

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

19 26 33 38 46

Meganumber: 1

Jackpot: \$... Million

FANTASY 5

12 22 30 31 39

DAILY 3

Daytime: 7 7 8

Evening: 3 9 7

DAILY DERBY

1st: 01 Gold Rush

2nd: 11 Money Bags

3rd: 07 Eureka!

RACE TIME: 1:40.63

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ On Dec. 20, a United Parcel Service driver was involved in a crash on an icy road near Keene, N.H., suffered a head injury, and was taken to Cheshire Medical Center, where tests were to be performed, except that the required machine for them was broken (though parts were on order). After checking the status of the order, hospital personnel discovered that the parts had been shipped and were in fact in the crashed UPS truck, and someone was dispatched to the scene of the accident to retrieve them.

■ According to the British parents' organization Bullywatch, which issued blue wristbands to students to publicize the campaign against school bullying, any kid wearing the wristbands was immediately targeted for attack by bullies (December). And 1,500 cords of firewood were burned up when a fire broke out at the Ossipee Mountain Land Co., in Tamworth, N.H. (December).

TODAY IN HISTORY

In 1875, composer Maurice Ravel was born in Ciboume, France.

In 1911, the United States sent 20,000 troops to the Mexican border as a precaution in the wake of the Mexican Revolution.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The most dangerous creation of any society is that man who has nothing to lose."

JAMES BALDWIN
AMERICAN AUTHOR (1924-1987)

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Photo courtesy

RIP: Homicide victim Hector Bonilla, right, was an avid Raiders fan and father of three. The 25-year-old resident of the Pico neighborhood is pictured here with his long-time girlfriend Krizna Ayala and their three children: Benjamin, 2, Hector Jr., 7, and Eli, 1.



Photo courtesy

RIP: Jonathan Hernandez, 19, was remembered as a well-dressed teen who hoped to become a psychologist for disabled children. He is pictured here with a teacher from Boys Republic, a private school in Chino Hills, at his June 1, 2004 graduation.

Homicide victims are identified

Hector Bonilla, 25, and Jonathan Hernandez, 19, were gunned down at a birthday party in Sunset Park

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

SUNSET PARK — Authorities on Monday identified two young Santa Monicans gunned down at a weekend birthday party as 25-year-old Hector Bonilla and 19-year-old Jonathan Hernandez.

Both were fatally shot Saturday night before a crowd of 50 to 70 people inside the Moose Lodge at 16th Street and Ocean Park Boulevard, witnesses said. The gunmen escaped.

Friends and relatives recalled Bonilla, who lived in the Pico neighborhood, as a caring father of three and a hard-core football fan who drove a black-and-silver Chevrolet Suburban sporting a large Oakland Raiders emblem. Hernandez, of Ocean Park, was remembered as a well-dressed teen who had turned a troubled past into a promising future.

Witnesses said Hernandez got into a physical altercation with two or three men near the front entrance to the Moose Lodge, a Sunset Park venue often used for weddings, birthdays and other

See VICTIMS, page 6

Neighborhood, district respond to shootings

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

PICO — A double homicide that occurred at a birthday party held over the weekend has prompted some Santa Monica organizations to reach out to friends and loved ones affected by the tragedy.

Jonathan Hernandez, 19, who attended Santa

See RESPONSE, page 7

City Council can feel the electricity in the air

BY KIM CALVERT

Special to the Daily Press

(Editor's note: This is part of an ongoing series that tracks the city's expenditures which appear on the upcoming Santa Monica City Council consent agenda. Items are routinely passed by the City Council with little discussion from elected officials or the public. However, many have been part of discussions in the past.)

COUNCIL CHAMBERS — Elected leaders are expected tonight to waive the usual competitive bidding process so they can keep the lights on at City Hall.

The \$311,000 contract, plus a \$31,000 contingency fee, will go to Neubauer Electric, Inc. to provide temporary electrical power to the rest of City Hall while the section once used by the Santa Monica Police Department is demolished and replaced with a

landscaped courtyard, according to city staff.

Neubauer Electric is already familiar with the project, having worked on both the old police facilities at City Hall, now vacant, as well as the new Public Safety Facility, the current the home of the SMPD, according to city architect Lauren Friedman.

The original U-shaped building, built in 1939, housed city administration, and police and fire

department operations. Since 1958, there have been several renovations to City Hall, including construction of a three-story structure that enclosed the courtyard. The police department moved out of City Hall and into the new Public Safety Facility in September of 2003.

When costs of either reusing or demolishing the former police

See IT'S ELECTRIC, page 7

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CAFÉ SPACE FOR LEASE

The City of Santa Monica is looking for a café operator for the new Main Public Library now under construction at 601 Santa Monica Blvd.

The café is located within the building's central courtyard and consists of approximately 750 sf. of interior space and up to 2,000 sf. for outdoor dining.

A mandatory pre-proposal conference and site inspection will be held on: Tuesday, March 15, 2005 at 3:30 P.M.

Proposal submissions are due no later than: Thursday, April 7, 2005 at 2:00 P.M.

For more information or to request a Request for Proposal (RFP) package, please call (310) 458-8763 or e-mail your request to: elana.buegoff@smgov.net

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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)
★★★★ Use the daylight hours to pursue key goals. Listen to others' suggestions. You gain through teamwork and a need to come out ahead. You laugh, and others join in. Be willing to break past old habits. Tonight: Cocoon — time for you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Responsibility behooves the stable Bull, especially today. You breeze through work and gain insight because of someone's ability to grasp facts you might have missed. Schedule meetings for later in the day. Tonight: Be part of the crowd.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Your vision helps a partner grow beyond his or her prior limitations. You could be surprised by this person's ability to absorb new concepts. Be willing to put in extra hours to move a project ahead. You will be happy with the end results. Tonight: Burn the candle at both ends.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Be your own troubleshooter and tackle what doesn't work. In fact, you might be able to clear out a lot of unneeded errands and tasks. A partner or associate helps point the way. You stand to gain financially. Tonight: Rent a movie or play a favorite piece of music.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Others run with the ball. Let them. Your creativity will be in demand soon enough. Schedule a leisurely lunch with a favorite person. You might gain another perspective. Let a key friend or loved one share more of his or her dreams. Tonight: Be with a favorite person.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Recognize the pros and cons of your daily patterns. Flirt with the idea of a home office. Will it work for you? Do you really want to take your work home? Schedule meetings for later in the afternoon, when others will be more relaxed. Tonight: Just don't be alone.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Your words will open doors. Don't hold back. Let ideas flow freely, even if you might question the practicality of what you are saying. Experiment with different means of conveying your message. Unusual events will emerge. Tonight: Work as late as necessary.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★ Reorganize your personal or household budget. Thinking about it will only distract you from what you need to do. Establish the type of security you demand. Build on realistic, strong foundations. Brainstorm later with a loved one or a friend. Tonight: Let your imagination run haywire.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ The responses you get to what you say could cause you to change your tune. You are growing, evolving and learning to incorporate new concepts. Return calls, ask questions and make inquiries. Tonight: Chill out at home.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Instead of worrying, start researching alternatives to a problem situation. Don't think "impossible"; use the word "challenging." You might go into tomorrow finding a solution. You can do it! Tonight: Make calls; ask questions.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You're on top of your game. Use this high-energy day to make a difference. Friends and meetings play important roles. Someone might change his or her stance. On the other hand, you might reverse your priorities. Tonight: Gather your bills. Get your checkbook out. Clear out debt.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Stand back and allow someone else to run the show. Use your intuition with an older friend or relative. If need be, apply this same gift with the boss. People reverse their stands. You simply need to accept that fact. Tonight: Bounce out the door.



