

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

21 30 31 37 39
Meganumber: 5
Jackpot: \$16 Million

FANTASY 5

1 8 21 35 37

DAILY 3

Daytime: 1 7 5
Evening: 2 0 7

DAILY DERBY

1st: 05 California Classic
2nd: 12 Lucky Charms
3rd: 08 Gorgeous George
RACE TIME: 1:49.06

NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ In a December demonstration against the opening of a McDonald's in the Mediterranean town of Sete, France, about 500 protesters, using a homemade catapult, bombarded the restaurant with fresh catches of the area's renowned delicacy, octopus.

■ NASA announced in October it was retiring the KC-135 plane it had long been using to train astronauts for weightlessness in flight; an official told reporters that the air crews had kept track of the amount of astronaut vomit cleaned up over the years and that the total was at least 285 gallons.

TODAY IN HISTORY

In 1964, the Supreme Court ruled that congressional districts within each state had to be roughly equal in population.

In 1985, Murray P. Haydon became the third person to receive a permanent artificial heart as doctors at Humana Hospital Audubon in Louisville, Ky., implanted the device. (Haydon lived 488 days with the heart.)

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Life has got to be lived — that's all there is to it. At 70, I would say the advantage is that you take life more calmly. You know that 'this, too, shall pass!'"

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

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Federal judges grill lawyers over homeless food line law

City Hall defends its law against a challenge from Civil Rights groups

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

PASADENA — A panel of federal judges on Monday questioned lawyers about a Santa Monica law designed to discourage large outdoor food lines for the homeless.

United States Court of Appeals Judges Marsha S. Berzon, Andrew J. Kleinfeld and Kim McLane Wardlaw indicated City Hall's law likely could withstand the Civil Rights challenges it faces, but may need to be clarified or reworked in a few key areas.

It could take up to 90 days for the judges to issue a written decision in the case, which was appealed to the Ninth Circuit in 2003 after it was tossed out at the U.S. District Court level.

The law in question requires groups of more than 150 people that gather in public places to obtain an event permit from City Hall and, if food is served, a health permit from Los Angeles County. A handful of Civil Rights activists sued City Hall in January of 2003, claiming the law treads on the First Amendment in a number of ways, and therefore was unenforceable.

"This ordinance applies not just to parks, but to every public place in the city," argued attorney Carol Sobel, who represents the plaintiffs in the lawsuit. Sobel specifically took aim at a part of the law she said unfairly forces large groups to release City Hall from any liability and another portion that she argued impeded the constitutional right to quickly organize protests.

What's more, Sobel said the public couldn't be expected to understand the law, which city attorneys have amended several times to address First Amendment concerns.

"The ordinance itself is woefully deficient," Sobel told the panel of three judges at the Richard H. Chambers United States Court of Appeals Building in Pasadena.

Deputy City Attorney Barry Rosenbaum, who

"There are a lot of things you do for a big crowd that you don't do for a small group around a picnic table."

JUDGE ANDREW J. KLEINFELD
United States Court of Appeals

See **FOOD LINES**, page 6

That's a stretch



Kim Calvert/Special to the Daily Press

Participants in 'Stroller Strides,' a mom and baby fitness class, enjoy the fresh air and sunshine at Palisades Park Monday morning. Classes consist of a stroller power walk, stretching and body sculpting.

Mayor Pam O'Connor vows to stay the course in 2005

Newly-appointed, O'Connor outlines her top priorities

BY CORTNEY FIELDING

Special to the Daily Press

After assuming the city's highest ranking political office two months ago, Santa Monica's mayor plans to spend the next year in office ensuring that local government doesn't veer off track.



PAM O'CONNOR

That means moving forward with a billion-dollar light rail system that would end in downtown Santa Monica, creating new standards for development and ensuring that the city continues to be envi-

ronmentally friendly.

As a member of the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board of Directors, O'Connor said her top priority is ensuring that the Expo light rail line stays a reality for Santa Monica, she said.

Estimated at \$1 billion, the light rail

line will eventually connect downtown Los Angeles to Santa Monica, transportation officials said.

While the city doesn't have any authority over the light rail project, O'Connor has influence in keeping the project moving forward and on budget as an MTA board member.

Now in the preliminary engineering stage, the project will connect downtown Los Angeles to the intersection of Venice and Robertson boulevards in Culver City. Connecting Culver City to Santa Monica will be the second phase of the project.

"We don't want people to have unrealistic expectations," she said. "It isn't going to be up and running in days."

Having deadlines mapped out for engineering, construction and completion is critical to the project, O'Connor said, while acknowledging that the timeline continues to change. It will be years before light rail is actually constructed in Santa Monica.

O'Connor has been heavily involved in the beginning phase of drafting a new land use element, which will govern how development is handled for decades to come.

Now in its information gathering

See **MAYOR**, page 6

GABY SCHKUD

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A NEW PARK

Euclid Neighborhood Park

The concept design of the park planned for the parking lot next to 1525 Euclid Street will be presented at the February 17th Recreation & Parks Commision meeting. Come see the latest park design and share your ideas and comments

Thursday, February 17
at 7:30pm

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(across from Macy's)



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COLDWELL BANKER

Chill out tonight, Aries

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)
★★★ If you believe something is serious, it is. Watch a tendency to get dragged into situations you would prefer to avoid. Friends might be more concerned than they are letting on. Tonight: Chill out.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You might be very sure of yourself, but you could be coming off a lot harsher than you realize. Talk about what you think, but don't shut others out. A boss or higher-up could be very tough. Tonight: Don't let someone rain on your parade.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★ Know when to duck — like today. Someone has very different ideas from yours. Take care of yourself. Decide not to share everything you know or think. Don't let others push you. Avoid gossip at any cost. Tonight: Share only with someone you trust.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ What you say might have more impact than you intend. Emphasize what is good, especially with an evolving goal or desire. Sometimes a close associate or partner could distract you. You don't want to push this person away, either. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ You could be flabbergasted by a boss or someone you look up to. Wonder less about what is happening with this person and follow through on your side of an obligation. You need to protect your own interests while you can. Tonight: A must appearance.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Read between the lines with a boss, gossip and career decisions. If you listen to associates and co-workers, you could have a problem. Stay centered, knowing what you ultimately want. Don't allow others to distract you. Tonight: Relax with a good movie.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Understanding takes you to a new level with a partner. You could be reactive with a child or loved one. You might not understand what to do. A loved one or parent makes viable suggestions. Be happy. Tonight: Go for togetherness.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ The wise move is to allow others to take over. No way do you have all the answers. Explore potential options, even if you feel that a source of information isn't too helpful. A personal matter needs to be put on the back burner. Tonight: Beam in what you want.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★ Know that your efforts could easily be wasted. Your actions might not be reflective of what you say and do. Others get confused and possibly a bit uptight. Keep yourself focused and concentrate on one task at a time. Tonight: Head home.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Your creativity works with children, friends and a loved one. However, don't let this energy leak into your financial world. You could have a disaster before you know it. Network, but don't make agreements. Tonight: Pretend there is no tomorrow.

AQUARIUS (Jan.20-Feb. 18)
★★★ You hit obstacle after obstacle. What does this tell you? You might want to back off before it's too late. A family member will not respond as you wish. Avoid spending money on real estate or your home. Tonight: Try to avoid conflict. Screen your calls.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You have a way of making a point that could be a bit hard on others. Someone's reaction will tell you everything. On some level, you might like this form of control. Be careful: You might cause a problem. Tonight: Someone's words could hurt.



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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SMC Emeritus band plays on

Daily Press staff

The SMC Emeritus college band will drum to the beat of a different conductor this month.

The 60-member concert band, part of SMC's Emeritus College for older adults, is under the baton of Wallace Ueber. However, the "Conductor's Holiday" concert will feature a variety of guest conductors including an attorney, a garage owner, a music teacher and a lifeguard captain. Also conducting will be Richard Wagon, former band director at Santa Monica High School and principal of Franklin Elementary School.

The program will include film score classic themes, Mexican songs and marches by John Philip Sousa.

"Conductor's Holiday" will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 27 in the SMC concert hall, 1900 Pico Blvd. Admission and parking are free.

For information, call (310) 434-4306 or (310) 474-5271.

Oscar night for documentarians draws near

Daily Press staff

The International Documentary Association and Sundance Channel are celebrating this year's Oscar nominees for documentaries.

