

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

10 19 30 41 45
Meganumber: 9
Jackpot: \$16 Million

FANTASY 5

13 17 18 24 28

DAILY 3

Daytime: 3 4 6
Evening: 6 5 5

DAILY DERBY

1st: 03 Hot Shot
2nd: 12 Lucky Charms
3rd: 06 Whirl Win

RACE TIME: 1:43.07

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

Zimbabwe, facing a severe food shortage, is considering an unlikely program to bring rich foreign visitors to the country, according to a government announcement in November. The information minister proposed an "obesity tourism strategy," in which overweight visitors (especially Americans) would be encouraged to "vacation" in Zimbabwe and "provide labor for (government-confiscated) farms in the hope of shedding weight." Americans, the proposal noted, spend \$6 billion a year on "useless" dieting aids and could be encouraged to work off pounds and then flaunt "their slim bodies on a sun-downer cruise on the Zambezi (River)."

TODAY IN HISTORY

In 1946, Norwegian statesman Trygve Lie was chosen to be the first secretary-general of the United Nations.

In 1968, during the Vietnam War, Saigon's police chief (Nguyen Ngoc Loan) executed a Viet Cong officer with a pistol shot to the head in a scene captured in a famous news photograph.

In 1979, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini received a tumultuous welcome in Tehran as he ended nearly 15 years of exile.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Marriage always demands the finest arts of insincerity possible between two human beings."

VICKI BAUM
AUSTRIAN-BORN AUTHOR (1888-1960)

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Suicide case settled for 125K

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — The mother of a 23-year-old Ocean Park woman who hanged herself in Santa Monica Jail three years ago will be paid \$125,000, elected officials decided last week.

Myemma Claiborne, an exotic dancer and college student, had been out drinking on Main Street the night she was arrested for public intoxication and resisting arrest. She was taken to an empty holding cell for women on the second floor of the old jailhouse behind City Hall, where she used her own jeans to hang herself.

Lawyers representing Claiborne's mother claimed authorities were negligent and treaded on Claiborne's civil rights by failing to monitor her adequately. They said officers were told Claiborne was in the middle of a

"Essentially, this is a cost-of-defense settlement, even though the number seems rather high. It was a relatively modest settlement for a wrongful-death claim."

—ANTHONY SERRITELLA
Deputy city attorney

mental breakdown. They added Claiborne should have undergone a medical exam rather than be placed in jail.

The Santa Monica City Council last week agreed to pay \$125,000 to Jean Prosser, Claiborne's mother. In exchange, Prosser agreed to drop her lawsuit against City Hall, Santa Monica Police Chief James T. Butts Jr., the arresting officer and the jailer working the night of the suicide.

Santa Monica-based attorneys Don Randolph and Frances Campbell, who worked the case on a contingency basis, said police know suicide is most common among women in local jails. They are told to pay special attention to inmates who are intoxicated, and those who are withdrawn and distraught.

"She was all of those things,"

See SUICIDE, page 4



Photo courtesy

Myemma Claiborne (right), as a teenager, pictured with her mother, Jean Prosser. Claiborne killed herself at age 23 in Santa Monica Jail after being arrested for public intoxication and resisting arrest. Prosser argued authorities didn't take note of her daughter's suicidal tendencies, and officials last week agreed to settle a negligence lawsuit.

Stair madness



Kim Calvert/Special to the Daily Press

Exercise enthusiasts are anxious to have their built-in stair machine back. The Santa Monica Canyon stairs have been closed for repairs since November, and it's unknown when they'll reopen. Santa Monica resident and long-time stair climber Teddy Hamilton, 68, has been doing eight sets on the wooden stairs leading down to the canyon for more than 30 years. "Tell City Hall to pull their finger out and get these stairs fixed," Hamilton said. "They've been like this for too long." Hamilton said the wooden stairs are better than the concrete stairs located a half block west.

City officials wary of state budget cuts

BY KIM CALVERT

Special to the Daily Press

CITY HALL — Officials here are bracing themselves for what Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's proposed state budget cuts will do to city coffers, but a voter-approved measure should provide some level of protection.

Passing with a margin of 84 percent last November, Proposition 1A significantly restricts the state's authority over local government finances. It prevents the state legislature from taking local tax dollars that municipal governments need for fire and paramedic response, law enforcement, health care and other vital services. The proposition,

however, doesn't cover education funding, which continues to be controlled by the state.

"Before the state legislature makes any cuts, I think it's important to determine priorities and make sure we find the revenues needed to cover them," said Santa Monica Mayor Pam O'Connor. "Certainly we don't want wasteful spending, but the governor shouldn't force people in city governments to find ways to fill in the gaps."

O'Connor said she was particularly concerned about schools.

"Local revenue is supposed to help fund education," O'Connor said. "We contribute revenues to

See BUDGET, page 4

Samohi band director awaits his day in court

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

AIRPORT COURTHOUSE — An underage-sex case against Santa Monica High School band director Carl Hammer was delayed on

Monday, and lawyers said they would continue exploring ways to settle the matter before trial.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge William C. Ryan ordered Hammer to reappear in court on Feb. 25 for a preliminary hearing

on two felony charges stemming from Hammer's alleged sexual encounter with a 15-year-old girl. Judge Ryan is expected to decide then if the case should go to trial.

Hammer, who worked in Santa Monica public schools for nine

years before his August 2004 arrest and was widely respected in the local music community, declined to discuss the case. He spoke during court proceedings

See HAMMER, page 5

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ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ Confirming plans and information needs to become a high priority in your day. Others seem to change their tune, and you have become used to their harmony for several months. Flex becomes a necessity. Tonight: Understand another point of view.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★ You hit your share of roadblocks. Watch for yellow lights rather than have a head-on mental collision with a key associate. Your positive attitude could go down the drain if you take risks. Use diplomacy. Tonight: Back to square one.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★ What has been an unusually creative period could slow down. But don't think that your lucky rabbit's foot lost its magic. Use this time to consolidate recent gains. Though work needs to be your highest priority, allow yourself some time to reflect on other areas of your life. Tonight: Easy does it.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Muster up your imagination. You will need this gift to jump some of the hurdles today. Others might get a bit petty or scrappy. Don't feed into this emotional climate. Stay secure despite a sudden twist. Tonight: Please don't take your work home.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ The reception you expect might be exactly the opposite of the one you receive. What is going on here, you ask. Understand that since the beginning of fall, many of your expectations have become realities. Though this pattern might not stop, it will slow down until June. Tonight: Lick your wounds.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Don't even think that the financial whirlwind you have been on won't end. At the moment, reality rears its ugly head. Be grateful for what is rather than pine away. Communication needs serious attention. Tonight: Hang close to home.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Jupiter in your sign goes retrograde, perhaps putting a serious end to the easy, effortless events of late. Hopefully, during this period you considered what made your life better. Pursue this course. Don't make agreements. Tonight: Pay bills; Don't incur them.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You might feel and act like the cat's meow, but others don't respond as if you are. The jolt could force many of you to regroup. Work on communication. Don't make assumptions for the next few months, please. Tonight: Do what you want.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★ Hide out, especially if your instincts point in that direction. What you thought was a slam-dunk proves to be a lot more difficult or even a foul. Be careful. Play your cards close to your chest. Better yet — play ostrich! Tonight: Vanish while you can.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Aim for what you want. Success will come — perhaps not today, though — as a result of not taking anyone or anything for granted. Your efficient ways help you quickly get to the bottom of nearly anything. Be discreet while lining up your allies. Tonight: Network.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★ Your leadership qualities must come to the forefront if you are going to make headway through others' uproar. You actually could like that you are in a maze; at least you're at the front of the pack! Tonight: A must appearance.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ If you can be available but detached, you will be in a good place to handle the uproar around you. You might have very little to do with the chaos and misunderstandings, but still they impact your work and day. Tonight: Escape into a more relaxing world.



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1427 Third Street Promenade, Ste. #202 • Santa Monica, CA 90401 • www.smdp.com

PUBLISHER Ross Furukawa ross@smdp.com EDITOR Carolyn Sackariason sack@smdp.com STAFF WRITER John Wood wood@smdp.com ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER Robbie P. Plubeni rplubeni@smdp.com ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE Rob Schwenker schwenker@smdp.com	ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE Stewart O'Dell stewarto@smdp.com PRODUCTION MANAGER Alejandro Cesar Cantarero II alex@smdp.com EXECUTIVE TRAFFIC MANAGER Brenda Casas brenda@smdp.com CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE Mirella Reyes mirella@smdp.com NIGHT EDITOR Lori Luechtefeld lori@smdp.com	NIGHT EDITOR Michael Tittinger moneysurf@smdp.com CIRCULATION Keith Wyatt keith@smdp.com CIRCULATION Glenn Bolan glenn@smdp.com SPECIAL PROJECTS Dave Danforth dave@smdp.com MASCOT Maya Furukawa maya@smdp.com
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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Greasing up for good times

By Daily Press staff

Recycling has its rewards.

The city of Santa Monica's Environmental Program Division is sponsoring a used-oil community event on Saturday, Feb. 5, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Kragen Auto Parts, 2018 Lincoln Blvd. The event will teach adults and children the environmentally correct way to dispose of used auto oil, and will include a coloring contest and games for kids, as well as prizes for those who bring in used motor oil and filters for recycling.

The city's used-oil recycling outreach program, created to increase awareness about the importance of recycling used motor oil and filters, includes partnerships with local businesses, outreach to the local high school and participation in community events.

SMC's probation program wins award

By Daily Press staff

College officials have been recognized on a state level for how they deal with failing students.

