

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

4 12 20 32 36
Meganumber: 10
Jackpot: \$15 Million

FANTASY 5

4 8 20 30 39

DAILY 3

Daytime: 2 0 3
Evening: 3 7 0

DAILY DERBY

1st: 05 California Classic
2nd: 12 Lucky Charms
3rd: 02 Lucky Star

RACE TIME: 1:48.71

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site: <http://www.calottery.com>



NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

Ms. Sierra Stiles, age 8, was credited with the first bear kill in Maryland in the limited October hunting season, downing a 211-pounder from 50 yards away with her .243-caliber rifle. (She had won one of the lottery-awarded permits and then aced the safety test.) And according to a Seattle Post-Intelligencer profile in January, Aidan Gold, age 8, of Bothell, Wash., recently climbed a 20,300-foot peak on Mount Everest in the Himalayas with his dad, adding to his previous climbs in the Cascades and the Alps. Aidan said the last part of the Everest climb (a 45-degree stretch of rock and ice) was "the (hardest) 3,000 feet I've ever done."

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 45th day of 2006.
There are 320 days left in the year.
This is Valentine's Day

On Feb. 14, 1929, the "St. Valentine's Day Massacre" took place in a Chicago garage as seven rivals of Al Capone's gang were gunned down.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Age is strictly a case of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter."

JACK BENNY (1894-1974)

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JOHN BALDWIN



RENE INOUE

Olympian effort: SM skaters make history in Torino

By staff and wire reports

TORINO, Italy — A pair of Santa Monicans etched their way into the history books over the weekend, flashing smiles that resonated across the Atlantic to the far reaches of the globe.

Rena Inoue's enthusiasm lit up the arena and John Baldwin's fist cut through the air soon after the couple had landed the first throw triple axel in figure skating. The move required Inoue to spin a history making 3 1/2 times after Baldwin launched her into the air.

After the Santa Monicans had already become the first pairs team to land the throw triple Axel at the 2006 U.S. Nationals, they successfully pulled off the feat during the Pairs Ice Skating short program on Saturday at the Olympic Games.

While they finished seventh overall with a combined score of 175.04 for the short program and free skate program on Monday, the Inoue-Baldwin team considered their top-10 finish a success.

The pre-Olympic favorites — Tatyana Totmionina and Maxim Marinin of Russia — captured the gold medal, with a pair of Chinese teams claiming the silver and bronze.

Inoue, who recently revealed having battled lung cancer in 1998 when she was 22, had represented Japan in both singles and pairs in two other Olympics.

She emphasizes the merits of pairs remaining pairs.

A couple on and off the ice, Japan native Inoue and Californian John Baldwin have been skating together since 1999. The couple secured a trip to the Torino Games by winning the Nationals on the strength of a stellar free skate that elevated them from fourth place after the short program. The pair

See PAIRS, page 6



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Candles, flowers and mementos adorn a makeshift shrine in honor of Jeffery Smith, a carjacking suspect shot dead by Santa Monica police last week in Venice.

Shrine follows fatal shooting

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

VENICE — A makeshift shrine has been erected at the intersection where a carjacking suspect was fatally shot by Santa Monica police officers last week.

Jeffery Smith, 23, died from a gunshot wound to the head on Feb. 9 after several SMPD officers shot at him through a car he had stolen at gunpoint from an unidentified man in Santa Monica just 30 minutes earlier. Police contend Smith opened fire on SMPD officers with a shotgun in attempts to elude them.

The shrine was put up where Smith crashed a stolen car he was driving and was shot by police — on Santa Clara Avenue between Abbot Kinney Boulevard and Electric Avenue. Flowers, candles, a champagne glass and messages like "rest in peace" and "we'll miss you"

form a V-shaped memorial.

Smith was pronounced dead at the scene, which ended in the 400 block of Santa Clara Avenue in Venice after he led police on a short pursuit in the stolen Dodge Shadow. Smith eventually smashed the car into the side of a building.

The incident began at 4:39 a.m. at the corner of 10th Street and Michigan Avenue, where Smith originally stole the vehicle, police say. The victim, who was not injured, was driving behind a white van when it slowed and eventually stopped, according to SMPD Lt. Frank Fabrega. The victim told police he thought the driver of the van was having mechanical problems, so he stopped to help. That's when Smith allegedly pointed a shotgun at the victim and stole his car.

SMPD officers began search-

See FATAL SHOOTING, page 7

City bucking up to keep temps

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

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — The City Council tonight is expected to spend a little more than \$2.7 million on items ranging from the hiring of temporary employees to pay increases

for city attorneys to upgrades to the Civic Auditorium.

Contracting with temp agencies will be the most expensive item tonight, with an annual cost not expected to exceed \$1 million. The City Council is expected to enter into an agreement with 12 temp

agencies for one year, with the option to extend the contracts for another year. All agencies meet City Hall's requirements, including compliance with the Living Wage ordinance,

See TEMPS, page 7



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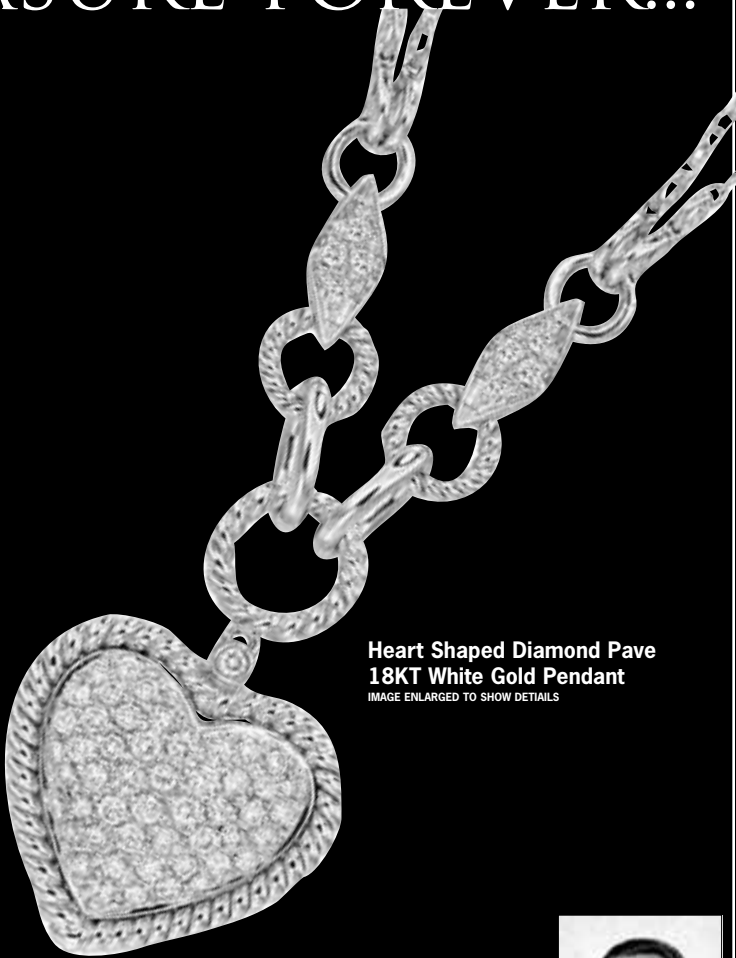
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HOROSCOPES

Live it up, Sagittarius

Santa Monica Daily Press



JACQUELINE BIGAR’S STARS The stars show the kind of day you’ll Have:

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



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ You could easily feel as if you are in the trenches. News or gossip might force you to put your thinking cap on. You will be able to sort through what is realistic and worthwhile to pursue. Others could give you false advice. Tonight: Take care of yourself.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ A conflict might occur between what you think you want to do and the end results. Your light and frivolous side doesn’t always emerge, but sure enough, today you — yes, you — might get flaky. A partner reacts. Tonight: Think twice before you cause yourself any more trouble.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Continue maintaining a low profile, for your own sake. Others could be inordinately touchy and difficult. You might not want to deal with them, though you’ll have little choice. Others could get a bit uppity. You can handle it. Tonight: Play ostrich.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Speak your mind loud and clear. Someone you need to deal with carefully could be in an absolute twit. Hold on tight and don’t lose your temper, as you might need to revamp your plans. Important information heads in your direction. Return calls. Tonight: Swap war stories with pals.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ You might not be sure how you want to handle a personal matter. Risk-taking is a no-no right now. Don’t be surprised at what occurs if you lie back and let others play out their agendas. Let them see the results. Tonight: Pay bills.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Review a personal matter, knowing that you might need to make a mental or physical adjustment. This change is as hard as you want to make it. You have every ability to cruise through any boomerangs if you detach. Tonight: Your first choice.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ You might easily stick your foot in your mouth, causing a lot of problems. You will want to muzzle yourself, especially after a potential incident. Work on detaching, and you’ll become far more comfortable in your skin. Tonight: Take your time.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Aim for precisely what you want, though don’t be surprised if it costs you a bit more than you think. Use the daylight hours, when you naturally have more punch. Use the later day for reflection and thought. Tonight: Hide away.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Let problems bypass you as if they were waves and you were the skipper of a boat. You will love what eventually comes down. Others will simply want to jump in and join you. Tonight: Live it up.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Though you might be upset or swallowing anger, refuse to jump to a conclusion. Seek out facts before you make a mistake or a judgment. You might change your perspective. Tonight: In the limelight.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ As you determine your limits, you would be wise to test them on a close friend or associate. You truly might not want to hear what he or she says, but you absolutely must. How you view a friend changes. Tonight: Relax your mind — music or maybe a movie.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Others could drive you stark raving mad if you let them. Don’t. Remember who you are and where you are coming from — OK? Review a situation openly. Something or someone could easily change his tune if you don’t corner him. Tonight: Go along with a suggestion.