The best documentary feature nominees are:

Born into Brothels (Ross Kauffman, Zana Briski)

The Story of the Weeping Camel (Luigi Falorni, Byambasuren Davaa)

Super Size Me (Morgan Spurlock)

Resurrection (Lauren Lazin, Korlyn Ali)

Twist of Faith (Kirby Dick, Eddie Schmidt)

Best documentary short nominees are:

Born into Brothels (Ross Kauffman, Zana Briski)

The Story of the Weeping Camel (Luigi Falorni, Byambasuren Davaa)

Super Size Me (Morgan Spurlock)

Tupac: Resurrection (Lauren Lazin, Korlyn Ali)

Twist of Faith (Kirby Dick, Eddie Schmidt)

On Wednesday, Feb. 23, the Academy of Motion Pictures, Arts, & Sciences will host an evening to recognize each honoree and view clips from their nominated films. A reception in the lobby will follow the program. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. and the film program will begin at 8 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased at www.documentary.org or at the door, based on availability. Tickets are \$80 for the public and \$50 for seniors/students/IPA, AMPAS, and WGA members.

The Academy of Motion Pictures, Arts, & Sciences is located at 8949 Wilshire Blvd. in Beverly Hills.

Marching band needs drive

Daily Press staff

The local high school band is making a drive for new instruments.

The Santa Monica High School Marching Band and Color Guard is conducting a music CD, DVD and video game collection drive.

Donate your used and new CDs, DVDs and video games so the band can purchase new musical instruments. Drop off your donation at the high school main office at 601 Pico Blvd., or e-mail abvp@aol.com for other arrangements.

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



SURF REPORT

A storm system is expected to move onshore today, bringing rain and onshore winds. Wind swell in the waist-high and below range is expected, but conditions will likely trash this as well as some southern hemi waist-high ground swell that would otherwise bring some long boardable surf to south-facing breaks. But, with rain and winds expected, conditions are looking less than favorable.

Write us at wood@smdp.com and tell us what the surf is doing today at your local break.

Today the water is:

59°

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	5:29	1.0	5:41	0.3	11:24	4.6	N/A	N/A
SUNDAY	6:32	1.1	6:12	1.1	12:11	5.0	12:30	3.7
MONDAY	7:53	1.2	6:41	1.8	12:53	4.8	1:42	2.9
TUESDAY	9:40	1.0	7:07	2.4	1:43	4.7	4:35	2.5
WEDNESDAY	11:20	0.7	8:50	2.9	2:49	4.6	7:33	2.9
THURSDAY	12:24	0.2	11:08	3.0	4:08	4.6	7:54	3.2
FRIDAY	12:24	0.2	11:08	3.0	4:08	4.6	7:54	3.2

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The Q Line

As elected leaders embark on a mid-year budget review, they have begun prioritizing what should garner financial attention in 2005-06. The majority of City Council members last week picked quelling gang violence in an eastside neighborhood and addressing homelessness throughout the city as top issues.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "What

do you think deserves financial priority in the city next year? Why?"

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

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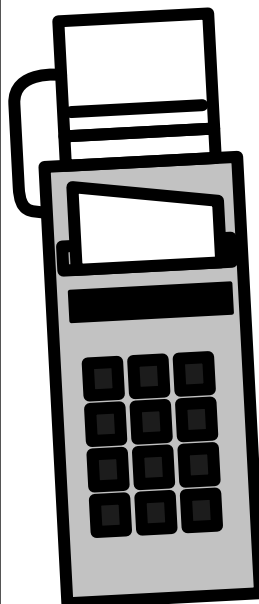
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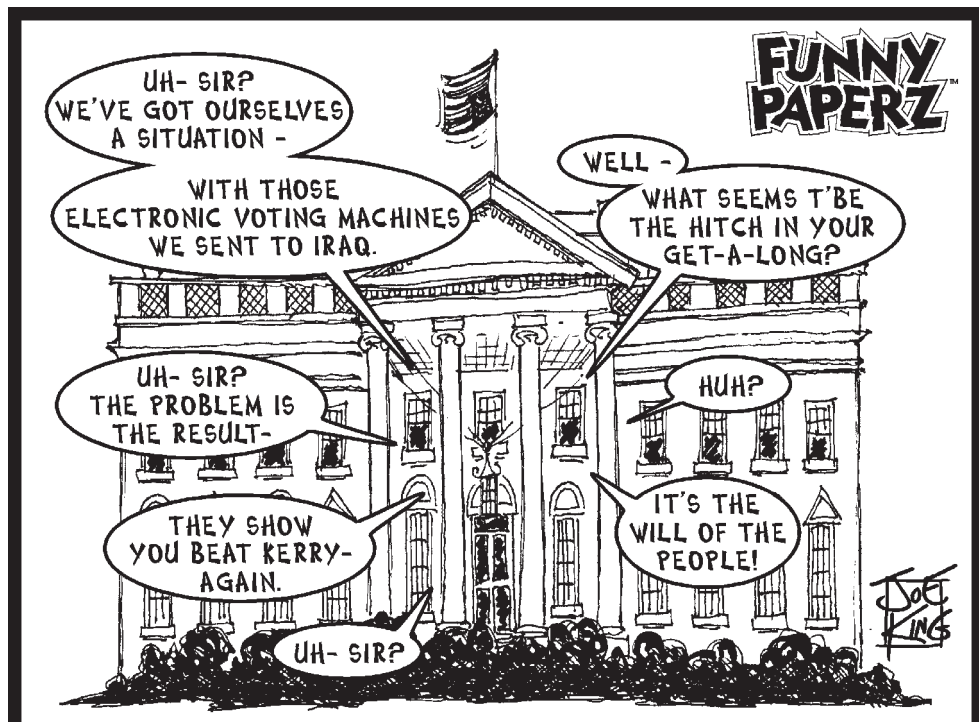
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OPINION



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Jealousy flies high in the sky

Editor:

I see there's lots of criticism of the European Airbus saying that it's too big, etc. I think this is just sour grapes, plus the "not invented here" syndrome.

If this were a Boeing plane we would be reading about how wonderful it was and how America was leading the world in aviation.

It was the same with the Concorde.

I worked briefly on the Boeing SST design team and saw that they twice failed to come up with a design that would work and they were relieved when the design contract was canceled on them.

The Russian SST crashed at a Paris airshow.

The American SST crashed on the drawing board, twice.

The European Concorde was one of the wonders of aviation design but it was always attacked chauvinistically for all sorts of reasons in America. But the real reason was that it was not American, it was European. It broke Americans' hearts to see such a beautiful supersonic bird in all its beauty and realize that it was not American.

When is American aviation going to rise, belatedly, to the true challenge of the 20th Century — to build a bigger and better Concorde — not a bigger and better cattle truck?

It's pitiful to have nothing but subsonic jets dragging their obsolete asses across the skies. Fourteen hours to get to Australia from L.A. In the 21st century. Can you believe it?

An SST at Mach 2 could do it in five or six hours flying way above the weather. The sonic boom does not occur until Mach 1 when the plane is up high and well over the ocean.

Neil Macaulay
Santa Monica

Small claims court doesn't mean they're small battles



WHAT'S THE POINT?

BY DAVID PISSARRA

America's fascination with all things legal begins at the lowest level of the civil courts with the small claims division. This is the arena where individual Davids and Goliaths meet on equal ground and neither one has an upper hand.

The rules for small claims are very basic — disputes are limited to a maximum of \$5,000, there is no jury, and individuals are not represented by lawyers. A corporation or a limited liability company may be represented by a lawyer.

In California, the small claims process is simplified because the courts want this to be the "self help" court. If you have a claim against someone for a breach of contract, a personal injury, a landlord/tenant dispute, or a bounced check, this is the place to be.

To file a complaint you need to have a current address of the defendant and the \$22 filing fee. The actual complaint, which you get at the court clerk's office, states to the court why you think the defendant owes you money. In general it is something as simple as: "The defendant borrowed \$4,000 from me, and hasn't paid it back."

The one-page form is where the plaintiff lists his or her address, the defendant's address, and the claim. A defendant must be sued in the district in which they reside, or in which the contract was entered into. This is a defense used mostly by attorneys when you sue them.

After the form is completed and filed with the clerk, a trial date is set, and the defendant must be served with a copy of the summons and complaint. The serving of the complaint means that the defendant must be given a copy of the lawsuit against them. The defendant can be served by anyone but the plaintiff. The reason for this is that the courts don't want plaintiffs doing "trash can" service, which is when the complaint goes into the trash, and the proof of service is completed as if the defendant was served.

