

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

7 9 23 30 40
Meganumber: 5
Jackpot: \$10 Million

FANTASY 5

12 13 25 32 36

DAILY 3

Daytime: 9 5 7
Evening: 2 6 3

DAILY DERBY

1st: 09 Winning Spirit
2nd: 06 Whirl Win
3rd: 04 Big Ben

RACE TIME: 1:42.87

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

In January, sanitation workers in Nairobi, Kenya, finally, after 10 years of complaints, cleaned up the Wakulima Market (the country's largest fruit and vegetable facility), dislodging an estimated 750 tons of garbage, 38 tons of human waste, and about 6,000 rats. Also in January, Cleveland paralegal Austin Aitken filed a lawsuit against the TV show "Fear Factor" for \$2.5 million, claiming that the episode in which contestants ate dead rats made him ill, causing him to vomit, become dizzy, and hit his head as he ran from the room in disgust.

TODAY IN HISTORY

In 1872, Congress authorized creation of Yellowstone National Park.
In 1904, bandleader Glenn Miller was born in Clarinda, Iowa.
In 1954, Puerto Rican nationalists opened fire from the gallery of the U.S. House of Representatives, wounding five congressmen.
In 1961, President Kennedy established the Peace Corps.
In 1981, Irish Republican Army member Bobby Sands began a hunger strike at the Maze Prison in Northern Ireland; he died 65 days later.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Words are, of course, the most powerful drug used by mankind."

RUDYARD KIPLING
ENGLISH AUTHOR (1865-1936)

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Merger's effect on mall unclear

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN — The future of a controversial development in downtown Santa Monica was further complicated by an announcement Monday that the parent companies of Macy's and Robinsons-May plan to merge in a deal worth \$17 billion.

The two retailers occupy a combined 300,000 square feet of space in the aging Santa Monica Place mall, which owner Macerich Co.

hopes to demolish. Before Macerich can build a new project on the 10-acre site it will need approval from the new conglomerate.

A plan to raze the indoor mall and extend the thriving Third Street Promenade one block south has already faced intense scrutiny from elected leaders and the public alike. Macerich's first proposal called for reworking the layout of its shops and restaurants, and adding five high-rise towers for apartments, condominiums and offices.

The Santa Monica City Council

in January sent Macerich back to the drawing board, saying the property presented a valuable opportunity to connect downtown, but needed to be redrafted after taking input from residents and merchants. City Hall on Feb. 17 released a four-month plan for managing that process.

How the pending merger will affect the proposal was unclear Monday. City officials said they hoped to use the opportunity to attract a different type of retailer, perhaps along the lines of a Target

or another discount store. Meanwhile, Macerich reiterated its commitment to redevelop the site, and a Santa Monica business consultant said the deal posed several new opportunities.

"This is all very new and even people that have seen it coming for a long time, now that it's happened, this is still a big shock. This is still a big ripple effect in the industry," said consultant Rob York, who tracks retail business in

See **WHAT'S IN STORE**, page 7

City looking to take another shot at 'self

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — After twice losing a lawsuit against itself, City Hall has decided to seek redress from the state's highest court.

The Santa Monica City Council agreed this week to ask the California Supreme Court to review a lawsuit it filed against itself over Proposition LL, an aggressive conflict-of-interest initiative passed by Santa Monica voters in 2000.

The idea, according to City Attorney Marsha Moutrie, is to get judicial review of a law she argued is unconstitutional and unenforceable, without directly treading on the will of Santa Monica voters.

A state appellate court last month refused to hear the case, ruling City Hall did not have legal footing to bring the suit against itself. That ruling affirmed a lower court decision against the city.

Nearly 60 percent of Santa Monica voters in November of 2000 voted for Prop. LL, which was designed to stop city workers and elected leaders from collecting cash, gifts and other perks from the groups or individuals who are affected by their policy-making decisions.

Officials at City Hall criticized the proposition as poorly written, overly broad and a threat to the constitutional rights of everyone from low-level desk clerks to elected leaders sitting on the Santa

Monica City Council. In May of 2001, Moutrie recommended, and the council agreed, that the city file a lawsuit against itself. It sued City Clerk Maria Stewart, who, on Moutrie's advice, refused to implement the law.

"I think there are a lot of drafting errors in the initiative."

ANTHONY SERRITELLA
Deputy City Attorney

What followed was a legal struggle that has lasted more than four years, consumed untold hours of city attorney time, and cost tens of thousands of taxpayer dollars in outside attorneys' fees.

Meanwhile, the advocacy group that put the initiative on the ballot has grown increasingly impatient. Carmen Balber of the Foundation for Taxpayer and Consumer Rights, which maintains its headquarters in Sunset Park, called the city's suit a trumped-up attempt to circumvent voter will. She said Prop. LL could easily be enforced.

"It's a very narrow circumstance, where you can see the direct line between the award of a public benefit by a city official and the thank you, the personal benefit paid by a company to that

See **PROP LL**, page 7



Kim Calvert/Special to the Daily Press

A new sandbag machine at the Los Angeles County maintenance yard on Venice Beach enables workers to produce sandbags at three times the previous rate. The bags are used to shore up structures, pathways and beaches.

Bagger advance: Shoring up the beach

BY KIM CALVERT

Special to the Daily Press

Los Angeles County's new sandbag machines take a load off county workers' backs to protect structures from water damage.

A \$55,000 grant from the Quality and Productivity Commission made it possible for Los Angeles County to purchase three sandbagging machines, which allows one maintenance employee to make 1,800 sandbags in an hour. Without the machines, it took a group of workers three times as long to do the same amount of work.

A loader scoops up the sand and dumps it into the machine. The sand then empties into a chute and is mechanically distributed into bags.

One of the machines, located at the county's maintenance yard on Venice Beach, was a big help during the recent storms, according to Los Angeles County District Manager Carlos Zimmerman.

"We produced enough sandbags to keep structures protected and we had a surplus amount that was used by residents to protect their property as well," he said.

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Don't be a yes man, Taurus

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)

★★★ Yes, someone might be distorting
the facts, but at the same time, he or she might
be creatively opening a door. Walk on through.
Remember, sometimes how you look at a situa-
tion can determine the outcome. Listen to feed-
back. Tonight: Dinner for two.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Others express themselves in a way
that encourages you to vanish. You might not get
the gist of what a partner or associate shares. You
also might not want to absorb all the information
you are given. Tonight: Don't be a yes man — or
woman!



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Know when you have had enough
and say so. Others might be taken aback by your
strength — or should we say stubbornness?
Consider the function of your daily life when mak-
ing decisions. Efficiency counts. Tonight: Easy
works.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Others need your feedback and
information. Someone's attitude or tendency to
talk down to you turns you off. How you let this
person know you have had enough will reflect
who you are. Tonight: Let it all hang out!



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ You'd be smart to listen rather than
talk. Others might have what you consider to be
unsound ideas, but don't even try to convince
them otherwise. Your argument won't hold water,
even if it is logical. Tonight: Let others be head-
strong.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Keep up the good conversation, but
don't get triggered by a difference of opinion or a
seemingly impossible situation. You aren't going
to resolve the matter in a traditional way. Accept
differences. Tonight: At a favorite haunt.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ Not putting all your eggs in one bas-
ket might be instrumental to your long-term suc-
cess. There is no time like the present to initiate
new procedures. Logic seems to fall apart, espe-
cially with a routine matter. Tonight: Your treat.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Your enthusiasm falls flat with a
risk involving money and/or love. Detour out of
these areas for now, and you'll get a lot accom-
plished. Know when to call it quits with a never-
ending story or situation. Tonight: As you like it.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★ No matter which way you turn, you hit
a problem. Know when you cannot win for losing.
Pull up stakes or don't get vested in an either-or
situation. Maintain a low profile. You won't be
sorry! Tonight: Get extra rest.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ You could cause yourself a prob-
lem by worrying and taking a situation too literally.
Force yourself to let go. What counts is what is
happening around you right now. Tonight: Share
with someone who is always a bit standoffish.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Know that many await your reac-
tion and decision. You command respect because
of the results you get. Take charge and run with
the ball. Think of yourself as the lead actor; others
are dependent upon your reaction. Tonight: A late
dinner.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Being able to identify with others
could be key to your effectiveness. Understanding
and empathy need to head up your list, too. A boss
appears contrary, but ultimately the difficult person
could be you. Tonight: Detach from a volatile situ-
ation.



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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Who's who of Samohi to gather

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica High School's Alumni Association will bestow awards to 23 recipients during a dinner gala celebration on March 3 at the Riviera Country Club in Pacific Palisades.