Santa Monica Daily Press

Published Monday through Saturday

Phone: (310) 458-PRESS (7737) • Fax: (310) 576-9913

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LOCAL



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

SMPD Chief James T. Butts Jr. consoles Jeanette Garcia, the mother Major and Santa Monica Police officer Ricardo Antonio Crocker, who received a posthumous Spirit of Volunteerism Award. Garcia accepted the award on Crocker's behalf during the 10th Annual American Red Cross of Santa Monica 2006 Spirit Awards ceremony that was held at the Fairmont Miramar Hotel on Saturday. Approximately 20 members of Crocker's USMC unit, based at Camp Pendleton, served as an honor guard. Crocker was killed last May while serving in Iraq in the Marine reserves.

Spirit alive at SM Red Cross

By Daily Press staff

There was plenty of spirit on Saturday when the Santa Monica Red Cross hosted more than 325 people to honor volunteers in the community.

The 10th Annual Spirit Awards was held at Fairmont-Miramar Hotel in Santa Monica. This year's Spirit Awards also marked the 125th anniversary of the American Red Cross and kicked off a three-year, \$1 million Community Disaster Response Campaign for the Santa Monica chapter.

Hundreds of items ranging from apparel to zoo tickets were up for bid during a silent auction. Collectibles, artwork, meals, tickets to Southern California attractions, merchandise, travel and vacations, sports and entertainment memorabilia and a guitar donated by Flea from the Red Hot Chilly Peppers were auctioned off to the highest bidders.

Pre-dinner music was provided by jazz singer and pianist, Walter Barrilueaux. He was displaced from his home by the disaster in New Orleans, came to the Santa Monica Red Cross for services and is now living and performing in the Santa Monica area.

The dinner and the show began when

comedian Orson Bean and wife, actress Alley Mills took the stage as master and mistress of ceremonies.

Guests previewed an exclusive film clip from a documentary shot in Santa Monica and throughout the South about local volunteers who worked on the Hurricanes Katrina and Rita disaster relief efforts. Hosting the presentation were film makers P.J. Palmer, John Logsdon, Matt Ogens and Charles Haid.

Music for after-dinner dancing was provided by the Tom Nolan Band.

The Red Cross of Santa Monica's 2006 Spirit Awards themselves honor an extraordinary commitment to service on behalf of the American Red Cross.

In addition to the chapter's own volunteers, honorees included Kitty Dukakis who was recognized for her international humanitarian work and efforts with youth and youth empowerment. She received the Spirit of Service Award.

A posthumous Spirit of Volunteerism Award went to Santa Monica Red Cross volunteer, Santa Monica Police officer and USMC Reservist, Major Ricardo Antonio "Rick" Crocker who was killed in action in Al-Anbar province, Iraq last May.

See RED CROSS, page 8

SNOW AND SURF REPORTS

CONDITIONS

DATA PROVIDED BY ONTHESNOW.COM

BEAR MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH	LIFT HOURS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
0"	12"-36"	8:30am - 4:00pm	18	10/12

CONDITIONS: Machine Made, Machine Groomed, Hard Packed, Wet

JUNE MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH	LIFT HOURS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
0"	72" - 96"	8:00am - 4:00pm	35	6/6

CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Groomed

MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH	LIFT HOURS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
0"	96"-120"	8:30 am - 4:00 pm	150	25/28

CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Groomed

MOUNTAIN HIGH

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

CONDITIONS: Machine Made, Machine Groomed, Hard Packed, Wet

MT. BALDY

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SNOW SUMMIT

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

CONDITIONS: Machine Made, Machine Groomed, Hard Packed, Wet

SNOW VALLEY

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH	LIFT HOURS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
0"	8"-18"	8:30 am - 4:00 pm	10	5/11

CONDITIONS: Machine Groomed, Spring

CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 59°

DATA PROVIDED BY WETSAND.COM

SWELL FORECAST (3-6 FT)

Today a back-up system riding the coattails of today's swell should keep the action going with at least chest to head high surf. Periods should remain around 14-16 seconds but the angle should steepen a bit to 290-300 degrees.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

Tracking small NW for weekend of 18th...
Tracking southern hemi swell for 24th-25th...

TIDE FORECAST FOR SANTA MONICA

SATURDAY:				
LOW TIDE	1:52AM	2.1FT	3:03PM	-0.8FT
HIGH TIDE	7:55AM	5.8FT	9:31PM	4.0FT

SUNDAY:				
LOW TIDE	2:24AM	1.8FT	3:27PM	-0.7FT
HIGH TIDE	8:27AM	5.8FT	9:51PM	4.0FT

MONDAY:				
LOW TIDE	2:54AM	1.6FT	3:49PM	-0.5FT
HIGH TIDE	8:27AM	5.8FT	9:51PM	4.0FT

TUESDAY:				
LOW TIDE	3:26AM	1.5FT	4:11PM	-0.2FT
HIGH TIDE	9:26AM	5.4FT	10:31PM	4.2FT

WEDNESDAY:				
LOW TIDE	3:59AM	1.4FT	4:30PM	0.1FT
HIGH TIDE	9:56AM	5.0FT	10:52PM	4.3FT

THURSDAY:				
LOW TIDE	4:36AM	1.4FT	4:49PM	0.5FT
HIGH TIDE	10:27AM	4.5FT	11:14PM	4.4FT

FRIDAY:

N/A

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



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The **Q**Line

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Some parents are outraged over what they feel was a weak response by school officials to a rise in tensions after racist graffiti was spotted at Santa Monica High School at multiple locations on campus. School officials say they are working to ease parent concerns and are conducting mediation and counseling sessions with students to discuss the graffiti, its impact and what can be done to foster better relations between different ethnic groups on campus.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, **"How should school officials deal with racial tensions at Santa Monica schools?"**

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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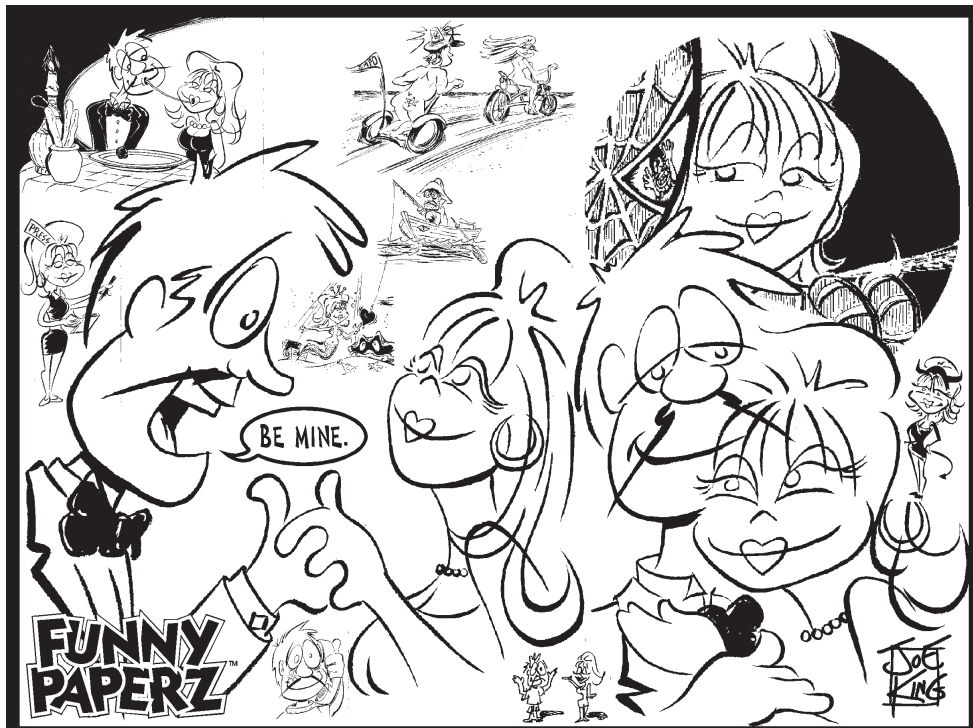
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OPINION



HAPPY VALEN-TOONS DAY!

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The streets of despair need to be turned into hope

Editor:

Why? That is the question that kept swirling in my head on Thursday, Feb. 9, when I had the unique experience of standing alongside some of Los Angeles' leading religious leaders on a walk down "Skid Row" in the heart of downtown. The 90-minute tour and subsequent discussion, organized by Councilwoman Jan Perry (CD-9) and the Rev. Sylvester Laudermill of Ward A.M.E. Church, among others, opened my eyes to the way Los Angeles is failing its citizens. Why isn't more being done?

For me, the experience was:

- Nauseating. The stench of desolation, the putrid smell of inhumane and unsanitary conditions, the plight of these persons left for dead, is more potent than the slightest drop of the Syrup of Ipecac. To see God's people suffering — too afraid to report crime, resigned to relieve themselves along the sidewalks and streets, themselves the victims and purveyors of crime and violence — left a sinking feeling in my stomach.

- Heart-wrenching. For every cocaine addict or drug dealer, there was a businessman who fell on hard times or a proud woman who fell prey to an addiction to escape her circumstances. For every expectant mother refusing prenatal care, there was a woman struggling to provide for her family. For every mentally disturbed individual, there was a genius in need of genuine love and guidance. And for every child, barefoot and bereft of their being, there was the potential curer of cancer. There walked, crouched, laid and prayed some woman's son, some father's daughter and some brother's sister, niece or nephew. They, too, are American citizens. They, too, are guaranteed the unalienable rights and privileges of the same.

- Incomprehensible. Nearly 230 years after our nation was born, thousands of its citizens lay destitute, depressed and disenfranchised on the streets of one of its most celebrated cities. How the home of so many "stars" can turn their backs on this area as if it were a "black hole" is unconscionable.

