentwood, 310-394-6711. Combined Pregnancy/Recovery Exercise Group – 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. (babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)
Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri.,

Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

Breastfeeding Group
The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-998-1981 - drop-in, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

MOMS Club of SM South Playgroups – Newborn group - call for time.
4:30 p.m., separate groups for children born in 2000 and 2001. Call or email Alison at 393-4481/riversalison@hotmail.com for more info. All moms welcome!

Storytelling
The Talking Stick Coffee Lounge – 1630 Ocean Park Blvd., 450-6052
10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4 at this neighborhood coffee shop.
Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.
Story Time for Twos – 9:30 a.m.
Preschool Story Time – 10:30 a.m.; ages 3-5. Session dates Jan. 4 – Feb. 8.
Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.
Baby Time – 10:15 & 11:15 a.m., ages 0-2. Session dates Jan. 4 – Feb. 8.
Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St. –392-3804.
Preschool Twilight Story Time – 7:00 p.m. Parents/children ages 3-5.
Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion – 2 pm – ages 2-5 – 310-475-4144
Border's, Westwood – 11a.m. – 310-475-3444.

Classes
YWCA – A Place for Parents –Toddler & Me Class - 10:30 – 11:30 a.m., 5 to 36 months; 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.
Rhythm Child Parent & Me Rhythms, Santa Monica Studios, 3025 Olympic Blvd., 9:30 – 10:15 a.m. Children explore rhythms through drum play. For toddlers. \$100 for 8 weeks. Call 204-5466 or visit www.rhythmchild.net for more info and session dates.
Enchanted Lunchtime Theatre at Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th St., 394-9779
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. For ages 3 – 5 with parents. This theatrical adventure includes story time, theatre games, crafts, play building and lunch. Reservations required 24 hours in advance, \$19.50 includes lunch for child and lunch.

Yoga & Exercise
Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150
Pre/Postnatal – 12:30 – 2:00 p.m., \$15
Fitness for Moms – Babies Welcome! Step Aerobics, 10:30 a.m. at the YMCA, 393-2721, ext. 117 for more info. Free for members, non-members pay \$90 for 10 classes.
Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

Breastfeeding Group
The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-998-1981, drop-in, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Other
Puppetolio – 1:00 p.m., 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested

THURSDAY

MOMS Club of SM South Playgroup – 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. for children born 1/02 – 2/03, 3:30 p.m., for children born 3/03 – 12/03, Call or email Alison at 393-4481/riversalison@hotmail.com for more info. All moms welcome!

Storytelling
Main Library – 601 Santa Monica Blvd. – 458-8621
Story Time for Twos – 10:15 & 10:45 a.m.
Preschool Story Time – 11:20 a.m. Ages 3 – 5. Session dates Jan. 12 – Feb. 16.
Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.
La Hora Del Cuento – 7:00 p.m. Spanish stories, songs and rhymes for all ages.
Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.
Story Time for Twos – 10:15 a.m Session dates Jan. 5 – Feb. 9.
Preschool Story Time – 11:15 a.m.; ages 3-5. Ongoing.
Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St. – 310-392-3804.
Baby Time – 9:20 & 10:20 a.m. Babies to 2 years. Session dates Jan. 26 – Mar. 2.
Babystyle, 1324 Montana Avenue, 434-9590
10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4.

Classes
YWCA – A Place for Parents –Toddler & Me Class - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m and 10:45 – 11:45 a.m., 12 to 36 months; Parent Support Group – 3:30 – 4:30 p.m., age 3 – 5 years; 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.
BREAKTHROUGH PARENTING CLASSES – 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.
An advanced 10-week parent education course. Continuous enrollment. For info call Jayne A. Major, Ph.D., Breakthrough Parenting Services, Inc., 310-823-7846, jm@BPInAction.org.