Santa Monica Daily Press

Published Monday through Saturday
Phone: (310) 458-PRESS (7737) • Fax: (310) 576-9913
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LOCAL



Fire's neighbors on hot one

By Daily Press staff

A fire burned a hole through the ceiling of Ninjin Restaurant more than a week ago, causing businesses within the same commercial property to close temporarily. The Santa Monica fire and police departments responded to an emergency call at 7:45 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 26, at 607 Colorado Ave. The cause of the fire is still under investigation. Tenants occupying the same building were unable to conduct business through

the weekend, said Ray Carriere, owner of the property. He said Ninjin will likely not re-open for months. The Novo Salon, east of Ninjin restaurant, re-opens today. Gladys Jenkins, who has been a hair stylist at Novo for 12 years, said she notified authorities of the fire after she was driving down Colorado Avenue on her way to work. "I thought I saw smoke billowing, and I went around back, where my client was waiting," Jenkins said. "I thought I could smell something, like food cooking. I called 911."

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Spring fling: SMC opera presents first film fest

By Daily Press staff

The Emmy Award-winning Santa Monica College Opera Theatre this month will host its First Annual Spring Film Festival, featuring video highlights of past productions, many of which have been aired on television. The festival will be held at 8 p.m. Saturday, March 12, in the SMC Concert Hall, 1900 Pico Blvd. The 1 1/2-hour program will feature the video of "Patti Gallagher & Donald Fredrickson in Concert," which was taped a year ago and is now available in DVD and VHS, as well as clips from the Emmy Award-winning video "Faust" and the National Opera Association Video Award-winning "Midsummer Night's Dream." The film festival is a fundraising benefit for the SMC Opera Theatre. The Gallagher-Fredrickson program featured the acclaimed soprano — who has performed throughout the nation, including the White House — and her accompanist. Gallagher, a retired voice, acting and speech professor at SMC and Los Angeles City College, has had a long career in opera, musical theatre, acting and television. She started her career with a tour of Menotti's opera, "The Telephone," and continued to tour in operas, plays and musicals throughout the Midwest and in Los Angeles, where she also had a starring role in the television series, "Someone Is Out There." Gallagher has been a soloist with several orchestras, most recently the Coachella Valley Symphony Orchestra. Since retiring in 1998 and moving to Palm Springs, she has been active as a performer in the Palm Springs area. In October 2000, she won the Miss Senior America crown and in December 2000 she was a soloist in the East Room of the White House.

Fredrickson is a pianist who accompanies musical theatre, opera workshops, choral activities and applied music programs at SMC and El Camino College in Torrance. At those schools, he has accompanied performances and master classes with Roberta Peters, Sherrill Milnes, Eddie Daniels, Richard Stolzman, John Raitt, Marni Nixon, John Aler, Carol Neblett and International Pavarotti Competition winner Timothy Blevins. Recently he was honored with an Emmy for his contribution to the video of the SMC Opera Theatre's production of "Gounod's Faust." A frequent recitalist in the South Bay, Fredrickson has accompanied the L.A. Master Chorale, Welsh Choir of Southern California, and the South Bay Opera. He has also appeared at the Interlochen Arts Academy in Michigan; Gammage Theatre in Tempe, Ariz.; and, in August 2002, on harpsichords and virginals at Fentone House in London. He is currently the organist at First Church of Christ Scientist in Long Beach and a violinist with the SMC Symphony. Tickets are \$16. Call (310) 434-3000.

See BRIEFS, page 10



SURF REPORT

The next NW swell arrives and builds throughout the day. This swell is a long-period ground swell that formed below the Bering Sea. Weather and winds are looking ideal as the storm associated with this system is not expected to reach even the Oregon coast. But, as a result, we're expecting periods to run long from 16-19 seconds which, due to shoaling and refraction properties along the coast, we are expecting a significant variance in wave size between breaks as this 280 degree swell rolls in. In other words, catch as you can.

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

Today the water is:

62°

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	12:18	0.7	11:22	2.6	4:24	5.2	7:20	3.4
SUNDAY	N/A	N/A	1:03	1.1	5:36	5.7	7:44	3.8
MONDAY	12:25	2.0	1:43	1.4	6:34	6.1	8:10	4.2
TUESDAY	1:17	1.4	2:19	1.4	7:24	6.3	8:39	4.6
WEDNESDAY	2:04	0.9	2:52	1.2	8:11	6.3	9:08	5.0
THURSDAY	2:49	0.4	3:24	0.8	8:56	6.0	9:38	5.2
FRIDAY	3:17	0.6	3:47	1.0	9:34	5.7	9:57	5.1

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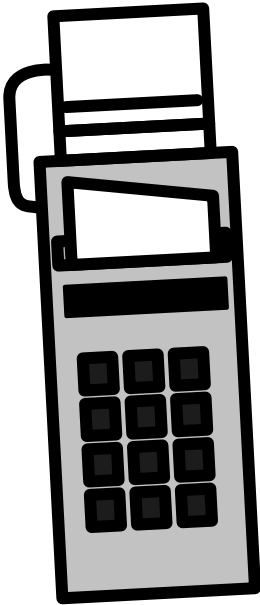
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The Q Line

City Hall officials have been tapping the community for ideas on how to improve traffic in Santa Monica. Elected leaders will be pouring over a massive document in the coming year that will govern how development is dealt with for the next two decades. Part of that is how traffic should be handled. More roundabouts, bike lanes and angled parking have been topics of conversation.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "What do you think will improve traffic in Santa Monica?" 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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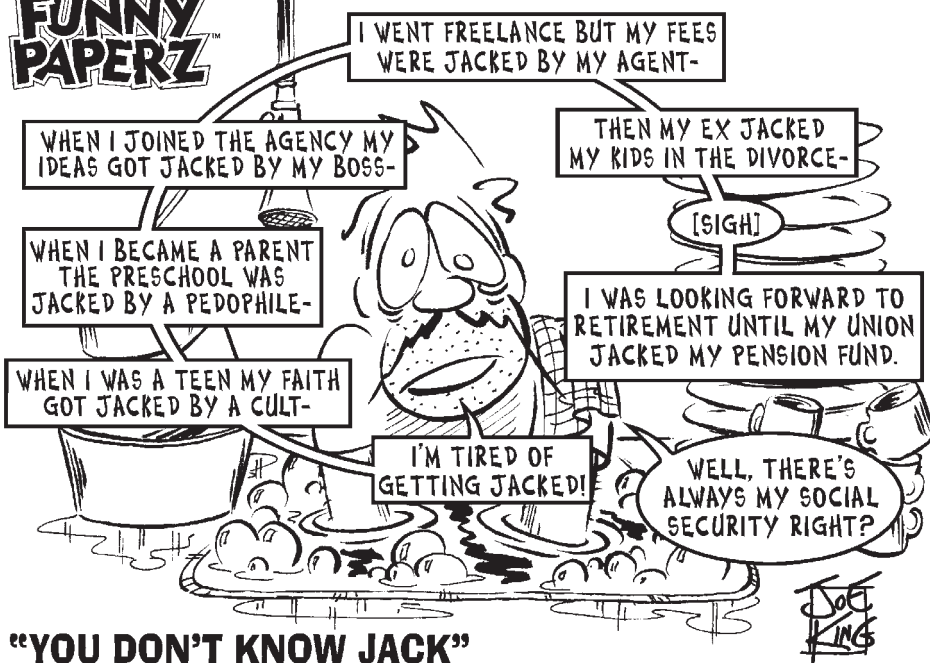
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Preservationists' ideals stuck in the past

Editor:

How surprising. The local preservationists, who prevented us from removing the "shotgun" house that was at 2718 Second St., can't find a way to "preserve" it (SMDP, March 4, page 1). I am so glad they put my family and my partner through three years of sleepless nights and cost me hundreds of thousands of dollars while damaging my goodwill at my bank so they could relocate the dilapidated shack at the airport parking lot for another three years while it continues to rot away. For people who have never seen it, from a distance the outside is cute like an outhouse, it is about 300 square feet, less than a large living room, and almost all of its structural members are so rotten you can crush them in your bare hands. The walls are constructed of thin planks with absolutely no structural integrity. Thus, even if you could drum up the \$400,000 to "preserve" it, the original materials will have to be replaced and the result will be only a replica of the original structure. I testified to this many times at city meetings in retort to the efforts to "preserve" it.