- Unacceptable. Soaring high above this swath of the city — its white lights radiating the night sky — is the US Bank Tower, the tallest building west of Chicago. On Thursday, President Bush announced that the federal government, in a well-orchestrated, textbook-perfect operation, foiled an al-Qaeda plot to destroy the structure with an aircraft. Yet, 1,000 feet below the tower's peak and a few blocks away from its base, no government agency has been unable to address the breadth of the needs of its neediest citizens.

Following the walk, as I listened to each speaker address the assembly, I could not help be reminded that there is a "Balm in Gilead." As preachers, teachers and leaders in our respective churches, we are they who must spread the news that Jesus is the answer. In my mind's eye, I envision the biblical man along the Jericho Road on Los Angeles' San Julian Street. On San Pedro Street was the woman with the issue of blood or the woman at the well. Here in Los Angeles — away from the glitz and glitter of Beverly Hills and the wealth of the surrounding communities — is where Jesus' liberating Gospel is needed most.

It is high time that the church stop turning a deaf ear to its parishioners of the streets, and band together to address this problem. Let us hold our elected officials accountable for the use of our tax dollars. Let us be responsible to the communities we serve. For Jesus said, "When I was hungry, did you feed me? When I was naked, did you clothe me? When I was in prison, did you visit me?"

Together, we can, as someone asserted, transform "Skid Row" into the "Hope District."

Rev. Kevin T. Taylor
Los Angeles

Government should remember little people



WHAT'S THE POINT?

BY DAVID PISSARRA

A budget surplus means that a new terror is soon to arrive for many small companies in the Southland, Santa Monica in particular. The coming shocker is arriving with their latest statements from their commercial landlords.

Most small businesses do not own the building in which they are housed. Traditionally, a small company is leasing space from the actual owner. That's because most companies do not start out with the capital to buy a building, and what little capital they do have needs to be focused on the business itself.

Getting a company up and running is a cash intensive process, one that requires an iron will, and a strong resolve to survive. For those lucky few who make it past a year, they are about to find that a clause in their lease is likely going to dip into their company profits quite substantially in the near future.

Commercial leases traditionally are set up so that the tenant pays all the expenses of operating the building, which is called a triple net lease. It means that the landlord can either maintain the property and pass the charges on to the tenants, or that the tenants will maintain the property to the satisfaction of the landlord.

In large buildings, such as the Colorado Center, the owner hires a property management team who make sure that the lights are working, the gardening is taken care of, the parking structure is cleaned, and then they pass these charges on to the tenants. Each tenant is responsible for their common area maintenance charges, known as "CAM" charges in the trade. Those charges are normally passed on to the tenants by way of a calculation of the percentage of the building they occupy. For example, if you rent a two-person office of 750 square feet in a 7,500-square-foot building, you would be billed for 10 percent of the CAM charges annually.

When deciding to rent a space, a tenant needs to be aware of what the historical charges are so that they can budget for them in their business plan. By looking at what the charges were last year, a prospective tenant can estimate what they will be next year.

Once established, the charges are generally not going to change all that much from year to year. The costs of keeping a parking lot clean, and changing lightbulbs are fairly stable.

But there is a hidden cost that tenants frequently forget about — until they are told they must pay a lot of money. And that is property tax. These hidden demons that landlords love to pass on but rarely discuss when wooing a new tenant can be crippling to a tenant.

For the pie-eyed new business owner, who has dreams of their company taking off like the next Apple, and being able to retire to Aruba with a private yacht full of youthful, handsome and striking deckhands, the crushing reality of property taxes is the least of their concerns.

That is until the property manager comes knocking and wants to add \$30,000

to their CAM charges.

This nightmare scenario is playing itself out across the land as many property managers are now updating their calculations and reviewing leases.

A business that has been operating for a while will become complacent, and this is not going to shock them, unless they are in the unfortunate group of business owners whose landlords have recently changed.

Proposition 13, the ever-popular state constitutional amendment that pegged property taxes to the last sale price has kept property taxes at a manageable level for homeowners for almost three decades now. This piece of legislation has created an environment of growth and stability in the California economy. But it has a catch. Upon the sale of the property, a new tax amount is established.

In residential property this is generally not a problem, because the new buyers are aware of it and budget for it. But for business owners, that re-appraisal of the tax amount can be an unexpected, unforeseen and crippling shock to the system.

A business owner, who is renting their space, may have no change in their business model, no increase in their revenues and net income, may have quite a shock coming. If the landlord, who has owned the building for the past 10 years, and kept the property taxes low as a consequence of holding the property, suddenly sells the building, taking their increased appreciation and moving to Aruba for the yachting, the tenant will have a huge increase in their property taxes and nothing in their control can be done about it, to prevent the effective killing of their profit margin.

Depending on the business, and how much space is rented, this can be a minor annoyance, or a major killer. If as a lawyer, I was renting 400 square feet in a 20-story building that had 200,000 square feet of offices, my percentage is only 0.002 percent, so if the property taxes go from \$1 million a year to \$10 million my actual cost increases from \$2,000 to \$20,000. That may seem like an absurd assumption, but there are building in this city that have been held for decades by the same person or company, and have recently been sold, or are in the process of being sold.

On the other hand, if I occupy the entire building, and the owner sells the company after holding it for 10 years I can expect to have a significant tax bill. One that perhaps could put me out of business.

Looking at how much properties have appreciated in the past 10 years, there is no doubt that many companies are going to be facing some huge tax bills in the near future as major commercial properties change hands. In the short run, it leads to increases in tax revenue for the state and the local governments. In the long run, companies going out of business costs us much more in terms of jobs and a robust economy.

It is part of the cycle of life, and we need to be aware of it as business owners, as clients, and we should ask that our City Council keep it in mind when spending today's surplus, because it may be tomorrow's shortfall.

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

COMMENTARY



Star quality dependency



ANY DAY IN LA

BY HEIDI MANTEUFFEL

With the superfluous amount of with-the-stars celebrity shows, I don't feel like I can do anything now without one.

I started through life just fine, but as this '00s decade progressed, I was told you need a celebrity to dance, skate and sing with. Now I'm at the mercy of the next production company to just be able to brush my teeth.

I guess I'll just watch some reality TV in the meantime.

At first, I thought reality shows were kinda lame. I mean, why bother watching semi-attractive strangers cat-fighting in a house or eating reindeer private parts as they're suspended 30 feet in the air? I can do that on my own.

But when a love match between large-and-somewhat-in-charge Brigitte Nielsen and the noticeably smaller Flavor Flav sparked on "The Surreal Life," it suddenly became interesting to me.

Yes, I use to be a semi-normal person with varying degrees of standards.

My therapist can tell you, I name season three of this VH1 series as the starting point of my road of dependency with celebrities. Now I can't look both ways at a crosswalk without needing Dave Coulier to hold my hand.

And he does, quite willingly. Thank you for asking.

"The Surreal Life" 3 led to watching season four, which included "America's Next Top Model" Adriaenne Curry falling in love with Peter Brady. Which, of course, led to their own reality series, "My Fair Brady."

Which, of course, I had to watch.

Because how do B- and C-list stars date, burp and fart for numerous minutes

on camera (no exaggeration here) and eventually become married? These are things I need to know if I want to live a meaningful life.

And the meaning of that life would be seeing just how recycled reality celebrities and famous ones with a once-hit show perform everyday activities.

And thanks to network programming, you can do it with them. There's "Dancing with the Stars," because we all need to be taught the mamba by crazy Mr. Peterman from "Seinfeld."

And to follow that we now have "Skating with Celebrities" because who doesn't want see '80s pop sensation Debbie Gibson do a double axel? The real question remains, "But Can They Sing?"

I think Bai Ling appropriately answered by stripping to her red ruffled, underwear — no, they cannot.

As I've been taught to say, life is so much better with a celebrity by your side.

The only problem is that while I've become accustomed to doing activities with stars, with only singing, skating and dancing, there's currently a limited amount I can choose from.

So many activities remain untouched upon. Like making long distance calls with the stars. Oh wait, I guess Catherine Zeta-Jones can help a sister with that.

I did hear that one network is currently in pre-production for "Color-Me-Mine with the Cast of 'Law & Order.'"

The trash has been piling up in my apartment for six months now. Can someone please make a show about taking out the garbage, soon?

I do hope they make some more shows for me to choose from. I kind of need to buy groceries, and visit my parents.

(There is no show being made about the cast of "Law & Order" painting and glazing bowls, as far as Heidi knows. Heidi can be reached at anydayinla@gmail.com.)

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Cameras bound for Pier and Promenade

CAMERAS, from page 1

access by boats. Random vehicle checkpoints were established, along with traffic flow restrictions.

If approved by City Council, the cameras — 123 in all — would be installed on, under and around the pier, along Third Street and in alleys east and west of the Promenade.

The specific locations of the cameras will not be released because of security concerns, said SMPD Lt. Frank Fabrega.

There remains concern that the cameras, while a possible deterrent against crime or terrorists, could infringe on people's right to privacy and would turn Santa Monica into a police state, where everyone's actions are recorded by "Big Brother."

In deciding to move forward with the cameras, City Council members said they have had to weigh the public's concerns about privacy against the need to protect their well-being.

"In a pre 9/11 world we wouldn't have been thinking of things like this," Mayor Bob Holbrook said. "But we are recognized as an international destination and we are a very favored destination for a lot of people in this country ... so we are responsible to do everything we can to

make it safe while they're here.

"We want to make it clear to those evil people who want to hurt the innocent that we are prepared and hopefully we can prevent them from doing that."

Signs notifying people that they are being videotaped will be posted at select areas where the cameras would be located.