Yoga & Exercise
Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:30 – 1:55 p.m., \$15. Mommy and Me – 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.
Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

Breastfeeding Groups
La Leche League of LA/Mar Vista – meets the 1st Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the Community Room of the Westchester Municipal Bldg., 7166 W. Manchester Ave., corner of Lincoln and Manchester. Call 310-390-2529 for info.
The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-998-1981 - drop-in, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 4-8 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

MOMS Club of SM South Playgroups
11:00 a.m. – playgroup for children born 10/04 – 5/05. Call or e-mail Alison at 393-4481, riversalison@hotmail.com for more info.
Parent's Night Out at Child's Play, 2299 Westwood

Bld., 6:00 – 11:00 p.m.
Kids get a night of supervised fun with pizza, games and more while parents go out. Ages 3-10, \$9 per hour, \$7 siblings, 3 hour minimum. Reservations required, 470-4997. www.childsplayonline.net
Planetarium Show at SMC's John Drescher Planetarium, 7:00 p.m. - Night Sky Show, 8:00 p.m. – featured program. \$5 adults, \$4 children. Pico and 17th St., 434-3000.

Classes
YWCA – A Place for Parents –Toddler & Me Class - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. – 12 – 36 mos.; Playtime/Parent Support - 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881 for details and prices.

Yoga & Exercise
Fitness for Moms – Babies Welcome! Indoor Cycling, 10:30 a.m. at the YMCA, 393-2721, ext. 117 for more info. Free for members, non-members pay \$90 for 10 classes.
Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:30 – 1:55 p.m., \$15.
Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

SATURDAY

Storytelling
Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade – Kid's Story Time – 10am, 310-260-9110
Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion – 10:30am – ages 2-5, 310-475-4144.
Children's Book World, 10580 1/2 Pico Blvd., LA - 10:30 a.m., every other Sat., 310-559-BOOK.
Village Books, 1049 SwarthmoreAve, Pacific Palisades – 10:30 a.m., 454-4063.
826LA, 685 Venice Blvd, 2nd Floor, Venice – 10:30 – 11:30 a.m., ages 3-6, RSVP to info
@825LA.com or 310-314-8418. (826LA is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting students with their creative and expository writing skills, and to helping teachers inspire their students to write).

Classes
YWCA – Toddler & Me - 9:45 – 10:45 a.m.; Parent Enrichment once per month - 11:00 a.m. – noon, call Barbara Olinger at 452-3881 for rates and dates.

Yoga & Exercise
Santa Monica Yoga – Pre- & Post-Natal Yoga, Saturdays – 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.
1640 Ocean Park Blvd, 396-4040, www.santamonica-yoga.com
Mommy Care – at the Dance Factory, 11606 San Vicente Blvd., Brentwood, 310-394-6711. Combined Pregnancy/Recovery Exercise Group – 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.(babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)
Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:00 a.m., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

Other
Puppetolio – 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested
Magicoopolis – 2 and 8 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$20 for evening, \$15 for matinee. Call 310-451-2241 for info.
Precious Prints – Ceramic Heirlooms for a Lifetime Second Saturday every month at The Pump Station, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Contact Kristan Ritchie at 310-802-8013 or visit www.preciousprintstudios.com for more info.
Lakeshore Learning Stores "Free Crafts for Kids" – Saturdays, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., 8888 Venice Blvd., 559-9630.
"A Faery Hunt" – 10:30 a.m., every Saturday at Franklin Canyon Park. An interactive children's show, searching for fairies and other enchanted creatures in the magical canyon and finding them! \$10. call for reservations – 618-324-6902. www.faeryhunt.com. Meet in the parking lot of the Sooky Goldman Nature Center, 2600 Franklin Canyon Dr., Beverly Hills.

SUNDAY

Main Street Farmer's Market – 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., corner of Main St. and Ocean Park Blvd. Pony rides, live music, lots of vendors and great family socializing.
Puppetolio – 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested
Magicoopolis – 2 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$15. Call 310-451-2241 for info.

MONDAY

MOMS Club of SM South Playgroups
9:30 a.m. – for children born 1/04 – 9/04; call or email Alison at 393-4481/riversalison@hotmail.com for more info. All moms welcome!

Storytelling
Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade – Toddler Story Time – 10am – 310-260-9110
Baby Time – 9:30 a.m. Storytelling for babies up to age two. Followed by Family Connections. Joslyn Park Craft Room, 633 Kensington Rd.