Santa Monica College's Enhancement & Educational Research (SEER) Project, which improves the academic standing, course completion and persistence rates of students on academic probation, has received the 2004-05 California Community Colleges' Board of Governors Exemplary Program Award. Last year, the same program earned a "Best Practice Award" from the National Council on Student Development.

SMC launched the SEER program in 2002 in an attempt to provide support for students on probation because of poor grades or a low completion rate of attempted course work. About one third of its first-time college students end up on academic probation, putting them at risk of dropping out of college, officials said. Nearly 2,000 students have been assisted by SEER.

The program, which may be used as a model statewide, provides at-risk students with counselors who assist them with adjustments needed to successfully complete college course work, as well as English and math placement exams that identify potential problems early.

Celebration of music to benefit tsunami victims

By Daily Press staff

In a benefit concert to support tsunami victims, UCLA's Motus Sodalit, with the support of the UCLA International Institute, Asia Institute and the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, will present "A Celebration of Music and Dance from South and Southeast Asia," on Wednesday, Feb. 9, at 7 p.m. in the grand ballroom at UCLA's Ackerman Union.

Dr. Sinduri Jayasinghe, a world-renowned classical Indian dancer and artist, will be the featured headliner. Other artists will include the Wat Thai dancers, the award-winning Raas team and an eclectic ensemble of Indonesian dancers.

Donations raised through the event will be sent directly to non-governmental organizations in Indonesia, Thailand, Sri Lanka and South India.

Suggested donations are \$10 for all students, \$20 for others. For further questions about the show and parking, contact Asiroh Cham at (310) 206-9163, or asiroh@international.ucla.edu.

SMC gets its game on

By Daily Press staff

Responding to explosive growth in the game industry, the Santa Monica College Academy of Entertainment & Technology announced it's offering a cluster of new classes in the field this spring.

The new classes — added to two game courses introduced in the fall — will lead to three new certificate programs that will officially be launched in fall 2005. The certificate programs are in game development, special effects and post production.

"The game industry is exploding, and we're jumping on this so that we can get students trained and into exciting careers," said William Lancaster, chair of the design technology department at SMC's Academy of Entertainment & Technology.

"The growth and impact of the game industry are staggering: The film industry grosses \$8 billion, compared to \$14 billion-plus by the game industry," Lancaster said. "Another example is Sony, which derives 70 percent of its revenues from Play Station products."

Included in the new course lineup at SMC are game play mechanics, software authoring and prototyping for games, digital video effects and multi-track audio editing. The courses will feature advanced instruction in software tools such as Unreal Engine, Director MX, After Effects, Pro Tools, Final Cut and Maya.

The game development courses are added to current offerings in 3D animation, web design, and digital audio and video.

Registration for spring semester classes is currently underway. Classes begin Feb. 14. For information, call (310) 434-3720.

INTERESTED IN YOUR DAILY FORECAST?
CHECK OUT THE HOROSCOPES ON PAGE 2!



SURF REPORT

A new NW swell is due today from a system that originated in the Western Pacific. This is a moderate system that turned north once nearing the Gulf of Alaska, resulting in less swell due to angular spreading decay. Size is expected in the chest-high zone for many west-facing breaks, with somewhat inconsistent sets.

Today the water is:

59°

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	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	5:01	2.0	5:36	0.3	10:51	4.7	N/A	N/A
SUNDAY	5:55	1.9	11:32	4.0	5:55	1.9	6:00	0.8
MONDAY	12:47	4.3	12:27	3.3	7:06	1.8	6:26	1.3
TUESDAY	8:42	1.6	6:57	1.8	1:29	4.5	2:03	2.7
WEDNESDAY	10:25	1.0	7:47	2.3	2:24	4.8	4:50	2.5
THURSDAY	11:40	0.2	9:30	2.6	3:31	5.1	6:45	2.8
FRIDAY	11:40	0.2	9:30	2.6	3:31	5.1	6:45	2.8

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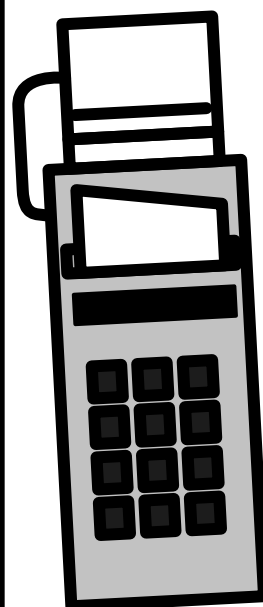
The QLine

With all the rain Southern California has endured lately, the water quality of the bay has steadily declined. Officials have warned people to stay out of the water as bacteria levels will surely make them sick. But many people looking to catch a wave have ignored the warnings.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know,

"How concerned are you about the water quality of the Santa Monica Bay? Why?"

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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Woman was expected to begin classes at SMC

SUICIDE, from page 1

said Campbell, adding Claiborne had tried committing suicide at least two times earlier in life, once by overdosing on Aspirin when she was 15 years old. "She was incomprehensible. She was weeping. She couldn't stand up on her own — plus, she had a huge keloid (scar) on her wrist."

What's more, Campbell claimed officers didn't check on Claiborne as frequently as is required. A Santa Monica Police Department manual calls for routine checks every 15 minutes, but the jailers only checked on Claiborne at 30-minute intervals, according to Campbell.

On the first visit, Claiborne was found sitting on the floor and naked from the waist down. Mattresses had been pulled off of the bunkbeds and toilet paper

strewn around the floor of the cell, court documents show. Claiborne was moved to another cell, without a bed or toilet paper. About 35 minutes later, the jailer found Claiborne dead, after hanging herself from a cell bar using her jeans.

Deputy City Attorney Anthony Serritella said officials thought they were simply dealing with an intoxicated woman and didn't anticipate her suicide. The settlement was a way for City Hall to avoid the costs of defending the case, because even if jurors had found the city responsible for only a small portion of Claiborne's suicide, the city could be pursued for all of the plaintiff's legal costs, he added.

"Essentially, this is a cost-of-defense settlement, even though the number seems rather high," Serritella said. "It was a relatively modest settlement for a wrongful-

death claim."

Serritella added that a similar suicide was less likely to occur in Santa Monica's new jail, which is easier to monitor because it is situated all on one level, beneath the new public safety building located behind City Hall on Fourth Street.

How much money Prosser will actually receive is unclear. She will share an unknown amount of the \$125,000 settlement with her attorneys, and has about \$12,000 in other expenses, such as a private autopsy and burial, lawyers said. At a recent settlement conference, Campbell and Randolph had pegged their fees at \$50,000, according to Serritella. However, Campbell declined to divulge to what contingency percentage her firm is entitled.

Lawyers said at the time of the suicide, Claiborne was working as a stripper in

Hollywood. She had been attending Pierce College in the valley, but apparently had been accepted to study at Santa Monica College. Prosser found the acceptance letter after Claiborne's suicide.

"We're talking about a girl who's 23, going through a wild phase and getting out of it," Campbell said.

Campbell called the settlement substantial, but said only time would tell if the suit would lead to change at Santa Monica Jail.

"Our client wanted the city of Santa Monica to take notice and change their ways," Campbell said. "The city knows that some people who are arrested have health problems. They should check them more carefully ... Unfortunately there's a whole series of things that should have happened that didn't."

Prop. 1A to provide some protection for local funds

BUDGET, from page 1

the state, and the next thing we hear, education funding is being cut."

In his Jan. 5 state-of-the-state address, Schwarzenegger reiterated his intention to cut costs statewide.

O'Connor said the scenario was like a shell game where no one was really sure how locally generated tax revenues actually ended up being used by the state legislature.

"The governor has backed out of his support for education," she said. "The response I'm getting from our schools is that they're not seeing revenues coming in. There's a lot of uncertainty about what's going on."

Santa Monica Finance Director Steve Stark said the passage of Prop. 1A would not impact the \$2.7 million already earmarked for Sacramento for the 2005-2006 fiscal year, the same amount Santa Monica contributed to the state in 2004-

2005. Coming from a variety of locally generated taxes, Santa Monica's contribution is part of a statewide plan mandated by the legislature to help balance the state's budget.

Stark said that once Santa Monica had sent the next payment of \$2.7 million to Sacramento that Prop. 1A should protect the city from future budget-balancing contributions. Gov. Schwarzenegger last year agreed to provide local governments long-term protection if they paid the \$2.7 million for the next two fiscal years. After that, City Hall would receive a \$1.6 million payback in vehicle license fees — and, with the passage of Prop. 1A, be protected from further state takeaways.

Stark said that in the 2004-2005 fiscal year, Santa Monica had a total budget of \$380 million. He added that it appears the city's general fund, about 45 percent of the city's total annual budget, would not be impacted by Schwarzenegger's budget cuts.

"All cities, including Santa Monica, were happy when Prop. 1A passed," Stark said. "Local governments are in better shape because of it. But it's also early — and the state finds ways to raise the money it needs."

Stark said he expected to see a reduction in state grant money that helped fund capital improvement projects in past years.

"I expect we won't be doing as much street resurfacing," Stark said.

Councilman Richard Bloom said Gov. Schwarzenegger, who pushed for the passage of Prop. 1A, had done positive things to protect local government revenue streams.

"The state can't borrow from our budget anymore because of Prop. 1A," Bloom said. "But the bottom line is that we still have a \$9 billion deficit in Sacramento."

"And even though programs have been poured over many, many times to see

where cuts can be made, it's hard to imagine how we can cut services to the degree necessary to balance the budget," he added.

Bloom said there was considerable fear that the state will try to balance the budget on the back of education.