"It's no different than when you walk into a bank or many retail establishments that have security cameras," said City Councilwoman Pam O'Connor. "It's like walking by tourists who snap their pictures and you just happen to be in the background and end up in someone's scrapbook."

But what about the federal government's scrapbook?

Councilman Kevin McKeown is concerned that the footage collected by the SMPD could be used by other agencies that aren't as trustworthy.

"My take is that in ensuring public safety, we must include protection from invasion of privacy," he said. "A good example of that is with a company based in Santa Monica — Yahoo! The federal government came in and got all their search engine listings. I trust our police department, but I'm not so sure about other governmental agencies."

McKeown said if he is not happy with

provisions set out in the surveillance contract regarding footage being made available to other agencies, he would be inclined to vote against the plan.

According to a city staff report on the issue, footage will be stored for 90 days before being deleted. Those with access will be limited to employees approved by SMPD Chief James T. Butts Jr. They will receive training on how to use the system and will need some type of code or key card to access the system.

Images stored can only be viewed with permission from Butts or the watch commander, and only in response to public safety emergencies, and internal or criminal investigations. Video that is not used as evidence shall not be reproduced, distributed or provided to any other people without the approval of Butts or pursuant to a court order.

The system will only be used for purposes directly related to public safety and investigations. Cameras will not be used to track individuals arbitrarily or based on race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability or other classifications protected by law, according to a city staff report, which was presented to the City Council Jan. 13.

None of the cameras will be able to zoom, pan or tilt without written autho-

rization from Butts. If granted, the movement would only be allowed for a small period of time and for a particular investigation. Camera operators will be forbidden from looking at non-public areas and areas in which there is a reasonable expectation of privacy. Camera operators will be monitored and disciplined for misuse.

Federal Network Services, Inc. will be in charge of installing the cameras and maintenance. They were chosen out of a group of eight companies. Two vendors were selected from that group and allowed to install a limited number of cameras in select locations at the pier and Promenade. Following the trial period, Federal was selected as the best vendor.

To purchase and install the cameras, the City Council will need to spend \$1.2 million. Maintenance for the five-year contract with Federal will cost an estimated \$110,000.

"This is a good thing," said Kathleen Rawson, executive director of Bayside District Corp., a merchants association downtown. "The cameras can be used as much as a deterrent as a tool in solving crimes and the business owners here, while concerned about first amendment rights, are happy to have them. I guess we just live in a time when we don't have that luxury (of not having cameras) as much as we did in the past."

NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS CITY OF SANTA MONICA SUSTAINABLE CITY TASK FORCE

Applications are invited to fill two vacancies on the Sustainable City Task Force (SCTF). All persons who reside or work in Santa Monica are invited to apply regardless of race, sex, age, disability, religion, marital status, national origin, sexual preference, or ancestry. Appointment will be made at a City Council meeting in April or May 2006.

Application forms and information are available on the internet at www.smepd.org. Applications are also available at the Environmental Programs Division, 200 Santa Monica Pier, Suite J, Santa Monica, CA 90401. You may request an application by mail, email or fax by calling (310) 458-2213. All documents are available in alternate format by calling (310) 458-2213.

To be eligible, applications must be received at the Environmental Programs Division office by 5:00pm Monday March 6, 2006.



Skaters make some history en route to placing seventh

PAIRS, from page 1

also won the 2004 Nationals, though Baldwin describes that win as "bittersweet" because they did not skate cleanly. Inoue and Baldwin slipped to second at the 2005 Nationals, but were the top American pair at the 2005 World Championships in Moscow, where they placed 11th.

Last season, Inoue and Baldwin became the first American pair in two years to qualify for the exclusive, six-

entry Grand Prix Final. They finished a distant sixth, however, at that event.

Unlike most throw jumps, the elusive throw triple axel requires the woman to take off going forward, then perform the revolutions before landing on a backward outside edge on one foot. Inoue and Baldwin became the first pair to successfully perform the throw triple axel in competition when they landed it midway through their free skate at the 2006 Nationals.

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City taking stock in its cultural assets

TEMPS, from page 1

City Hall uses temp agencies to meet specific workload needs, fill temporary vacancies resulting from leaves of absence or to fill vacancies until permanent employees are hired.

Of the 21 agencies that applied for the contracts, seven were interviewed and selected to provide clerical and administrative help, and five agencies were selected to help with risk management, engineering and other technical needs.

In 2003, the city spent \$1,187,420 on temp agencies, and \$1,062,760 in 2004, according to a report by the director of Human Resources.

ENTERING INTO A DIGITAL AGE

To make researching planning documents easier for members of the Planning Department, as well as prospective developers and property owners, the City Council is expected to approve a contract to scan and index planning documents so they can be accessed by computer.

PC Imaging is asking for \$750,000 to complete the task.

In one year, the Planning and Community Development Department receives approximately 1,200 public records requests. In addition, realtors, potential home buyers, attorneys, city staff and others research permit histories for properties at the Permit Center public counter daily.

It was recommended to the City Council that because of the strong demand for the records, they should be made more easily available by placing them on City Hall's Web site. The conversion will help save paper and make the storing and retrieving of the documents faster, easier and more secure, according to a staff report.

ATTORNEY FEES

After reaching a tentative contract agreement with the Public Attorneys Union, the City Council is expected to give final approval to a cost of living increase for city attorneys to the tune of \$497,000, or 4 percent.

The contract is for five years, with cost of living increases for each year based on the Consumer Price Index for urban wage earners and clerical workers in Southern California. The contract comes with a 2 percent minimum and 4 percent maximum increase and provides for an 8.98 percent equity adjustment for deputy attorneys, to bring the salary for those employees in line with those paid by other cities.

Promotions will be at the discretion of

the city attorney and will be based on job performance, as will raises.

KEEPING COOL

After learning the Civic Auditorium doesn't have enough juice to power the new air conditioning system being installed, the City Council is expected to approve an additional \$172,000 for an electrical panel with 1,200 amps.

On Jan. 11, 2005, the City Council awarded the design and construction contract for the air conditioning to H.E.C. Engineers and Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$871,000.

During the initial phase of construction, workers opened an electrical panel thought to have 1,000 amps. They discovered only 600 amps of service. The air condition system requires at least 1,000 amps, prompting the need to replace the panel.

With the modification, the total cost of the project will be \$1,043,000. It should be completed within five weeks during the months of June and July, according to a staff report. During that time, the auditorium will not take reservations for events.

H.E.C. has already completed the East Wing Replacement Project at the auditorium. That project included electrical and lighting replacement.

PAINTING A PICTURE OF PRIORITIES

Wanting to establish an action plan for the expansion of the arts here, the City Council is expected to hire Cultural + Planning Group to produce a community cultural plan.

The contract will be for \$90,000. Cultural will be required to take stock of cultural assets, needs, opportunities and resources throughout the city. They also will be asked to engage a wide cross section of the community to establish a collective vision for the future of the arts.

Santa Monica last undertook a similar process in 1997, and since then, many of the recommendations have been implemented. But according to a report from city staff, the community has grown and evolved tremendously and the demand for local cultural planning has increased. And in recent surveys, community members have identified expanded cultural opportunities as a priority.

Five companies competed for the contract. They were reviewed by staff from City Hall's Community and Cultural Services, Resource Management, and Planning and Community Development departments. Three finalists were interviewed in December of last year and Cultural + Planning Group was chosen.

Cultural has developed plans for Pasadena, San Antonio and San Diego.

SPEND MONEY TO MAKE MONEY

To replace 365 trees that have been removed due to death, over-growth or disease, the City Council is getting some help from the state in the form of a grant worth \$126,866.

The money is part of the "Green Trees for the Golden State," which is run by the California Department of Forestry and funded through a 2000 bond act to increase clean air and protect the coast.

The money doesn't come without some commitment from taxpayers here. The City Council must spend \$68,984 in matching funds, most of which will go towards tree planting, administration and overhead. More than \$15,000 will be spent on educating the public and on signage.

CREATING A VILLAGE

To continue with the development of a 325-unit, mixed use complex dubbed "The Village," the City Council is expected to approve an additional \$20,700.

The money will fund a contract extension for Keyser Marston Associates, Inc., a consulting firm that will help negotiate a contract with the principal developer, The Related Companies. Keyser Marston was involved in developing a list of qualifications competing developers had to follow when proposing designs for The Village.

Qualifications are that the 325 apartments should be a mix of condominiums and rental units; 160 of the rental units should be very low and low income; some units should be live-work spaces for artists; the overall design should have a "pedestrian, human scale;" building heights be as low as possible; and the project should include as much open space as possible.

The Village will be the largest entity in the proposed Civic Center specific plan. It will include 11 acres, three of which will be for housing. The land was purchased from RAND Corp. when it built its new facility near City Hall.

PLANNING AHEAD

In anticipation of a future subway or light rail line coming to Santa Monica, the City Council is thinking of amending a zoning ordinance to create a new section that would preserve that Exposition Boulevard right-of-way for long term public transportation uses, including light rail or bike paths.

The amendment also would expedite the approval for temporary uses such as parking and film production.

To move forward with the change, the City Council is expected tonight to authorize a public hearing, when residents will have a chance to offer their thoughts.

Vehicle impounding, junk yards and storage facilities would continue to be prohibited under the amendment.

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Carjacking suspect died in shootout with police

FATAL SHOOTING, from page 1

ing surrounding areas and 15 minutes later found Smith driving the stolen vehicle in Venice. While other SMPD officers were responding to the scene, two officers in one patrol car approached Smith, who stopped and exited the vehicle armed with a shotgun. He fired at the officers and got back in the car. After he crashed the car, Smith again exited the car armed, and officers opened fire on the suspect, Fabrega said. Smith then got

back into the vehicle,

After a brief delay and police ordering him to surrender, Smith pointed the shotgun in the direction of officers, who then opened fire on him again. The gun was dropped and no movement was seen from Smith inside the car, Fabrega said.