Family Connections – 10:00 a.m. Learn about child development, family relationships and many other parenting topics from well-respected experts in fields related to early childhood development and growth. This series is presented FREE! by the SMMUSD's Infant and Family Support Program. This is a great chance for moms with young babies to socialize and meet other moms. For moms with babies up to age two. Come at 9:30 a.m. for Baby Time Storytelling. Joslyn Park Craft Room, 633 Kensington Rd.

Classes
YWCA – A Place for Parents –Toddler & Me Class - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. – 12 – 36 mos.; "Playtime – A combination play time and parent support time", 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

Breastfeeding Group
The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-998-1981 - drop-in, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Yoga & Exercise
Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150
Pre/Postnatal – 12:30 – 2:00 p.m., \$15
Yoga Garden, - Restorative yoga for pre/postnatal – 6:30 p.m., 310-450-0133.
www.yogagardenstudios.com
Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

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Technology no tunnel tackler

BY ELLIOT SPAGAT

Associated Press Writer

SAN DIEGO — A U.S. government effort to find tunnels used to smuggle drugs from Mexico into the United States with ground-penetrating radar and other high-tech gear has had little success.

Human intelligence has proven to be the most effective method to find secret passageways. Case in point: Last week's discovery of the longest tunnel ever found along the border resulted from a tip.

The Department of Homeland Security said Monday that a Mexican man, Carlos Cardenas Calvillo, was arrested in connection with the 2,400-foot tunnel, which went as deep as 90 feet and was about 5 feet in height and 5 feet wide. Boxes of marijuana were found on the Mexican and U.S. sides of the tunnel, authorities said.

Cardenas, charged with conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute a controlled substance, appeared before a federal magistrate judge Monday afternoon but did not enter a plea. A bail hearing was set for Wednesday, when the government will seek to continue holding him without bail.

"The problem is the technology picks up some kind of anomaly or variation of soil," said Lauren Mack, a spokeswoman for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. "We go in with big backhoes and bulldozers, we spend all day doing it, and all we hit is rock or water tables."

That's what happened earlier this month when high-tech gear alerted authorities to a possible tunnel near Boulevard, a hamlet about 60 miles east of San Diego along the Mexican border. A full day of digging turned up nothing.

"It's not there yet," Mack said. "What we've seen so far just hasn't proven itself to be effective."

Using technology to spot tunnels along the U.S.-Mexico border is daunting because it spans nearly 2,000 miles, experts say. U.S. authorities have declined to say much about the high-tech gear that they've tried, saying it may tip off smugglers.

"It's a needle-in-a-haystack problem," said Don Steeples, a geophysics professor at Kansas University who has worked on tunnel detection for 20 years. "In this case, we don't even know where the haystack is."

In late 2003, University of Oklahoma experts began using ground-penetrating radar to help Homeland Security locate tunnels in California's Imperial Valley. The radar led U.S. officials to a dirt road behind a low-income apartment building in Calexico, about 120 miles east of San Diego. In April 2004, officials drilled 20-foot holes behind the building and only hit a water shaft.

Nearly a year later, authorities discovered a nearby tunnel, thanks to a radar, a video-equipped robot, a drug-sniffing dog, and human intelligence, authorities said.

That passage — 200 yards long, 3 feet wide and 5 feet high — went from Mexicali, Mexico, to a well-landscaped house in Calexico. It had a concrete floor, wood beam supports, ventilation and fiberglass walls.

The tunnels appear to be concentrated on Mexico's border with California and Arizona — 21 have been discovered in the two states since Sept. 11, 2001, and 15 during the previous 11 years. Four have been found this month between Tijuana and San Diego.

In July, authorities reported the first secret tunnel along the U.S.-Canadian border. The passage, which was reinforced with ribbed steel bars and wood supports, linked a Quonset hut in Langley, British Columbia, to a living room in Lynden, Wash.

Authorities believe the cross-border passages are used to smuggle drugs; none has been linked to terrorism.

Many are found by sheer luck. Last week, a Border Patrol vehicle hit a sinkhole near San Diego's San Ysidro port of entry, the nation's busiest border crossing, uncovering what officials described as a primitive secret passage.