Once the defendant has been served, what's known as a "proof of service" must be filed with the court. This is a form that tells the judge the defendant was served, who served them and when. This is a very important document and many a small claims case is thrown out of court when it is not filed.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department will perform service of process for a fee, and if the plaintiff is trying to intimidate the defendant, there is little in life more intimidating than seeing a sheriff at your front door at 6:30 a.m. asking for you.

On the day of trial, the plaintiff and the defendant will usually be asked to go out to the hallway and exchange all the evidence they have. It also is a time when hopefully the parties can resolve the case.

If they can't resolve the case, and a trial is needed, they will be sworn to tell the truth by the court clerk, and they will each

have an opportunity to prove their case.

The plaintiff goes first. Their job is to prove all the elements of their case with the help of documents and testimony of witnesses. The documents needed for trial are anything that tends to prove or disprove an element of your case. Documents need to have a foundation laid for their admission by the judge as evidence. What that means is that a document must be authenticated. In general if you answer the "who, what, when, why, where and how," about a document, it is authenticated.

Once you have all your documents in evidence, and you have described what happened, if you have witnesses, the defendant will have the opportunity to cross examine them. This is where most people try to be Perry Mason, and blow their case.

A good judge will keep strict control of the proceedings and not allow many useless questions. They just want to know what happened. They don't need to know all the drama and history between the plaintiff and the defendant. They want the facts, quickly, in some sort of logical order. The basic rule of dealing with small claims judges is: "be quick, be accurate, be gone." Most plaintiffs will have won or lost their case within five minutes in front of a judge.

If the plaintiff won the case, there is an automatic stay put on the enforcement of the judgment, which means that the defendant does not have to pay the plaintiff for 20 days while they decide if they want to continue to fight or just pay the judgment. Once the stay is over, the plaintiff can proceed with trying to collect. This is usually harder than it should be, since the defendant is not going to just write a check for the amount of the judgment.

If the defendant has lost, and they want a re-trial, they can ask for a trial de novo, which means a new trial, in superior court and the small claims case is heard again from the beginning.

The collection process is difficult and very picky. Once a judgment is issued, the plaintiff can get what is called a "writ of execution," which allows them to have checking accounts garnished, or a "writ of attachment" to have wages taken; real property can have a lien put on it, and assets such as a boat or a car, can be sold. If you can find the assets, they have a tendency to disappear after a judgment. If you can't find the assets, there is a process called a "judgment debtor's examination," which can be used to find out where a debtor is hiding their money. But be warned, a debtor who is hiding money is not likely to tell the truth at the debtor's examination.

A plaintiff who has a judgment should consider finding an attorney or professional collector for the collection work. There are attorneys who will take the collection process on contingency, since they now have something to work with. Expect to pay between 25-33 percent of the judgment to an attorney or collection agent.

(David Pissarra is a partner in the Santa Monica law firm of Pissarra & Grist. He can be reached at (310) 664-9969 or by e-mail at dpissarra@pissarra.com).



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

COMMENTARY



Pepperdine 2005: Old friends, new faces and few fresh perspectives

ANY DAY IN LA

BY HEIDI MANTEUFFEL



Someone told me to never look back, and yet there I was dorky nametag in hand at Pepperdine's 2005 Homecoming.

I say in my hand, because in sync with my entire existence, I didn't want to wear it, and tried with all my being to delay what I felt was a tired gesture of community.

You see, I didn't go to homecoming out of my desire to rehash nostalgia with people I hadn't meant to kept in touch with — I went because my roommate and suitemate from freshman year flew in from New York for the event. They had the propensity to congregate with the past.

Some people live for the next school game, school dance or sorority mixer. I was one who made fun of those people with a bunch of other people at a definitely non-school function.

I also was someone who was friends with the go-school type like Laurie and Adrianna. I attempted to be social despite my desire to make asides throughout the event. So there I was, talking to gung-ho activities types, painstakingly rehashing the past.

It felt like a flash black to the first week of freshman year.

The basic where are you from, what's your major questions, were altered to incorporate the aftermath of college. So where are you living now ... what are you up to ... are you and ___ still together...?

I kept thinking to myself, if I really wanted to know this, wouldn't I have contacted you oh ... at least once before the reunion?

Despite talking to people I soon remembered why I hadn't thought of them in years, there were also surprisingly people there I wanted to catch up with who I hadn't planned on seeing.

People like my apartment mates Lori, Emily and Nicole. They were much more into our sorority than I was, but were amazingly fun people to be around.

People like Shawna and Shalen who I was excited to find out were still in the area. People like Jessica Hooten, who although we hadn't really tried to keep in touch, everything was just the same as if we'd never left.

And that's how it was to see my freshman roommates. The rehashing I really enjoyed was not of school, but rather the crazy nights of leaving fruit on people's doorsteps with signs like "I'm plum lost without you." We remembered celebrating vacuum day, the one day each month we decided to vacuum. We laughed at the thought of getting chased by guards at the Beverly Hills Hotel, and making macaroni pictures and soap sculptures for our freshman Valentines (from a South Park episode).

It was like nothing had ever changed, and yet instead of being down the hall or a side of the room over, they were living in NY, NY and here I was still in LA.

Friends said it seemed to fit, me living in Santa Monica, working in advertising and writing for the Daily Press. Yet somehow I couldn't help but feel like I compromised my dreams just a little bit. Not the columnist part, no. No, no, no. But a lot of us had wanted to be TV writers, novelists, or at least held some lofty claim of saving the world. The only thing I had saved was shipping on my new Pumas.

Then I thought, hey, I still have time to do all these things, and figure out if TV writing is in fact what I want to do. It may not be worth driving three hours to get a producer a French crueller and copy of Variety. If I'm not excited about the time I had to get Harvey Weinstein a sandwich with 16 condiments on the side, I doubt it will raise itself in appeal by the time I'm 30.

So when I'm at my next reunion feeling like there's nothing exciting to say, I'll just remember I'm here to see the people I care about, not impress people I think about every 10 years. That, or take the high road like in "Romy and Michele's High School Reunion" and say I created the post-it.

(Heidi loves writing for the Daily Press and can be reached at anydayinla@gmail.com).

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LOCAL

Appellate court may take months to rule

FOOD LINES, from page 1

conceded the intricacies of the law had been tailored several times, countered that City Hall's motives were pure. He added officials carved out as narrow a set of restrictions as possible to protect First Amendment rights.

"The city doesn't turn down events, I think that's clear from the record," Rosenbaum said.

Rosenbaum argued City Hall deserved to know about large gatherings ahead of time so it could, among other things, prepare for changes in traffic and take safety precautions.

Each of three judges asked probative questions that might indicate how they might rule on the issue.

Judge Kleinfeld seemed to favor the law and interrupted Sobel just moments into her 20-minute arguments to point out that City Hall apparently had never denied a group permit.

"I don't get it," Judge Kleinfeld said. "What's the problem?"

Judge Kleinfeld also defended City Hall's requirement that large groups either pay for insurance or sign a waiver releasing the city of any liability. Sobel had targeted that portion of the law as unconstitutional and overly broad, arguing it also was arbitrary because it allowed for exceptions but didn't say under what circumstances they would be granted.

Judge Kleinfeld disagreed.

"It's just routine, neutral and used in most municipalities in California," he said.

Judge Wardlaw expressed concern over how residents were expected to stay abreast of the changing law. She also repeatedly asked how the city picked 150 people as its threshold, and questioned why an exception for spontaneous gatherings only allowed for events in front of City Hall.

"I am familiar with Santa Monica, I've spent a lot of time in Santa Monica," said Judge Wardlaw, adding last-minute protests and other gatherings could occur on the Santa Monica Pier, in parks, on the beach or elsewhere. "Why are you limiting this to City Hall?"

Rosenbaum replied that the city didn't feel compelled to add an exception for spontaneous gatherings and did so only to quell First Amendment issues raised by the plaintiffs.

The exception, which allows group permits for gatherings on 48 hours' notice, also raised questions from Judge Berzon, who wondered how quickly the city could process such requests. The ordinance requires groups to apply for permits 48 hours before a large gathering, but the ordinance also gives City Hall up to 48 hours to process those requests.

Despite its being tied up in a federal lawsuit, officials said the food line law already has made an impact on large outdoor homeless gatherings in Santa Monica. Only

a handful of groups still host food lines in Palisades and Reed parks, and on the lawn in front of City Hall. Most of the groups that conduct the feedings come from outside of Santa Monica. At least one group has partnered with a local social service provider to move its event indoors, something city officials strongly encouraged.