The van Smith was driving before he stole the Dodge Shadow was reported stolen on Feb. 5 from a carjacking that occurred in Venice by a suspect described as a black man armed with a shotgun, Fabrega said.

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Minimum wage hike might provide relief in costly Calif.

BY TOM CHORNEAU
Associated Press Writer

YUBA CITY, Calif. — It's been almost two years since Kimberly Ward moved from North Carolina to California with her husband, yet finding a job that pays well enough to keep pace with the state's high cost of living continues to be a struggle.

She's had several jobs that paid \$9 an hour — well above the state's minimum wage of \$6.75 an hour — but each was temporary. The sales jobs she has been seeking at a local mall in this suburb north of Sacramento aren't likely to pay much more than the minimum.

"They should raise the minimum wage; they should raise it a lot," Ward said. "The cost of living here, compared to where I'm from — it's ten times more."

Ward could get at least part of her wish. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, in one of the political moves he announced after voters resoundingly rejected his special election agenda last fall, has proposed a \$1-an-hour increase in the state's minimum wage over two years.

Some Democrats have said it's not enough. Others within the governor's own party are angered that he proposed the increase at all, fearing it will hurt businesses. Whatever the proposal's ultimate fate, the modest increase is likely to provide only a slight improvement to those living on the margins in the nation's costliest state.

Schwarzenegger vetoed legislation last fall that would have boosted the minimum wage \$1 an hour by July 2007 but also provided automatic increases to keep up with inflation. The governor said he opposes a minimum wage deal that provides automatic bumps.

In his State of the State speech in January, however, he said the economy has improved enough that the state's minimum wage needed to be increased over the next two years.

His office is trying to negotiate a compromise with the Legislature's Democratic leaders. Meanwhile, a coalition of social service and labor groups is collecting signatures for an initiative that asks voters to increase the minimum wage \$2 by 2009. They're targeting the November election.

The last boost came in 2002, when California's minimum wage was increased by 50 cents an hour. The state's businesses already are required to pay their employees more than the federal rate of \$5.15 per hour

but less than other West Coast states. Oregon's minimum wage is \$7.25 an hour, while Washington's is \$7.35.

About 60 percent of workers earning within a dollar of the minimum wage in California are between the ages of 25 and

"They should raise the minimum wage; they should raise it a lot. The cost of living here, compared to where I'm from — it's ten times more."

KIMBERLY WARD
California resident

64 and work 35 or more hours a week, according to U.S. Census Bureau data.

Among those is 26-year-old Jessica Sangston, who is on her own for the first time and finding it hard to make ends meet while earning just above minimum wage at a local grocery store.

"My boyfriend and I are living together and sharing expenses, but we are barely making it," said Sangston, who stopped into a Yuba County job center recently to look for a better-paying job. "It's impossible to even think about going back to school because I have to work all the time. How do you get ahead? That's the problem."

As an example of the state's high costs, the median home price in California is about \$460,000, nearly twice the national average of about \$237,000.

Business owners such as Victor Vosburgh, manager of the Oasis Car Wash and Lube in Sacramento, worry about pushing the wage up too far in a short period of time.

"I don't have anyone working for me at minimum wage — people can't live on that," he said.

But if the minimum wage does go up, he said he probably will be forced to give everyone a pay increase. When that happens, it will pressure him to raise prices on customers.

"What will happen is that we will raise our prices by a dollar and then our volume will go down," Vosburgh said. "That's what happened last time."

Lionsgate and Activision honored for philanthropy

RED CROSS, from page 3

Approximately 20 members of Crocker's USMC unit based at Camp Pendleton provided an honor guard for the award which was accepted by Jeanette Garcia, Major Crocker's mother. The Spirit of Volunteerism Award will henceforth be known as the Rick Crocker Spirit of Volunteerism Award in his memory.

SMPD Chief, James T. Butts, Jr. escorted Garcia to the podium and City Councilman Bobby Shriver presented the award. A large contingent of Santa

Monica police officers attended the event and paid tribute to Crocker.

Santa Monica companies, Lionsgate (Lions Gate Entertainment) and Activision, Inc. received Spirit of Philanthropy Awards for their support of the chapter and its hurricane disaster relief efforts.

All proceeds from the 2006 Spirit Awards benefit the American Red Cross of Santa Monica which is a publicly supported, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides health and safety education, youth services, CPR and first aid training, disaster awareness and disaster relief efforts.

STATE



Why you buggin'? For the environment

BY PAUL ELIAS
AP Biotechnology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — The key to kicking what President Bush calls the nation's oil addiction could very well lie in termite guts, canvas-eating jungle bugs and other microbes genetically engineered to spew enzymes that turn waste into fuel.

It may seem hard to believe that microscopic bugs usually viewed as destructive pests can be so productive. But scientists and several companies are working with the creatures to convert wood, corn stalks and other plant waste into sugars that are easily brewed into ethanol — essentially 199-proof moonshine that can be used to power automobiles.

Thanks to biotechnology breakthroughs, supporters of alternative energy sources say that after decades of unfulfilled promise and billions in government corn subsidies, energy companies may be able to produce ethanol easily and inexpensively.

"The process is like making grain alcohol, or brewing beer, but on a much bigger scale," said Nathanael Greene, an analyst with the environmental nonprofit Natural Resources Defense Council. "The technologies are out there to do this, but we need to convince the public this is real and not just a science project."

Using microbes may even solve a growing dilemma over the current ethanol manufacturing process, which relies almost exclusively on corn kernels and yielded only 4 billion gallons of ethanol last year (compared to the 140 billion gallons of gasoline used in the U.S.). There's growing concern throughout the Midwestern corn belt that the 95 U.S. ethanol plants are increasingly poaching corn meant for the dinner table or livestock feed.

The idea mentioned by Bush during his State of the Union speech — called "cellulosic ethanol" — skirts that problem because it makes fuel from farm waste such as straw, corn stalks and other inedible agricultural leftovers. Cellulose is the woody stuff found in branches and stems that makes plants hard.

Breaking cellulose into sugar to spin straw into ethanol has been studied for at least 50 years. But the technological hurdles and costs have been so daunting that most ethanol producers have relied on heavy government subsidies to squeeze fuel from corn.

Researchers are now exploring various ways to exploit microbes, the one-cell creatures that serve as the first link of life's food chain. One company uses the microbe itself to make ethanol. Others are taking the genes that make the waste-to-fuel enzymes and splicing them into common bacteria. What's more, a new breed of "synthetic

biologists" are trying to produce the necessary enzymes by creating entirely new life forms through DNA.

Bush's endorsement of the waste-to-energy technology has renewed interest in actually supplanting fossil fuels as a dominant energy source — a goal long dismissed as pipe dream.

"We have been at this for 25 years and we had hoped to be in commercial production by now," said Jeff Passmore, an executive vice president at ethanol-maker Iogen Inc. "What the president has done is — perhaps — put some wind in the sails."

Ottawa-based Iogen is already producing ethanol by exploiting the destructive nature of the fungus *Trichoderma reesei*, which caused the "jungle rot" of tents and uniforms in the Pacific theater during World War II.

Through a genetic modification known as directed evolution, Iogen has souped up fungus microbes so they spew copious amounts of digestive enzymes to break down straw into sugars. From there, a simple fermentation — which brewers have been doing for centuries — turns sugar into alcohol.

Iogen opened a small, \$40 million factory in 2004 to show it can produce cellulosic ethanol in commercial quantities. In the last two years, it has produced 65,000 gallons of ethanol that is blended with 85 percent gasoline to fuel about three dozen company and Canadian government vehicles. Oil giant Royal Dutch Shell PLC has invested \$40 million for a 30 percent ownership stake in Iogen; Petro-Canada and the Canadian government are also investors.

Now the company is ready to build a \$350 million, commercial-scale factory in Canada or Idaho Falls, Idaho, next year if it can secure financing — long one of the biggest stumbling blocks to bringing the stuff to gas pumps.

While conventional lenders are wary of investing in a new technology, the company is banking on winning a loan from the U.S. Department of Energy. Even under a best-case scenario, Passmore said Iogen won't be producing commercial quantities until 2009.

Other significant hurdles include how to widely distribute the fuel; getting auto manufacturers to make engines that will use it; and persuading gas stations to install ethanol pumps. There's hope that funding shortfalls and the remaining technological problems such as how to ship large amounts of ethanol will be overcome in the next few years.

Despite the challenges, Bush's endorsement and advancements in the field have re-energized alternative energy types.

While no commercial interest has advanced as far as Iogen, other biotech companies are engineering bacteria

to spit out similar sugar-converting enzymes, and academics are pursuing more far-out sources.

At the California Institute of Technology, Jared Leadbetter is mining the guts of termites for possible tools to turn wood chips into ethanol. Leadbetter said there are some 200 microbes that live in termite bellies that help the household pest convert wood to energy. Those microbes or their genetic material can be used to produce ethanol-making enzymes. So scientists at the Energy Department's Joint Genome Institute in Walnut Creek, Calif., are now sequencing the microbe genes in hopes of finding a key to ethanol production.

"We have this idea that microbes are pests," said Leadbetter, who has been studying termite guts for 15 years. "But most microbes are beneficial."

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DEAR DORIE

Sprat didn't know Jack about portions

Dear Dorie,

I'm worried that my 2-year-old is not eating enough. She's more of a nibbler really and seems to eat less than most of her friends. I try to give her a lot of options and repeat the favorites, but it doesn't seem to make a difference. Is there a guideline for this?