Authorities believe the cross-border passages are used to smuggle drugs; none has been linked to terrorism. A statement filed by a federal agent to support the case against Cardenas said Mexican officials seized about 2 tons of boxed marijuana inside the entrance of the Mexican side of the 2,400-foot tunnel and 200 pounds to 300 pounds of marijuana were found in three boxes on the U.S. side.

According to the complaint filed against Cardenas, construction on the tunnel began in May 2004 and was operational by November 2005.

Steve Danbom, a board member of the Society of Exploration Geophysicists who teaches at Rice University, said the tunnel offers a testing ground for promising technologies, including microgravity science and a technique known as multielectrode resistivity, which uses multiple electrodes to search for underground gaps in the soil.

Radar has found one tunnel in the Korean Demilitarized Zone, while human intelligence led to three other discoveries in the DMZ, said Steeples of Kansas University. Radar rarely penetrates deeper than 40 feet. Seismic waves can probe deeper but the technology is less precise.

Jury selection to begin in landmark Enron trial

BY KRISTEN HAYS

AP Business Writer

HOUSTON — Enron Corp. was once the nation's seventh-largest company, considered an innovative new-economy maverick and admired as a top stock performer.

After a spectacular collapse that left thousands jobless and slammed Wall Street with billions in losses, the firm's founder and former CEO are to be tried in a federal courthouse — only a few blocks from the firm's former headquarters with its swiveling "E" logo.

More than 100 potential jurors were slated to pack a cavernous federal courtroom here on Monday, the first step in the trial of Kenneth Lay, 63, and Jeffrey Skilling, 52.

"If we get 12 people who haven't made up their minds, we like our chances," Daniel Petrocelli, Skilling's lead trial lawyer, said after a flurry of failed defense efforts to move the trial elsewhere to escape a potentially hostile jury pool.

Michael Ramsey, Lay's lead lawyer, was less optimistic, calling Houston a "bad venue to try to pick a jury."

If 12 jurors and four alternates are seated by day's end as desired by U.S. District Judge Sim Lake, the long-awaited trial of Enron's former top two corporate titans will get under way Tuesday.

Skilling faces 31 counts of fraud, conspiracy, insider trading and lying to auditors for allegedly lying about Enron's financial strength. Lay faces seven counts of fraud and conspiracy for perpetuating the alleged scheme after Skilling resigned in August 2001.

Both men have pleaded not guilty. If convicted, each could face decades in prison and millions of dollars in penalties.

The judge will question the jury pool himself, having repeatedly rejected defense pleas to allow attorneys to individually question potential jurors. Lake will allow attorneys to inquire further of individuals based on initial answers.

Enron's crash and the subsequent scandals roiled Wall Street, sent investors fleeing, prompted stiffened white collar penalties and upped regulatory scrutiny over publicly traded companies.

Former WorldCom Inc. head Bernard Ebbers awaits a 25-year prison term for orchestrating the \$11 billion accounting fraud that bankrupted the company. Martha Stewart did five months in prison and more time confined to work and home for lying about a stock sale. Adelphia Communications Inc. founder John Rigas and his son got double-digit prison terms for robbing the company till.



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‘Brokeback’ sparks an interest in Wyoming

BY JENNIFER BYRD

Associated Press Writer

CHEYENNE, Wyo. — Fans of “Brokeback Mountain” don’t seem to care the movie was actually filmed in Canada.

They want the Wyoming experience.

The Wyoming Business Council’s travel and tourism department has received hundreds of calls asking about scenery in the movie, which is based on Pulitzer Prize-winner Annie Proulx’s short story about two gay Wyoming cowboys.

“When we tell them it was shot in Canada, they’re still interested in Wyoming,” said Michell Howard, manager of the council’s film, arts and entertainment office. “They don’t hang up and call Alberta. They’re intrigued in the story.”

Wyoming Business Council spokesman Chuck Coon said he hasn’t seen a movie generate this much interest in the state during his 15 years with the travel and tourism department.

“In terms of phone calls and Internet requests, it’s usually slow this time of the year,” he said. “This movie has changed that.”

Tourism officials have long known that a good movie can attract tourists. Store owners in Livingston, Mont., say customers still come to see the area where “A River Runs Through It” was filmed, said Sten Iverson of the Montana Film Office; New Zealand is banking on “Lord of the Rings” tours; “Sideways” didn’t just create a

demand for wine tours around Santa Barbara, Calif., it boosted sales of certain wines.