The law was passed in 2002 after the business community applied pressure on City Hall to discourage food lines, which they argued attracted homeless people to downtown and created an unfriendly environment for residents and tourists. The City Council cited health concerns and large groups dominating public spaces as reasons for passing the law.

Though Sobel pointed out that the city of Los Angeles doesn't require large groups to obtain permits, each of the three judges appeared convinced that City Hall had a legitimate interest in knowing ahead of time about large gatherings. The question, they said, was how to determine at what point a gathering becomes one that City Hall deserves notice of.

"There are a lot of things you do for a big crowd that you don't do for a small group around a picnic table," Judge Kleinfeld said.

Judge Berzon apparently agreed.

"If you had 10,000 people," she said, "you might want to know in advance if you had to deal with them."

SM mayor balances political life with a historical career

MAYOR, from page 1

phase, City Hall is taking public input to address everything from determining building heights to adding bicycle lanes.

"We must make sure that the planning documents and zoning documents are moving on track," she said, adding the document is expected to be approved in 2006. "We don't want to take on anything that we can't realistically accomplish, or something that will derail our progress. We need to set priorities."

Finally, O'Connor said she wants to ensure that Santa Monica stays true to its commitment to exist as a sustainable and environmentally friendly city.

"The city is committed to doing things in a sustainable fashion," she said, adding those practices go beyond just keeping Santa Monica Bay clean — it involves building environmentally friendly structures, conserving energy and minimizing the city's dependence on natural resources.

While focusing on this year's priorities, O'Connor said she realizes she has to balance all of the city's interests with her own.

"As mayor you have to have an open mind," she said, adding she's not afraid to take a stand when she has to. "The city elected me to make decisions. I have to use my own judgment."

O'Connor, who was reelected in 2002, was appointed by the City Council in December as mayor for a one-year term. The position doesn't come with additional voting power, and she can't overrule a council decision.

Taking the job just days after the death of her mother, Esther Smicklas, the extra work helps keep her busy.

"I don't have to think about how much I miss her," she said. "There are definitely more demands on my time now that I am mayor. It's a little more intense."

Still grieving over the loss, she said Smicklas was a big part of Santa Monica.

"She loved to be involved with the community, especially with young people," she said.

When asked if she had reservations about taking the position so soon after her death, O'Connor said her mother would have demanded it.

"That's my mother's legacy," she said. "She would tell me to go do what you have to do."

O'Connor balances the demands of being mayor with maintaining a full-time career as a historical preservationist.

"Being the mayor does not define me," she said. "I have a whole other career."

Some of O'Connor's biggest jobs include restoration projects for UCLA and USC after the 1994 earthquake and more recently, overseeing the three-year remodeling of the Los Angeles City Hall.

In order to avoid conflicts of interest, she declines restoration projects in Santa Monica.

Her official duties as mayor includes running the City Council meetings and setting the agenda with the City Manager. O'Connor said she tries to ensure the process runs smoothly and openly, while still showing respect for other council members. That often means giving council members the opportunity to speak at length on certain issues.

"These people were elected," she said. "They feel accountable to the public to speak on issues."

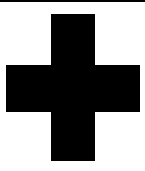
Since moving to Santa Monica from Chicago in 1987, O'Connor has been a member of the Landmarks Commission and the Planning Commission, served on City Council for 13 years, and served as mayor three times.

O'Connor said the key to being mayor is knowing she could give it up and still be happy.

"You have to have to be OK with walking away from it," she said.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

STATE



Redistricting plan hits politicians where it hurts

BY ERICA WERNER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Taking on “special interests” sounds good to most politicians — except when they’re the special interest. That’s why Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger’s proposal to relieve lawmakers of the job of drawing their own political district lines is running into opposition from — who else — lawmakers.

The governor’s plan would assign the task to a panel of retired judges. It’s especially troubling to U.S. House members from his own Republican Party, some of whom fear that recasting congressional districts in Democrat-leaning California could cost the GOP seats.

Republicans outnumber Democrats in the House 232-201 (there’s one independent and one vacancy, in the Democrat-leaning Sacramento district left open by the death of Rep. Robert Matsui and expected to be filled by his wife, Doris).

But the GOP majority hardly seems safe to Republicans who remember that Democrats ruled the House by a lopsided 256-178 margin before Republicans retook control in 1994.

“From a realistic standpoint, it looks like we can lose more than we gain,” Marysville Republican Rep. Wally Herger said recently of Schwarzenegger’s

plan. “That’s what everybody looks at.”

Schwarzenegger’s top Washington ally, Rep. David Dreier, R-San Dimas, has told the governor he’d prefer waiting until after the 2010 U.S. Census for regularly scheduled congressional redistricting. But Schwarzenegger wants an independent panel to redraw California’s congressional and state legislative lines as soon as possible to create more competitive districts as part of his goal to shake up how California is governed.

“I’m supportive of the governor’s reform initiative. I understand his frustration,” Dreier said. “But I told him my preference is to see the census taken before they move to the commission for redistricting.”

An “overwhelming majority” of Republicans in the state delegation feel the same way, Dreier said. The national Republican Party is monitoring Schwarzenegger closely.

The 2010 Census will likely show population gains in California’s fast-growing inland regions, which have leaned Republican. Any redistricting done before then would use numbers from the 2000 Census, and both Democrats and Republicans believe that could let Democrats pick up several House seats.

Some Republicans are hoping to exempt House seats from any mid-decade

remap. GOP political consultant Dave Gilliard is promoting a state ballot initiative that would have that effect, and has discussed it with Republicans in the state’s House delegation.

There are now 33 Democrats and 20 Republicans in the state’s congressional delegation. The state Senate is split between 25 Democrats and 15 Republicans, and the state Assembly between 48 Democrats and 32 Republicans. All the House and Assembly seats and half the state Senate seats were up for election in November and not one changed party hands.

“What kind of democracy is that?” Schwarzenegger asked in his State of the State address last month.

What’s not clear, however, is that a panel of judges would draw many more competitive districts. Republican Gov. Pete Wilson discovered this when he vetoed a Democrat-drawn map after the 1990 Census — only to end up with a map by a panel of retired judges that let Democrats pick up an Assembly seat in the next election.

The plan Schwarzenegger backs is a state constitutional amendment by Assembly Republican leader Kevin McCarthy of Bakersfield.

Democrats are suspicious of McCarthy’s plan because it says that, to

the extent possible, lines must be drawn so that neither major party outnumbers the other by more than seven percentage points among a district’s voters. A map drawn that way would likely favor Republicans by cutting the number of overwhelmingly Democratic districts.

McCarthy’s plan is unlikely to make it through the state Legislature; if it doesn’t, Schwarzenegger has promised to push to get a redistricting plan on a special election ballot later this year. Nine different redistricting initiatives already have been submitted to the secretary of state.

The moderate governor, who will be in Washington this week to meet with California lawmakers, hopes redistricting would result in more centrist politicians. But some experts doubt it would do even that much. Democrat Michael Berman, a leading redistricting expert who’s had a key role in drawing the state’s maps since the 1970s, blamed a primary system that draws partisans on each side who tend to nominate extremists.

“The theory that if there’s actually marginal districts both parties will nominate candidates who appeal to the middle and fight it out — maybe yes, maybe no,” Berman said. “Depends on what the nature of the primary electorate is. Parties could nominate moderates now if they wanted to.”

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DEAR DORIE

Follow the child’s interests and enroll in extracurricular activities accordingly

Dear Dorie,
When is it appropriate to start young children in classes like dance, piano or other musical instruments, gymnastics, etc. that are not “Parent and Me Classes?”
— Planning Parent

Dear Planning,
In general, non-structured creative dance and rhythm classes start at age 3, as well as a few art for toddler sessions. Gymnastics classes also begin at 3 years old. Most organized sports are best left until 4 years old and introduced in a “pee-wee” format with very flexible expectations. The city of Santa Monica community classes division has an extensive offering of kids’ classes listed in “Seascape,” a city publication available at your local library or city office. The Santa Monica chapter of the YWCA also has a nice variety of classes for the little ones. Finally, there are many private studios that will have classes for young children.
The most important thing to do is follow your child’s interests. Not all children like gymnastics. Also, remember in the first few attempts to firmly clarify the class refund policy. It’s your job to give it a good shot — don’t quit after one attempt — but the class should not be forced. When you make the right match, you’ll know. Remember though, even these classes require your presence on the sidelines or, at least, on site. You’re not in the “drop off” stage until well into elementary school. Good luck and don’t forget to bring the camera.

— 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).