The now defunct OPCO, coupled with The Church in Ocean Park, joined together to appeal our development process on the property, even when we initially offered to give them the building soon after applying for a demolition permit. We also offered to move it for them, but as is typical with Santa Monica activists, they are so completely devoid of morality when it comes to somebody else's time and hard-earned money, they chose to take the most harmful route and continuously appeal our efforts, ending up with far less than if they had not harmed us in the process. That's what you get when a city politic enables people who enjoy telling other people what they should do with their property. The city of Santa Monica is plagued with these geniuses, whether it be minimum wage issues or rent control or historic preservation. Most of the activists don't care about the people they harm in their quest to take down what they perceive as the "fat cats."

Mario Fonda-Bonardi, the new leader of the effort to waste everyone's time and money, should know better since he is also an architect. But I suppose some of us do what we can to survive as a real estate professional within this community and what you pretend to stand for is much more important than reality. By the way, we bought the property with the shack for \$155,000.

Think about it.

S. Forest King
Santa Monica

T-bills could shore up Social Security fund

Editor:

Thomas Kenney made the following statement in a letter "The Social Security fund has been looted, in a nonpartisan way, simply because it is there" (SMDP, March 3, page 4). This statement indicates that the writer is apparently reporting a variation of statements made by some opponents of Social Security that are simply not true. Currently, the Social Security system is taking in billions more than it is spending on benefits. The problem is what to do with all this money. The money is not cash and will be needed later to pay Social Security benefits. The government could buy gold, invest it in real estate or put it in a bank, but all of these options would create problems in these businesses. What the government has chosen to do is buy U.S. Treasury bills. The T-bills earn interest that becomes part of the Social Security trust, and will be redeemed when they fall due. While this may look like the government is looting the so-called Social Security fund, all it is in fact doing is loaning these large sums of incoming money out at interest. That seems pretty reasonable to me, T-bills give a better return than \$100 bills in a safe-deposit box.

David Steele
Santa Monica

Owners need to rethink plans for after demise

WHAT'S
THE POINT?

BY DAVID PISARRA

Most businesses which are owned as a sole proprietorship or as a partnership are the culmination of a lifetime's work. The business owner has spent untold hours building something that is of great value.

Upon the death of the business owner there are many things which can happen, and they depend on the particular situation and how much planning has occurred prior. Many businesses either fail, or are sold at below market value, as a consequence of the business owner dying or becoming disabled. Even if a partner exists to continue the business there can still be many difficult problems.

An old partnership is much like a long-term marriage. After years of working together, a certain rhythm is created, the ebb and flow of business relations, the cycles of the particular business, the likes and dislikes of all the customers become known and familiar in a way that takes years to learn. When one partner dies, the other partner not only feels the personal loss, but can also be faced with the prospect of having to now deal with a grieving spouse or children who wish to come into the business having little or no knowledge of the way in which it was run.

Alternatively, the business owner may be a sole proprietor, who upon their passing, creates a leadership void in the business that quickly causes it to lose value. As it loses its value, the need for ongoing cash to continue operations increases. Thus, it creates a situation ripe for "fire sale" prices. This need will eventually destroy the business if it is not sold or managed properly.

Both of the above situations are regular occurrences and can be easily prevented with proper planning. Through the use of buy/sell agreements, life insurance policies and continuation programs, a business can be maintained so that the business owners' heirs get the benefits of those years of hard work.

THE BUY/SELL AGREEMENT

A buy/sell agreement is used mainly by partners in a business venture to prepare for the continuation of the business should one of the partners die or become incapacitated.

It is a legally binding agreement which provides that should one partner become incapable of performing the duties either through death or disability, he or she, or the heirs agree in advance to sell that interest in the business to the other partner(s) at an agreed upon amount or formula. This is very important in any business where there are partners.

It is much better to have a plan for the continuation of the business and the buying out of the other party's interest than to leave

it to the vagaries of the grieving parties.

This type of agreement is a complex contract that requires the participation not only of the partners, but in a community property state like California, should involve the non-participating spouses' in order to maximize the agreement and minimize the litigation after the fact.

This type of agreement is usually crafted in conjunction with both life and disability policies in order to provide funds to the buying party and for the continuation of the business.

EMPLOYEE BUYOUT

A buy/sell agreement also can be used by a sole proprietor who wishes to sell the business to a trusted employee as a reward for years of service or a group of employees who wish to take over when the original owner dies or becomes incapacitated.

A buy/sell agreement is nothing more than a contract between people which says that one party will sell when certain conditions occur and the other party will buy when those same conditions occur.

They can be structured in such a fashion as to be based on a set price, or an agreed upon formula, such as twice the average of the last three years' net profits. They can allow for the owner or heirs to carry back a loan to be paid over a period, or to allow for a single lump sum payment.

The benefit to the business owner is two fold: Firstly, he or she is establishing for the employee a perceived equity stake in the business — the fact that one day it will be theirs. Secondly, it is providing an additional source of income for the heirs. When set up as a one time payment of a set figure, which is then funded by a life insurance policy, the program works quite well.

Key person insurance is crucial if your business depends on you to be the rain-maker, or has a high flying salesperson who accounts for more than 30 percent of your sales. It is designed to be replacement income in the eventuality that you lose this person either to disability or death. If your business were to lose you, who could take over and what would be the losses? This policy is designed to provide the income that is needed to keep the lights on and the doors open while you recover or a replacement is found. Alternatively, if you or that top salesperson were to die, the policy would provide funds to maintain the business while it recovers from the loss.

No one likes to think about life after they are dead, or worse, if they are disabled. But the reality is that death comes at inconvenient times, and no one plans on getting a disability. A responsible owner will take the time, and face their fears to plan for the inevitable day when they are not in charge.

(David Pissarra is a Business Development lawyer and 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.)

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



Don't forget the 'out' when ordering take-out



ANY DAY IN LA

BY HEIDI MANTEUFFEL

There's a distinct reason you don't eat in from where you take out. I discovered this the hard way when an ambulance and three fire trucks invaded an LA Chinese restaurant Sunday night.

In any relationship, it always comes back to the proverbial discussion of where do you want to get dinner.

Which turns into "I don't know ... where do you want to go?" This goes on for several rounds of carefully not shooting down the other's idea if you don't have anything better, but not coming off too stoked for the one-hour commitment.

OK, I admit it, I'm a girl, so this whole charade is often initiated and single-handedly sustained by my gender. A man would often just as soon eat at Burger King than Melisse. But sometimes, we girls simply don't know where we want to grab dinner, and so the cycle begins.

However, being German, I occasionally perform blitzkrieg to break through with an assertive attack.

"Would you maybe want to get Chinese?" The attack is powerful, penetrating the enemy line. Chinese is the favorite food of the opponent and notably my least favorite.

The front is conquered and the dinner, mine.

Only with two other tables seated in the entire restaurant, I start to wonder if this was potentially a mistake.

RING RING ... RING RING ... Both phone lines rang incessantly at the front of the store in an irritatingly loud cacophony symphony. After four minutes of this, customers shared in the communal action of annoyed glances.

The restaurant appeared under-staffed for this time of night. Or, maybe the real problem lied with a cook whose belliger-

ent shouting permeated the entire restaurant.

I don't need to speak Chinese to understand the universal language of "I'm quitting and might take someone with me on the way out."

The first instance of this shouting, my boyfriend and I laughed uncomfortably. Never in my life have I heard someone yell with such passionate rage at another human being. We somewhat settled back into our booths, but there it was again, a louder and more deeply-gutted roar.

When the hostess came with our egg rolls, she explained that the chef was having a fight with the manager. There might be a small delay in the rest of our food, if it gets made at all.

My boyfriend and I dipped our egg rolls in soy sauce, only to hear a more piercing, penetrating cry.