"I've heard this fear repeated many times from various sources, so the concern is significant," he said.

Councilman Kevin McKeown said he was concerned by Gov. Schwarzenegger's state-of-the-state address.

"The governor's refusal to augment revenues by fairly taxing corporations irresponsibly favors boardrooms over classrooms, including ours in Santa Monica," said McKeown, who also is an official spokesman for the Green Party in California.

McKeown said Schwarzenegger's plan to cut services would leave local governments picking up the slack. He also was alarmed by Schwarzenegger's announcement that he planned to reform the way teachers are compensated, basing their pay on merit rather than tenure.

"Diverting money from education and calling teachers a 'special interest' is reprehensible," McKeown said. "The real special interest is Santa Monica's kids, and they are a very special interest indeed."

O'Connor said the entire education system needs to be reformed — not just the way that teachers were compensated for their work.

"The manner in which we are funding our schools needs a complete overhaul," she said.

Councilman Robert Holbrook said Santa Monica and other municipalities aren't immune from further money grabs from Sacramento.

"We're anticipating a huge war with the budget," Holbrook said.

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Samohi sex charges stemmed from alleged encounter in July 2004

HAMMER, from page 1

only once, when asked by Judge Ryan if he was willing to waive his right to a speedy trial.

"Yes," Hammer said quietly, nodding his head.

Vicki Podberesky, Hammer's private attorney, said officials were discussing possible settlement arrangements while work continues on two reports that should be finished before the next hearing. One is a probation report completed for all defendants facing felony charges. The other is a special report for sex offenders that evaluates the accused person's threat to society. That type of report is required for a defendant in a sex case to avoid serving time in jail, according to Podberesky.

"There are a lot of considerations here," she said.

Podberesky added that if she couldn't reach an agreement with prosecutors, she was confident a jury would side with Hammer.

"I can't give any comment (on the defense strategy) right now," Podberesky said outside the courtroom. "If the case does proceed to trial, we believe we would be able to prove Mr. Hammer's innocence."

Hammer was freed immediately after his arrest on \$40,000 bond. He pleaded not guilty in October. He wore a dark blue, pin-striped suit and carried a black

"There are a lot of considerations here."

—VICKI PODBERESKY
Defense attorney

backpack to Monday's hearing. Hammer was accompanied to court by his father.

The victim and Hammer were neighbors. The girl's family attended Hammer's arraignment, her sister shaking her head and the mother whispering "liar, liar" under her breath as Hammer's plea was recorded.

The Daily Press is not identifying the victim or her family. Though the victim was not a Samohi student, her siblings are. The sex investigation was conducted by the California Department of Children and Family Services and the Santa Monica Police Department. The two charges stem from an alleged encounter on July 6.

While the case works its way through the criminal-court system, Hammer has been placed on paid leave from the joint Santa Monica-Malibu school district and been ordered to stay 100 yards away from the victim and not associate with minors, except his children, who attend local schools.

STATE BRIEFS

Hermosa pier undergoing renovation

By The Associated Press

HERMOSA BEACH — The third phase of the \$5.7 million Hermosa Beach Pier renovation should be completed this summer.

The project, which includes replacement of the old cobblestone ramp with concrete and lush landscaping to soften the pier entrance, began soon after Labor Day 2004 and will be completed in July, Public Works Director Rick Morgan said.

The pier will be closed next month.

"It would be unsafe for people to be around because of all the construction that will be going on," Morgan said.

The Fiberglass statue of late Hermosa Beach surfer and lifeguard Tim Kelly is being redone in bronze, Councilman Pete Tucker said. Kelly died in a car crash nearly 41 years ago at age 24.

Rehabilitating the Kelly statue wasn't part of the pier project so Tucker and other community members raised money to repair the statue, which had dents and a broken arm. It's costing about \$32,000 to cast it in bronze.

"We raised close to \$15,000 with just the one fund-raiser we had," Tucker said. Now the group has \$40,000 and is still taking donations to fund a junior lifeguard scholarship fund in Kelly's memory.

Prisoner relocation proposal criticized

By The Associated Press

VENTURA — A proposal to remove all prisoners from the California Youth Authority site in Camarillo and place them in county-run juvenile justice facilities has been criticized by Ventura County's top probation official.

"The California Youth Authority has huge problems, but those problems need to be fixed, and they're not going to be fixed by moving those girls back to us," county probation director Cal Remington said.

State Sen. Gloria Romero, D-Los Angeles, proposed removal of females from the Camarillo CYA site as part of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's effort to reform the state's troubled youth detention system.

Last fall, the state settled a lawsuit over alleged abuses of juveniles in CYA facilities. The deal called for CYA administrators to work with prison-reform advocates under the direction of a court-appointed special master to make sweeping changes to the system.

The California Youth Authority houses 3,456 young people and 147 of them are females, all housed in Camarillo, CYA spokeswoman Sarah Ludeman said.

Romero wants the California Youth Authority to focus on rehabilitation, saying the state can more efficiently treat female wards by housing them in county-run facilities near their homes.

But Remington said county facilities are inadequate for housing CYA offenders, who often have been convicted of violent crimes such as murder, attempted murder and robbery.

California quarter debuts

By The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — The California quarter made its debut Monday.

The quarter, which depicts conservationist John Muir gazing at Yosemite's Half Dome as a California condor flies overhead, is the 31st 25-cent coin to be produced as part of a 10-year, 50-state quarters program conducted by the U.S. Mint.

People eager to get their hands on the coins will be able to buy \$10 rolls Monday between noon and 2 p.m. at the secretary of state's courtyard in Sacramento.



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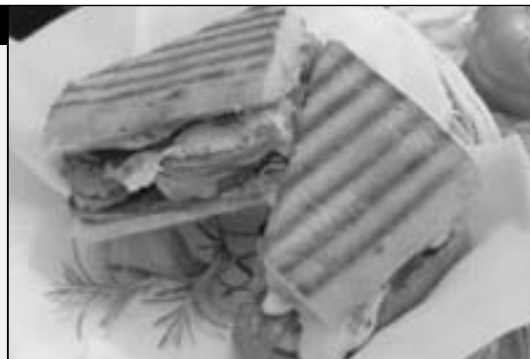
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Concerning dog-friendliness

Editor:

I read with interest, and a smile, the letters from Ben Jacobs and Don Johnson regarding the proposed dog beach (SMDP, Jan 28, page 4).

I signed the petition — just because someone signed and backed a petition doesn’t mean they are going to violate any laws or regulations, state or otherwise. I am not a zealot. I care about a lot of issues other than dogs. I obey leash laws. My dog is on a leash when walked, and I pick up after her. She is a friendly dog and has never bitten anyone. As a matter of fact, she is a therapy dog, having helped children in a children’s home, at the Santa Monica PAL, hospitalized patients, and she caused a woman to start talking after having not spoken in some time. I know of many responsible Santa Monica residents with dogs.

Maybe Mr. Johnson and Jacobs could get out and help with some community issues instead of being so rude and condescending to others. It is our community, too.

Having said that, even though I live and work in Santa Monica — unlike Mr. Johnson, a Venice resident, who is so very concerned about Santa Monica issues — I hardly spend any time with my dog in this city. I have never thought of Santa Monica as particularly dog friendly. I know there are others who feel the same way.

I don’t frequent the Santa Monica dog parks (haven’t been in years), preferring parks elsewhere. Any class or activity that I am involved in with my dog — obedience, a class, events, shopping for my dog, meeting friends with their dogs and dining — is usually done outside the city of Santa Monica. I meet people in their more dog-friendly areas: Malibu, the valley, Santa Clarita.

Regarding the holidays, there was the “Home for the Holidays” campaign here in Santa Monica. My family (dog included) and friends went to Carmel. We ran into people from Santa Monica and Malibu. We will return in February and at least every Christmas hereafter.

There is an off-leash beach there, and it is one of the most beautiful beaches I have ever seen — so unlike the Santa Monica beaches that I am afraid to walk barefoot on for fear of stepping on something a disrespectful human has left behind — and I have seen many beaches. There isn’t any trash or dog poop on the Carmel off-leash dog beach. Carmel, the city, is very clean. The people are friendly, look you in the eye and greet you. We also spend lots of time in the San Luis Obispo, Pismo Beach and the central coast areas with our dog.

It’s too bad we can’t have the dog beach here — maybe Santa Monica could get the type of wonderful reputation cities like Carmel have.

Victoria Pavis
Santa Monica

Get down to Urth

Editor:

(Editor’s note: This letter was originally addressed to the Santa Monica City Council, and particularly Councilman Richard Bloom.)

Thank you for your efforts. The Urth Caffe on Main Street is now open with a temporary permit.

I know with all the direct things you need to deal with, it isn’t your job to deal with the craziness of a dispute between a new restaurant and the planning/permit division.

I would hope the City Manager Susan McCarthy at \$205,000 per year could get to the root of the problem and eliminate the hindrances caused by the current group in charge.

We all are looking to make Santa Monica more livable and community orientated, and I know your job is much bigger than it appears to the average Joe. So thanks again, we will all benefit by having a great new shmoozing spot in the Ocean Park area. I hope we can do the same for the Montana area now that the Aero is open. We could use a great cafe like the Urth.