Nearly 250 guests will gather to celebrate "Distinguished Service" and "Distinguished Alumni" honorees, as well as seven newly-minted inductees to the Samohi Hall of Fame. In addition, the alumni association will introduce a new category, "Against All Odds," in memory of three former Vikings who fought valiantly in the face of life-threatening illness.

Distinguished Service awards go to Andrew Dimas, who taught journalism at the high school from 1958-68; former world-record holder in the hammer throw Hal Connolly, a member of the Samohi faculty from 1958-82; and campus beautification specialists Jean Sedillos and Bonnie Freeman.

Among those receiving the Distinguished Alumni award are the late Charles English (class of '56), a former president of the Los Angeles County Bar Association and named "Outstanding Defense Attorney" of 1998; celebrity chefs Raphael Lunetta ('85) and Josiah Citrin ('86), of JiRaffe and Melisse fame; Air Force Col. Leslie Stockton (class of '32) and his wife Abbye "Pudgy" Eville Stockton ('35), who along with former stuntwoman Paula Unger Boelsems ('43) are credited with pioneering the start of bodybuilding with their crowd-pleasing shows at the old Muscle Beach in the 1940s.

The Samohi Hall of Fame will induct David H. DeVorkin ('62), curator of History and Astronomy and the Space Sciences at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum; Retired Naval Commander Christopher Alberts Holliday ('65), who also served as former First Lady Pat Nixon's personal secretary; and Richard Mackson, a vice president of Eastman-Kodak and one of the 25 most prolific photographers of covers for Sports Illustrated.

Others include the co-founder of Broadcom, Dr. Henry T. Nicholas III ('77); and three members of the Sato family, each of whom has won an Olympic medal in volleyball — local sports chiropractor Dr. Gary Sato ('73); Liane, a member of the Samohi faculty who was just voted "Ocean League Volleyball Coach of the Year;" and Eric ('84), who coached San Diego's Francis Parker High School to the 2005 state championship title.

Posthumous "Against All Odds" recognition goes to Ed Kanan ('51), a local builder and developer who was a champion water and snow skier despite his diabetic-induced blindness; Glenn Katz ('78), who was an award-winning musician and teacher before being struck down by cancer at the age of 20; and Tara Willis Goldberg ('88), a John Roberts Powers model, who despite her illness, made graduating from Samohi a goal so absolute that she received her diploma at her hospital bed from former Samohi Vice Principal Sandor Rosenfield.

Tickets to the March 3 celebration, priced at \$75, are available through the Samohi Alumni Association, 527 21st St., Santa Monica 90402, or by calling (310) 393-3692.

SMCLO lights up the stage with 'Music Man'

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica Civic Light Opera presents an epic staging of "The Music Man" See BRIEFS, page 7



Nicole Farhadian, the 5-year-old daughter of Kari Rundolph, a regular reader of the Santa Monica Daily Press, has won this week's mystery photo contest. The photo is a dish on top of the Santa Monica Courthouse. Rudolph has won a gift certificate to Izzy's Deli. Check out Monday's edition for the next mystery photo contest.



SURF REPORT

If it doesn't rain, today is the day. The new NW peaks before dawn, leaving the morning with sets running a foot or two overhead at many west-facing breaks, smaller later in the day. Wednesday, the NW declines to chest-high or so, and some light background SW is expected in the knee- to waist-high range.

Today the water is:

61°

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

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	4:08	1.0	4:25	0.2	10:05	4.8	10:45	4.7
SUNDAY	4:49	1.0	4:46	0.7	10:42	4.3	11:11	4.8
MONDAY	5:38	0.9	5:06	1.2	11:27	3.6	11:42	4.9
TUESDAY	6:41	0.9	5:26	1.7	12:30	2.9	N/A	N/A
WEDNESDAY	8:10	0.8	5:38	2.2	2:31	2.4	12:23	4.9
THURSDAY	9:59	0.5	N/A	N/A	1:24	4.8	N/A	N/A
FRIDAY	10:34	0.6	6:08	2.4	1:52	4.2	3:03	2.1

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The Q Line

This past weekend, more than 400 Santa Monicans turned out for a workshop to discuss and develop solutions for quelling gang violence in the city. Suggestions included developing an inter-agency partnership, increasing parent involvement, re-examining the way officers police local neighborhoods, partnering with the business community to offer jobs and training to youths, and developing new education programs for students, teachers and counselors.

Another workshop has been scheduled for March

12, at which time officials hope the community will formulate a specific plan for tackling the problem.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "What needs to be included in the community's plan to end gang violence?"

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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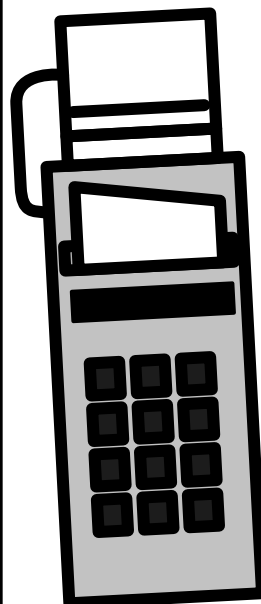
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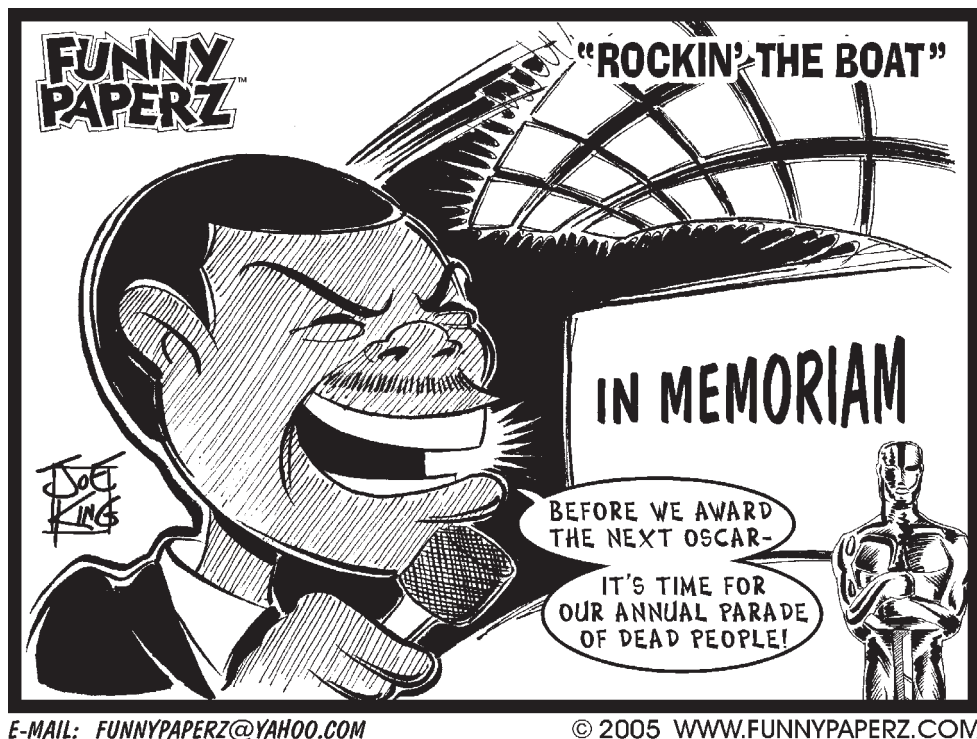
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OPINION



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Politicians and the lies they tell

Editor:

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank this newspaper and to thank Congressman Henry Waxman for taking the time to contribute a revealing guest commentary on just what exactly is happening to our Social Security. "Our" meaning we the people who have contributed to this system all of our working lives only to have it pillaged in the most arrogant way.

I have the same message to President Bush regarding the Social Security fund as I have to Gov. Schwarznegger's pillaging the education money that we the people voted to be used for education. Remember voting? We foolishly thought our votes counted in this instance, but now we find out that an arrogant elected official can do what he damn well pleases. And some of us learned way back in civics class that an elected official is a servant to the people's will. What a joke!

The message to these two is this: "Come on fellows, pay it back."

Or do the words, "elected Republican" actually mean thief? Or liar? Didn't the governor promise publicly to pay back the education money he "borrowed?" I guess it does mean exactly that — as far as these two are concerned, at least.

So now we know whose fingers are in the cookie jar using money that our children and the elderly and disabled need, just so their rich friends don't have a tax burden. Of course, not surprisingly, since Mr. Bush and Mr. Schwarznegger are in the rich elite tax bracket, they are also giving themselves a huge tax break.