Doctors say don’t lose sleep over your baby’s unusual bedtime behavior

By Daily Press staff

When babies are new it seems they sleep all of the time, but they also wake frequently to eat — disrupting their parents’ normal sleep patterns. By about 3 months old, however, most babies will have developed a sleep routine that is manageable to parents.
By age 3 months, most sleep is being accomplished at night. Daytime sleeping has become more predictable, with increasingly longer periods of wakefulness. Naps and bedtimes are beginning to follow a schedule.
As babies mature, they sleep for longer periods at night. By 3 months, most babies can sleep for about five to six hours straight, and by 6 to 9 months, most infants are sleeping about nine hours at night without waking to be fed.
You can help your infant develop good nighttime sleep patterns by setting a bedtime routine as early as 3 months. The routine can be as simple as singing a nursery rhyme. Later, older children will enjoy being read a story, said Dr. Jeffrey Penso, a pediatrician with Saint John’s Health Center in Santa Monica. It is important to have the house quiet during bedtime and to keep the lights low, he added.
Try not to let your baby fall asleep anywhere but the crib. It’s important for babies to fall asleep on their own rather than in your arms. Falling asleep on their own teaches independence.
It’s normal for children and adults to wake up briefly during the night for a few minutes, but they should be able to fall back asleep without any trouble. If you hear your baby wake up at night, give them a few minutes to fall back asleep by themselves.
However, if your baby needs you to help them fall back asleep, go to your baby and pat them gently or sing a song. Keep the lights low and keep the noise down. It may be helpful to keep a night light in your child’s room. The low light will comfort them when they do wake up, and a night light will allow you to see without turning on the overhead lights. Make sure anything you need for a

diaper change is easily accessible. It’s important not to wake the baby any more than necessary.
Most importantly, try to keep your child in his crib, said Dr. Penso. Sit in the room with your baby and give him reassurance, but do not take him out of the crib. You may want to hang a mobile over the crib or place a few safe toys in your baby’s crib. Some children like to play for a minute and then go back to sleep.
When they are new, babies take many naps each day. By 6 months, most babies are fine taking two naps daily. By about 1 years old, they need only a single nap. Referred to as a “power nap,” the single nap is usually two to three hours in duration. At this age, babies are usually sleeping 10 or more hours a night.
Even if it seems your baby won’t sleep, don’t despair. Children eventually adjust their own sleep needs to the routine you set.
Experts like Dr. Penso at Saint John’s Health Center in Santa Monica are on hand to help you learn how to care for your baby. To find a physician, log onto the Saint John’s Web site at www.stjohns.org. Select “Find a Physician” and respond to the computer prompts. Browsers can choose from a wide range of specialists, which are then sorted by location, gender and language.
To learn more about the Health Center’s state-of-the-art birthing suites or to take a tour of the McAlister Women’s Health Center and the Maria Shriver Nursery at Saint John’s, call (310) 829-8794.

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SATURDAY, FEB. 19
CHINESE NEW YEAR FESTIVAL at HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS 10:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (also Sun., Feb. 20) Celebrate the “Year of the Rooster” with dragon dancing, Chinese music, children's activities and more. Free with museum admission: \$12.50 adults, \$10 seniors, \$8.50 ages 12-18, \$5 ages 5-11, free for children under 5. 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino, 626-405-2100.

WORLD CITY PERFORMANCE at WALT DISNEY CONCERT HALL
12:30 & 2:00 p.m. This monthly family concert features the Jazz Tap Ensemble of the Faithful Central Bible Church and Heritage Chorale. All ages. FREE! 111 S. Grand Ave., LA, 213-972-4396.

APPLE DUMPLING GANG at **THE ACTOR'S GANG THEATRE – 8:00 p.m.**
Parents can enjoy a theatrical production while babysitter's from the Babysitter's Guild watch children and play games. Ages 4 and up. \$35 single tickets with babysitting. 6209 Santa Monica Blvd., Hollywood, 323-465-0566

SUNDAY, FEB. 20
STORYTELLING at the **GETTY, 11:30 a.m. and 1:30, 2:30 & 3:30 p.m.**
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MONDAY, FEB. 21
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MONDAYS - NEW KARATE CLASS FOR AGES 4-5; 3:00 – 3:45
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COMING UP
MONDAY, FEB. 28 – CPR TRAINING – 6:00 p.m.
For ages 16 and up. No charge for class or certificate. Santa Monica Airport, free parking. Call for info and reservations – 393-7758, Dr. Harris.

WEDNESDAYS, FEB. 23, MARCH 2 & 9 – 3:15 – 5:45 p.m.
“MOON MAGIC: GROWING UP and LOVING IT.” What's good about being a girl? How does the moon affect your life as a girl and woman? What are some of the emotional and physical changes that occur as you grow? This free workshop for girls aged 11 – 13 explores the answers to these questions and others. Part of the YWCA Santa Monica/Westside Girls in Action program. YWCA, 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881 to register. FREE! Registration required, space is limited.

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What is a doula? “A woman experienced

in childbirth who provides continuous physical, emotional and informational support before, during and just after childbirth.” (Klaus, Kennell and Klaus in Mothering the Mother)

TUESDAY
Movies for Moms! Feb. 15 – Racing Stripes starring Bruce Greenwood, Hayden Panettiere and M. Emmet Walsh. Comedy, Rated “PG.”
11:00 a.m., Loews Broadway, 1441 3rd St. Promenade – for Moms and babies newborn – 1 year old. Doors open early for socializing and getting comfortable. Visit www.enjoytheshow.com/reelmoms for details.

Storytelling
Main Library – held at Reed Park, corner of 7th and Wilshire.
Toddler Storytime; 10:00 a.m. For 2 year olds with adult.
Preschool Story Time; 10:30 a.m.; for ages 3-5.

Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.
Cuentos Para Pequenos – 10:00 a.m., six-week series in Spanish for 24 – 36 month olds with adult. Next session begins Mar. 1.
Lap Time – 11:00 a.m, six-week series for babies 0-24 months, co-sponsored by the SMMUSD Infant & Family Support Programs. Next session begins Mar. 1.
Twilight Story Time -7pm – an ongoing program for 3-5 year olds.
Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.
Family Story Time – 7:00 p.m., all ages.
Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St. – 310-392-3804.
Toddler Storytime, 10:00 and 10:30. Music, rhymes and stories for 24-36 month olds.
Next session begins Feb. 22, registration required.
Tiny Tuesday Storytime at Storyopolis For ages infant to 3. 11:00 a.m. 116 North Robertson, Plaza A, LA. 310-358-2500, www.storyopolis.com
Barnes and Noble at the Grove Storytime for ages 2 – 6. 10:00 a.m. 189 Grove Drive, LA, 323-525-0270

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

Yoga & Exercise
Prenatal Aqua Aerobics at the **Santa Monica YMCA**
10:00 – 11:00 a.m and 7:30 – 8:30 p.m; Free for members, non-members \$90 for 10 classes. (also Thursday nights 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.) 393-2721. ext. 117 for more info.
Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:40 p.m., \$15. Mommy and Me – 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.
Mommy Care – at the Dance Factory, 11606 San Vicente Blvd., Brentwood, 310-394-6711. Combined Pregnancy/Recovery Exercise Group – 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.. (babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)
Itsy Bitsy Yoga – Tots (crawling to 24 months) – 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Baby (6 weeks to pre-crawling) – 11:30 – 12:30 a.m. With Khefri Riley at Ocean Oasis, 1333 Ocean Ave. Register at www.khefri.net or call 323-549-5383.
Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

Breastfeeding Group
The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-826-5774 - no pre-reg required, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY
Storytelling

The Talking Stick Coffee Lounge – 1630 Ocean Park Blvd., 450-6052
10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4 at this neighborhood coffee shop.
Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.
Preschool Story Time – 10:30 a.m.; six-week series for 3-5 year olds with adult.
Next session begins Mar. 2.
Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.
Lap Time - 10:15 & 11:15 a.m., ages 0-2. Next session begins Feb. 23.
Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St. –392-3804.
Preschool Twilight Story Time – 7:00 – 7:30 p.m. Parents/children ages 3-5.
Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion – 2 pm – ages 2-5 – 310-475-4144
Border's, Westwood – 11am – 310-475-3444.