Minutes later the flashing lights of an ambulance and fire trucks flickered through the front windows of the Chinese restaurant. The manager came out smiling, announcing to everyone that we should leave as he flipped the open sign to closed.

"This is the second time this has happened to me!" a customer exclaimed agitatedly in the parking lot. A male patron consoled this woman, previously seated near us. She wouldn't allow it, though. "Every time (three times) I've come in the past two months, they do something like this to us and we don't get our dinner!"

We left this similarly odd scene, and with our last two egg rolls, we walked to another Chinese restaurant nearby.

I'll never forget that chef and how glad I was I wasn't in that kitchen with cutting knives at his convenience. There is something to be said about trying new places. But next time it comes to making a dinner decision, I think I'll leave the take-out experience to the comfort of my own home, and leave the shouting for the manager and rescue team to deal with.

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



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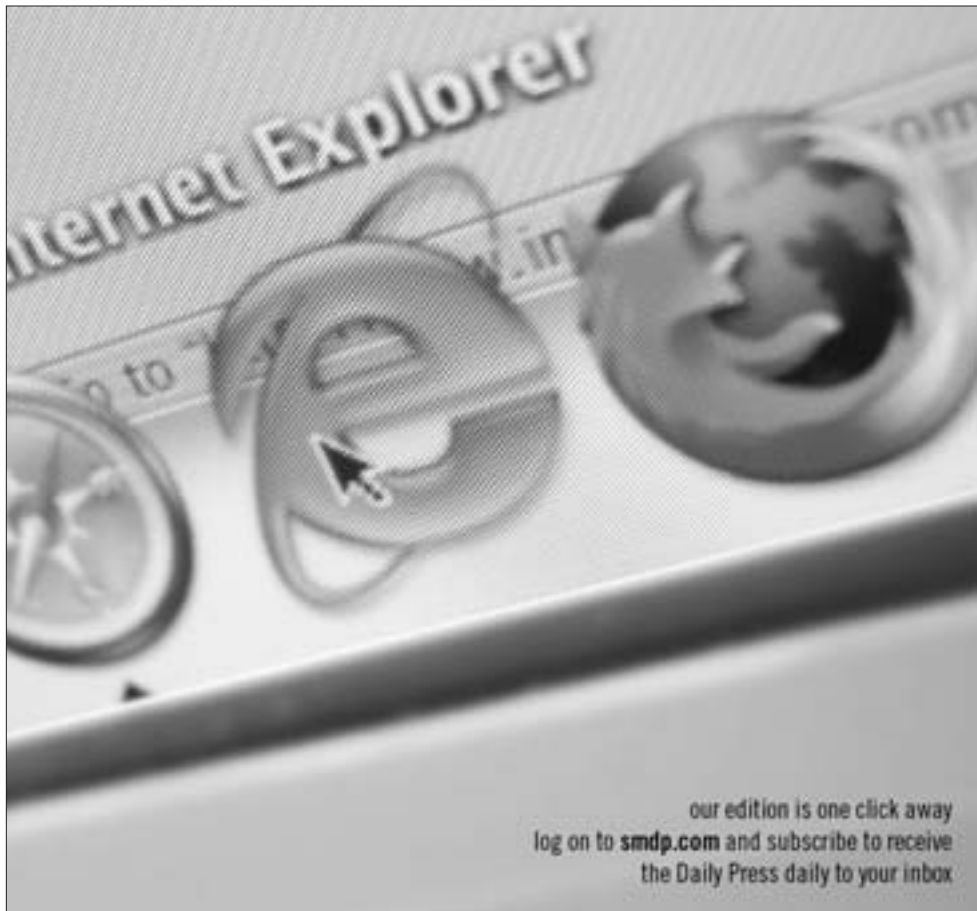
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Third shooting victim described as ‘silent hero’

VICTIMS, from page 1

events. Hernandez broke free from the men, who shot him as many as 14 times in the torso and head, according to witnesses. Bonilla reportedly was shot in the torso as he attempted to intervene.

A third victim, who witnesses said threw a chair at the gunmen in an attempt to break up the shooting, was released Monday from Saint John’s Health Center after being shot in the leg, according to authorities.

The third person’s identity was not released. He apparently did not know Bonilla or Hernandez.

“That third victim was a silent hero,” said Hernandez’ 40-year-old mother, Natalie Preciado, while grieving at home Monday afternoon. “The person shot Jonathan, and then Hector ran to Jon’s rescue saying ‘Wait!’ and the shooter put a bullet in his heart. He died instantly ... This hero kid threw a chair, to knock the gun out of his hand, and then the shooter shot him in the leg.”

Relatives said Hernandez and Bonilla, an out-of-work electrician who was enrolled in a local trade school, were old friends who enjoyed hanging out with one another, drinking and talking.

“That’s what it was all about,” said Krizna Ayala, Bonilla’s girlfriend and mother of their three children, ages 7, 2 and 1. “Just talking and drinking together. They both had the same personality. They loved everybody.”

Ayala was with Bonilla at the party, but said she left to use the bathroom moments before the shooting.

“I was sitting with Hector. I told him I was going to go use the restroom and when I was in the restroom I heard the gunshots, and when I came out he was on the ground already,” said Ayala, through tears. “I tried to help him so much.”

Craig Harvey, operations chief of the Los Angeles County Department of Coroner, confirmed the two men were fatally shot, but said he didn’t know how many times the victims were shot or

“If somebody would’ve asked Hector, ‘Are you from somewhere?’ or something, he would’ve said, ‘I’m cool.’ He didn’t want to die over no gang. He wanted to die old, with me.”

KRIZNA AYALA
Girlfriend of victim

where exactly the bullets hit, because autopsy reports weren’t expected to be complete until today.

Police on Monday said they were continuing their investigation, but didn’t release further details related to the double homicide, or say if it was gang related. Witnesses said the shooters had tattoos with gang emblems. Friends and relatives said Bonilla and Hernandez knew gangsters, but weren’t violent people.

“Hector didn’t deserve to die like that,” Ayala said. “He was a good dad. He never did harm to nobody.”

“It’s just craziness, all of it,” Ayala added. “If somebody would’ve asked Hector, ‘Are you from somewhere?’ or something, he would’ve said, ‘I’m cool.’ He didn’t want to die over no gang. He wanted to die old, with me.”

Friends and relatives said the same about Hernandez, a former student at Santa Monica High School who was categorized as “slow learning disabled,” because he suffered from a learning disability. Hernandez got into trouble for skipping school and went to study at Boys Republic, a 98-year-old private school for troubled youngsters located in Chino Hills.

Preciado, who has a daughter at Samohi and two younger sons in local schools, said it was at Boys Republic that Hernandez turned around his academics and earned top marks — and a scholarship.

“He was a person with a successful career,” said Preciado, a member of the local nonprofit group Mothers for Justice, which was created to fight against racism in schools and among police officers. “He was going to succeed and he was following his goals ... He wanted to prove this to people. That’s what he was doing. He goes, ‘Why do they label me a troubled kid?’ Then his teacher at the (graduation) ceremony said, ‘It’s not what they call you, it’s what you answer to,’ and he did it. He proved them wrong. He was so happy.”

Preciado said Hernandez, who graduated in 2004, planned to begin classes at Santa Monica College this year, with the ultimate goal of becoming a psychologist for disabled youths. In the meantime, she said Hernandez acted as a tutor and classroom aide to his half-brother Christopher, 9, who is autistic.

Hernandez also was involved in a pair of community workshops co-hosted by City Hall and State Sen. Sheila Kuehl that are dedicated to ending gang violence, according to Preciado. Though he missed the first meeting Feb. 26 to care for his brother, Hernandez had helped in planning and intended to play an active role in the second meeting, Preciado added. That meeting is scheduled for this Saturday at

John Adams Middle School, directly across the street from the homicides.