— Food Fatigued

Dear Fatigued,

Welcome to toddlerhood — your daughter is right on time for the picky or finicky eating stage. This corresponds with the emotional and physical growth that's happening right now. She is growing differently and her hunger and eating patterns are changing. She will be getting taller and losing a little bit of body fat. This is perfectly normal and there are a few bits of sage wisdom to remember.

Watch your portion sizes: Children eat about one third to one quarter of adult portion sizes and can get overwhelmed by large amounts of food. Keep the options simple (two or three items per meal) and small. Your daughter will love asking for seconds of her favorite items.

Watch the week, not the day: It is more important to get all food groups and proper nutrition sources over the span of a week as opposed to a day. It is not uncommon for a toddler to go through a "only eats yogurt" day. This is OK. Just make sure that in five to seven days, consumption follows general nutrition guidelines.

Talk to your pediatrician about her pattern on the growth chart, not placement. Your long-term goal is a varied diet that provides stable growth. The growth chart can reassure you that she's eating appropriately.

Finally, respect her tastes as they develop. Carry her favorite healthy foods with you and she'll do just fine.

Good luck.

— Dorie

(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).

Say you're sorry ... and mean it



HOW MUCH IS ENOUGH?

BY JEAN ILLSLEY CLARKE PH.D.

The principal's voice was controlled steel. "Mrs. Brown, your son Rob will remain in my office until you arrive!" The school has a firmly enforced "No Bullying Policy." Rob had been pushing the limits, and this day he had ripped up another child's art work and verbally savaged her in his fifth grade classroom.

When Mrs. Brown learned that her day had been interrupted because Rob refused to say he was sorry, she spilled her aggravation across the principal's desk. "You called me from work for this trivia? What difference does it make if he says he's sorry? So he yelled at somebody. Kids do that. Anyway, Rob says that you have been hounding him lately." The principal didn't yield, "We have a No Bullying Policy in our school and Rob is expected to follow it." Rob made sullen snorts and Mrs. Brown ramped up her anger. "Let's get this settled once and for all! You can call me at home in the evening after 8 p.m. You are not to call me at work, and, furthermore, you are not to ask him to apologize or to discipline him in any way without calling me first!" Mrs. Brown stomped out.

Poor Rob, getting a major dose of "you don't have to be responsible" overindulgence.

Poor Mrs. Brown. She probably thinks she is being supportive of Rob, but she hasn't a clue about how much support is enough.

Poor principal. She sighed and briefly considered the appeal of the help wanted sign at the accountant's office. Instead she said, "Rob, your mom has a point. It's silly to say you are sorry if you're not. Instead, I'm assigning you to observe in the Restitution Group every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m."

"You mean instead of art class?"

"Yes. Do you know what restitution means?"

"I thought the word was retribution."

The principal laughed. "No, not really. The Student Council has a group working on how to make restitution practices part of our school's conflict resolution program. I want you to watch and listen and then give me a three-to five-minute report after each meeting. I know you are a quick learner, so I'll be interested to hear what you observe."

WHAT MAKING AMENDS MEANS

So what does making amends mean? It means claiming what we have done wrong, deliberately or inadvertently, and doing whatever we can to make it right.

It is important to help children make amends starting at an early age. It helps them feel the power of being able to set things right. It teaches them how to rebuild connections. It builds their self-esteem.

GUIDELINES FOR MAKING AMENDS

Diane Chelsom Gossen's book, "Restitution: Restructuring School Discipline," is written for use in schools, but it offers many examples of ways to help children make amends that parents can use at home. She points out that there are several elements in successful amend making. They do not have to be addressed in a specific order, nor will every single point apply in a given situation. The acts of restitution must be made by the offender and not forced by an adult from the outside.

Diane Chelsom Gossen offers these guidelines for making amends:

- The person making the amends must put forth effort.
- The amends made should support the amender's values or the family or school values if the amender is young.
- The amends made must be related to the problem.
- The amends should help the amender become a better person.
- The amends must be satisfactory to the victim.

We all make mistakes. Making amends is a far more powerful way to fix things than saying "I'm sorry." Learning that skill as a child makes adult life easier.

To participate in a new study on overindulgence and relationships log onto our Web site at www.overindulgence.info.

(Jean Illsley Clarke Ph.D., Connie Dawson Ph.D., and David J. Bredehoft Ph.D. are co-authors of "How Much is Enough? Everything You Need to Know to Steer Clear of Overindulgence and Raise Likeable, Responsible, and Respectful Children." For more about restitution, see Clarke's *Connections: The Threads That Strengthen Families*, Hazelden. Illsley Clarke can be reached at jiconsults@aol.com. To read more about overindulgence go to www.overindulgence.info.)



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SANTA MONICA PARENTING

CLASSES FOR SANTA MONICA PARENTS AND PARENTS TO BE

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

WED., FEB. 15 – FREE PARENTING SEMINAR – 10:00 a.m.

4 STEPS TO SERENITY – Safe Strategies to Vent Anger

Presented by Linda Milo, "The Parent-Child Connection Coach," at the YMCA, 1332 6th St., 3rd Floor. Call 393-2721, ext. 123 or email audrey@ymcasm.org for reservations or questions.

THURS., FEB. 16 – CAMPFIRE PROGRAM – 6:00 p.m.

Bring a blanket and picnic dinner, belt out songs and listen to stories. FREE, but \$5 parking. Temescal Gateway Park, 15601 Sunset Blvd., Pacific Palisades.

SAT., FEB. 18

TECHNOLOGY DAY at the NEW MAIN LIBRARY

10:30 & 11:30 a.m. – Technology Scavenger Hunt for ages 8 and up.
1:30 – 2:30 p.m. – Learn More About Live Homework Help – for students ages 10 and up, interested parents and caregivers. Learn about and connect with tutors.
3:30 – 4:30 p.m. – Homework Resources Parents Should Know About – for parents, grandparents, caregivers, teachers and other adults working with children.
All events are FREE and take place in the Activity Room of the Main Library at 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 458-8621.

RHYTHM CHILD FAMILY JAM – 4:30 p.m.

Bring the family for a super fun percussive jam with drums, tambourines and other instruments.. \$15 per child, parents free. At Fundamentals of Music, 11700 National Blvd., LA, 575-9372

PILLOW THEATRE - 10:30 & 11:30 a.m.

The Tweaksters perform ballet feats, juggling, acrobatics and creative choreography with odd objects. \$5, BP Hall at Walt Disney Concert Hall, 111 S. Grand Ave., LA, 213-972-7560.

SAT. & SUN., FEB. 18 & FEB. 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.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION at the LA ZOO

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Journey into the heart of Africa with live music, ethnic foods, arts & crafts and other activities. Free with admission - \$10 adults, \$5 children, free for ages 2 and under. 5333 Zoo Dr., LA, 323-644-6400.

MON., FEB. 20 – PRESIDENT'S DAY

HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS – 1:00 p.m.

Check out the famed dribblers and their amazing ball-handling and comedy routines. 30-minute "meet and greet" after. \$15 and up. Staples Center, LA, 213-480-3232.

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/freelmoms 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, next session dates Feb. 28 – Apr. 4.

Baby Time – 11:00 a.m., babies to age 2, next session dates Feb. 28 – Apr. 4.

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.

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.

Next session Mar. 1 – Apr. 5 for both.

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

Baby Time - 10:15 & 11:15 a.m., ages 0-2. Next session Feb. 22 – Mar. 29.

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. Next session Feb. 23 – Mar. 30.

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 – 2:00 p.m., \$15

Fitness for Moms – Babies Welcome! Step

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 Blvd., 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

Barnyard Madness at The Santa Monica Playhouse

Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m. thru March 12, \$12.50 adults, \$10.50 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

Magikopolis – 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 310-902-9013 or visit www.preciousprintsstudios.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 – 818-324-6802.

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

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

Barnyard Madness at The Santa Monica Playhouse

Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m. thru March 12, \$12.50 adults, \$10.50 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 2 for reservations, www.santamonicaplayhouse.com

MONDAY

PRESIDENT'S DAY – Call to confirm activities.

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

"No Baby Time or Family Connections today, Feb. 20.

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 pm, \$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.

Expecting?

We'll Be Expecting You!



Report: Loophole undermines California’s sexual predator law

By The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — A loophole in a California law designed to crack down on rapists and child molesters render it one of the most lenient sexual predator measures in the country because it allows them to be released without treatment, a newspaper reported Sunday.

The six-month investigation by The Sacramento Bee looked at a program started in 1996, following public outrage over the prison release of Melvin Carter, who had confessed to more than 100 rapes in Northern California. The legislature responded by passing a get-tough law that allowed inmates who were considered sexually violent predators to stay locked up even after completing their prison sentences.

Since the program began, 538 sex offenders have been labeled as such. Under the law, they are supposed to be sent to a maximum-security psychiatric facility at Atascadero State Hospital and undergo a strict, five-stage treatment program.

However, a loophole in the law allows sexually violent offenders to refuse treatment and bank on winning release through a court hearing that each offender receives every two years.

In the decade that the law has been in effect, 54 sexually violent offenders have won release without completing the full regimen of treatment, and more than two-thirds of those underwent no treatment at all, The Bee found. Only four have suc-

cessfully completed the program.

“All they need is a doctor’s slip to get out,” said Harriet Salarno, president of Crime Victims United of California. “Nobody should be let out unless they’re truly rehabilitated.”

Eleven of the 54 men released without completing treatment are back in custody. Two have been accused of new sex-related crimes. And at least 10 have left the state.

Although California is among 17 states with sexually violent predator statutes, it is the only one that requires a court review every two years for those committed. Most other states commit their sexually violent predators for at least five years and allow them out of the mental hospital only after therapists say the predators pose a low enough risk.