Classes
Rhythm Child Parent & Me Rhythms, Santa Monica Studios, 3025 Olympic Blvd., 9:30 – 10:15 a.m. Current session thru March 5. Children explore rhythms through drum play. Ages 6 mos. – 3.5 years; \$100 for 8 weeks. Call 204-5466 or visit www.rhythmchild.net for more info.
YWCA – A Place for Parents – Parent Support (3 – 5 years) – 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.; Infant/Toddler and Me (0-12 mos.) – 10:30 – 11:00 a.m.; Parents of Adolescents Support Group – 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

Yoga & Exercise
Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45pm, \$15
Fitness for Moms – Babies Welcome! Step Aerobics, 10:30 a.m. at the YMCA, 393-2721, ext. 117 for more info. Free for members, non-members pay \$90 for 10 classes.
Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

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The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

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

THURSDAY

Babystyle, 1324 Montana Avenue, 434-9590
10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4.
Main Library – held at Reed Park, corner of 7th and Wilshire.
Toddler Storytime; 10:00 a.m.; for 2 year olds with adult.
Preschool Story Time; 10:30 a.m.; for ages 3-5.
Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.
Toddler Story Time – 10:30 a.m; for ages 2 –3. Next session begins Mar. 3.
La Hora Del Cuento – 7:00 p.m. Spanish stories, songs and rhymes for all ages.
Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.
Toddler Story Time – 10:15 a.m., for 2 year olds. Next session begins Feb. 24.
Preschool Story Time – 11:15 a.m.; for 3-5 year olds.

Classes
YWCA – A Place for Parents – Toddler & Me (1-3 years) – 9:15 – 10:15 a.m. and 10:45 – 11:45 a.m.; classes in partnership with the Infant and Family Support Program.
Parent Support (3 – 5 years) – 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

Yoga & Exercise

Prenatal Aqua Aerobics at the **Santa Monica YMCA**
7:30 – 8:30 p.m; Free for members, non-members \$90 for 10 classes. (also Tuesdays at 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.) 393-2721. ext. 117 for more info.
Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:40 p.m., \$15. Mommy and Me – 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.
Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

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

FRIDAY

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

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 (1-3 years) – 9:20 – 10:20 a.m.; Parent Support (1-3 years) – 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.
Mommy and Me Dance– celebrate the wonderful world of imagination Fridays at the Electric Lodge. 9:45 – 10:45 a.m. ages 14 - 24 months; 10:45 – 11:45 a.m. ages 2 – 4.
6 classes for \$75 or \$14 per class. First class free! 1416 Electric Ave, Venice, 306-1854.

Yoga & Exercise
Fitness for Moms – Babies Welcome! Indoor Cycling, 10:30 a.m. at the YMCA, 393-2721, ext. 117 for more info. Free for members, non-members pay \$90 for 10 classes.
Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45 p.m., \$15.
Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

Other
Baby Attuned - Fridays, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., A new program promoting sensitive parenting and developmental awareness. Parent-completed developmental screening, with review and feedback from a licensed clinical developmental psychologist and experienced pediatric

nurse practitioner, Eileen Escarce, PhD, MSN. (PSY 18819). Introductory fee: \$15 per screening with feedback. 1137 2nd Ave, Suite 213. By appointment only 310-367-1155.

SATURDAY

Storytelling
Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade – Kid's Story Time – 10am – 310-260-9110
Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion – 10:30am – ages 2-5 – 310-475-4144.
Children's Book World – 10580 1/2 Pico Blvd, LA - 10:30 a.m., 310-559-800K.
Village Books, 1049 SwarthmoreAve, Pacific Palisades – 10:30 a.m. – 454-4063.

Yoga & Exercise
Santa Monica Yoga – Pre- & Post-Natal Yoga, Saturdays – 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. 1640 Ocean Park Blvd, 396-4040, www.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
Snow White at the Santa Monica Playhouse
Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m. (thru April); \$12 adults, \$10 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 2 for reservations, www.santamonica playhouse.com
Puppetolio – 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested
Magicopolis – 2 and 8 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$20 for evening, \$15 for matinee. Call 310-451-2241 for info.
Precious Prints – Ceramic Heirlooms for a Lifetime
Second Saturday every month at The Pump Station, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Contact Kristan Ritchie at 310-802-8013 or visit www.preciousprintsstudios.com for more info.

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

SUNDAY

Main Street Farmer's Market – 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., corner of Main St. and

Ocean Park Blvd. Pony rides, live music, lots of vendors and great family socializing.
Puppetolio – 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested
Magicopolis – 2 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$15. Call 310-451-2241 for info.
Snow White at the Santa Monica Playhouse
Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m. (thru April); \$12 adults, \$10 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 2 for reservations, www.santamonica playhouse.com

MONDAY

Storytelling
Main Library – Lap Time at Joslyn Park, Craft Room, 9:30 a.m. A series for babies up to two years old. (No lap time Feb. 21)
“**Family Connections**” – 10:00 a.m., immediately following Lap Time - a series of discussions related to early childhood development and growth. Children welcome, free.
Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main Street, 310-392-3804.
“**Spanish for Little Ones**”, 11:15 a.m. Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade – Toddler Story Time – 10am – 310-260-9110

MOMS Club of Santa Monica – New Mother Group – for new moms with babies ages 0-6 months. Meet for conversation, support and playtime. All new Moms welcome!
Call Clare at 395-7422 for time, location and more info.

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

Breastfeeding Group
The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-826-5774 - no pre-reg required, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Yoga & Exercise
Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45pm, \$15
Yoga Garden, - Restorative yoga for pre/postnatal – 6:30 p.m., 310-450-0133. www.yogagardenstudios.com
Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

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STATE

New tools ease collaboration and publishing online

BY MAY WONG

AP Technology Writer

PALO ALTO, Calif. — This scenario is all too familiar to office workers who collaborate electronically on projects: E-mails get passed around with differing versions of documents-in-progress attached. Instant messages whizz by. Web sites are cited, then lost.

It's often a jumbled mess, with no central online location for shared data.

There must be a better way.

A new crop of tools aims to help turn the Web — be it on the public Internet or a company network — into much more than a collection of documents one visits like a museum: Look, but don't touch.

The idea is to make it easy to quickly post and remove

stuff from digital bulletin boards where the online communities of the future will gather to catch up and trade ideas, images and work.

"We're turning the Web into a conversation," said Glenn Reid, chief executive and founder of Five Across Inc.

Reid's startup and several other companies will offer their visions for accomplishing that on stage this week at the DEMO conference in Arizona, an annual showcase of tech innovation.

All are trying to address in one way or another an emerging trend of making the Web less disjointed and more democratized — a richer, more organized forum for gathering and sharing information.

These companies, and many others, are all part of a growing industry specializing in what Forrester Research analyst Charlene Li calls "social media."

JotSpot Inc., a Palo Alto-based startup, is betting on Wikis, a type of Web page that can be edited by anyone.

Wikis could become a staging area of sorts for information, and JotSpot's new Web service targets businesses that want to give authorized users a common location in which to collaborate.

Co-workers can take a spreadsheet, build on it, customize it, integrate data from the Web or e-mails and have all the information reside in one place on a Wiki Web site. Revisions are tracked and archived so nothing is ever lost.

Behind JotSpot is Joe Kraus, a serial entrepreneur who co-founded the early search engine Excite.

Kraus became a believer in Wikis after he and fellow co-founder Graham Spencer got fed up with exchanging hundreds of e-mails and attachments and tried using a Wiki instead while working on a business plan. That ultimately led to JotSpot's birth in October, competing against Socialtext and a handful of others in the fledgling market.

"We're in this transition of making it ever easier to publish (on the Web) and integrate previously siloed information and personalizing it," said Kraus, who is also JotSpot's chief executive.

Others, like Five Across and iUpload, aim to use the power of another form of Web publishing, online journals commonly known as blogs, to help businesses or individuals streamline their teamwork or communication.

Easy to use and update, blogs have gained traction in the past few years and are used by everyone from political pundits to pre-adolescents.

More than 8 million Internet users have created blogs, according to the Pew Internet and American Life Project, and a growing number of businesses are experimenting with blogs as tools for internal and external communication.

At DEMO, Palo Alto-based Five Across is introducing speedy technology that lets bloggers instantaneously update their blog pages with text, photos, audio or video clips, even spreadsheets and presentations, using easy drag-and-drop motions.

Called Bubbler, the tool allows members of a group to make a single blog more of a community than one person's mouthpiece.

Say someone has built a Web site for their child's soccer team. Setting up a community-style blog could help make the task easier, Reid said. A single person wouldn't be burdened with all the work.

The Bubbler blogging platform could also tap Five Across' existing software for instant messaging and file-sharing.