The night of the shootings, Preciado said Hernandez was giving rides home to youths competing in a rap contest at the Pico Youth & Family Center, a nonprofit organization near Pico and Lincoln boulevards that serves at-risk youths. Hernandez regularly gave free rides to friends, and had just dropped off two youngsters when he was called again and asked to pick up two friends at the Moose Lodge, according to Preciado.

“He walked into this place and never made it,” she added. “He got shot at the door.”

A makeshift memorial of flowers and candles stood at the front entrance to the Moose Lodge on Monday. Inside, work crews hauled off rented tables and chairs, while a woman vacuumed the carpeting around the bar. A strong scent of bleach hung in the air, and there were markings on the ground where investigators had collected evidence and cleaned up after the fatal brawl.

Several friends filtered by the makeshift memorial to pay their respects to Bonilla and Hernandez, each declining to give their name for fear that they would be questioned by investigators.

“He (Bonilla) was a good guy,” said a 21-year-old Samohi graduate who was with his wife and young son. “He was with his family. He had three kids already. He was with his family trying to do the right thing.”

No funeral time or location had been decided as of Monday, and relatives of both men said they hoped to raise money to help offset burial costs (see related story).

In the meantime, the effects of the shooting were still sinking in on the victims’ families. Ayala said the youngest of her three children, 1-year-old Eli, had refused to eat. Preciado, who said she hadn’t slept since the late-night shooting Saturday, said her son Christopher also seemed to be having a particularly difficult time.

“He just told me, ‘Mom ... maybe somebody has him and they’re lying,’” Preciado said. “He doesn’t understand right now what’s going on. He had to go to school this morning and he wakes up and says, ‘Where’s Jon?’”

(Police described the shooting suspects as Hispanic males, aged 18 to 20 and wearing dark, hooded sweatshirts. Anyone with information was urged to call the Santa Monica Police Department at (310) 458-8451. Callers who wish to remain anonymous may call the We-Tip national hotline at (800) 78-CRIME.)

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LOCAL



Schools lending support

RESPONSE, from page 1

Monica High School, and Hector Bonilla, 25, husband and father of three, were both fatally shot in the head after an argument ensued with other partygoers.

The Pico Neighborhood Association said it would announce today the creation of a new fund to assist with the financial needs of families who are victims of violent crime.

"These are working families trying to sustain themselves," said Maria Loya, PNA co-president. "They need help."

The PNA will be using the funds to assist families with short-term needs, such as funeral expenses. But Irma Carranza, PNA treasurer, said she hopes the money will also be available to address long-term family needs.

"Hector had a wife and kids," Carranza said. "His family depended on him, not only financially, but also for doing a lot of the errands, like taking the kids to school. These kids and their mother are going to need help for a long time, until they can manage on their own."

John Deasy, superintendent for the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, said the district is taking steps to provide emotional support to students close to the victims, or those who witnessed the slaying.

"I am deeply grieved by the issue. It was a horrifying tragedy that took place," Deasy said. "I knew Jon Hernandez and his mom."

Deasy said the district is providing grief and trauma counseling services for students at Samohi, where Hernandez had attended, and at John Adams Middle School, where other students close to the victims still attend. Counseling also is being provided at Will Rogers Elementary School, where Bonilla's son, Hector Jr., 7, attends.

"It's been very intense, but very good," Deasy said.

Marilyn Freeman, outreach coordinator for the district, said she has been working with schools to ensure students and staff alike have the appropriate support.

Freeman said the district has a crisis support team in place at the three schools, consisting of individuals from organizations such as Saint John's Health Center,

Help wanted

The PNA is asking for donations of food from local restaurants to be provided at the funeral services. Flowers for the services and any monetary contribution also are being sought. Call (310) 396-7101 to arrange any drop off or pick ups.

To assist with the Hernandez and Bonilla family funeral services, send checks to:

Victims of Violence
Care of Pico Neighborhood
Association
1705 Pico Boulevard, No. 125
Santa Monica, CA 90404

El Nido and Jewish Family Services. Freeman said individuals from those organizations, assigned to the schools prior to the homicides, are familiar with students and staff.

According to Freeman, there is a school psychologist assigned to work with each school on a regular basis, and will assist the crisis team. In addition, the district has a community resource person who helps facilitate "all students and staff who need it," she said.

A follow-up session to a Feb. 26 gang violence workshop, co-sponsored by the city, will be held from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, March 12, at John Adams Middle School, 2425 16th St., across the street from the Moose Lodge, where the gunfire erupted on Saturday. Many Samohi students had attended the party, Deasy said.

"I would qualify this as a substantial impact (within the school district)," Deasy said.

Although police have not disclosed whether the crime was gang-related, Carranza said she is looking forward to the event.

"This is a time for the community to come together," Carranza said. "I hope the turnout is great. More than ever, we need to come up with valid solutions to stop the gang violence."

"We need to build a safety net for our children and give them choices for a better life."

City to handle demolition on own

IT'S ELECTRIC, from page 1

wing was evaluated in December 2003, the council determined demolition was the best solution, and approved a two-phase design-build agreement with SKS Construction to handle the project from beginning to end.

The entire demolition project is expected to cost \$2 million, according to city staff.

The first phase, with Neubauer Electric as the electrical sub-contractor, called for a design and recognizance plan. The second phase encompassed the actual demolition of the police wing and creation of a landscaped courtyard in its place. The City Council was expected to approve phase two in December 2004, but was forced to explore alternatives when SKS informed City Hall it would not be able to complete the project.

"The city decided to run phase two itself," Friedman said. "We need this done quickly and it would take longer for us to go out and find another design-build contractor than it would to do it ourselves. Neubauer Electric was part of phase one and, given their existing knowledge of the project at

hand, it was in our best interest to continue working with them to complete the project."

Friedman said once rewiring and relocating electrical elements were finished, and additional contractors are brought in to handle similar issues with plumbing and air conditioning, the demolition would begin around June 1.

The council is also expected to spend \$12,800 for additional elements needed for brand strategy and marketing for the new Big Blue Bus Rapid 3 Service—a total contract amount of \$67,800. The branding and customer communication campaign is being developed by Sussman/Prejza, the same firm that developed the new look of the Big Blue Bus in 1997, according to city staff.

The new Rapid 3 line, also referred to as Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), will begin this June and provides limited-stop service with 15-minute service down the Lincoln corridor between Santa Monica and the Green Line in El Segundo.

The city is also working with Sussman/Prejza on the development of graphics for police department patrol cars.

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DEAR DORIE

Trust your intuition for child care

Dear Dorie,
My husband and I planned to live on one income (his) for the first few years of our children's lives. Unfortunately, it looks as though I'll have to return to work sooner than that. How do I go about starting the search for child care?

— Where to Begin

Dear Where:
According to the current census, 68 percent of mothers with young children work outside the home, and that means child care. This search can be complicated, confusing and emotionally draining but, ultimately, your children and your pocketbook will benefit.
Let's assume you will be working a traditional work-day during the week and insist on a licensed care facility that can accommodate both children. This will minimize drop-off time and also provide comfort to you knowing that they're together during the day.
My first call would be to Connections for Children at (310) 452-3325. They are the child care resource and referral agency for our area. They will provide you with a list of facilities to contact. Then, I would talk to friends and family for personal referrals and experiences. Jot down notes, names and numbers for your records and keep a file for all the information. As availability and affordability are key factors, don't hesitate to ask cost information right out of the chute. Above all, trust your instincts. Only you will know if the program is right for your children.
Finally, once your care arrangements are confirmed, remain flexible. If it's not working, keep looking and if it works, congratulations. Good luck.

— Dorie

(Dorie Meek is director of the Infant & Family Support Program. Please submit your questions at meek@smmusd.org, or call (310) 452-6132.

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Good parenting not all fun, games, and neither is being a child at play



How Much Is Enough?