Wyoming has had a hard time tapping into that market, though, because so few big-budget movies are filmed here.

Occasionally people who see reruns of “Close Encounters of the Third Kind” — a 1977 movie shot near Devil’s Tower — call with questions about the state, Coon said.

“But there’s surprisingly much more interest in Brokeback,” he said. “The subject matter has something to do with it, but most of the calls we get are asking about scenery.”

Coon said Ang Lee, the director of “Brokeback Mountain,” toured much of the eastern Big Horn Mountains and several nearby towns when scouting locations for the film. But because of budget concerns, Lee shot the film in Canada.

Financial incentives have drawn many film companies to Canada, which has built a \$5 billion film industry in the process. Because of the high amount of production there already, companies can hire local crews instead of bringing them from elsewhere, cheapening the overall price of the project.

Wyoming, on the other hand, doesn’t have enough skilled workers for most large film crews, Howard said; if a major project was shot here, crews would have to be brought in from outside.

Three movies in the last three years — “An Unfinished Life” starring Redford and Jennifer Lopez in

2003, “Brokeback Mountain” in 2004 and “Flicka” in 2005 — had stories set in Wyoming but were not primarily filmed in the state.

“Flicka,” a remake of the 1950’s television series “My Friend Flicka,” scheduled to come out next year, was primarily shot in California. There were, however, a couple of weeks of location shooting near Sheridan, Howard said.

Wyoming business and travel leaders are trying to find ways to lure movie production companies to film in the state, including a proposal to rebate up to 15 percent of purchases made in the state by film companies that spend at least \$500,000 on production there.

The bill has good support in the legislature, Howard said, “but we’ll just have to see what they want to do.”

If it passes, Howard also wants to create a jobs program to train more Wyoming residents to work on film crews.

“It’s kind of like the chicken and the egg, though,” she said. “You don’t want to train people until you know there will be work for them.”

Hamas faces money crunch, isolation before it takes over

BY MARK LAVIE

Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM — Even before it embarks on its first effort at governing, the militant group Islamic Hamas faces serious problems — international isolation because of its extremist policies and an inherited money crunch.

Acting Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said Sunday that after Hamas sets up a government, Israel will stop transferring tens of millions of dollars a month to the Palestinians in customs and taxes. Foreign donors, who have annually made up a huge budget shortfall, are also balking at funding a Hamas regime.

Meanwhile, Fatah leaders are refusing to cooperate with the new rulers, openly hoping for their failure after Fatah was beaten in last week’s parliamentary election. Fatah won just 45 seats in the 132-seat parliament, while Hamas took 74, ending four decades of Fatah control over Palestinian politics.

“We will not allow ... anyone to take part in a government with Hamas,” said Sufian Abu Zaydeh, an outgoing Fatah Cabinet minister. He told Israel’s Channel 2 TV that Fatah is hoping Hamas falls flat on its first mission of governing.

“They said they have a different way of doing things, they can conduct negotiations without talking to Israel, without recognizing Israel — let’s see them do it,” he said.

The most immediate crisis, even before Hamas has a chance to form a government, is payday. The Palestinian Authority coffers are empty and the average transfer of \$54 million a month from Israel could make the difference between paying salaries of security forces and civil servants or failing to meet the payroll.

On a larger scale, Palestinian experts estimate that the budget shortfall for this year will again approach \$1 billion. Up to now the deficit has been covered by Western aid, but that might stop.

In Washington last week, State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said the situation is “very clear. The law and policy of the United States is that we do not provide funding, money, to terrorist organizations. Hamas is a terrorist organization.”

The United States gave the Palestinian Authority \$400 million in direct aid last year and several million more through various U.N. charities, said Jacob Waller, the U.S. consul-general in Jerusalem. President Bush has said the United States will not deal with Hamas as long

as it seeks Israel’s destruction.

At the beginning of a short visit to Israel, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said Sunday that she would be watching what Hamas does. “If Hamas does not change its positions, it would be unthinkable for the EU or Germany, bilaterally, to support the autonomy government with money, as we do today.” Merkel visits the West Bank on Monday.