Joe Pundyk
Santa Monica

Barking about beaches

Editor:

I may express it more succinctly than Ben Jacobs and less vehemently than Don Johnson, but I wish to add my voice to theirs in protest of dogs using our Santa Monica beaches (SMDP, Jan. 28, page 4). I think Jacobs is undoubtedly correct in his assumption that few, if any, on our esteemed City Council actually use these beaches, and I bet it’s a safe guess that neither do many of the dog guardians advocating this innovation. I don’t currently own a dog, but I love them (and cats) and appreciate the important role pets play in some people’s lives. Up to a point. When these owners acquired their dogs, there was no dog beach, and there is no reason why this is suddenly a necessity. It is only right that the City Council consider the health and comfort of the majority of Santa Monica residents, the tourists who visit here and the California residents outside Santa Monica who journey to enjoy our beaches, instead of the wishes of an elite few who wish to pamper their pets.

Sunny Kreis
Santa Monica

Rent control keeps Santa Monica diverse

Editor:

Regarding Tony Street’s letter (SMDP, Jan. 20, page 4). Nobody benefits from rent control? I and many I know could not afford to live here without it. Granted, some landlords rent to the wealthy, and that is a flaw in the law that should be corrected. The wealthy are more likely to pay the rent on time? Not necessarily. I used to manage rental apartments in New York. The wealthy are more likely to do their own repairs? Seldom, if ever. As for those who have incomes of between \$56,401 and \$75,989, or up to \$150,000, I don’t know where they mostly live. Probably north of Montana, Pacific Palisades, Beverly Hills, etc. Our neighborhood, Pico neighborhood and the like, they’d not be too interested in, I am sure. Many of us ride the buses, and I talk to a lot of people on those buses who, like me, cannot afford a car. Also, once a rent-controlled apartment is vacated, the landlord can charge market prices. Mr. Street did good research for his letter, but he left out a key factor: We struggling poor are many. And I believe rent control was to keep a more diversified populace in Santa Monica. And I love its diversity.

H.L. Walters
Santa Monica

A New Year housecleaning a good business decision



WHAT’S THE POINT?

BY DAVID PISARRA

Today is Feb. 1, and by now the excitement for some, anguish for others, of the president’s inauguration is over. The first flush of starting a new exercise routine has worn off, the diet has been left by the wayside, and for those who quit drinking — “for keeps this time!” — the Superbowl is right around the corner.

The first month of the year has flown by, as have most of our resolutions. For those who have fallen off the horse, but want to get back on and get organized, today is as perfect a day as you are likely to get to start over.

We’re doing it in our law firm. I made a decision to go out of the document storage business and get back to having a tidy set of files. As lawyers we generate and receive tons of paper. Paper that ends up in files for which we are responsible. Being a rather conservative lot, lawyers tend to like to keep things around well

after they are useful. You never know when you just might need that 1999 California Lawyer magazine with the article on how Gore’s election will help the practice of law.

Most businesses, and most people for that matter, like to stockpile things. We keep old inventory, old employees and useless equipment around just because, “well you never know, you might need it someday.” This is a mistake.

Keeping old files, old inventory and useless equipment is cluttering, confusing and drains your focus. Having only the most recent files, most current information and most accurate list of equipment and inventory allows you to spend your energy on your business in the most productive way.

I’ve gone through old legal files, some that date back six years or more, and either returned them to the client, or destroyed them. It has been the most cathartic, freeing experience I’ve had in a long time.

One of the nice parts of going back through these old files is finding out how much work you really did. It also is a great excuse to contact old clients, update them on your services and generate new business.

Doing a thorough housecleaning like this is a great way to rejuvenate that relationship with a client with whom you’ve lost touch. I came across a client I hadn’t seen or spoken to in years. By simply picking up the phone and chatting with them, I was able to bring them in for a “legal tune up” on their business. I found what could be a major problem and resolved it before it blew up on them. In doing so, I’ve saved them money, prevented a major lawsuit and increased my billings. All from just reviewing my files.

In the business world this is called “data mining.” There are many ways in which companies do it, with varying degrees of success. Some do it by bribery — this is the “drop your card in the fishbowl” way of figuring out who the customers are. Others, such as grocery stores, bribe/blackmail us into giving them information. Every time that I go to Ralphs or Vons and have to enter my phone number, they are tracking my purchases and my buying habits. They know that the family at (310) xxx-yyyy really likes Ben and Jerry’s but still buys the fake creamer and yolkless eggs to reduce their cholesterol.

If building a business is all about relationship building, it seems to me that the

personal touch should be emphasized more than the raw data gathering. I’d like it more if my dentist called me to remind me that I needed to come in, rather than getting a postcard that I had to fill out myself. However, that is better than what the optometrist did to me — she sent me a recorded message at work. It was one of those kind that starts off, “Hi, this Kim from Dr. Bleep’s office, how are you today?” and you respond automatically, not realizing your talking to a recording. I’m never going back to her again. Ever.

This year is proving to be moving just as fast as last year, maybe even faster. That means I need to be more on top of my game than ever. The only way I can do that is by having a clean, focused environment. If you’ve let last month’s resolutions fall away, pick up the pieces wherever you left off, and get started today, because March is right around the corner. And then it’s the holiday season again, with seders, Santas and shopping.

(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.)

COMMENTARY



My little identification card on the prairie

ANY DAY IN LA

BY HEIDI MANTEUFFEL



Sometimes I forget I used to be from the heartland, but this week gave me a glaring reminder of my fresh-off-the-prairie look.

When people ask me where I'm from, I most often just reply Chicago. But occasionally I'll whip out my freshman college I.D. card if the conversation goes in that direction. In it I'm looking 14, with a corn-fed smile, mother's "hip" shorts from the '70s, and flaxen, humidity-driven hair.

Some would say my hair looked possessed. At the kindest they'd say it was a free spirit.

The great part about my photo I.D. is that even the nicest of people have some gut reaction to it, which is why it's fun to use it as a litmus test.

"Wow, you look ... so different," is the most frequent response I get. The worst I received was a "No." They looked at the card then looked at me. "No." Repeat. "Dang you look SO much better now. Don't, don't go back to that."

While I wanted to shoot haystacks at this person with my eyes, the truth is that I don't feel that different from this little lady on the prairie.

Sure, my hair isn't past my shoulders now. My choice in clothing changed from conservative teen to mainstream 20 something. And I know now what constitutes high-quality mascara, and more importantly, how to apply it.

But truth be told, I still feel like I'm in the chorus of our high school's version of Oklahoma!

There I was, in that tacky period piece dress, painfully executing ballet moves with midfield soccer stiffness. I wasn't the makeup type, so it took a team of two people every night to help me with foundation, blush, mascara and lipstick. In the end, I did feel nicer. But even as I sang my heart out about waitin' for a beau, it just didn't feel like me.

Today my boyfriend and I went and saw Oklahoma! at the Pantages in Hollywood. We commiserated in our love for the musical, his having the solo for the "The Farmer and the Cowman," and my simply trying to appear more flexible than I am.

The production was delightful as always in the Rodgers and Hammerstein style. But we couldn't help critique the plot a little, and share our disapproval for having a black-and-white villain. Hollywood would eat Jud Fry's character alive today.

I also couldn't but help remember my own transformation. Just like Laurey when she changed from overalls to a white dress for the box social, so I had changed from hiking boots to Steve Madden heels. Yet like her, I was still full of tenacity and spunk. I just now had a cute ribbon tied around it.

So I guess next time someone reminds me of how different I look now, I won't question who I am. I'll just remember my solo about spinach and potatoes, smile my bucktooth grin, and say, "Well thank ya kindly."

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

GUEST COMMENTARY BY MICHAEL S. BERLINER

Ayn Rand: A legacy of reason and freedom

Born 100 years ago in Holy Mother Russia and educated under the Soviets, Ayn Rand became the quintessential American writer and philosopher, upholding the supreme value of the individual's life on earth. She herself led a "rags to riches" life, wrote best-selling novels that championed individualism, and developed a philosophy of reason that validates the American spirit of achievement and independence.

The story of Ayn Rand's life is, in the words of the Oscar-nominated documentary "Ayn Rand: A Sense of Life," a "life more compelling than fiction." Born Feb. 2, 1905, she wrote her first fiction at age 8, when she also showed signs of being an intellectual crusader, vowing to refute a newspaper article claiming that school was the sole source of a child's ideals. A year later she decided to become a writer: Inspired by the hero of a children's story who embodied "intelligence directed to a practical purpose," she had a "blinding picture" of people — not as they are but as they could be.

In high school and college, she discovered two figures whom she never ceased to admire: Victor Hugo, for "the grandeur, the heroic scale, the plot inventiveness" of his stories; and Aristotle, as "the arch-realist and the advocate of the validity of man's mind."

Escaping the tyranny and poverty of the U.S.S.R., she came to America in 1926, officially for a brief visit with relatives. A chance meeting with her favorite American director, Cecil B. DeMille, resulted in jobs as a movie extra and then a junior screenwriter. After periods of near-starvation, she sold her first play to Broadway and her first novel, "We the Living," set in the Soviet tyranny she had escaped. With her first best-seller, "The Fountainhead" in 1943, she presented her ideal man, individualist architect Howard Roark. But it was, she said, "only an overture" to her magnum opus, "Atlas Shrugged" in 1957, a mystery story about the role of the mind in man's existence. With "Atlas Shrugged" her career as a fiction writer ended, but her career as a philosopher had just begun.

Her philosophy — objectivism — upholds objective reality (as opposed to supernaturalism), reason as man's only means of knowledge (as opposed to faith or skepticism), free will (as opposed to determinism — by biology or environment), and an ethics of rational self-interest (as opposed to the sacrifice of oneself to others or others to self). The only moral political system, she maintained, is laissez-faire capitalism (as opposed to the

collectivism of socialism, fascism or the welfare state), because it recognizes the inalienable right of an individual to act on the judgment of his own mind. Your life, she held, belongs to you and not to your country, God or your neighbors.