So how many of our children and grandchildren will be faced with the burden of repaying these tax breaks for the rich cost this nation? Since they'll be shortchanged educationally here in California due to Mr. Schwarznegger's robbing the education fund, and probably won't have a job with all the outsourcing, where will the money come from? Another impeachment anybody? Another recall anybody?

Of course, we knew all this before the elections, didn't we? I guess we are getting just what those who voted these two in deserve. Too bad we all have to suffer these fools and the consequences thereof.

Marilyn Brennan
Santa Monica

Light rail will usher undesirables to SM

Editor:

I was disheartened to read that Mayor Pam O'Connor's top priority is ensuring that the Expo light rail stays a reality for Santa Monica. This line will eventually run from downtown LA to Santa Monica if Mayor O'Connor has her way.

Downtown LA is one of the more popular places for the homeless, bums, drug addicts, vagrants, criminals, prostitutes, etc. to hang out. Should the rail line get completed, these misfits will have a choice on where to spend their time. Once they discover Santa Monica and its benefits, I am sure they will not want to leave.

We already have a major traffic congestion problem. This proposed rail line would not reduce traffic. Instead, it will increase our high-density pedestrian traffic and attract undesirables. Give the residents of Santa Monica a break.

Fred Alexander
Santa Monica

Help wanted: Mothers, wives need not apply



WHAT'S THE POINT?

BY DAVID PISARRA

The debate continues, thanks to Larry Summers, the president of Harvard, on why there is not gender equality in the workforce. The issue is not the issue. The underlying factors are the issue. I am going to address the bottom line issue, but from the perspective of an employer, not an objective observer.

For years, I have jokingly said that what I want for a secretary is a 45-year-old lesbian with three cats. They are not likely to run off and get married to some man who will whisk them away to some foreign land like Wisconsin. They are not likely to have babies at that age, and they are not likely to leave me if I treat them well. Thus, they will learn my habits, my business and be the Della to my Perry Mason.

This past year, I have started a new business. We have employees. They have ill parents. They have kids and ex-spouses. One is single and raising two children, twin 4-year-old boys. We have many discussions about schedules, nannies and day cares.

All of this impacts an employee's ability to work.

I will tell you that from my perspective, as much as I love and respect people's ability, and all that they have done for the company, I hate hearing about the kids, the dad, the nanny, the day care and the preschools. It annoys me when those events/subjects/objects of affection in people's lives take them away from the business.

This has become my own personal pet peeve. Perhaps I am just a curmudgeon in the making. I've been compared to Ebenezer Scrooge, and I don't doubt that at some time in the future I will be compared to some other odious person. But if I am paying you to do a job, I don't care to hear about your kids, your wife, your dying grandma. I want the job done. Period. And I don't want to hear about your personal problems.

It's perhaps unfair of me to be so harsh, but I have chosen to be dedicated to building a business; a business that employs many people. I have the responsibility of providing income to five people directly, who in turn provide for an additional nine people. I have to be concerned with the big picture, and I don't have the time to care about a person having to pick up their child from day care because of a runny nose.

I have had to put the brakes on development plans and growth strategies because of family members dying, children sick with a horrendous flu, school emergencies, nanny emergencies and holiday school events. It's frustrating.

I am not alone in this. I have spoken

with other employers and our feelings are real. We are taking the responsibility of getting a job done, and we hire people and pay them good money to get a job done. We have a focus on our purpose and for the most part, we don't tolerate employees who are bifurcated in their focus. Children and family are important. I realize that. But coming from strictly an employer's view, I would rather hire a single person, who has no great aspirations towards a large family, or a coupled person who has no aspirations towards a family at all, over a married person with several children.

It may not be morally right, it may not be morally evil. It is discrimination, and for so long as my money and livelihood are dependent upon the actions of others to whom I am paying an income, I will be doing so.

The point is that there is definitely a "parentism" issue. But the bigger issue, the one which I think encompasses not just gender, but lifestyle is that where is the employee's head? Is it in the job they were hired to do or is it in things they have to do in order to get ready for the Halloween parade at Janie's preschool?

Raising kids is important work. People have to be allowed to do it well. I just don't like it to be on my dime. If they want to do that, they should go to work for the big "evil" corporations, the ones where the loss of an individual is felt less and they have much more liberal family leave procedures.

I know what I look for in a hire. I've done it for the past 16 years. I want a dedicated employee, and the odds are that I'm more likely to get one if they are not enmeshed in family issues.

It is the difference between an owner's attitude and an employee's attitude. Owners have to put in nights, weekends and holidays. Employees get to put in their hours and take home a paycheck. Owners have to keep their eye on the big picture, employees get to see only their part and make assumptions. Owners see a business full of staff and get scared of tax liabilities, making payroll and having the rent. Employees see a big staff and assume the owner is making huge profits. What they don't realize is that, the more employees, the more headaches and frequently the less profit there is.

"Parentism" is not a popular stance to take, but it is one that those who are engaged in the discussion of gender and equality need to be aware of. It is a factor in hiring and promotions, particularly for the small business person. And yes, it does become sexist, but that is only because women are bearing the brunt of the child-rearing. But I'm willing to apply it to both men and women equally.

(David Pisarra is a business development lawyer in the Santa Monica firm of Pisarra & Grist. He can be reached at dpisarra@pisarra.com or (310) 664-9969.)

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.

YOUR OPINION MATTERS! Send your letters to Santa Monica Daily Press Attn. Editor: 1427 Third Street Promenade Suite 202 Santa Monica • 90401 • sack@smdp.com

COMMENTARY



GUEST COMMENTARY BY THOMAS A. BOWDEN

Thou shalt not post Ten Commandments

As the Supreme Court prepares to hear argument in the Ten Commandments cases, conservatives can be heard voicing their familiar complaints against “judicial activism,” the supposed tendency of judges to override majority rule by writing their own subjective beliefs into law.

One of the cases arose in Kentucky, where framed copies of the Commandments hang in a courthouse hallway, and the other in Texas, where a stone monument six-feet high, carved with the Commandments’ text, adorns a walkway linking the state’s capitol and highest court. In both cases, plaintiffs contend that the First Amendment’s ban on the establishment of religion forbids such displays on government property.

If the Supreme Court were to order the displays removed, would it be overriding the will of the majority? Most certainly. Opinion polls show that 70 percent of Americans approve of displaying the Ten Commandments on public property.

Is it therefore true that the Supreme Court would be improperly writing its subjective beliefs into law? Not at all. The court would merely be doing its constitutional job.

This nation was founded on the principle that government exists solely to protect individual rights to life, liberty, property and the pursuit of happiness. The Constitution conforms itself to this principle when it places individual rights off-limits, beyond the reach of even the most lopsided democratic vote.

This overriding purpose is reflected in the structure of American government, whose three distinct branches are subject to “checks and balances” that permit and encourage each branch to restrain the others’ powers. To offset the ever-present temptation in all three branches to curry favor with majorities by infringing upon individual rights, courts are endowed with a counterbalancing power to declare such infringements unconstitutional.

This power is known as judicial review.

Judicial review, properly conceived, is merely one method among many by which judges resolve legal conflicts. In the courtroom, for example, judges resolve conflicts between witnesses: Did Smith run the red light, or not? They also resolve conflicts between laws: Was Smith’s violation of the red-light law justified because he was obeying another law giving right-of-way to an ambulance?

Ultimately, judges must also resolve conflicts between the Constitution and the actions of Congress, the president, or the states, especially when those actions purportedly violate individual rights. Constitutional rights furnish an objective standard by which judges can eval-

uate governmental actions and, when necessary, halt them.

In case after case, the Supreme Court has courageously exercised judicial review. Faced with mandatory prayer sessions in public classrooms, the court responded with *Engel vs. Vitale* in 1962, holding that such prayers violate the First Amendment. Faced with state laws forbidding abortions, the court responded with *Roe vs. Wade* in 1973, holding that such bans violate a woman’s right to privacy. And faced with state laws imprisoning homosexuals for pursuing sexual pleasure, the court responded with *Lawrence vs. Texas* in 2003, holding that such laws violate an individual’s right to liberty.

Conservatives decry such decisions because no rights to prayer-free public education, or abortion, or homosexuality, are expressly listed in the Constitution. But the Constitution cannot be interpreted biblically, as an exhaustive catalog of rules revealed by a superior authority, like a secular Book of Leviticus.

Instead, the Constitution must be interpreted objectively. Although the document contains some simple rules (such as the presidential minimum age of 35) presenting no interpretive challenge, it also contains carefully formulated principles requiring future generations to identify particular applications that were unknown or unknowable in the 1780s. For example, First Amendment “freedom of the press” protects not only newspapers with printing presses but also television, the Internet, and other media not yet invented. Similarly, the Constitutional principle of individual rights embraces blacks, women, and others whose rights as individuals the founders did not fully understand.