In an interview with CNN, Hamas leader Mahmoud Zahar accused Fatah operatives of previously skimming off most of the foreign aid for themselves and said he expected aid from the Arab world if the West stops its funding. Zahar, however, denied that Iran gives money to Hamas.

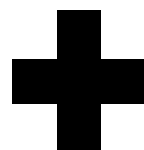
“We’ll be able to open a new channel through our other Arabic and Islamic and international community, to help the Palestinian people without condition,” he said. “We are looking for this money, but this money should not be conditioned.”

Even if governments do not want to give money to a Hamas government, experts say one way out would be for foreign donors to fund aid projects directly, but that would still leave the headache of paying salaries for security forces and civil servants.

Failure to pay salaries on time could “create a mutinous military front,” wrote analyst Zvi Barel in the Israeli Haaretz daily.

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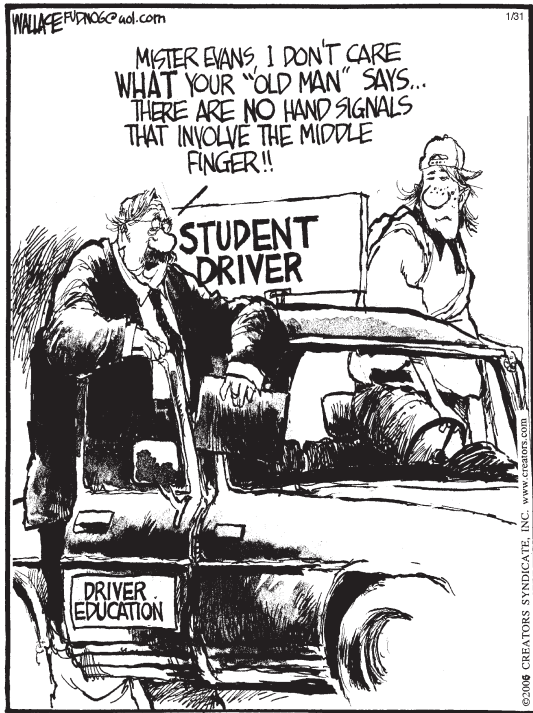