Ayn Rand understood that to defend the individual she must penetrate to the root: His need to use reason to survive. "I am not primarily an advocate of capitalism," she wrote in 1971, "but of egoism; and I am not primarily an advocate of egoism, but of reason. If one recognizes the supremacy of reason and applies it consistently, all the rest follows." This radical view put her at odds with conservatives, whom she vilified for their attempts to base capitalism on faith and altruism. Advocating a government to protect the individual's right to property, she was not a liberal (or an anarchist). Advocating the indispensability of philosophy, she was not a libertarian.

Despite being outside the cultural mainstream, her novels became best-sellers and her books sell more today than ever before — half a million copies per year. There is a reason that "Atlas Shrugged" placed second in a Library of Congress survey about most influential books. There is a reason that her works are considered life-altering by so many readers. She had an exalted view of man and created inspiring fictional heroes.

A sui generis philosopher who looked at the world anew, Ayn Rand has long puzzled the intellectual establishment. Academia has usually met her views with antagonism or avoidance, unable to fathom that she was an individualist but not a subjectivist, an absolutist but not a dogmatist. And they have thus ignored her original solutions to such seemingly intractable problems as how to ground values in facts. But even in academia her ideas are finding more acceptance, e.g., university fellowships and a subgroup within the American Philosophical Association to study objectivism.

Ayn Rand left a legacy in defense of reason and freedom that serves as a guidepost for the American spirit, especially pertinent today when America and what it stands for are under assault.

(Michael S. Berliner is the former executive director of the Ayn Rand Institute [www.aynrand.org] in Irvine. The institute promotes the ideas of Ayn Rand — best-selling author of "Atlas Shrugged" and "The Fountainhead," as well as the originator of the philosophy she called "objectivism.")



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Booger woes: How to get your 2-year-old to stop picking that nose

Dear Dorie,
My 2 1/2 year-old daughter has been picking her nose and — yikes! — eating the boogies for the last few months. Is this normal? How can I get her to stop?

Grossed Out Mommy

Dear Mommy,
Normal? Yes. Desirable? No. There is absolutely no harm in the behavior, but it draws a very powerful reaction from just about everybody. Try carrying a tissue with you and when her finger goes in her nose, calmly suggest, “It looks like you need to get a boogie out. Try this.” Let her response be your guide.
When she’s a bit older, you can introduce the idea that she should save “the picking” for private and wash her hands afterwards, but right now go for the tissue. Be patient on this one, she won’t be a “picker” forever.

(Dorie Meek is director of the Infant & Family Support Program, provided by Saint John’s Health Center in partnership with the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. Meek answers questions concerning children ages birth to 5 years old. Submit your questions to “Dear Dorie” at meek@smmusd.org, or call 310-452-6132; fax 310-452-6392.)

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Child-development checkups: Both helpful and reassuring

BY EILEEN ESCARCE PH.D., M.S.N.
Special to the Daily Press

“My baby doesn’t call me ‘mama’ like the other babies do.”
That was a casual comment offered by Claudia, the mother of an otherwise healthy, content 18-month-old boy at a “Mom and Me” group. Claudia was making an observation, but she was also seeking guidance about whether she should be concerned. Claudia, like many new parents, had little exposure to infants before she had her own. It was inevitable that she compared her baby to other babies she encountered. All parents wonder how well their baby is developing at different stages, since development in different domains — social, emotional, language and motor behavior — is unique to each baby and yet follows predictable patterns.

Parents now have a chance to keep a record of their own baby’s unique development from early infancy through the preschool years. Quality parent-completed child-monitoring surveys are based on the notion that parents are the experts regarding their young children’s development and behavior. Screening provides parents with both confirmation that their child is — or is not — developing normally, and an opportunity to receive guidance and/or referrals regarding any concerns that arise. In a recent national study, parents reported a desire for such developmental services, and those who received them reported greater satisfaction and were more likely to demonstrate positive parenting practices, including appropriate disciplinary techniques.

Since July 2001, the American Academy of Pediatrics has recommended routine developmental screening for early detection of developmental problems. Unfortunately, developmental screening is not yet widely available. Approximately 16 percent of children have disabilities such as speech-language impairments, mental retardation, learning disabilities, and emotional or behavioral disturbances. However, fewer than 30 percent of

those children are detected prior to school entrance, precluding early intervention. The reason for under-detection is that disabilities are subtle, and children who have them often appear to be developing normally, especially at younger ages. Screening is designed for those who appear to be developing normally, detects those with problems when repeated over time, and improves detection rates by three to four times.
Early detection is important because children receive immediate and long-term benefit from early intervention. Children enrolled in early intervention programs prior to kindergarten are more likely to have better intellectual, social and adaptive behavior.

“Babyattuned” is a new program where parents can obtain periodic developmental screenings, with review and feedback, at low cost — \$15 per screening.
The records are helpful in promoting developmental awareness, identifying concerns and discussing parenting issues, in both pediatric and child guidance settings. Each 30-minute screening involves parents completing forms that address their baby’s current behavior and development, and another eliciting parent concerns. Language-development screening also is offered when a child is between 18 and 30 months old. Completed forms are scored and reviewed with the parent. Parents will be given a summary record of each screening in a Developmental Checkup Baby Book (similar to the immunization record) and encouraged to keep the record for future screenings from early infancy through the preschool years. Appropriate referrals and community resources will be offered if indicated.

(Eileen Escarce Ph.D., M.S.N., is a licensed clinical developmental psychologist [PSY 18819] and experienced pediatric nurse practitioner in private practice in Santa Monica, and a Touchpoints Special Needs Faculty trainer at Frank D. Lanterman Regional Center. Other information is available at www.babyattuned.com. She can be reached at eileenescarce@babyattuned.com.)

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TUESDAYS thru FEB. 22 – COFFEE WITH MARILYN, 9:30 a.m.

A series of discussions with local early childhood development guru Marilyn McGrath,

presented by the SMMUSD Infant and Family Support Program. Geared for alumni of previous parenting classes. Call 452-6132 for more info. At Joslyn Park Craft Room.

TUESDAY, FEB. 1 – FIRST AID TRAINING – 6:00 p.m.

For ages 16 and up. No charge for class or certificate. Santa Monica Airport, free parking. Call for info and reservations – 393-7758, Dr. Harris.

MONDAYS - NEW KARATE CLASS FOR AGES 4-5; 3:00 – 3:45

Japan Karate Association is expanding their program and starting a new Pre-Karate class for children ages 4-5. This class will teach basic Karate, awareness, Stranger Danger and how to call 911, while helping kids improve their discipline and concentration. Classes are taught in a fun, age-appropriate and uplifting manner. Cost is \$70 per month. For more info call Maria at 394-3544. Located at 1218 5th St.

FRIDAY, FEB. 4

PARENTS NIGHT OUT at CHILD’S PLAY, 6:00 –11:00 p.m., 2299 Westwood, LA

Kids get a night of supervised fun with pizza, games and more. Parents get a night out. Ages 3-10, \$9 per hour, \$7 siblings, 3 hour minimum. Reservations required. 470-4997, www.childsplayonline.net.

SATURDAY, FEB. 5

ART ADVENTURES for FAMILIES at THE GETTY, 2:00 p.m., also on Sunday.

Sign-up begins at 1:30 p.m. for this one-hour tour of the galleries for children. Offered in English and Spanish. Ages 5 and up. FREE! 440-7300, 1200 Getty Center Drive.

SUNDAY, FEB. 6

REMEMBER MALCOLM X- MYSTERIES, MYTHS and MISCONCEPTIONS

11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. This 40th anniversary tribute examines the legacy of Malcolm X with the screening of Death of a Prophet. There are also youth forums and workshops on tolerance and understanding and a live reading of The Meeting, which dramatizes a secret meeting between Malcolm X and Martin Luther King. FREE! California African American Museum, 600 State Dr., 213-744-7432.

CHEERIOS in my UNDERWEAR and OTHER TRUE TALES of MOTHERHOOD, 3:00 p.m.,

Sundays thru Feb. 27. See the hilarious journey of a stay-at-home mom, navigating the changes, secrets and surprises of motherhood. A one-woman show starring comic Amy Simon. Ages 12 and up. \$15 - \$10. 308-0947. The Empty Stage Theatre, 2372 Veteran Ave., West LA.

LOS ANGELES LIVE STEAMERS, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (every Sunday)

Ride a miniature train pulled by a steam locomotive in Griffith Park. Ages 2 and up. FREE, but donations welcome. 5202 Zoo Drive (next to Travel Town), 323-669-9729

COMING UP

MONDAY, FEB. 28 – CPR TRAINING – 6:00 p.m.

For ages 16 and up. No charge for class or certificate. Santa Monica Airport, free parking. Call for info and reservations – 393-7758, Dr. Harris.

TUESDAY

Movies for Moms! Feb. 1 – Hide and Seek starring Robert De Niro, Dakota Fanning and Famke Janssen. Horror/Suspense; Rated “R.”

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.

Visit www.enjoytheshow.com/reelmoms for

details.

Storytelling

Main Library – held at Reed Park, corner of 7th and Wilshire.

Toddler Storytime; 10:00 a.m. For 2 year olds with adult.

Preschool Story Time; 10:30 a.m.; for ages 3-5.

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

Cuentos Para Pequenos – 10:00 a.m., six-week series in Spanish for 24 – 36 month olds with adult. Thru Feb.8.

Lap Time – 11:00 a.m., six-week series for babies 0-24 months, co-sponsored by the SMMUSD Infant & Family Support Programs. Thru Feb.8.