By Connie Dawson

"Did you have fun today?" the parent asks when the child comes home from the playground, or park, or a friend's house, or the babysitter's, or shopping, or school, or wherever. It is the ubiquitous question put to children by adults who care about those children and want them to enjoy life.
But, let's think for a moment. Fun is a noun meaning a source of enjoyment or amusement. It is a feeling of pleasure that is the result of something. It is not a verb that tells a child how to get that feeling.
Play is a verb. Fun is not. It is said that play is young children's work. And it is. It is the large variety of activities young children do, and in doing so, they learn hundreds of skills. Some of it is fun. Some of it is not. Play often results in feeling thwarted or disappointed or frustrated.
We all want our children to have fun, but we can't make them have fun. We can provide opportunities that we think will be fun, but the children will decide if they are or not. And if we force it, if we insist that children's lives should be fun, fun, fun, we are apt to get dissatisfied, unhappy, cynical youngsters and adolescents who blame us because their lives are not fun. Fun is not bad, but it is an outcome of some activity, not the activity itself. So let us teach children how to do things and then wait to see if they have fun.
In the overindulgence studies, participants reported "My parents made sure I was entertained." The "made sure" part of that became part of the over-scheduling that adults who had been overindulged as children resented.
In a wish for children to have fun, parents provide children with entertainment. Entertainment is wonderful if we happen to like it. If we don't, we live through it or we leave, but we don't "have fun." So, when did we adults switch to telling children how we want them to feel instead of what they need to do to grow successfully?
Consider the great grandmother's directives about school:
■ Be on time.
■ Carry a clean handkerchief.
■ Pay attention to the teacher.
■ Learn your lessons.
All of these directives told the child what to do in order to be successful, to become competent in his time and place. Of course, times have changed. Carrying a clean handkerchief is not necessary if the school room

has multiple boxes of tissues. So consider a modern mother, whose name I regret I do not know, who also tells her child how to be competent. As her child leaves for school this mom says:
■ Be smart.
■ Do something kind today.
The directive to be smart includes not only learning classroom lessons, but keeping yourself safe on the bus and handling yourself responsibly on the playground. Do something kind today signals the parent's expectations about the child's developing social skills. These two directives offer the child her parent's assessment of how to be competent, or even how to survive in her time.
Now consider the parent who sends a child off with the message, "Have fun today!" That parent is telling the child how he is expected to feel, not what to do.
Children's emotions are responses to their life experiences. Feelings give children important information about those experiences — information that helps children decide how to respond to those experiences. For example:
■ Scared. Get to safety by yourself and/or with other's help.
■ Sad. Get comfort within yourself or from others.
■ Angry. Find out how to solve the problem, by yourself and/or with help.
■ Happy. Enjoy within yourself and/or with others.
Children, even though they often resist, look to adults for direction. If we repeatedly say, "have fun or did you have fun," what happens to scared, sad and mad?
What can parents who want to know about their child's experiences and emotions say instead of "Did you have fun?"
They can try saying some of the following:
■ Tell me about ...
■ What did people do there?
■ What did you do there?
■ What feelings did you have when ...?
■ I want to hear about ...
■ Tell me one thing that happened.
■ What people were there?
■ Did you play any new games (or do new things)?
■ Tell me about one thing you did for someone else.
■ Tell me about one thing you did well today .
■ Tell me one thing you could have done better today.
Some entertainment, some clown, some pony ride, some party, some theater, some sports events result in our having fun — but for children, probably the biggest fun is the fun they create.
Remember, having fun is an outcome of activities or actions. Fun is a result, not a process.

(Connie Dawson Ph.D. is a co-author of "How Much Is Enough?" To read more about overindulgence go to www.overindulgence.info.)

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 12 HELP!!! I HAVE CHILDREN! – PARENTING WORKSHOP – 9:30 a.m.

“How to have Enlightening Exchanges versus Fights in the Process of Parenting” This 3-hour workshop for parents and caregivers focuses on understanding a child’s age appropriate development in order to eliminate some of the “fighting” in parenting. Provided by the SMMUSD’s Infant and Family Support Program and offered free of charge. A fully refundable \$20 deposit is required to participate. Space is limited so reserve now by calling 452-6132. Facilitated by Steve Cuffari, MA, MFT. Steve works with individuals and couples at Journeys Counseling Ministry in Costa Mesa, and is a sought after speaker and father of two young children. Joslyn Park Auditorium, 633 Kensington Rd. Sorry, no child care provided.

25th ANNUAL LA ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FAIR

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Check out the more than 60 organizations that teach and promote environmental science. Featuring live animal exhibits, live music, and Eco Treasure Hunt and more. LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia. Free with admission: \$7 adults, \$2.50 children, 626-821-4623.

WORLD CITY PERFORMANCE – 12:30 and 2:00 p.m.

Enjoy a performance by Patrick Ball and the Tinkers who play traditional music and tell stories from Ireland and Scotland. Walt Disney Concert Hall, 111 S. Grand Ave., downtown, 213-972-4396, FREE!

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MARCH 16 – 20, various times, Arrowhead Pond, Anaheim, 213-480-3232 or 714-740-2000, \$13 - \$50, www.arrowheadpond.com.

NO LIMITS THEATRE GROUP PRESENTS BUILDING BLOCKS – MARCH 19

The nationally acclaimed theatre group, NO LIMITS FOR DEAF CHILDREN, performs its original play Building Blocks - about finding strength and commitment to overcome obstacles in life. At The Ivy Substation, 9070 Venice Blvd., Culver City. Performances are Sat., March 19 at 2:00 and 4:00 p.m. Tickets are \$15 adults (\$20 at the door) and \$7 for children under 12. Call 335-1225 for reservations.

THE WIGGLES LIVE! SAT. & SUN. APRIL 9 & 10, 1:30 & 5:00 p.m.

Tickets on sale now! Universal Amphitheatre, Universal City. Tickets available at the box office or at www.ticketmaster.com.

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TUESDAY

Movies for Moms! Mar. 8 – The Chorus (Les Choristes) starring Girad Jugnot, Francois Berland and Kad Merad. Drama,

Rated “PG-13.”

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.

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.

Kids’ 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.

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

Lap Time - 10:15 & 11:15 a.m., ages 0-2.

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. Next session is April 16 – May 4. 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.

Kids’ 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.

La Hora Del Cuento – 7:00 p.m. Spanish stories, songs and rhymes for all ages.

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

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

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

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.

Kids’ 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.childsplayonline.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.

Kids’ 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.santamonicaayoga.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.

Kids’ 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.

“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

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

California again grapples with high-speed chases

BY DON THOMPSON

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — On any given day in California, a television station helicopter hovers over a speeding car that pinballs through traffic on the freeway below with police cars in hot pursuit.

More and more often, however, this staple of television news and police procedure has brought death and serious injuries. According to the California Highway Patrol, the number of chases has grown by the hundreds each of the last three years for which statistics are available: 5,895 in 2001; 6,337 in 2002; 7,171 in 2003.

Fifty-one people died in 2003 as a result, or nearly one each week. Of the dead, 18 were not involved in the pursuit, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Last month, University of California, Berkeley, graduate student Jie Wang joined the list of the seriously injured after a motorist fleeing an Albany, Calif., police officer ran a red light and crashed into Wang's car. The 24-year-old Wang remains in a coma.

California's numbers consistently far exceed any other state. Compared to the 51 California deaths in 2003, Texas had 33 including nine innocents; North

Carolina had 23 deaths, eight of them uninvolved motorists; Florida had 21 deaths, just one of an innocent motorist.

While some cities including Los Angeles have limited chases, Florida and Mississippi last year enacted laws boosting penalties for fleeing drivers, similar to what California law enforcement is now proposing this year as the California Legislature is set to start again attempts to change the way law enforcement pursue potential criminals.

Law enforcement groups want to increase penalties for fleeing drivers, while a bipartisan group of legislators is pushing a proposal that would include penalties for police who recklessly pursue drivers.

"I want something that is actually going to save lives," said state Sen. Sam Aanestad, R-Grass Valley, who said at least 35 people have died since his bill that would have limited police immunity in accidents from high-speed chases was defeated last year.