For these reasons, conservatives’ demands for so-called “judicial restraint,” voluntary refusal by judges to exercise their review powers, must be rejected. Because courts provide a last line of defense against the tyranny of the majority, any such judicial self-emasculation would pose a deadly threat to our liberties. Just as Congress would be wrong to renounce its lawmaking power in the name of “legislative restraint,” so the judiciary would be wrong to surrender its precious review power in the name of “judicial restraint.”

If the Supreme Court finds that state-sponsored displays of the Ten Commandments violate the First Amendment’s guarantee of freedom from the establishment of religion, the court should unapologetically exercise its power of judicial review and order their immediate removal.

(Thomas A. Bowden is an attorney and a writer for Ayn Rand Institute in Irvine.)

Showering in pool of asbestos leaves that not-so-fresh feeling



ANY DAY IN LA

BY HEIDI MANTEUFFEL

My carefree Saturday shower was not as lazy with asbestos swimming between my toes.

I noticed a discretely placed sign when moving into my Santa Monica apartment back in 2003. It wasn’t the “Welcome Home” type or “Caution when Kids Play” sort. It was a “Warning, this Area Causes Cancer and Birth Defects” sign.

I’m glad I saw that sign, after my boyfriend struggled an hour to get my bed frame up the stairs. I had all of my boxes unpacked and the excruciating rent paid for.

This cute little placard stands eight inches by eight inches in significantly smaller print than the realtor sign or street address. I guess there are more important things than the fact that you might birth a baby with three index fingers.

Shockingly, I never stopped to read the off-white sign that blends neatly into the apartment’s side. It was only until I brought up my first load of laundry that I stopped to read the writing on the wall.

The sign reads as follows: “Warning: This Area Contains Chemicals Known to the State of California to Cause Cancer or Birth Defects or other Reproductive Harm.”

Well that’s just great. Not only did I just pay \$4 to do one load of laundry, but now myself and my unborn children have to go to go to counseling to work through the protruding tufts of fur on their foreheads.

I was curious what the cause of this one-eyed calamity might be. It could be the power transformers straddling the alleyway. Maybe it was something in the LA water I was drinking. From the looks of Anna Nicole Smith and Kirstie Alley, I’d say that’s messed up plenty of people.

But it came down to, as most everything in life comes down to, just one thing: Asbestos.

Asbestos, that neat little lining inside your walls, and the outside of your cells mutating them into cancer. I wasn’t positive it was this, but many a great building erected in the 1930-1950s had this mira-

cle insulation. And it just so happened our building is strikingly similar in style, and had a fancy little cancer placard adorning the sidewall.

I never really thought about it on a day-to-day basis. That is until my roommate called the landlord to do something about the Macy’s parade of fungus we had on our shower’s ceiling — something we tried not to think about either.

“Could you leave the window open more often?” they asked us. We do, it’s California. “How about use the bathroom heater for 15 minutes after every shower? We could ... but that old-timey thing uses more energy than a Richard Simmons production.

Well, apparently they wouldn’t take no for an answer, and they cut out a rectangle of wall right above the shower to jumpstart the ventilation. My biggest concern is that this crumbly opening will help ventilate asbestos particles right into my air supply as well.

I had to call the management company anyway about snaking the bathroom sink. When I called, I asked politely if there was asbestos in the apartment. Their answer was a rather quick “no” and I said “good, because as much as I’m sure the ventilation will help with the shower, I don’t particularly want to be exposed to asbestos with the insulation just hanging out and the opening unsealed.”

While they assured me this wasn’t the case, I will say it was rather interesting to receive a call that same evening saying they would like to cover the opening they made for “aesthetic purposes.”

I don’t know how aesthetic haphazardly spackled openings are, and it’s not very well sealed at that.

To top it off, when I went to take a shower Saturday morning, I noticed large chunks of debris accompanied by smaller particles of insulation swimming on the shower’s floor, rubbing gently between my toes.

I still don’t know exactly what the story is and how straightforward they are being about the situation. But I do know that as fun as it’s been having that placard on the side of building, if that shower was in fact an asbestos free-for-all, this girl is going to free herself of that tainted abode.

(Heidi is a freelance writer and can be reached at anydayinla@gmail.com.)

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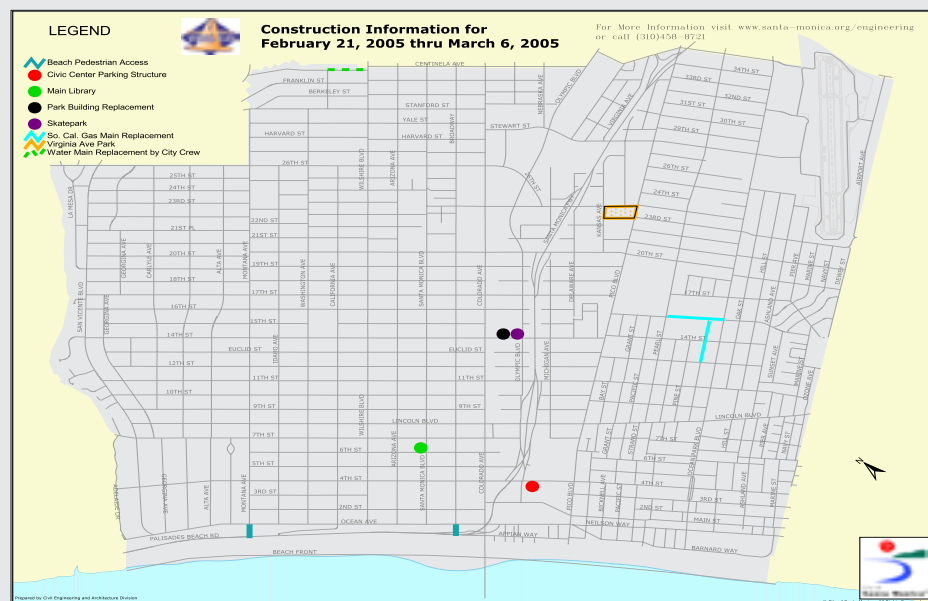


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Department store leases complicate redevelopment

WHAT'S IN STORE, from page 1

downtown Santa Monica.

One thing is for certain: With more than 60 regional malls nationwide, Macerich will be negotiating with the new retail giant in more than one market.

The merger calls for Federated Department Stores Inc., which owns Macy's and Bloomingdale's, to buy May Department Stores Inc. for approximately \$11 billion, and inherit \$6 billion of May's debt. The new conglomerate will oversee about \$30 billion in annual sales from more than 950 department stores, and some 700 formal-wear outlets in 49 states, Guam, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia. The deal was expected to become final this fall.

"This is truly an exciting day in American retailing," said Terry J. Lundgren, Federated's chairman, president and CEO, in a written statement. "Today, we have taken the first step toward combining two of the best department store companies in America, creating a new retail company with truly

national scope and presence."

While no store consolidations or name changes were planned to take place before 2006, most of May's regional department stores ultimately will be converted to Macy's, according to Carol Sanger, a spokeswoman for the retail company.

Less than 100 malls nationwide have overlap of Federated and May department stores. Santa Monica Place is one, and it remains unknown if the company would move in one of its other retailers or seek to sell its second space at the mall.

Both Macy's and Robinsons-May negotiated favorable, long-term leases at Santa Monica Place before the suburban-style mall opened in 1980, when major outlets were needed to attract customers. Though the two retailers had agreed separately to close their doors so Macerich could redevelop, the merger could complicate things.

Assistant City Manager Gordon Anderson said the pending deal offered a chance to obtain a different type of retail outlet.

"This could be an opportunity for us to

have a shop that might respond to one socioeconomic level in our community and another shop that might respond to another level," he said. "We're hopeful that this merger could provide that opportunity."

York said the merger raised a lot of interesting opportunities. One option for Federated would be to replace the Robinsons-May with another one of its retailers, like Bloomingdale's. Another option would be to sell its space to an outside group. The key to deciding what to do, York said, will be determining if the mall is to be remodeled or redeveloped.

"In either case, there's some potential upside, but I think it's going to make for some very tricky negotiations," he added.

Potential downsides, York said, were that Federated may want increased compensation for closing its doors during the two to three years the property is under construction. It also could ask Macerich to buy out its lease at a high price or make other demands that could be difficult to meet.