Twilight Story Time -7pm – an ongoing program for 3-5 year olds.

Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.

Family Story Time – 7:00 p.m., all ages.

Terrific Tuesdays – Feb. 1 & 15th, 3:30 p.m. Stories and crafts for 5 – 9 year olds.

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

Toddler Storytime, 10:00 and 10:30. Music, rhymes and stories for 24-36 month olds.

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 (1-3 years) – 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.; Infant & Me, Transitional Group (7 – 14 mos.) – 10:45 – 11:45 a.m.; Infant & Me (0-12 mos.) – 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.; classes in partnership with the Infant and Family Support Program. 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

Yoga & Exercise

Prenatal Aqua Aerobics at the Santa Monica YMCA

10:00 – 11:00 a.m and 7:30 – 8:30 p.m; Free for members, non-members \$90 for 10 classes. (also Thursday nights 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.) 393-2721. ext. 117 for more info.

Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:40 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)

Itsy Bitsy Yoga – Tots (crawling to 24 months)– 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. (Register now for new session beginning Jan. 4.) Baby (6 weeks to pre-crawling) – 11:30 – 12:30 a.m.

With Khefri Riley at Ocean Oasis, 1333 Ocean Ave. Register at www.khefri.net or call 323-549-5383.

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

WEDNESDAY

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.

Preschool Story Time – 10:30 a.m.; six-week series for 3-5 year olds with adult. Thru Feb. 9.

Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704

Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.

****New Time - Lap Time - 10:15 & 11:15 a.m.,** ages 0-2. Thru Feb. 9.

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

Preschool Twilight Story Time – 7:00 – 7:30 p.m. Parents/children ages 3-5.

Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion – 2 pm – ages 2-5 – 310-475-4144

Border’s, Westwood – 11am – 310-475-3444.

Classes

Rhythm Child Parent & Me Rhythms, Santa Monica Studios, 3025 Olympic Blvd., 9:30 – 10:15 a.m. Current session thru March 5. Children explore rhythms through drum play. Ages 6 mos. – 3.5 years; \$100 for 8 weeks. Call 204-5466 or visit www.rhythmchild.net for more info.

YWCA – A Place for Parents – Parent Support (3 – 5 years) – 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.; Infant /Toddler and Me (0-12 mos.) – 10:30 – 11:00 a.m.; Parents of Adolescents Support Group – 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45pm, \$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., 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, 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

Babystyle, 1324 Montana Avenue, 434-9590

10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4.

Main Library – held at Reed Park, corner of 7th and Wilshire.

Toddler Storytime; 10:00 a.m.; for 2 year olds with adult.

Preschool Story Time; 10:30 a.m.; for ages 3-5.

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

Toddler Story Time – 10:30 a.m; for ages 2 –3.

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.

Toddler Story Time – 10:15 a.m., for 2 year olds.

Preschool Story Time – 11:15 a.m.; for 3-5 year olds.

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

Lap Time – 9:20 & 10:20 a.m., 6-week series for babies 0-24 months, co-sponsored by SMMUSD Infant & Family Support Program.

Classes

YWCA – A Place for Parents – Toddler & Me (1-3 years) – 9:15 – 10:15 a.m. and 10:45 – 11:45 a.m.; classes in partnership with the Infant and Family Support Program.

Parent Support (3 – 5 years) – 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

Yoga & Exercise

Prenatal Aqua Aerobics at the Santa Monica YMCA

7:30 – 8:30 p.m; Free for members, non-members \$90 for 10 classes. (also Tuesdays at 10:00 – 11:00 a.m and 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.) 393-2721. ext. 117 for more

info.

Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:40 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 Group

The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-826-5774 - no pre-reg required, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 4-8 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

La Leche League of LA/Mar Vista – meets the 2nd Friday of each month at 10:00 a.m. Call 310-390-2529 for info.

Classes

YWCA – A Place for Parents – Toddler & Me (1-3 years)– 9:20 – 10:20 a.m.; Parent Support (1-3 years) – 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

Mommy and Me Dance– celebrate the wonderful world of imagination Fridays at the Electric Lodge. 9:45 – 10:45 a.m. ages 14 - 24 months; 10:45 – 11:45 a.m. ages 2 – 4.

6 classes for \$75 or \$14 per class. First class free! 1416 Electric Ave, Venice, 306-1854.

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 – 12:15 – 1:45 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.

Other

Baby Attuned - Fridays, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., A new program promoting sensitive parenting and developmental awareness. Parent-completed developmental screening, with review and feedback from a licensed clinical developmental psychologist and experienced pediatric nurse practitioner, Eileen Escarce, PhD, MSN. (PSY 18819). Introductory fee: \$15 per screening with feedback. 1137 2nd Ave, Suite 213. By appointment only 310-367-1155.

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., 310-559-BOOK.

Village Books, 1049 SwarthmoreAve, Pacific Palisades – 10:30 a.m. – 454-4063.

Yoga & Exercise

Santa Monica Yoga – Pre- & Post-Natal Yoga, Saturdays – 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

1640 Ocean Park Blvd, 396-4040, www.santamonicayoga.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

Snow White at the Santa Monica Playhouse

Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m. (thru April); \$12 adults, \$10 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 2 for reservations, www.santamonicaplayhouse.com

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

Magicopolis – 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.preciousprintsstudios.com for more info.

Breastfeeding

Working Mother’s Support Group

The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd. - 10:00 – 11:30 a.m., \$12 fee, led by Ilka Sternberger, certified lactation educator. Call 826-5774 for more info.

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

Magicopolis – 2 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$15. Call 310-451-2241 for info.

Snow White at the Santa Monica Playhouse

Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m. (thru April); \$12 adults, \$10 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 2 for reservations,

www.santamonicaplayhouse.com

Feb. 6 – Nature Walk with the Children’s Nature Institute, noon.

Temescal Canyon, 15601 Sunset Blvd., Pacific Palisades. \$7 donation per family, infants to 8 years. Reservations required by calling 998-1151 or e-mailing nature-walks@childrensnatureinsttue.org.

MONDAY

Storytelling

Main Library – Lap Time at Joslyn Park, Craft Room, 9:30 a.m. A series for babies up to two years old. (No lap time Feb. 21)

“Family Connections” – 10:00 a.m., immediately following Lap Time - a series of discussions related to early childhood development and growth. Children welcome, free.

Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main Street, 310-392-3804.

“Spanish for Little Ones”, 11:15 a.m. Next session begins Jan. 24.

Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade – Toddler Story Time – 10am – 310-260-9110

MOMS Club of Santa Monica – New Mother Group – for new moms with babies ages 0-6 months. Meet for conversation, support and playtime. All new Moms welcome!

Call Clare at 395-7422 for time, location and more info.

Classes

YWCA – A Place for Parents – Toddler & Me (1-3 years)– 9:20 – 10:20 a.m.; Parent Support (1-3 years) – 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-826-5774 - no pre-reg required, 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 – 12:15 – 1:45pm, \$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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Once invincible Governor sees popularity dip

BY BETH FOUHY

AP Political Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger rode an extraordinary wave of popularity in his first year, thanks to a blend of celebrity, political smarts, and a bit of rookie luck. But the so-called Governor now faces so much criticism that many wonder whether he might be a mere mortal after all.

The Republican governor who negotiated tough agreements with Democrats, charmed legislators with

visits to his smoking tent and met rapturous crowds at shopping malls across California has hit a sophomore slump, marked by a series of actions that his adversaries are calling naive and even hypocritical.

His state budget proposal relies on \$6 billion in borrowing, despite a campaign pledge to end such borrowing. He angered teachers by refusing to give about \$2 billion in unanticipated revenues to schools. He is raking in contributions from business interests despite a pledge to end the influence of special-interest money in Sacramento. And his bipartisan image has been tarnished by a government restructuring plan that takes aim at Democratic constituencies like public employees and teachers.

While Schwarzenegger is still well-liked by most Californians, polling suggests his once bulletproof popularity may be taking a hit.

A new survey by the Public Policy Institute of California shows that while 60 percent of the state's residents still approve of the job he is doing, he has lost considerable ground among Democrats and Independents, who together form the vast majority of the state's voters. Some 49 percent of Democrats now say they disapprove of his job performance, while 43 percent approve. And his disapproval rating among Independents has doubled since last year, from 18 to 32 percent.

"It's back to business as usual in Sacramento — the fuss of last year is over," said Shaun Bowler, a political science professor at University of California-Riverside. "People have responded to the movie version of leadership that he's been practicing, but you can't suspend the laws of gravity forever just because you're a movie star."

The waning of Schwarzenegger's political honeymoon has restored confidence to the legislative Democrats Schwarzenegger labeled "girlie-men" and "losers." They're no longer as cowed by his star power. And groups like the California Teachers Association — who agreed last year to temporarily give up \$2 billion in constitutionally mandated education funding in exchange for future revenues, only to see Schwarzenegger refuse to give them the extra money they wanted this year — have begun to question his credibility.

"Compared to the man last year, I've discovered a new person who the kids and teachers of California can't trust," said CTA President Barbara Kerr.

The PPIC poll showed fully 51 percent of Californians now disapprove of Schwarzenegger's handling of education.

Schwarzenegger has taken steps in recent days to deflect the mounting criticism, using two press conferences in the past week alone to promote his agenda. He declared that this would be the year to bring needed reforms to California, and derided legislators as stubborn defenders of the status quo.

"I thought they'd come to the table and create some action," Schwarzenegger said. "People want reform. It's what the recall election was about. They want to have changes."