Ontario, Canada-based iUpload's new blogging product lets individuals communicate with other Web sites straight from their blogs. Users can pull their blog content — whether it's a book review or a submission to a photo contest — and send it to iUpload's online partners, which so far include auction giant eBay Inc., Web portal Yahoo Inc. and social networking site Tribe.

"You could live in your blog, author content and choose where the content will appear — all without traipsing all over the Internet," said iUpload's chief executive Robin Hopper.

Another startup, Pluck Corp., will launch at DEMO a Web browser companion that's designed to be a one-stop personal information manager for search, blogs and data feeds known as "Really Simple Syndication," or RSS — a system that grabs fresh information from designated sites and distributes summaries and links to the user.

A number of companies offer people the ability to compile RSS feeds on a single page, but Pluck also lets users share with friends and colleagues the feeds, Web site addresses and other information they find valuable. Pluck users can also direct the software to regularly scour the Web for items of interest.

The point is to save e-mail traffic and time.

The participants at this year's DEMO event, however, aren't the only ones that see the potential of turning what has traditionally been a read-only Web into what JotSpot's Kraus calls "a write-able Web."

Tech giants such as Google Inc., Microsoft Corp. and Yahoo already have invested in consumer-oriented blogging technologies and have started to integrate them into their Web portal services.

"There are big players setting the pace with their large base of customers, but a lot will be driven by the innovation of some of these smaller companies," analyst Li said. "It's like a genie now. You can't put it back in the bottle."

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STATE



Santa Barbara County business is up thanks to 'Sideways'

BY GREG RISLING

Associated Press Writer

BUELLTON, Calif. — Frank Ostini can't seem to keep his cocktail napkins in stock.

The owner of the Hitching Post II restaurant, featured in the Oscar-nominated film "Sideways," is on pace to blow through a three-year supply of 50,000 in the next few months. Customers, it appears, are plucking napkins as souvenirs.

Since the October premiere of "Sideways," which features nearly two dozen locales including Ostini's Western-style restaurant, business has been brisk during what is usually a slow season for Southern California wine country.

Filed primarily in the bucolic Santa Ynez Valley, 45 minutes north of Santa Barbara and 2 1/2 hours from Los Angeles, the movie about two friends on a wine-fueled odyssey before one gets married, has sparked interest in an area normally overshadowed by Northern California's wine country.

The Santa Barbara Conference & Visitors Bureau published 10,000 "Sideways" map for tourists wanting to retrace the adventures of the movie's two buddies, Miles and Jack. Within a month of the film's release the maps were gone and 30,000 more were printed. The map also has been downloaded nearly 5,000 times from the bureau's Web site since December.

"We couldn't have imagined it would be this big," said bureau spokeswoman Shannon Turner Brooks. "We had faith it was going to be well-received, but thought it would be an indie or art-house movie that would have limited coverage."

Not so — "Sideways" recently won the Golden Globe for best musical or comedy and is nominated for five Oscars, including best picture. The film has made about \$50 million at the box office and the Oscar buzz prompted Fox Searchlight to release "Sideways" to 1,000 more theaters last month.

Now, some businesses are offering "Sideways"-themed packages.

Guests at the Wine Valley Inn & Cottages in Solvang, for example, also receive a gift certificate for a meal at a Danish restaurant and a bottle of wine from the Firestone Vineyard, among other items. The restaurant and vineyard are two places Miles and Jack visit.

Marie Knelange has decided to integrate the film into her own wedding in May. Knelange, who recently moved from Montana to Santa Barbara County with her fiancé, Nathan Naidas, plans to shuttle about 60-70 wedding guests to three wineries.

"We're movie buffs and we wanted to do a wine tour as part of the wedding," said Knelange, 36, "so when we saw the movie it was a perfect fit."

If "Sideways" is released on DVD before her wedding, Knelange would like to give copies to her bridesmaids.

"Everybody will think we're crazy, but we wanted to do something different," she said.

Bob Gifford, a Chicago resident who visits California on business several times a year, decided after watching "Sideways" to include a first-time stop in wine country in January.

"We saw the movie a month ago and wanted to see what it's all about," said Gifford, 57. "The movie definitely enhanced it."

At the Sanford Winery, customers recognize tasting room manager Chris Burroughs from a scene in which he pours, as Miles, the connoisseur, teaches Jack, the novice, about the subtleties of wine. Burroughs has been asked to pose for pictures and sign bottles.

"Even though I feel a little absurd, people recognize me and it's part of the experience," he said.

Burroughs adds that visitors shouldn't be misguided by some of the messages in the film, which he calls "a twisted love song to wine."

"We're not trying to put wine up on a pedestal," he said. "It's just fermented grape juice."

Still, he and other locals don't mind watching the film spread word about the Santa Ynez Valley, which despite its award-winning vintages has long been overshadowed by vineyards north of San Francisco.

"We hope that the movie creates a greater awareness

that California wine is not confined to just the Napa Valley," Burroughs said.

Back at the Hitching Post, where Ostini was getting ready for customers to arrive one recent evening, advance bookings have tripled, filling the dining rooms and prompting him to consider expanding hours. Business, he says, is up 30 percent.

"The attention we've received has been incredible," said Ostini, 52. "It's taken us to a different status."

The walls of the restaurant's bar, where Miles bellies up, are adorned with pictures from the film and a giant wine bottle signed by the cast.

Indeed, the film's star might not be anyone in the cast but one of Miles' favorite wines — the Hitching Post-produced Highliner. Of 350 cases of the 2002 vintage released in December, only 100 remain. Ostini expects to release at least 600 cases of the next batch.

Ostini acknowledges he had concerns when filmmakers first approached him. He worried that portraying a couple of guys draining glass after glass might portray the wine industry in a bad light. Instead, the film seems to have inspired novice drinkers to sample different varieties.

"It's the best marketing decision we've ever made," he said. "This has been a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

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NATIONAL

Verizon agrees to buy MCI for \$6.75 billion

BY BRUCE MEYERSON

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — Verizon Communications Inc. is acquiring MCI Corp. for \$6.75 billion, a swift response to the acquisition of AT&T Corp. by SBC Communications Inc. and the third big telephone industry merger in two months.

The agreement announced Monday, scuttling a competing bid for MCI by Qwest Communications International Inc., will result in about 7,000 job cuts from the combined Verizon-MCI work force of about 250,000 employees.

The purchase price was about a half billion dollars

below what Qwest offered for MCI, which recently changed its name from WorldCom Inc. after emerging from bankruptcy and a huge financial fraud.

Verizon likely won MCI's favor because it is larger and in better financial shape than Qwest, the local phone carrier across the more sparsely populated Rocky Mountains and Pacific Northwest.

Denver-based Qwest had no immediate comment on the deal when contacted on Monday.

"MCI is one of just a few beachfront properties you'd want to see, so it would be crazy not to keep our eyes out," for a company with assets like this up for sale, Ivan Seidenberg, Verizon's chairman and chief executive, said in a conference call with investors Monday morning.

The deal values MCI's stock at \$6.75 billion, or \$20.75 per share — equal to Friday's closing price on the Nasdaq Stock Market. After rising 12 percent in two weeks amid speculation fueled by the SBC-AT&T deal, MCI's shares fell \$1.06, or 5.1 percent, to \$19.69 in Monday's early trading.

Verizon shares rose 59 cents, or 1.6 percent, to \$36.90 on the New York Stock Exchange. Qwest fell 26 cents, or 6.3 percent, to \$3.89.

Verizon will pay \$4.795 billion worth of its stock and \$488 million in cash for MCI's shares. In addition, MCI shareholders will be paid dividends worth \$1.463 billion.

Verizon is also assuming MCI's debt, expected to total \$4 billion at closing. The companies estimated that merger transition expenses will total up to \$3.5 billion over three years after the deal closes, but that cost-cutting from redundant operations will yield about \$1 billion per year in savings starting in the third year.

The deal is subject to MCI shareholder approval and requires regulatory approval, which the companies hope to get in about a year.

The deal comes some two weeks after a \$16 billion deal reached between AT&T and SBC, a top rival for both Verizon and Qwest.

"For Verizon, this deal represents a 'Why not?' strategy. With significant financial security, Verizon can easily pull this deal off," said Ben Silverman, telecom analyst for investment newsletter FindProfit.com. "The deal cements Qwest's place as an 'also-ran' and 'has been' in the telecom arena."

MCI investors are said to have reacted poorly to the prospect of being paid with shares of stock in Qwest, a company marred by its own accounting scandals and a more questionable future.