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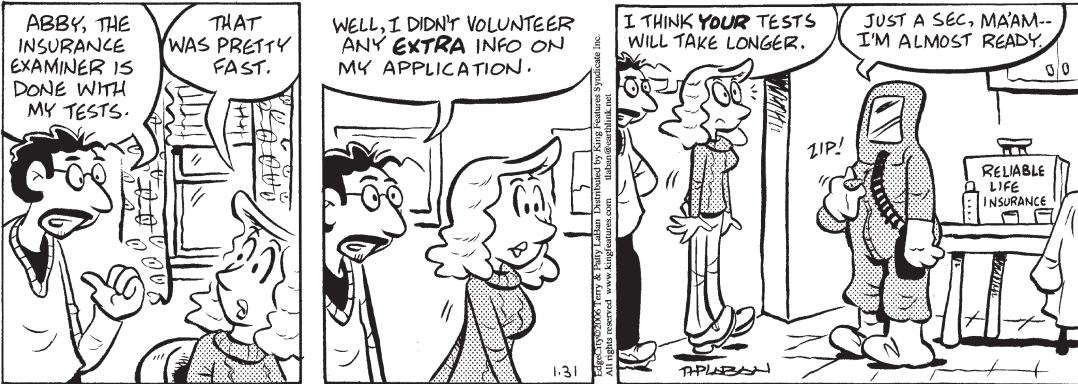
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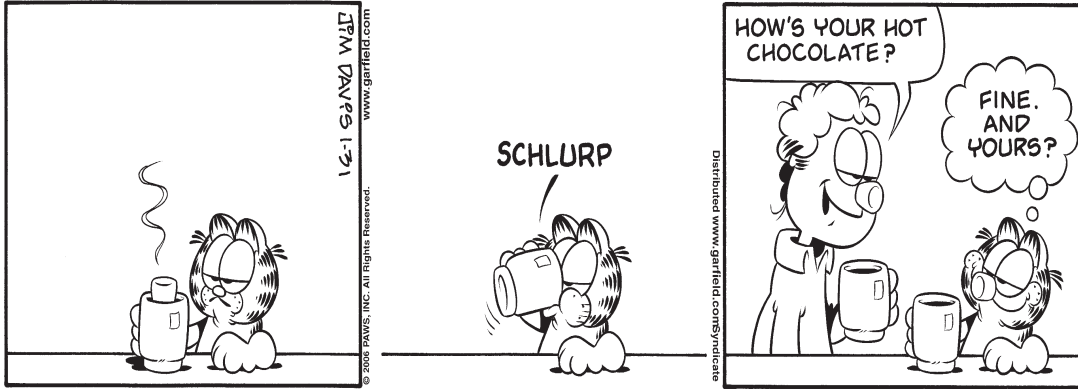
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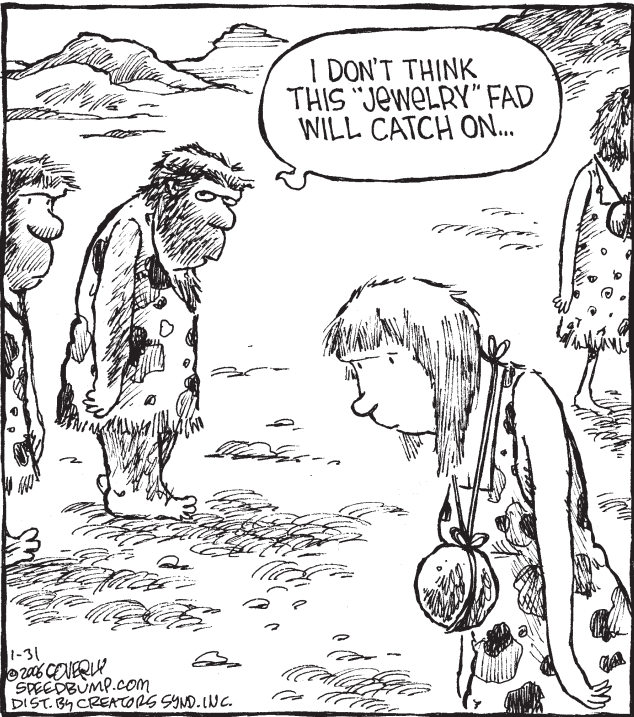
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Notices

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF ELIZABETH RIDGMAN Case No. SP006576

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

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Dorothy Ramsey in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.

THE PETITION FOR PRO-BATE requests that Dorothy Ram-sey be appointed as personal rep-resentative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests the decedent's lost will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. Copies of the lost 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 Administra-tion of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representa-tive to take many actions without

Notices

obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important ac-tions, however, the personal repre-sentative 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 February 17, 2006 at 9:15 AM in Dept. No. WE F located at 1725 Main St., Santa Monica, CA 90401.

IF YOU OBJECT to the grant-ing of the petition, you should ap-pear 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 per-son 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 ap-praisal 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: THEODORE WOLFBERG ESQ 2001 WILSHIRE BLVD STE 205 SANTA MONICA CA 90403-5664 Santa Monica Daily Press CN746461 RIDGMAN Jan 24,25,31, 2006

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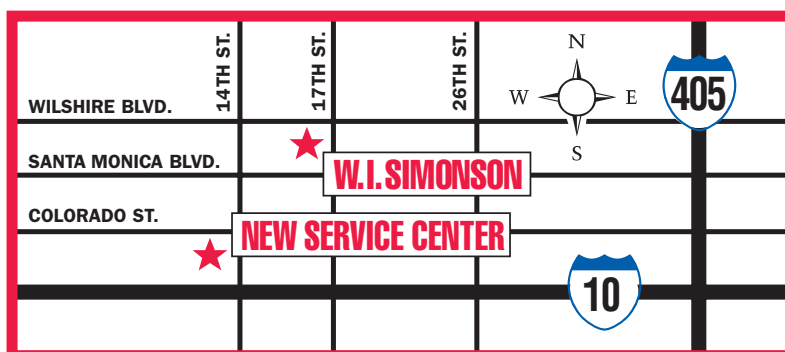
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