At the heart of Schwarzenegger's reform agenda are four measures aimed at reducing the clout of public employees and teachers, and ending the power of incumbency in Sacramento.

He wants to convert the state's public pension program to a 401(k)-style system, require merit pay for teachers, and redraw congressional and state legislative

While Schwarzenegger is still well-liked by most Californians, polling suggests his once bulletproof popularity may be taking a hit.

boundaries to make the seats more competitive. He also wants to establish a mechanism that would automatically slash state spending when it exceeded revenues.

It appears all but certain that Schwarzenegger will move forward with his trademark strategy: bypassing the Legislature and taking his plan to voters in a special election to be held this fall. It would be the fourth major statewide election in three years, costing the state at least \$50 million.

"I don't think he's got a choice but to do a special election, but I think he'd prefer not to," said GOP strategist Kevin Spillane. "Schwarzenegger has been energized by his interactions with the Legislature, and radicalized by their intransigence."

Meanwhile, newly emboldened Democrats are crafting their own set of proposals, which they believe have more relevance to middle-class Californians — in the areas of education, health care and transportation. And as if to tamp down their reputation as big spenders and compulsive tax raisers, they've focused much of their rhetoric on a commitment to fix the state's budget problems.

"We'll have full hearings on each and every one of the (governor's) proposals at the right time, but I fully admit they're not our No. 1 priority," said Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez. "Balancing the budget is our No. 1 priority."

Indeed, many critics see Schwarzenegger's push for political reform as a red herring, obscuring the fact that his chief campaign promise — to balance the budget and wipe out the state's crippling deficit — has remained maddeningly unfulfilled.

"Remember the recall campaign, where he talked about the budget, opening the books, stop this ridiculous deficit spending," said longtime Democratic strategist Garry South. "He hasn't done it. The biggest problem we have is the budget is spiraling out of control, and nothing he puts on the ballot is going to change that fact."

Schwarzenegger is adhering to a vow not to raise taxes, and insisted this week that the state's budget is on the right track. He's also begun calling attention to the rigid formulas embedded in the state's budgeting system that make deficit spending almost inevitable.

"That's what the people expect us to do — to create reforms, and to save the state from those formulas that send us to bankruptcy," Schwarzenegger said. "Eventually we are going to meet that line between revenue and spending."

Schwarzenegger has not yet said whether he will run for re-election in 2006, and most analysts still view him as an overwhelming favorite to win if he chooses to run. But perhaps sensing some potential vulnerability in Schwarzenegger, one prominent Democrat, Attorney General Bill Lockyer, indicated this month he plans to run for governor in 2006 — whether Schwarzenegger is in the race or not.

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Feds: Enron made more than \$1.6 billion on Western energy crisis

BY ERICA WERNER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Enron Corp. profited more than \$1.6 billion from Western states during the energy crisis, money the bankrupt energy company may be required to return, federal energy officials said Monday.

It was the first federal accounting of Western energy crisis profits by Enron, whose traders are accused by California officials of gaming the state's power market and scheming to rip off consumers.

The total was revealed in testimony Monday by a

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission financial analyst in a case before a FERC administrative law judge. FERC ordered the judge last summer to determine the total amount Enron should have to give back from power profits in 11 Western states from January 16, 1997, to June 25, 2003.

At the time, FERC said Enron could potentially be required to return the entire amount to consumers.

The sum calculated by FERC financial analyst Randolph A. Barlow was less than California's estimate of about \$2.9 billion in profits for Enron during the same period.

NATIONAL



Griles, Nethercutt join former energy adviser's firm

BY MATTHEW DALY
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Former Deputy Interior Secretary Steven Griles and former Rep. George Nethercutt, R-Wash., are joining a lobbying firm headed by a former top White House energy adviser.

Nethercutt lost a bid for U.S. Senate last year. Griles, who oversaw the Bush administration's push to open more public land to energy development, announced last month he was stepping down.

The pair are joining a firm headed by Andrew Lundquist, who led Vice President Dick Cheney's energy task force in the Bush administration's first term.

The Lundquist Group LLC will be renamed Lundquist, Nethercutt & Griles LLC, and will remain based in Washington.

Griles, who earned a reputation as a go-to broker in Bush's program to lease out vast oil, gas and coal reserves below federally owned land in the West, said he was excited to be joining Nethercutt and Lundquist.

"Working as a team we can cover a broad range of complex national and international issues, including agriculture, defense, energy, financial services, mining, natural resources, and telecommunications," he said.

During nearly half his four-year tenure at Interior, Griles was investigated by the department's inspector general, who concluded Griles didn't appear to violate ethics rules by arranging meetings between Interior officials and former clients and partners, or in the award of \$1.6 million in contracts to a former client.

But Inspector General Earl Devaney

described Griles' behavior as an example of "an institutional failure" among Interior officials who potentially eroded public trust by failing to consider the perceived impropriety of their actions.

Griles continued to receive \$284,000 a year, in addition to his Interior salary, as part of a four-year severance package from his former lobbying and consulting firm.

In an interview last month, Griles called the charges against him "a political gambit" made by people opposed to the Bush administration from the very start.

Nethercutt, who represented the Spokane area for five terms in the U.S. House, said in a statement that his new job would continue a longtime interest in developing partnerships among the federal government, businesses, universities and nonprofit organizations.

"In my role on the House Defense,

Agriculture and Interior subcommittees, I worked on a host of national issues," Nethercutt said. "By joining with Steve and Andrew, I am able to combine my legislative expertise with their executive branch experience to continue to work on the national and Northwest issues I care about."

Lundquist also has been a controversial figure. In January 2001, Cheney named the Energy Department employee to direct a task force that wrote a national energy policy.

Environmental groups criticized the task force for holding secret meetings with the energy industry, but Lundquist has said he met with hundreds of people from energy companies to conservation groups to consumer groups. He told the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner in a 2002 interview that it was "a very open process."

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Election officials work to comply with new law

BY ANANDA SHOREY

Associated Press Writer

PHOENIX — Election officials are meeting this week to decide how to comply with the provisions of a new law that requires proof of citizenship when registering to vote and proof of identity when casting a ballot.

The state's 15 county recorders, who primarily deal with voter registration and early voting, plan to meet Tuesday and Wednesday in Phoenix to come up with guidelines that workers can follow when registering voters and manning the polls.

The meeting comes as voters prepare to vote Thursday in the first elections covered by Proposition 200, a law aimed at curtailing illegal immigration in Arizona. Thursday's voting will be in a scattering of local issue

elections. Municipal elections in cities throughout the state are March 8.

"Proposition 200 doesn't really define a lot of stuff, so we are defining it," Pima County Recorder F. Ann Rodriguez said Monday.

The recorders plan to reach a consensus regarding such things as whether a driver's license from another state is a valid form of identification, Rodriguez said.

They also plan to finish drafting new voter registration cards, she said.

The law requires that first time voters or people who move to different counties provide proof of citizenship when they register. They can provide a driver's license, birth certificate, naturalization record, passport or Bureau of Indian Affairs card in person or by mail.

Arizona's 2.7 million registered voters will have to

provide proof of identity when casting ballots. To do this, they can either present something that has their name, address and photo or two forms of identification that include their name and address.

Proposition 200 also requires people to produce proof of immigration status when obtaining certain government services. Government workers who don't report those who fraudulently seek benefits face fines and possible jail time.

Before the passage of Proposition 200 in November, people had to fill out forms with their driver's license numbers and the last four digits of their Social Security numbers when they registered to vote, but they didn't have to submit photocopies of such documents. They didn't have to show photo ID when casting ballots.

The Arizona secretary of state's office is putting together information regarding the new law that will be added to a manual for elections officials.

The manual, which is expected to be submitted to the U.S. Department of Justice within two weeks, will outline things like what forms of identification are acceptable, Secretary of State Jan Brewer said.

"We've got a lot of pressure, but everyone has been working very hard to get it complied with," Brewer said.

The Department of Justice will have 60 days to respond.

The Justice Department also had to sign off on the voting provision of Proposition 200 before it could become law Jan. 24. Arizona is required to clear election laws and regulations because of the state's history of violations of minority voting rights.

Democratic legislators had urged the Justice Department to reject the identification requirements, arguing that the changes would erect barriers that would hinder minorities' participation in elections and shut down grass-roots voter registration drives.

Supporters argued the initiative was needed to safeguard the election system.

Critics pressure Mexican federal prosecutor on border killings

BY OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ

Associated Press Writer

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico — The prosecutor assigned by Mexico's attorney general to investigate the slayings of hundreds of women in this border city has failed to bring the true culprits to justice despite recent convictions, victims' relatives say.

The criticism came as Maria Lopez Urbina prepared to release a progress report Monday, the third since her appointment to the politically sensitive task a year ago.

"In the case of my daughter there aren't any suspects, no one has been detained," said Rosaura Montanez, whose 19-year-old daughter was kidnapped after leaving a friend's home and killed in 1995. Not only that: Lopez Urbina has not even opened a case on her death.

Authorities say 340 women have been killed over the past 12 years in Juarez, a city of about 1.3 million people across the border from El Paso, Texas. About 100 of those slayings appear to fit a pattern where a young, slender woman was sexually assaulted, strangled, and dumped in the desert outside Juarez.

Relatives pressed the federal government to step in, saying the state officials who initially handled the crimes were inept and corrupt. They have also called for assistance from foreign experts.

Lopez Urbina came to the job saying her main objective was to study all 340 cases, find the gaps in the investigations and make recommendations to state authorities. She quickly established a DNA databank and a victims' registry but so far her office has looked into just 26 of the cases.