Among the other findings:

- There’s a built-in incentive to refusing treatment, because those who do accept the program often are subject to scorn inside the hospital and heightened scrutiny and community protests upon release.
- Almost all of those released without completing treatment have returned to society with less supervision than lower-risk predators freed directly from prison.
- Most of the 54 men who won early release arrived in communities with little or no public notice. Their faces, names and addresses do show up on the Megan’s List Web site, but there’s no way to differentiate them from the 63,000 other registered sex offenders listed there.

STATE BRIEFS

Big Bear residents want some support

By The Associated Press

BIG BEAR LAKE — Mountain residents are asking why 7.5-mile-long Big Bear Lake, which draws millions of visitors each year, doesn’t have its own cold-water rescue team. Even though Big Bear Lake, Lake Arrowhead and smaller lakes in the San Bernardino Mountains are popular tourist destinations, not a single member of the sheriff’s special dive unit is based in the area.

“I would think it’s the most important thing we can have here,” said resident Jim Lyon, commander of the sheriff’s volunteer mountain search-and-rescue team. “It makes perfectly good sense to equip and train the tons of young, strong firefighters we have up here, as opposed to waiting for someone to get here from down the hill.”

Some visitors lured onto the lakes on sunny winter days are unaware that a plunge into water ranging from 32 to 40 degrees can bring on deadly hypothermia. “In those temperatures, severe hypothermia can set in 30 minutes, and death in 45 minutes,” said Robert Douwens, a hypothermia researcher at the University of Victoria in British Columbia.

Big Bear Lake is patrolled by the Big Bear Municipal Water District, and the surrounding mountain communities are served by city fire agencies in Big Bear Lake and Big Bear City, as well as a county fire unit in Fawnskin and sheriff’s unit in Big Bear Lake. But the only emergency unit that performs underwater lake rescues is the sheriff’s dive team, and all 14 members live down the mountain, dive team supervisor Sgt. Jeff Morgan said.

Lawyer gets jail time for bad suits

By The Associated Press

SANTA ANA — A judge jailed attorney Harpreet Brar after telling the lawyer he was an extortionist.

Orange County Superior Court Judge Peter J. Polos told the Brea lawyer he was being jailed 15 days for contempt. The judge also ordered Brar to pay a \$3,000 fine for repeatedly suing small business owners to pressure them into paying him settlements.

Earlier, the state attorney general’s office sued Brar and the Trevor Law Group to halt meritless litigation against nail salons and other businesses, then pressuring business owners to pay him \$1,000 each to settle.

“You’re basically an extortionist who is extorting ... legitimate business people in the state,” the judge said before ordering him into custody.

Tejon resistance subsidizes amid requests

By The Associated Press

GORMAN — Environmentalists offered to withdraw opposition to development of the sprawling Tejon Ranch if the builder agrees to set aside about 380 square miles in the Tehachapi Mountains as wilderness.

The offer was designed to persuade developers to scale back plans on the 270,000-acre site some 60 miles north of Los Angeles and to more than double the amount of land to be preserved _ 245,000 acres.

The offer was dismissed by Tejon Ranch Co. officials as unreasonable, but the developer left open the possibility of more discussions with the coalitions of environmentalists. Eight months earlier, Tejon Ranch Co. and a national land trust hailed an agreement to sell more than one-third of the ranch for use as a nature preserve. But that failed to satisfy the Tejon Natural Heritage Park Committee, a coalition of 12 conservation groups. Committee spokesman Dan York said the coalition proposal would help protect the patchwork of ecological systems and endangered species worthy of state or national park status.

Tejon Ranch Co. plans to build three large urban centers on the property.

Tejon Mountain Village would include a 23,253-acre resort with up to seven spas and boutique hotels, 160,000 square feet of commercial space and up to 3,450 homes. The two other projects would be built near Interstate 5 _ Centennial, a city of 23,000 homes along the southern flanks of the Tehachapis, and Tejon Industrial Park on the northern flank of the mountain range.

Tejon Ranch president Robert A. Stine objected to reconfiguring development to fit the aspirations of environmentalists who are stirring up controversy to “increase their donations.”

“Our board of directors has authorized up to 100,000 acres for a nature preserve,” Stine said. “These environmentalists want more. But it’s not their land. They don’t own it. It belongs to our shareholders.”

Demonstrators against immigration bill take to streets

By The Associated Press

INDIO — Hundreds of demonstrators formed human chains across portions of desert Highway 111 in the Coachella Valley to protest a proposed federal law targeting illegal immigrants.

The Manos Unidos en Contra el Racismo (Hands United Against Racism) demonstration Sunday involved hundreds of mostly Hispanic people who cheered honking vehicles in Coachella, Indio, Indian Wells and Cathedral City.

About 75 picketed in front of the office Rep. Mary Bono, R-Palm Springs, to protest her vote in December for HR 4437, a bill by James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis.

Bono said in a statement on her congressional Web site that current immigration laws are insufficient and not well enforced in the nation’s interior.

The Sensenbrenner bill, which is pending in the U.S. Senate, increases accountability in enforcement and is part of a comprehensive effort to restore the integrity of the nation’s borders, she said.

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Day-passes for border crossers worries those fighting terror

BY DEVLIN BARRETT

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — A new passport requirement for those crossing the U.S.-Canadian border may be eased with a family discount-card program and a day-pass option, authorities said Monday.

Such options are welcomed by towns and cities along the border, where folks chafe at the notion they will someday need a \$97 passport or a \$50 ID card to cross, but the day-pass proposal worries those seeking tighter security to deter terrorists.

“My concern would be, is the government in the travel business or the business of protecting our borders?” said Debra Burlingame, a member of 9/11 Families for a Secure America.

Lawmakers along the border have been pushing the Homeland Security and State departments for months to come up with a cheaper, quicker alternative to the passport requirement, which is to go into effect in 2008 under a new law called the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative.

A new passport costs \$97, and government officials have indicated they are working on a second option — a new wallet-sized identification card for crossing the border may cost about half that. Even at half price, however, the card has done little to mollify open-border advocates.

Officials at both agencies said Monday they are also considering a family-discount price for the pass cards, and day passes for spontaneous border trips.

“It shows that after all of our pushing, they are beginning to understand the Canadian side of the border, and how it’s part of our economy,” said Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y.

The two departments are working together on the travel initiative program passed by Congress as a post-Sept. 11 security measure.

The initiative will require passports or one of four other secure documents at land border crossings. Previous law required Americans returning home from Canada to show only a driver’s license or other government-issued photo identification card.

Officials on both sides of the northern border argue the passport rule would reduce trade and leisure travel between the two countries. The U.S. government, however, maintains it is necessary to prevent terrorists from entering the country.

Jarrod Agen, a Homeland Security spokesman, said the agency is considering a day pass because “we see that there’s definitely a need for a convenient and less expensive alternative to the passport.”

Agen said the details of a day pass, including cost, had not been worked out.

That raised alarm bells with security advocates who fear it could undermine the very purpose of the passport rule.

“When the United States government tries to do things like expediting and making things easier for people, they create a pretext for letting in illegal immigrants,” said Burlingame, whose brother Charles was a pilot aboard the hijacked plane that hit the Pentagon on Sept. 11.

Rep. Louise Slaughter, D-N.Y., said the debate over alternatives to the passport requirement are part of a turf fight between the Homeland Security and State departments.

“A family discount for the cards is a great idea, but there’s also a war between State and DHS here over who does what,” she said. “State is not going to let DHS determine who is going to be a citizen of the United States, and DHS is trying to do the card they want to do.”

House stands behind Guard

BY JACQUES BILLEAUD

Associated Press Writer

PHOENIX — The Arizona House voted Monday to require Gov. Janet Napolitano to follow through on her proposal to increase the number of National Guard troops who are helping crack down on illegal immigration at the state’s border with Mexico.

The lawmakers also agreed to provide \$5 million in state money for the plan by the governor, who has asked the Pentagon to pick up the costs and said her ideas for using border troops would be impossible without complete federal funding.

Republican Rep. John Allen of Scottsdale said his state funding proposal would either let the Democratic governor carry out her plan — or force her to explain why she did not.

“She planted an idea that she knows the public supports, but she also did it to where she knew she wouldn’t have to do it,” Allen said.

Napolitano spokeswoman Pati Urias declined to comment on Allen’s proposal and criticism. The measure, which was approved 36-20, now moves to the state Senate.

Arizona, the busiest illegal entry point on the U.S.-Mexico border, already has about 170 National Guard troops stationed at the border assisting federal and state officers with communications, fence construction and anti-drug efforts.

Napolitano wants to extend the National Guard’s border efforts to have an unspecified number of troops work at border crossing points, assist with cargo inspection and

operate mobile observation points so they can report suspicious activity.

Some Republican lawmakers have criticized Napolitano as trying to paper over a weak record on immigration, citing vetoes of bills that the governor said wouldn’t lessen Arizona’s border problems.

Last year, Napolitano signed a law creating the state crime of migrant smuggling and declared a state of emergency in the state’s four border counties, a move that freed up more than \$1 million to help authorities confront illegal crossings.

Public pressure is mounting for state politicians up for re-election this year to confront the problem, even though immigration has long been considered the sole province of the federal government.

Supporters of Allen’s proposal said the state needs to take action because Arizonans are frustrated with the federal government’s failure to adequately confront illegal immigration.

Opponents said putting troops at the border will not prevent immigrants who are seeking better paying jobs from sneaking into the country and that the state should instead crack down on employers who violate federal law by hiring illegal workers.

Democratic Rep. Pete Rios of Hayden, an opponent of the bill, said the federal government has chosen not to stop illegal immigration.

“Businesses and corporations on this side of the border are very powerful, and they need that labor in order to make the profits that they are making,” Rios said. “That’s why this issue has not been resolved.”