Macerich President Art Coppola in January urged the City Council to push ahead with the redevelopment plans, say-

ing it had been difficult to get the retailers to agree to go dark during construction. The retailers retain power in the negotiations because of their favorable leases, which also are specific to the type of use and, therefore, not easily sold or transferred to other retailers who may want to reconfigure or remodel.

Randy Brant, a senior vice president for Macerich, said Monday it was too soon to comment on what might happen in Santa Monica as a result of the merger. Still, Brant said his company remained committed to redeveloping Santa Monica Place.

"The impending sale of Robinsons-May to Federated does not change Macerich's position," he said. "It doesn't change our mind that it (Santa Monica Place) needs to be replaced to better serve downtown."

No matter what happens, the new conglomerate will have an important presence downtown, York said.

"They're going to have a lot to say about what happens in Santa Monica," he added. "Federated will have a say in any major decision affecting downtown."

City hopes state high court will consider Prop LL suit

PROP LL, from page 1

city official," Balber said earlier this month. "It's very narrowly tailored."

City Hall has several major problems with the initiative. Among them are the city's contention the language of the law would unnecessarily affect low-level workers; put too stringent fundraising limitations on local officials running for state and federal office; unfairly keep officials from taking certain types of jobs after leaving their posts; put too heavy a burden on officials to know the economic interests of outside parties; and conflict with state and federal law.

Officials also contend that civil and criminal penalties spelled out in the initiative are vague and overly broad, and that the initiative unfairly hinders donations from nonprofit groups.

To illustrate the impracticality of the law, the city argues a zoning administrator, an appointed official who has discretion to approve routine applications for zoning permits, would violate the law if he accepted sports tickets from a family friend who happened to be a partial owner of a construction company that does business in Santa Monica.

"I think there are a lot of drafting errors in the initiative," Deputy City Attorney Anthony Serritella said after the appellate court loss. "A more careful process of drafting could have avoided some of these problems."

Examples of the law's faults abound, according to Serritella.

"What we believe is that the standards

that are set forth in the initiative are indefinite or uncertain," said Serritella, adding that, for example, a portion of the law forbids officials from being swayed by members of the public with substantial interest in a company that may benefit from an official decision.

"How does the public official know the identity of all those persons?" Serritella said earlier this month. "Let's say Corporation X applies for some type of a permit. How are elected officials to know that Citizen A holds 11 percent interest in the corporation that's applied for the benefit?"

Though the California Second District Court of Appeals refused to consider many of the concerns raised in the city's suit, arguing, in part, that there was no legal footing for City Hall to sue itself, it did recognize that the law raises issues of constitutionality.

It's precisely those issues that City Hall is hopeful the Supreme Court will consider.

"As both the city and the clerk point out, significant substantive issues remain and must, at some point, be addressed on their merits," the Jan. 28 appellate court decision reads. "Strong public policy and public interest principles are at stake, issues which are of great interest to the parties to the litigation and the public at large. That is not enough."

"Courts are not free to render advisory opinions regarding controversies which the parties fear will arise, but which do not presently exist."

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 3

Man," with a Santa Monica High School Performing Arts production-ensemble of more than 200, including cast, full orchestra, chorale and marching band.

Meredith Wilson's "The Music Man" plays March 3, 4, 5 and 12 in Barnum Hall, the Art-Moderne landmark that has recently undergone an \$8.1 million renovation on the Santa Monica High School campus.

"The Music Man" is a completely wonderful play, with a history of delighting audiences for more than a generation," said Dr. Frank X. Ford, SMCLO's artistic director and director of the show. "But Samohi's production will be even more compelling."

"It's a unique opportunity to bring together the highly acclaimed band, orchestra, choral, and theatre programs," Ford added.

Brett Fisher, SMCLO producer and managing director, serves as the show's musical director and orchestra conductor, putting to use 10 year's worth of skills with the baton.

"It's a privilege to conduct such a large ensemble of enthusiastic young performers — the largest in my career," said Fisher, a Samohi alum, who has been a Broadway rehearsal conductor in New York. "Top-flight professional companies rarely attempt productions on this scale, and these students have been eager for this challenge."

"The Music Man" previews Thursday, March 3 at 7 p.m. and opens Friday, March 4 at 8 p.m. Additional performances are Saturday, March 5 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Saturday, March 12 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20 (\$15 for the preview).

Tickets for all remaining '05 season productions — including group discounts — are available on campus, 601 Pico Blvd. in Santa Monica, at the SMCLO box office in the Humanities Center Theater; by phone at (310) 458-5939, or on the Internet at www.smclo.org.

The SMCLO, a sponsored educational activity of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, serves as a partner to Samohi's Theatre Arts Program, enhancing the student experience through mentoring by alumni and theatre professionals and developing productions for the Humanities Center and Barnum Hall stages.

The SMCLO/Samohi season also features bonus productions of Edward Albee's searing drama, "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf," playing May 19-28, and the selected one-act comedies of David Ives, playing June 3 and 4, both in the Humanities Center Theater. Tickets are \$10-15.

"My Fair Lady," the grandest of the Lerner and Loewe musicals, gives the season a grand finale — an SMCLO production featuring talented alumni, working professionals, and accomplished high school students. "My Fair Lady" runs July 14-30. Tickets are \$15-30.

Embassy Hotel's history on display

By Daily Press staff

A historic hotel that embodies the architecture style of many buildings in Santa Monica during the 1920s can be toured this weekend.

A special tour of the historic Embassy Hotel and Apartments, a piece of historic architecture containing lavish decorative arts, is the featured highlight of the Santa Monica Conservancy annual meeting on Sunday, March 6 at 1:30 p.m. Completed in 1927, the building was designed to lure tourists and potential new residents to this

See BRIEFS, page 10



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For tickets, please call (310) 434-3000. Performances are held in the SMC Concert Hall. Seating is strictly on a first-arrival basis.

Hey kids, let's put on a show for babies

People love to play with babies. Whether it's a game of peek-a-boo or simply making faces until the baby laughs, playing with your infant is a great way form of entertainment. And most of the games we play with babies have the added benefit of stimulating their growing minds and bodies, said Dr. Jeffrey Penso, a pediatrician with Saint John's Health Center in Santa Monica. Listed below are five all-time favorites:

Make some moves

Adults are fascinating mysteries to babies. Initially, everything we do interests them, and their pleasure when mommy or daddy suddenly starts dancing is contagious. Even if you can't two-step, your baby is guaranteed to think you are light on your feet if you hold them close and sway to whatever music you happen to be listening to. Dancing is a great way to bond with your baby. Your body contact will reassure them and your movements stimulate their senses and will help them develop a sense of rhythm.

Sing a song

Your singing may sound atrocious to you, but to your baby it is a sweet lullaby. Children love music. Listening while their parent or caregiver sings a song is entertaining and exciting. It also can be comforting, said Dr. Penso. Babies thrive on familiarity. If you sing the same nursery rhyme enough times, they will start to anticipate the words and motions that come next.

Peek-a-boo

A quick game of peek-a-boo has staved off many an airplane temper tantrum. While the pilot may not want to play along, the inquisitive baby across the aisle from you will be fascinated every time you cover your eyes and

then magically reappear. It seems far-fetched, but peek-a-boo is more than a distraction. Pediatricians agree that the game can build infant confidence — teaching babies that you are still there and will reappear even if they can't see you. It also encourages large motor coordination when older babies begin to imitate the game's hand movements.

Man in the mirror

Babies love to look in the mirror. It isn't vanity, however, that drives them to examine their images. Instead, babies are simply fascinated by watching their own facial expressions. Looking in the mirror encourages babies to make a wide range of expressions, especially if you make funny faces while holding them.

On the move

Babies love to move their arms and legs. Initially, however, they lack coordination. By gently moving your baby's arms and legs in circular motions while singing a song like "Wheels on the Bus," you can encourage coordination and muscle control.

Pediatricians like Dr. Penso agree that playing games with your baby can be an important part of their development. Games encourage everything from motor control to self-discovery. Most importantly, time spent playing with your baby is time you are focusing on them and their needs, and babies of any age are sure to enjoy that.

Experts like Dr. Penso 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.

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DEAR DORIE

Living in land of milk and mommy

Dear Dorie,

Can you please give some pros and cons to breast-feeding and bottle-feeding? There seems to be some heated discussion around this.

— *Contemplating formula*

Dear Contemplating,

"Heated discussion" is putting it mildly. If you are in or near the Santa Monica area, you are in the heart of breast-feeding country. We have ample support

resources like "La Leche League" and retail support outlets like "The Pump Station." Our laws require support for breast-feeding mothers in public spaces and retail environments. It's pretty safe to say that if a breast-feeding mother is insulted or asked to leave, the perpetrator will pay in one way or another. Breast-feeding is the norm among parents in California, according to the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services.