"Probably the worst way to catch someone is by chasing them," Aanestad said. "We already have some of the strictest penalties in the nation. ... When people flee, it wasn't on their mind."

The police-sponsored bill would promote educating drivers about the stiffer criminal penalties and that they — not the police officer — are liable if anyone else is injured or killed. And it would make bystanders eligible for monetary compensation from the state's victims' fund.

But law enforcement will adamantly oppose stripping away officers' legal immunity, said California State Sheriff's Association Legislative Director Nick Warner and California Police Chiefs Association President Bill Brown.

Since 1987, police have had what a state appeals court

in 2002 termed a "get-out-of-liability-free" law even if police violate their own department's pursuit policy.

"We have been challenged by the court of appeals: 'You, Legislature, go back and fix this,'" said Senate Majority Leader Gloria Romero, D-Los Angeles, who is teaming with Aanestad in a bipartisan reform effort.

But Brown, a 27-year veteran and police chief in Lompoc the last 10 years, said ending police immunity now would "pass the liability on to the police and ultimately to the taxpayer, rather than to the individual who is really responsible."

That would essentially end all police pursuits, Brown said, encouraging suspects to flee.

Aanestad is promising to craft a bill in cooperation with law enforcement, national experts and families of innocent victims of high-speed pursuits.

Romero is co-sponsoring that bill but also carrying the police proposal as "a beginning point of discussion."

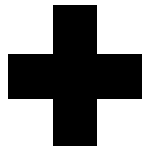
"I think there is much that needs to be changed," she said. "I want to see as much teeth as possible; I want there to be accountability," even it might be politically unrealistic to end police immunity.

Aanestad is naming his bill after Kristie Priano, a 15-year-old Chico honor student who was killed in January 2002 when her family's minivan was struck by an unlicensed 15-year-old who took her mother's car without permission. Candy Priano argues police knew where the fleeing driver lived, so there was no need for the pursuit that killed her daughter.

"I blame the people who flee. (But) people who flee do not care about anyone's safety, so the burden of protecting innocent bystanders by necessity falls on the police," Priano said in remarks prepared for a news conference Monday before a Public Safety Committee information hearing Wednesday.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SCHOOLS, from page 3

Battle versus colon cancer takes center stage

By Daily Press staff

More than 60,000 Americans die each year of colon cancer, making it a bigger killer than breast cancer and AIDS combined.

After doctors discovered polyps on his colon in 2002, President George W. Bush brought colon cancer center stage by declaring March Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.

The fight against the deadly disease has since gained momentum, thanks to the efforts of celebrity-advocates such as Katie Couric, whose husband died of the disease in 1998. In efforts to further educate the community about colon cancer, Anton Bilchik, M.D., director of gastrointestinal surgical oncology at John Wayne Cancer Institute in Santa Monica, is offering tips and guidelines to help prevent the disease.

There are many warning signs and symptoms linked

to colorectal cancer. Dr. Bilchik advises patients to consult their doctor should they be experiencing any of the following indicators:

- Blood in or on the stool and/or rectal bleeding.
- Persistent diarrhea or constipation.
- Stools that are narrower than usual.
- A feeling of an incomplete bowel movement.
- Stomach discomfort, bloating, or gas pains.
- Unexplained weight loss, weakness and fatigue.

To reduce the risk, Dr. Bilchik and the American Cancer Society recommend that patients exercise, eat plenty of fruits, vegetables and whole grain foods and avoid or limit tobacco and alcohol use.

"Recognizing the risk factors and realizing the importance of early detection enhances colon health and significantly improves survival rates," he added.

Since 1981, the John Wayne name has been committed by the Wayne family to groundbreaking cancer research and education in memory of their father who died of cancer. The John Wayne Cancer Institute has received worldwide acclaim for advances in melanoma, breast and colon cancer, as well as immune therapy of cancer.

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INTERNATIONAL



Syrian forces to pull back, withdrawal not in cards

BY BASSEM MROUE

Associated Press Writer

DAMASCUS, Syria — The presidents of Syria and Lebanon announced Monday that Syrian forces will pull back to Lebanon's eastern Bekaa Valley by March 31, but a complete troop withdrawal will be deferred until after later negotiations.

Later, Syrian military vehicles and personnel were seen moving east in the first signs of a pullback. Syrian troops in the region had stayed put for days before Monday's movement.

The announcement, made after a meeting between Syrian President Bashar Assad and Lebanese President Emile Lahoud, said Syria's 14,000 troops will pull back from northern and central Lebanon to the east, near Syria's border.

Then, military officials from both countries will decide within a month how many Syrian troops will remain in the Bekaa Valley and how long they will stay there. The soldiers have been in Lebanon for 29 years.

After a negotiated timeframe, the two governments will "agree to complete the withdrawal of the remaining forces," the statement said.

The agreement did not set a specific timetable for that complete withdrawal, which could fall short of demands by the United States, Israel, France, Russia and other nations that Syria completely pull its troops from its eastern neighbor.

The announcement stated, "The Syrian and Lebanese agree on continuing the withdrawal of Syrian Arab forces."

It added that the redeployment to the Bekaa Valley was in line with the 1989 Arab-brokered Taif Accord, which called for Syria to move its troops to the Lebanese border and for both countries to then negotiate the withdrawal.

In Washington, the Syrian ambassador to the United States, Imad Moustapha, told CNN that Syria will withdraw from Lebanon in two stages over a few months.

"We entered Lebanon to end a bloody civil war," Moustapha said. "Now we are withdrawing in compliance with international law. We are giving a good example to the rest of the Middle East."

The United States has called for a complete withdrawal of Syrian soldiers and intelligence agents before Lebanese parliamentary elections scheduled for May. State Department deputy spokesman Adam Ereli reiterated that demand Monday.

"Until Syrian forces and intelligence agents are out of Lebanon, (U.N. Security Council Resolution) 1559 is not respected," Ereli said.

The September U.N. resolution, drafted by the United States and France, called on Syria to withdraw forces from Lebanon, stop influencing politics in the country and allow Lebanon to hold presidential elections as scheduled.

On Monday, journalists saw two Syrian military trucks loaded with furniture heading east up the Lebanese mountains. A jeep carrying a general also drove from the Ain Dara area through an intersection on the Beirut-Damascus highway and climbed the road toward the Dahr El-Baidar mountain pass leading to the Bekaa Valley.

Seven empty trucks came down the mountain to the Syrian positions, apparently to load supplies. Two battle tanks were parked on the side of the road, pointed eastward.

Two more trucks loaded with supplies headed up the mountain. The soldiers inside each truck smiled and waved at journalists.

This area of the central mountains, known as Mdeirej, is the last position the Syrians will withdraw to in central Lebanon, according to a 1989 Arab-brokered accord and Monday's announcement. The area, about 18 miles east of Beirut, has a commanding view of Lebanon's Mediterranean coastline and controls the entrance to Dahr el-Baidar.

Earlier in Beirut, more than 30,000 ardent protesters gathered at the central Martyrs' Square to demand that Syria leave, part of a weeklong campaign that led to the toppling of Lebanon's pro-Syrian government last week.

Most protesters waved Lebanon's red-and-white flag with a green cedar tree, chanting "Syria out!"

Monday's demonstration marked three weeks since the Feb. 14 assassination of former Lebanese premier

Rafik Hariri triggered the peaceful campaign against Syrian control. The crowd later marched to the site of the bomb blast that killed 17 others. A group of demonstrators carried a banner reading, "Today we have one target: To liberate our land."

Anti-Syrian sentiment in Lebanon has soared since Hariri's death, which many Lebanese have blamed on Damascus and their own country's pro-Syrian government. Both governments deny such claims.

Assad insisted his decision to pull back his forces — first announced Saturday in a speech to parliament — did not result from mounting international pressure. Instead, Assad said his plan would put Syria in full compliance with international agreements and U.N. demands.