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Iran postpones talks with Russia over uranium

BY NASSER KARIMI

Associated Press Writer

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran has called off this week's talks with Moscow on a plan to allay concerns about Tehran's use of nuclear fuel by enriching Iran's uranium in Russia, the president's spokesman said Monday.

The talks were to have resumed Thursday but have been postponed indefinitely because of the "new situa-

tion," spokesman Gholamhossein Elham said, referring to the U.N. nuclear agency's decision earlier this month to report Iran to the U.N. Security Council.

Iran strongly protested the referral, which was supported by Russia, usually one of Tehran's allies.

Elham said the talks will reconvene at a time of "mutual agreement."

Russia's Foreign Ministry said Monday that Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov would discuss Tehran's nuclear

program with European Union leaders in Vienna this week. It did not mention Elham's announcement.

Elham also reiterated President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's statement Saturday that Iran will "revise" its policy toward the International Atomic Energy Agency regulations and the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty if they are used against the country.

Elham said the world must recognize Iran's rights as a signatory to the treaty and regulations. "Otherwise there is no reason to continue our current nuclear policy while we are deprived of the positive aspects of the treaty."

Moscow had proposed that Iran ship its uranium to Russia, where it would be enriched to a level suitable for nuclear reactors. It would then be returned to Iran to be used in its Russian-built reactor at Bushehr. The reactor is due to start up later this year.

The plan, backed by the United States and European Union, was an attempt to avoid international objections to Iran's enriching uranium — a process that can also produce material for nuclear weapons. Iran had said the plan did not fulfill its requirements but was worth pursuing further in negotiations.

The United States accuses Iran of seeking to build a nuclear bomb under cover of a peaceful nuclear program. Iran insists its program is confined to the generation of electricity.

After the IAEA voted on Feb. 4 to report Iran to the Security Council, it ended voluntary cooperation with the agency and announced it would start large-scale uranium enrichment and bar surprise inspections of its facilities. It has yet to say whether uranium enrichment has begun.

The IAEA is due to issue a report on Iran at its March meeting, after which the Security Council is expected to consider taking steps against the country, which could include sanctions.

Elham said Monday that Iran was not delaying the resumption of uranium enrichment until after the IAEA meeting, but he did not elaborate.

He repeated Iran's line that if the Security Council imposes sanctions on Iran, they will backfire.

"If some Western countries, provoked by Israel, intend to put pressure on Iran, then they will also lose. We do advise the United States and Europe to decide in a rational and prudent way," he said.

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Spears to join Mardi Gras party in a reinvigorated New Orleans

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Britney Spears, a Louisiana native, will celebrate Mardi Gras in New Orleans later this month when the devastated city hopes to revive some its old partying ways. “I am honored to be a part of the Mardi Gras celebration in New Orleans this year,” Spears said in a statement Monday. “It is so important for this amazing city to continue its annual traditions and I am really looking forward to being involved.”

The 24-year-old pop star will appear on ABC's "Good Morning America" on Feb. 28 (7 a.m EST), when the morning show reports live from New Orleans. ABC announced that Spears will bring "surprises for a group of very deserving young residents."

The Mardi Gras parade season will run from Feb. 18-28; Fat Tuesday, or Mardi Gras Day, is Feb. 28.

Spears grew up in Kentwood, and has participated in fundraisers for victims of Hurricane Katrina.

The singer also will guest star April 13 on NBC's "Will & Grace."

Last week, photos were published of Spears driving with her 4-month-old son, Sean Preston, sitting on her lap instead of being strapped to a car seat in the back seat. She first blamed pursuits by the paparazzi, but later said it was a “mistake.”

On Monday, Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta chided Spears as “irresponsible” for driving with her baby son on her lap and announced a new initiative to improve

child car seat safety.

NEW YORK — Scott Stapp, former lead singer of Creed, has married former Miss New York Jaclyn Nesheiwat, *People* magazine reports on its Web site.

The couple exchanged vows Friday night at the Vizcaya Museum and Gardens, an estate on the waterfront of Biscayne Bay in Miami, the magazine reports.

Stapp's 7-year-old son, Jagger, served as the best man.

The 32-year-old singer founded the rock band Creed and won a Grammy Award in 2000 for the song "With Arms Wide Open." He struck out on his own last year with the solo album, "The Great Divide."

Nesheiwat is the director of public affairs for the Scott Stapp Foundation, which promotes healthy parent-child relationships.

The couple became engaged late last year, the singer's publicist, Dvora Vener Englefield, said last month.

BERLIN — Robert Altman says his big screen adaptation of “A Prairie Home Companion” wasn’t intentionally political, but reflects “the truth of what is going on in ourselves.”

The film was in keeping with Garrison Keillor's tradition of weaving politics into his radio show, but not overtly so, the 80-year-old director said.

"I don't think that you can make a piece of art — or a song, or poem — all of these reflect the kinds of feelings that rub off on us; reflect

the truth of what is going on in ourselves,” Altman said Sunday following a screening of the movie at the Berlin International Film Festival.

“A Prairie Home Companion,” a fictionalized account of the last broadcast of the 30-year-old radio show, tells the story of what happens when Keillor finds out that he’s been taken over by a big conglomerate.

Meryl Streep, Woody Harrelson and Kevin Kline star alongside Keillor in the film, which was shot on location at the Fitzgerald Theater in St. Paul, Minn., where the radio show is based.

BANGKOK, Thailand — Catherine Deneuve will attend a Bangkok film festival where she will be honored for her contributions to movies.

The fourth Bangkok International Film Festival will award Deneuve the 2006 Golden Kinnaree Career Achievement Award at a Feb. 24 gala event, festival organizers said.

Deneuve starred in Jacques Demy's 1964 film, "The Umbrellas of Cherbourg," which will be screened at the festival. Her screen credits also include roles in "Belle de Jour" and "Dancer in the Dark."

Also scheduled appear at the Feb. 17-27 festival are Vanessa Redgrave, Christopher Lee, Willem Dafoe, Diane Ladd, Helen Mirren, Hayden Christensen and Tadanobu Asano.

The festival will feature about 160 movies from 50 countries, including “Invisible Waves” by Thai director Pen-Ek Ratanaruang and “Rent,” directed by Chris Columbus.



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In 1859, Oregon was admitted to the Union as the 33rd state.

In 1894, comedian Jack Benny was born Benjamin Kubelsky in Waukegan, Ill.

In 1895, Oscar Wilde's final play, "The Importance of Being Earnest," opened at the St. James's Theatre in London.

In 1903, the Department of Commerce and Labor was established. (It was divided into separate departments of Commerce and Labor in 1913.)

In 1912, Arizona became the 48th state of the Union.

In 1920, the League of Women Voters was founded in Chicago; its first president was Maude Wood Park.

In 1945, Peru, Paraguay, Chile and Ecuador joined the United Nations.

In 1979, Adolph Dubs, the U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan, was kidnapped in Kabul by Muslim extremists and killed in a shootout between his abductors and police.

In 1989, Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini called on Muslims to kill Salman Rushdie, author of "The Satanic Verses," a novel condemned as blasphemous.

Ten years ago: Texas Sen. Phil Gramm bowed out of the race for the Republican presidential nomination following his poor showings in the Louisiana and Iowa caucuses.



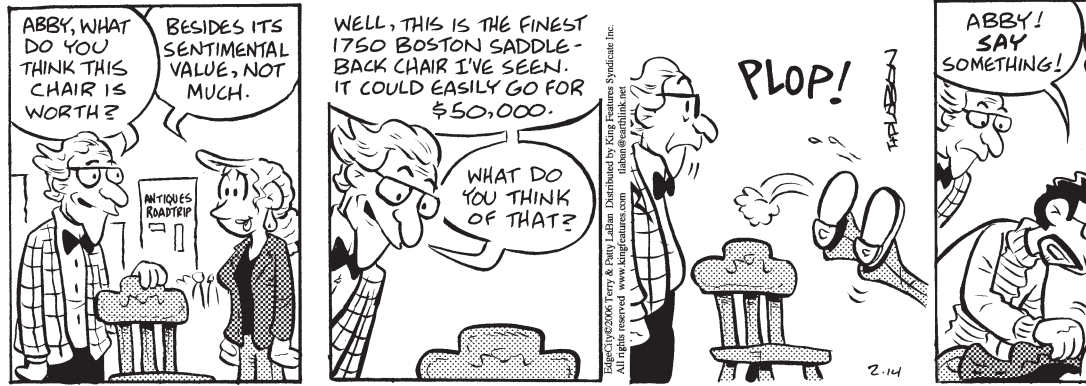
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- ACROSS**
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 - 6 Like some brownies
 - 11 "Witness" group
 - 12 TV sound
 - 13 "Sex and the City" co-star
 - 15 Sense of self
 - 16 Golf gadget
 - 17 "— So Fine"
 - 18 Beethoven works
 - 20 Toronto's prov.
 - 21 Ring feature
 - 22 Folded snack
 - 23 Downhill athlete
 - 26 Tea additive
 - 27 Beatty and Buntline
 - 28 Deteriorate
 - 29 Iris setting
 - 30 Become serious
 - 34 — carte
 - 35 Diminish
 - 36 King Kong, e.g.
 - 37 "L.A. Confidential" co-star
 - 40 Net receipts?
- DOWN**
- 41 Steak choice
 - 42 Doesn't own
 - 43 Smoothies, in a way

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Yesterday's answer

- 10 "War and Peace" writer
- 26 Frodo and Sam, e.g.
- 28 Burgles
- 30 Elite Navy group
- 31 Tease, in slang
- 32 Tip over
- 33 Israel's Shimon
- 38 Drill part
- 39 Hornets' org.

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