While this has led to an amazingly positive environment for breast-feeding, those mothers who choose or are required to use formula get more evil eyes than cars with Bush bumper stickers. As far as pros and cons, this environmental factor should be weighed in.

Other than that, there is a plethora of information out there about the nutritional, emotional and financial pros of breast-feeding your baby. The American Academy of Pediatrics currently recommends breast-feeding for the first year of life. Check out their Web site for factual information and an extensive list of benefits at www.aap.org.

Formula pros can be found on the manufacturers' Web sites but, ultimately, the pros and cons are mitigated by your personal needs. Your decision, if motivated by the best interests of yourself and your infant, is the right decision. 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.)

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CITY OF SANTA MONICA COMMUNITY CLASSES – Registration is underway for a variety of classes including Parent and Me classes for infants and toddlers, and kid's and youth sports, dance and theatre. Most classes begin in March or April. For details see RecScape in the latest issue of SeaScape or call 458-2239. www.RecEnroll.smgov.net.

YMCA CLASSES - Registration for Parent and Me Gym and Swim Classes, Toddler Time, Tumbling Toddlers and other kid's classes begins Thursday, March 3. Call 393-2721 for more info. 1332 Sixth St.

FAMILY ROOM at the GETTY

Tues. – Thurs., Sun. – 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.; Fri. and Sat. – 10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. Make a mask, build a sculpture, draw an insect, relax and read on a period bed or play with camera lenses and a wall of mirrors. Ages 4 - 14, FREE!, \$5 parking. 1200 Getty Center Dr., LA, 440-7330, www.getty.edu

SATURDAY, MARCH 5

RHYTHM CHILD FAMILY JAM, 4:30 p.m., Santa Monica Studios, 3025 W. Olympic Blvd. Bring the whole family for a percussion jam. All ages, \$15 per child, \$10 sibling, adults free. 204-5466.

CRAFTS for KIDS (every Saturday), 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Lakeshore Learning Center, 8888 Venice Blvd., LA (Culver City area). March 5 project is "My Family Banner."

SUNDAY, MARCH 6

THE SUNSHINE SISTERS, 11:00 a.m., Enjoy this family-friendly concert at McCabe's Guitar Shop, 3101 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, 828-4497. All ages, \$6.

NINTH ANNUAL CELEBRATION of the WHALES, 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Whale and marine exhibits, tide pool touch tank, knot tying, model-ship building, arts and crafts and live entertainment are just a few of the features of this fun festival. Fisherman's Wharf, Channel Islands Blvd. and Victoria Ave., Oxnard, 805-985-4852. FREE!

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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! Mar. 1 – Kinsey starring Liam Neeson, Laura Linney and Chris O'Donnell. Biography/Drama, Rated "R." 11:00 a.m., Loews Broadway, 1441 3rd St.

Promenade – for Moms and babies newborn – 1 year old. Doors open early for socializing and getting comfortable. Visit www.enjoytheshow.com/reelmoms for details.

Storytelling

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

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

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

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

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

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) – 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Baby (6 weeks to pre-crawling) – 11:00 – noon. 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.

Kid's Yoga Circle – Yoga for ages 4 -7, 4:00 – 5:15 p.m. (Students may be dropped off at 3:30 for indoor play, song and snacks). \$18 drop-in, discounted multiple week passes available, reservations required. 1814 14th St., #208, 260-2736

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.

Kid's Yoga Circle – Mommy and Me Yoga (ages 4- 6), 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. and 2:00 – 3:00 p.m Includes 15 minutes of indoor play and song. \$165 for an 8 week session, \$75 for additional sibling.

Breastfeeding Group

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

Other

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

THURSDAY

Babystyle, 1324 Montana Avenue, 434-9590 10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4.

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

and Wilshire.

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

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

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

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

Kid's Yoga Circle – Yoga for ages 6 - 10, 4:00 – 5:15 p.m. (students may be dropped off at 3:30 for indoor play, song and snacks). \$18 drop-in, discounted multiple week passes available, reservations required.

Family Yoga, 5:15 – 6:30 p.m., includes 15 minutes of indoor play and song. 8-week series for parents and 1 child, \$250, \$100 each additional child.

1814 14th St., #208, 260-2736

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

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.child-splayonline.net

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.

Kid's Yoga Circle – Yoga for ages 8 - 11, 4:30 – 5:45 p.m., includes 15 minutes of indoor play and song. \$18 drop-in, discounted multiple week passes available, reservations required. 1814 14th St., #208, 260-2736

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-B00K.

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.

Kid's Yoga Circle – Yoga for ages 6 -10, 9:45 – 10:55 a.m., includes 15 minutes of indoor play and song; Yoga Girls (ages 12 and up), 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. \$18 drop-in, discounted multiple week passes available, reservations required. 1814 14th St., #208, 260-2736

Other

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

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

Magicopolis – 2 and 8 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$20 for evening, \$15 for matinee. Call 310-451-2241 for info.

Precious Prints – Ceramic Heirlooms for a Lifetime

Second Saturday every month at The Pump Station, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Contact Kristan Ritchie at 310-802-8013 or visit www.preciousprintsstudios.com for more info.

Breastfeeding

Working Mother's Support Group

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

SUNDAY

Main Street Farmer's Market – 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., corner of Main St. and Ocean Park Blvd. Pony rides, live music, lots of vendors and great family socializing.

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

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

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

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.yoga-gardenstudios.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.

Kristine Johnson Fountain of Joy

The Kristine Johnson Fountain of Joy is seeking donations. Situated in a courtyard garden visible to the community, the fountain will be a respite for those seeking faith, peace and hope amongst the challenges of the world.

Donations to the Kristine Johnson Fountain of Joy may be sent to:

St. Augustine By-The-Sea Episcopal Church
1227 Fourth Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401
Re: Kristine Johnson Fountain of Joy

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Schwarzenegger doesn't have regrets about pumping up with help of steroids

By The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger acknowledged using steroids during his years as a champion body builder and said he would still have used them even knowing what he knows now about the adverse effects of the performance-enhancing drugs.

In an interview to be broadcast Sunday, Schwarzenegger told ABC's George Stephanopoulos, "I have no regrets about it, because at that time, it was something new that came on the market, and we went to the doctor and did it under doctors' supervision. We were experimenting with it. It was a new thing. So you can't roll the clock back and say, 'Now I would change my mind on this.'"

The former seven-time Mr. Olympia said he would not encourage drug use because it sent the wrong message to children. But he said he had no problem with athletes taking nutritional supplements and other legal substances to improve their performance.

"People should take food supplements, people should be able to take the vitamins and all of the nutritious stuff that is available, but stay away from drugs," he said.

Since becoming governor in November, 2003, Schwarzenegger has maintained his ties to the bodybuilding world. He serves as executive editor of Flex Magazine, and will preside next weekend over The Arnold Classic, an annual bodybuilding festival in Columbus, Ohio that still bears his name.

In the interview, Schwarzenegger said he hoped that over time, bodybuilders would stop relying on steroid use.

"Of course we want to keep the sport clean," he said. "It says 'bodybuilding,' not 'body-destroying.' It's bodybuilding. Of course we want to go in that direction."

The Republican governor said that he had vetoed a bill requiring the state's high school coaches to teach about the dangers of steroids and illegal substances because the bill lumped legal performance-enhancing food supplements in with illegal drugs. He also said it was already illegal to sell performance-enhancing drugs in California schools.

The interview was taped Friday for broadcast on "This Week with George Stephanopoulos." Portions of it were reported on the ABCNews.com Web site.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 7

beach town by providing an elegant and luxurious living environment, according to historians.

In the late 1920s, multi-story apartment hotels were in vogue in Santa Monica. They were built to accommodate long-staying summer visitors. As people began to settle permanently in Southern California, a demand for year-round housing developed. Typical of such luxury residential hotels are The Embassy, The Sovereign and The Charmont, which were built north of Wilshire Boulevard a few blocks from the ocean.

The Embassy Hotel Apartments, 1001 Third St., was designed by Arthur E. Harvey who also designed several notable buildings in Los Angeles. It is remarkably intact with the addition of a penthouse being the only major alteration to the exterior, estimated to be constructed in the 1930s, according to officials. The Embassy now houses long-term residents as well as temporary visitors.