Meanwhile, victims' families said waiting for a breakthrough from investigators is taking a toll.



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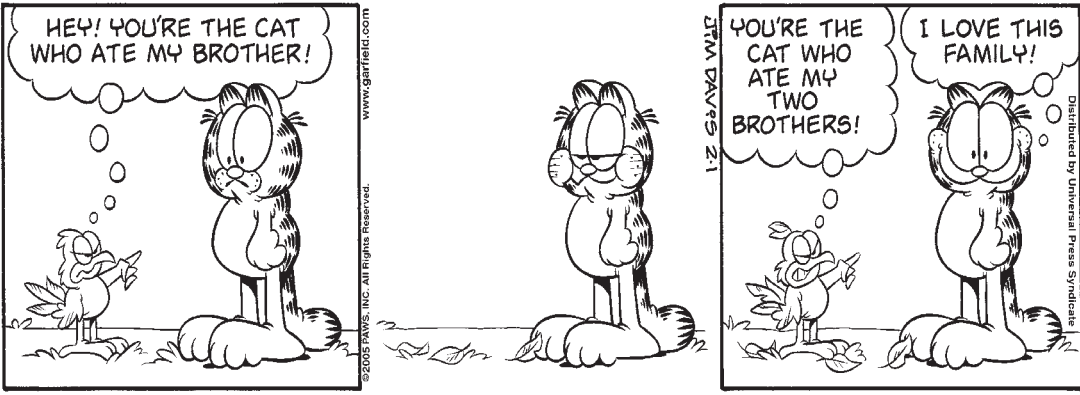
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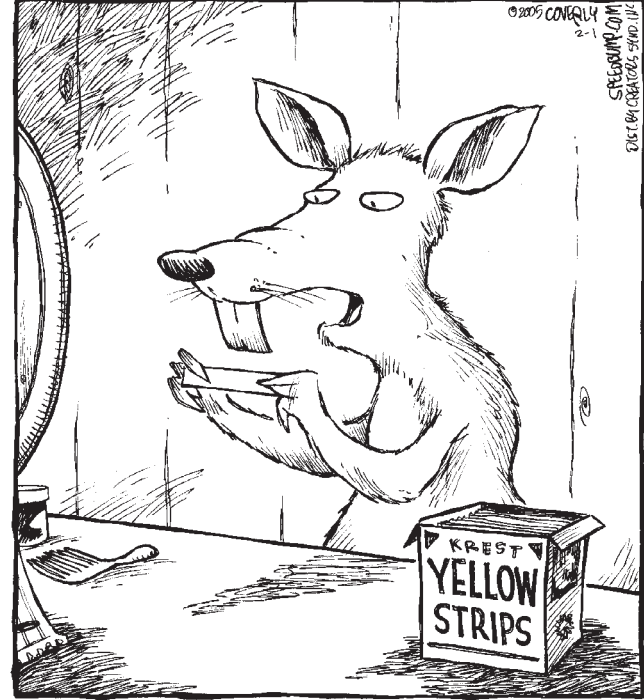
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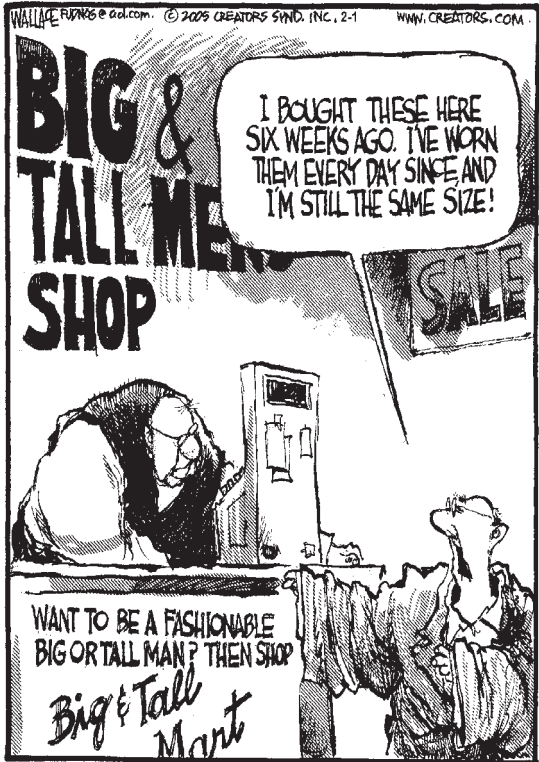


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- ACROSS**
- 1 Pueblo homes
 - 7 Collections
 - 11 Canal setting
 - 12 Heaps
 - 13 Wizard's home
 - 15 Soft drink buy
 - 16 Banana part
 - 18 Phobia
 - 21 Like paraffin
 - 22 Station worker
 - 24 "Lord of the Rings" creature
 - 25 Compact, for example
 - 26 Org. associated with 2-Down
 - 27 Maintain
 - 29 Worked the garden
 - 30 Blinds piece
 - 31 Nixon's successor
 - 32 Number part
 - 34 Rome nickname
 - 40 Radius, for one
 - 41 Bad guy
 - 42 Hotel furniture
 - 43 Straying
- DOWN**
- 1 Gorilla, for one
 - 2 River sight
 - 3 Count starter
 - 4 Brewer's grain
 - 5 Modern message
 - 6 Shaker fill
 - 7 Holy
 - 8 Quarter-back Manning
 - 9 Youngster
 - 10 Pig holder
 - 14 Put off
 - 16 Does kitchen work
 - 17 Do well
 - 19 Cast member

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Yesterday's answer

- 20 Spoke wildly
- 21 Stir-fry vessel
- 22 Missy Elliott's music
- 23 Jotting need
- 25 Interrupt
- 28 San Diego team
- 29 Chop-shop buy
- 31 Form 1040 user
- 33 Hunter's quarry
- 34 Wane
- 35 Foot feature
- 36 Finish
- 37 One — million
- 38 Light metal
- 39 By this time

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Brokaw signs two-book deal with Random House

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Tom Brokaw has signed a two-book deal with Random House, the publisher announced Monday, although what the former NBC anchor will actually write and when the books will be published remain unknown.

Random House publicist Tom Perry said Brokaw, author of best sellers such as “The Greatest Generation” and “The Greatest Generation Speaks,” was considering “various projects,” but wouldn’t provide details. Financial terms weren’t disclosed and no publication dates have been set.

In any case, both Brokaw and his editor at Random House, Kate Medina, issued celebratory statements Monday.

“The response to ‘The Greatest Generation’ and the books that followed has been one of the most satisfying experiences of my life,” Brokaw said.

“Tom Brokaw’s previous books struck a chord that reverberated across the nation,” Medina added. “I know that as Tom moves on to his next projects he will continue to define and expand upon our understanding of the American experience.”

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia — The singer once known as Cat Stevens visited Indonesia’s tsunami-devastated Aceh province, handing out money to orphaned children and praying at a mosque.

The 56-year-old peace activist now known as Yusuf Islam plans to open a branch of his charity, Small Kindness, in Aceh to aid children who lost their parents.

He traveled on a United Nations helicopter to the

west Sumatran village of Lamno and then visited tent camps and a Muslim university Saturday in the provincial capital Banda Aceh.

In Lamno and at the camps, he handed money to children, giving them about \$22 each.

“What do you need most right now?” he asked through a translator.

“Schools,” they said.

Later he spoke at the Islamic University of Ar-Raniry and prayed at Banda Aceh’s central mosque.

Islam has written “Indian Ocean,” which will be released this month for Small Kindness’ tsunami aid efforts. He said the song tells the story of a British family, vacationing in Asia when the tsunami hits, who help a young girl orphaned by the disaster.

The song includes the use of instruments, which the singer — whose folksy hits included “Peace Train” and “Wild World” — has avoided since embracing Islam in 1977.

“To come as close to perfection for a song, you have to use whatever instruments are necessary to fulfill the needs of that song,” he told The Associated Press. “My position on that issue has changed, especially when it’s for a very good cause.”

OREM, Utah — A former Brigham Young University film student has maxed out his credit cards to make a \$10,000 documentary about “Fahrenheit 9/11” director Michael Moore’s controversial visit to Utah Valley State College.

“This Divided State” premieres Thursday at UVSC’s Ragan Theater. Steven Greenstreet, who cut the 102-minute production from 66 hours of interview and event

footage, said he’s trying to find a distributor.

He’s entering the documentary in a dozen film festivals and plans are in the works with the Center for American Progress to fund a national college tour, the 25-year-old filmmaker said.

Greenstreet had been working on a documentary about political divisions when he heard in September that Moore was planning to come to UVSC.

“I immediately just grabbed my camera and ran to the school and filmed the whole day,” he said. “The halls were packed with students ... it was just a huge crush of political debate and an overwhelming sense of activity and electricity.”

Moore arrived Oct. 20, applauding student leaders who took heat for inviting him and paying the \$40,000 speaker fee with student money. Nine days earlier the college had invited Sean Hannity, a conservative Fox News commentator, to balance Moore’s criticism of President Bush and the war in Iraq.

As with the visit, Greenstreet’s film is stirring some emotions.

Kay Anderson, a real estate broker who offered student leaders \$25,000 to rescind Moore’s invitation, has written a letter to Greenstreet’s lawyer asking that his interviews not appear in the film.

“We were cautious about who we granted interviews to,” Anderson said. “We didn’t want to end up in a Michael Moore-type documentary.”

Said Greenstreet: “Without the personal interview that I did with him, he doesn’t get a chance to explain his motivation. I think my main purpose for doing the interview was to humanize him and show him as just another member of the community who wants to do what’s right.”



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