The buyout marks an abrupt change of direction for Verizon, which just two weeks ago dismissed the notion it needed to respond to either an SBC-AT&T deal or the merger agreement between Sprint Corp. and Nextel Communications Inc. in December.

The three recent mergers would reduce the U.S. telecom industry to five dominant players — Verizon, SBC, BellSouth Corp., Sprint and Qwest — though the cable TV industry has begun to emerge as serious threat on the consumer side with the accelerating rollout of telephone service.

Analysts and investors widely expected that Verizon would realize the need to counter the competitive advantage SBC will gain with AT&T despite that company's rapidly shrinking business.

And though many said New York-based Verizon would have preferred to wait before cutting a deal, or possibly even bid for Sprint instead, the company apparently decided it needed to act once Qwest made its play for MCI.

MCI's business isn't as large as AT&T's, but its network would give Verizon a national footprint with which to serve large companies hesitant to trust their communications to a regional service provider. MCI also would jump-start that effort with its base of corporate clients and an established sales force.

AT&T and MCI also bring a big base of residential customers to whom SBC and Verizon would like to market the cable TV services they plan to roll out starting later this year. Both SBC and Verizon are investing billions to upgrade their networks to deliver video and interactive services.

MCI, based in Ashburn, Va., emerged from bankruptcy last spring after a multibillion-dollar accounting scandal which nearly destroyed the company.

Former chief executive Bernard Ebbers is currently being tried on criminal charges in the fraud, which boosted the profits WorldCom reported by hiding billions of dollars in expenses and inflating revenues. Former chief financial officer, Scott Sullivan, became the government's lead witness against Ebbers after pleading guilty in the scandal.

The company, once worth \$180 billion on the stock market, wiped away most of its debt in the bankruptcy reorganization.

A combination of price wars, unfavorable regulatory changes, and competition from cell phones and Internet-based calling made it unlikely the company could survive on its own for the long term, so Capellas immediately began shopping the company around to prospective buyers.



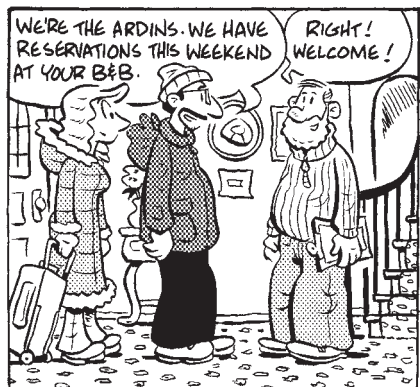
COMICS



The Dinette Set by Julie Larson

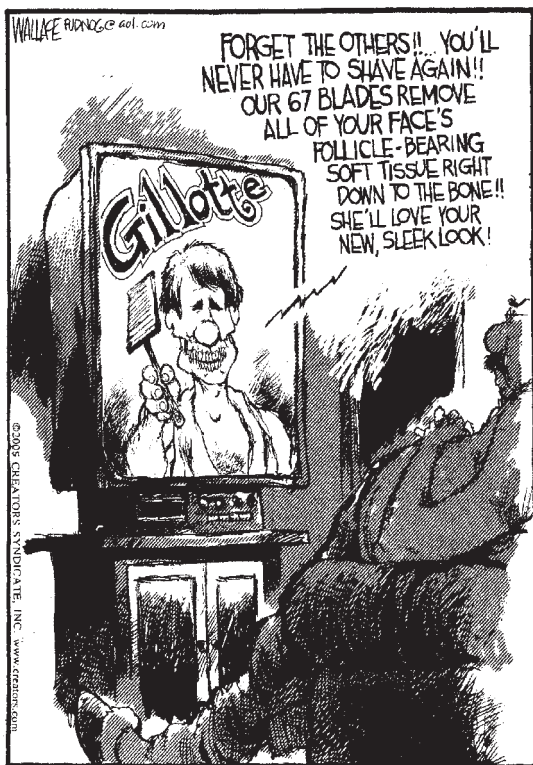


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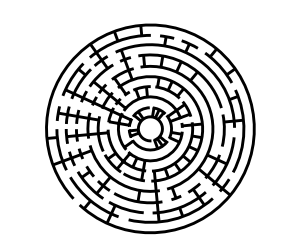
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Stewart and Jerry Lee Lewis back in the spotlight

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Veteran performers Rod Stewart and Jerry Lee Lewis are celebrating their awards from the Recording Academy.

Stewart won the Grammy for traditional pop vocal album for "Stardust ... The Great American Songbook Volume III," and Lewis received a Lifetime Achievement Award this weekend in Los Angeles.

It was Stewart's first Grammy, and the 60-year-old singer said he'll take it "everywhere" he travels.

"After all these years I was quite liking not winning, but somehow I'll learn to live with it," Stewart said Monday in Brisbane, where he was preparing to launch his latest Australian tour.

"In fact I intend to take it with me everywhere," he said.

The 69-year-old Lewis, whose hits include "Great Balls of Fire" and "Whole Lotta Shakin' Going On," said it was "pretty hard to beat a lifetime achievement award."

"I feel great about this award because you earn it," he told The Commercial Appeal of Memphis. He added: "I just thank God I'm living."

LONDON — Prince Charles and his fiancée, Camilla Parker Bowles, celebrated Valentine's Day in private at his country estate after the heir to the throne spent the day at work.

The couple spent a quiet weekend together following the massive publicity surrounding their wedding announcement Thursday.

In the coming weeks, they are expected to complete preparations for their April 8 civil wedding ceremony at

Windsor Castle.

The prince spent Monday on official engagements in Staffordshire and Cheshire counties in central England, meeting with cheese makers and farmers.

In the early evening, he returned to Highgrove, his country estate in Gloucestershire, western England, to spend the rest of Valentine's Day with Parker Bowles.

Over the weekend, Charles and his future wife only emerged from Highgrove on Sunday to attend a service at a nearby church. The couple joined a congregation of 34 people in tiny, picturesque St. Leonard's Church in the leafy village of Didmarton.

The Rev. Christopher Mulholland said the two were welcome guests, taking their normal seats in the front pew.

"People are very glad when two of the congregation have decided to get married. There was a great sense of goodwill," Mulholland said.

Princess Diana blamed the on-again, off-again romance between Charles and Parker Bowles for the breakdown of their marriage in 1992.

The princess died in a car accident in 1997.

LOS ANGELES — Comedian Paul Rodriguez has sued his former manager for \$1 million, alleging that he forged a signature to gain ownership of the film "The Latin Kings of Comedy" and struck a deal with a major studio.

The Superior Court lawsuit, filed Thursday, alleges that Scott Montoya and his company, Payaso Entertainment, forged the comedian's signature on a contract and then entered into a deal with Paramount Pictures to distribute the film after the two men agreed in 2001 to split profits from the movie.

That agreement would give Montoya, who was hired in 1997, control of the production and make Rodriguez simply an "employee," the lawsuit said.

A phone call to Montoya at Payaso that was placed after business hours Thursday was not returned.

Rodriguez said he found out about the alleged forgery in October. He is seeking punitive and exemplary damages.

BOZEMAN, Mont. — Actress Jane Fonda shared her struggle with bulimia and quest for physical perfection at a conference of teenage girls here, urging them to realize what it took her some 60 years to understand.

"The reason I've been excited about coming here is because I believe if we're going to solve the problems confronting the world on every level, it's going to have to be the girls who do it," Fonda said.

The keynote speaker for Montana State University's Girls for a Change Conference on Saturday, Fonda told her audience of about 250 that her years of trying to look perfect have taken a great toll on her.

"I was bulimic for 35 years," Fonda, 67, said. "I mistook the physical hunger for spiritual hunger."

Fonda said that growing up, she never felt she was good enough, and learned at a young age that a woman's role was to please her husband. "I knew intuitively that to be loved, I have to be perfect," she said.

When she hit adolescence, Fonda said, her days of climbing trees and riding horses were shadowed by feelings that she and her body were imperfect — feelings common to many girls, she said.

"That leaves a dark hole in the center of ourselves," she said.



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Britannia Pub

A Great Place To Anchor

Great Food...Great Cocktails...Great Crew... GREAT FUN!!



Wednesday Nights

Live Band
NO COVER

Live 6 Nations Rugby

Acoustic Bands Needed for
Wednesday Nights, contact: MIKE

Full Bar • Restaurant • Live Music • Heated Patio • Delivery

Low Carb Menu Available!

Open Sat & Sun at 9:30am for Breakfast

KARAOKE! Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday & Sundays NO COVER

318 Santa Monica Blvd. • Santa Monica
310-458-5350 • www.britanniapub.com