The Embassy is built in the Spanish Colonial Revival style, characterized by red clay tile roof covering, prominent arches, smooth stucco exterior, and an asymmetrical façade. Other traits include decorative wrought iron and pierced window grilles, cornice ornamentation, cantilevered and corbelled balconies, and lushly landscaped main courtyard and fountain. Like the other apartment hotels, it has elegant exterior ornamentation, courtyards, fountains, gracious lobby, and extensive architectural detailing, including the band of shields at its roof line, officials said.

At the beginning of the meeting, there will be a tour of some of the Embassy rooms from 1:30 to 2:15 p.m. The annual meeting, which is open to Santa Monica Conservancy members only, will include a report on the state of the conservancy and election of board of directors, followed by a brief discussion on Spanish Colonial Revival architecture in 1920s Southern California by Ken Breisch, adjunct associate professor director of the historic preservation program, at the USC School of Architecture. Paid parking is available in a lot at 233 Wilshire Blvd., and in parking structure No. 9 on Fourth Street, south of Wilshire Boulevard.

To join the conservancy, which costs \$25, or to make a reservation, call (310) 458-0399 or e-mail to info@smconservancy.org.

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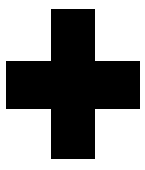
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STATE BRIEFS

District health plan on life support

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A new state analysis warned the Los Angeles Unified School District that it could face a financial crisis because of its unfunded plan to provide full medical coverage to retired employees and their families.

The report by the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office said the district needs to put away \$500 million a year — about 8 percent of its current budget — for 30 years to cover a liability that could reach \$11 billion under a worst-case scenario.

The report cited the LAUSD as a prime example of a problem faced by many other districts. About 150 school districts in the state provide substantial health benefits to retirees, with about 80, including the LAUSD, providing lifetime benefits.

The LAUSD and Fresno were cited as facing the most serious problems.

Tim Buresh, LAUSD's chief operating officer, said he's been warning district leaders about the problem.

"In the corporate world, I'd go to jail for this," Buresh said. "Corporations could never do this. L.A. has a Cadillac free-benefits system and we haven't put any money away to pay for it."

If the LAUSD can't figure out how the benefits can be funded by 2007 when new federally recommended accounting changes take effect, it will have to quit promising benefits to retirees, he said.

Kids shuttering at security plans

By The Associated Press

ANTIOCH — Security guards at an outdoor mall want to photograph rowdy teenagers who harass merchants and customers.

Parents, patrons and some proprietors at Deer Valley Plaza have talked about intimidation and loitering by disrespectful youths, some of whom attend the 3,400-student Deer Valley High School nearby.

Vicki McKenna, 45, said the plan is a "hard line of defense to deter the kids from coming back."

"They never had to face any consequences from the school or the police," she said.

Deer Valley Plaza is an outdoor courtyard that includes such structures as a movie theater, supermarket, fast-food restaurants and several other businesses. It is a popular place for youths in the eastern San Francisco Bay city.

Under the proposal, private security guards would snap pictures of youths who repeatedly intimidate shoppers or cause mischief.

Youths who commit crimes could receive a citation, while those who repeatedly ignore warnings not to loiter at the plaza could be added to a police database and possibly arrested the next time they're seen.

The American Civil Liberties Union denounced the proposal as excessive and intrusive.

Girl likely buried alive by boyfriend

By The Associated Press

AUBURN — A 17-year-old girl was likely choked into unconsciousness and buried alive by her boyfriend and his roommate, prosecutors said as the boyfriend pleaded guilty to her murder.

Searchers spent 16 days looking for Justine Vanderschoot in 2003 before the roommate, Brandon Fernandez, 22, led police to her shallow grave north-east of Auburn.

Fernandez pleaded guilty to second-degree murder Thursday and faces 15 years to life in prison.

Vanderschoot's boyfriend, Daniel Bezemer, 20, pleaded guilty to first-degree murder Friday in Placer County Superior Court and faces 25 years to life. The pair is set for sentencing March 9.

An autopsy showed Vanderschoot breathed and swallowed dirt, leading authorities to believe she was still alive when she was buried Sept. 1, 2003, said David Broady, senior deputy district attorney.

He said Bezemer admitted choking the girl, although in a five-page statement Bezemer blamed Fernandez for organizing the murder.

NATIONAL



Border Patrol focuses on smuggling in canyons

BY ARTHUR H. ROTSTEIN

Associated Press Writer

TUCSON, Ariz. — A Border Patrol operation targeting immigrant smuggling in rugged mountainous border canyons west of Nogales snared 1,500 illegal immigrants and \$1.8 million worth of marijuana in two weeks.

Operation Cherrypicker, which started Feb. 13 and concluded Saturday, focused on activity in three canyons favored by smuggling groups south of Arivaca in the Coronado National Forest, Border Patrol spokesman Andy Adame said Monday.

“In past years in January and February, we have always seen a major increase in the number of illegal entries in the area,” Adame said. “So we put together an operation to address the issue.”

The operation, centered west of the Tres Bellotes Ranch, employed helicopter units, additional ground sensors, horse patrols and special response agents embedded in Sierra, Majanera and Agua Cercada canyons to spy on smuggling activity.

Arizona has been the border’s busiest crossing loca-

tion in recent years, as increased enforcement elsewhere has forced immigrants into more remote locations.

Almost all of the stopped traffic in the recent operation was on foot, though several vehicles loaded with narcotics crossed through the area. There are no roads in the canyons, which are densely vegetated with oak woodland chaparral and mesquite, Adame said.

Agents arrested as many as 360 illegal immigrants in a single day, and seized 2,360 pounds of marijuana — including 257 pounds and two horses and riders on Feb. 21, and 1,879 pounds on Wednesday.

“We’ve reached the goals that we had,” Adame said. “Our goals were to move traffic out of those very rugged and remote areas into the outlying areas that were easier to work, and at this point, that seems to be accomplished.”

The north-south direction of the targeted canyons

made it easier for smugglers to move people and narcotics up from the border, Adame said.

Eighteen horse-mounted agents from the Border Patrol’s Nogales horse patrol unit were the primary agents because of the limited road access, Adame said.

Ten special response team agents who camped out to do surveillance reported what they saw to the horse patrols.

A Border Patrol or Immigrations and Customs Enforcement helicopter was in the air at all times during the operation, Adame said.

Apprehended immigrants were walked out of the roadless areas, up to an hour away, and taken by Border Patrol vans to rendezvous points from where ICE buses drove them to detention facilities, Adame said.

Scaled-back patrols are continuing in the canyons, he said.

High court to review reservation fuel taxes in high-octane case

BY HOPE YEN

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court said Monday it will consider whether states may tax motor fuel that is sold on Indian reservations.

Justices will review a case that sided with the Prairie Band Potawatomi tribe in Kansas. At issue is whether states may tax non-Indian companies off-site that distribute fuel to tribal operators on reservations, with the expectation that the companies would then recoup their costs by collecting from tribal retailers.

Federal law bars the imposition of tax on tribal retailers without clear congressional authorization. As a result, the Denver-based 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the tax, while not directly imposed on tribes, violated tribal sovereignty and created a barrier to interstate commerce.

“Although Kansas has a legitimate interest in raising revenue, this general interest is insufficient to justify the tax ... because it interferes with and is incompatible with strong tribal and federal interests against taxation,” the court stated in imposing the ban.

Thirteen other states that impose a motor fuel tax and have Indian lands within their borders had urged the high court to hear the case. They argued that a restriction on their ability to tax uniformly throughout the state will inhibit their ability to fund highway construction and maintenance. The states filing the friend of the court brief are Arizona, California, Connecticut, Idaho, Iowa, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming.

The Kansas tribe runs a casino and a convenience store and gas station.

“The state is not attempting to regulate any activity on tribal lands, is not attempting to exercise jurisdiction over the tribe or its members, and is not even requiring the tribes to collect and remit taxes to the state,” Kansas lawyers said in the appeal.

At the same time, however, the court refused to review a 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling forbidding Idaho from taxing motor fuel sold on Indian reservations. Without comment, justices let stand the 2-1 decision last August upholding the ban.

In 2001, the Idaho Supreme Court ruled the state’s 25-cent per gallon tax on gas sold on Indian reservations was illegal because of federal law. State lawmakers responded with a new law that taxed nontribal companies that distributed fuel to tribal operators.

The tribes sued and won, with the federal courts deciding that state legislators simply saying they meant for the burden of the tax to fall on distributors didn’t make it so.

That’s the key difference between the Idaho case and the Kansas case, said Deputy Attorney General Clay Smith.

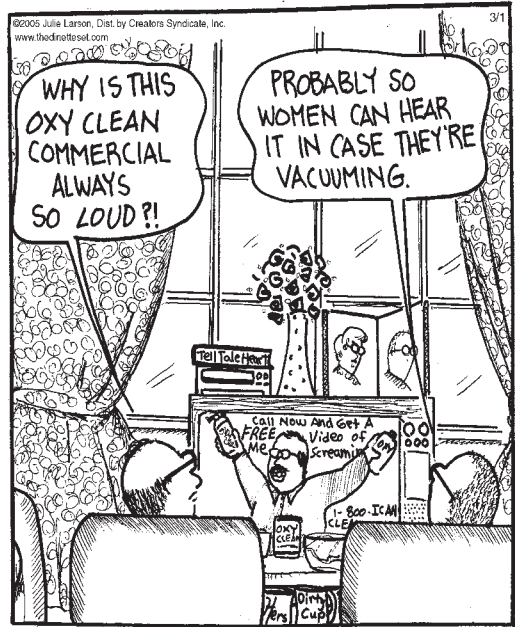
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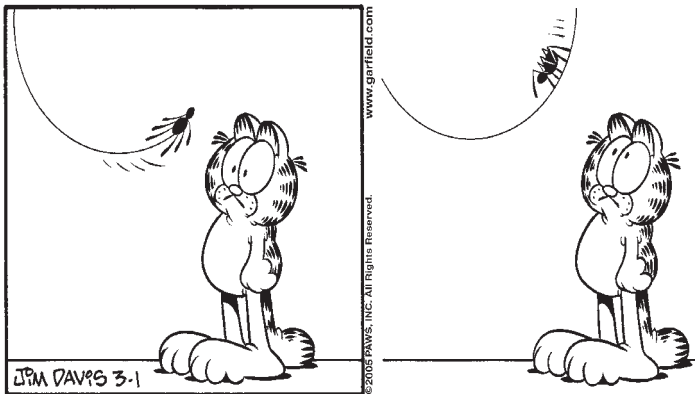
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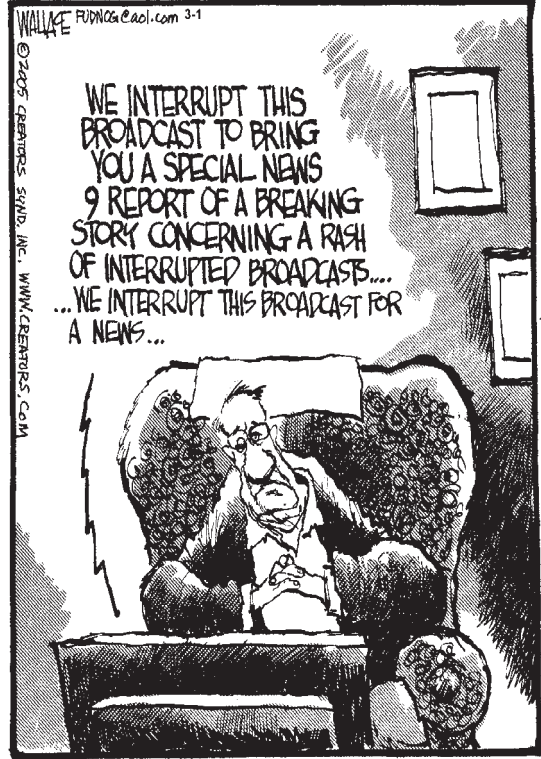


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ACROSS

- 1 Tap
- 7 Preten-tious
- 11 Guar-an-tee
- 12 Pump, for one
- 13 James Fenimore Cooper book
- 15 "Get lost!"
- 16 Worry
- 18 Exercise system
- 21 Dull
- 22 "Tender Mercies" star
- 24 Trading place
- 25 Ravine
- 26 Flower visitor
- 27 Heckled
- 29 Slasher-movie offering
- 30 Pitcher Nolan
- 31 Circus setting
- 32 Pained sound
- 34 James Fenimore Cooper book
- 40 Be audacious
- 41 Double-six, for one
- 42 Use a dagger
- 43 Unflinching

DOWN

- 1 Diet no-no
- 2 Cigar dropping
- 3 Try out
- 4 Said a four-letter word
- 5 Put up
- 6 Sign of sorrow
- 7 "I, Robot" writer
- 8 Letter after pi
- 9 Trucking weight
- 10 "Certain-ly!"
- 14 Basket-ball shot
- 16 Brother
- 17 Posh
- 19 West African country

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- 21 Spring mo.
- 22 Pop
- 23 Director Ang
- 25 Movie category
- 28 Croatia's capital
- 29 "Code of life" holder
- 31 Seer's deck
- 33 Casino figure
- 34 Six-pt. scores
- 35 Bowler, for one
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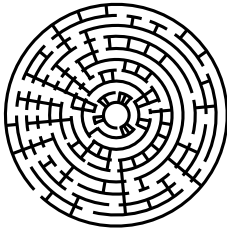
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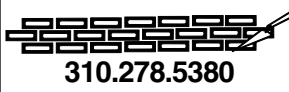
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Can we dish? Rivers can't rip Oscar outfits

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Joan and Melissa Rivers are singing the praises of the Oscar fashions, saying the simple, colorful gowns hit the right note.

Usually, the mother-daughter duo come off the red carpet and dish about the best and worst dressed, "but there was no worst!" Joan Rivers said Monday on NBC's "Today" show. They are the fashion commentators for the TV Guide Channel.

"The women were beautiful," added Melissa Rivers.

Cate Blanchett's yellow one-shoulder Valentino gown, which had a wide maroon sash, was a hard look to pull off, but she did it. "To wear maroon and yellow, and to look gorgeous ... that's a fashionista!" Joan Rivers said.

Among their other favorites from Sunday's Academy Awards show in Los Angeles were Catalina Sandino Moreno, who wore a white hourglass slip gown with thick beaded straps by Roberto Cavalli, Renee Zellweger in a red strapless Carolina Herrera gown and Salma Hayek in a blue Prada gown with black beading and bows.

Melissa Rivers also admired Hayek's diamond and sapphire drop earrings by Harry Winston. The Rivers duo explained that most of the jewelry is borrowed and must be returned immediately after the show, but it's common knowledge that Oprah Winfrey wears her own diamonds. "She buys," Joan Rivers said.

Meanwhile, Oscar winner Hilary Swank, who is Calvin Klein's underwear model and lately has worn his gowns to awards shows, chose a high-neck, sapphire-blue gown with long sleeves by Guy Laroche. (The New York Times said perhaps Swank was being superstitious, noting that she had made a last-minute change in designers when she won an Oscar for "Boys Don't Cry" in 2000.)

The few fashion missteps were taken by men, critics said. Spike Lee wore a white suit paired with a black fez, black shirt, black tie and clear, oversized round eyeglasses. And Samuel L. Jackson's stretch wool tuxedo with a covered placket and rolled collar looked — from a distance — like a rubber scuba suit.

NEW YORK — Ashlee Ashby wasn't surprised when she was voted off CBS' "Survivor: Palau." She was looking forward to it. "Everyone sensed that I was ready to go home," Ashby told The Associated Press Friday. "I knew that I was ready to go home. So tribal council was a good thing."

Despite surviving the 10th edition's kickball-style tribe selection in the premiere episode, the 22-year-old wasn't mentally or physically prepared for "Survivor." Although it wasn't seen on the show, Ashby cried about the experience to Jolanda Jones, the first person voted off the "Palau" edition.

"I shouldn't have cried," said Ashby. "I had just reached a point where I could no longer play the game. Everything had gotten to me."

"Everything" included a budding romance between Ulong tribemates Kim Mullen and Jeff Wilson. "Everyone wondered if they were pulling another Rob and Amber," said Ashby, referring to "Survivor: All Stars" Rob Mariano and Amber Brkich, who later became engaged. "I'm going to have to watch the show and see how that plays out. There are some intentions there beyond more than just winning."

PARIS — Abdellatif Kechiche's "L'Esquive," a story about disenfranchised inner-city youth, was named best picture at the annual French movie awards.

Kechiche won four awards, including best director for his low-budget film featuring a largely amateur cast. It beat out favorites for best film that included Jean-Pierre Jeunet's "A Very Long Engagement."

Jeunet's movie, a whimsical drama about a woman who refuses to believe her fiancé died in the trenches of World War I, won five awards Saturday, including best supporting actress and best costumes.

Two awards went to Christophe Barratier's "The Chorus," a story about a struggling musician who takes a job at a troubled boys school and works magic through song. It won for best music written for a film and best sound.

Sofia Coppola won best foreign film for "Lost in Translation," the quirky story of two lonely Americans who find friendship in a Tokyo hotel, starring Bill Murray and Scarlett Johansson.



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