Syria has had troops in Lebanon since 1976, when they were sent as peacekeepers during that country's

1975-1990 civil war. When the war ended, the troops remained while Syria dominated Lebanon's politics.

During Monday's meeting, Lahoud thanked Assad for Syria's role in helping prevent Lebanon's partition after the civil war and expressed "appreciation for the sacrifices made by the Syrian army in Lebanon," Lebanese presidential spokesman Rafik Shalala said.

Lahoud stressed "the unity of the Lebanese-Syrian position in confronting the challenges" and on continuing cooperation, Shalala said.

Syria's military presence and the country's support of Lebanon's anti-Israeli Shiite Muslim militant group Hezbollah has angered both the United States and Israel.

Hezbollah's powerful leader, Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, called for a peaceful demonstration in Beirut on Tuesday to show loyalty to Damascus.

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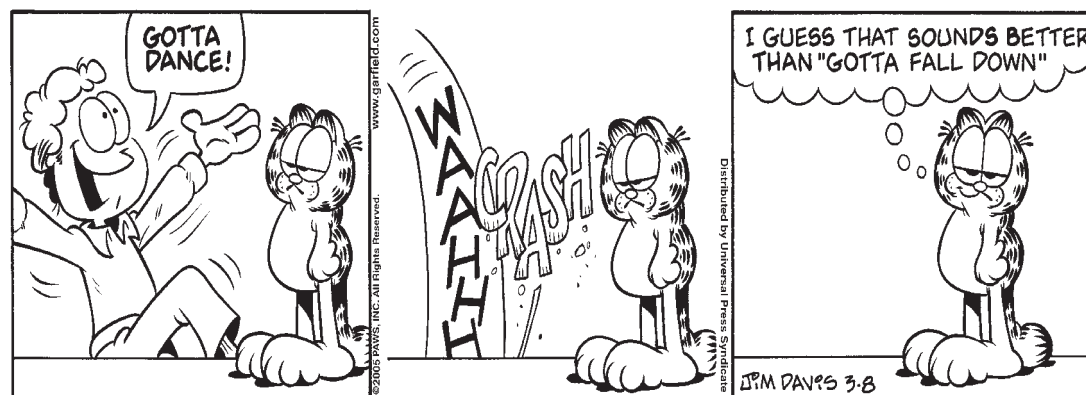


The Dinette Set by Julie Larson

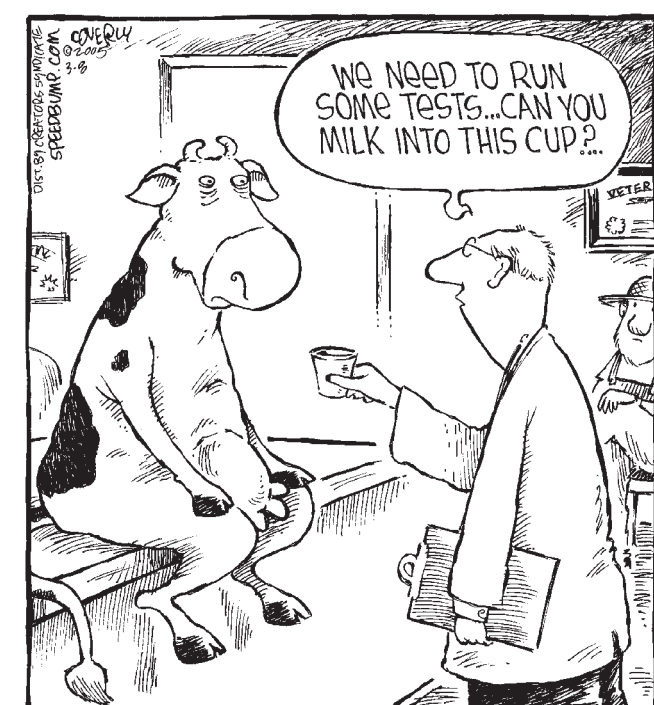
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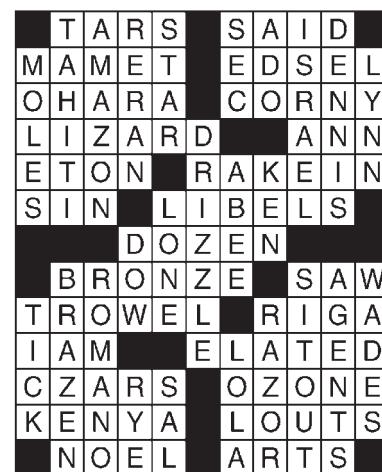


By THOMAS JOSEPH

DOWN

- 1 Sounds of surprise
6 Trail follower
11 Loose, as a lace
12 Banks of baseball
13 Tony Hillerman mystery
15 Road goo
16 Drink carefully
17 Soaked
18 Myanmar, once
20 Got together
23 Macaroni shape
27 Finished
28 "Tomb Raider" heroine
29 Intended
31 Annual race
32 Right now
34 Fire leftover
37 Bowl-shaped pan
38 Tango need
41 Tony Hillerman mystery
44 Danger
45 Yes-man
46 Trades
47 Building wing

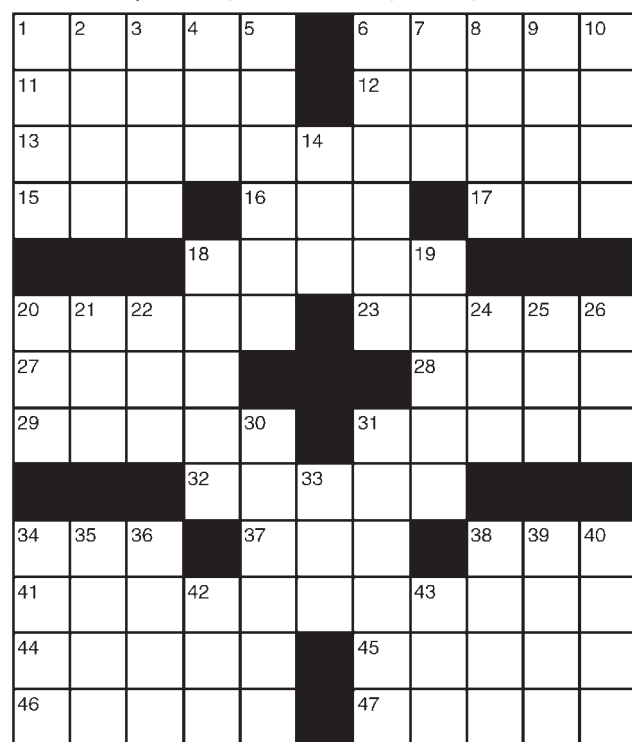
- 1 Sudden breeze
- 2 Singer Paul
- 3 Mix
- 4 Seamstress's aid
- 5 Assures
- 6 Distress call
- 7 Annoy
- 8 Was aware
- 9 The Emerald Isle
- 10 Take it easy
- 14 Broadcast
- 18 Charred
- 19 Bowling spot



Yesterday's answer

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 20 Pop's wife | 34 Nile |
| 21 Apple | serpents |
| taster | 35 Distort |
| 22 Afternoon | 36 Zeus' wife |
| event | 38 Eliot Ness, |
| 24 Saloon | for one |
| 25 Sphere | 39 Batter |
| 26 Path | Boggs |
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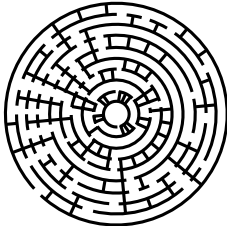
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Didn't want it that way? Nick Carter gets busted

By The Associated Press

FRANKLIN, Tenn. — Country singer Tanya Tucker has filed an order of protection against her former fiancé, whom Tucker claims has harassed and assaulted her.

Tucker, 46, alleges that Jerry Laseter has harassed her before shows, grabbed her by the throat, given her a black eye and threatened her.

Tucker and Laseter, 43, share a daughter, Layla Laseter, 5.

The order was signed by a Williamson County judge on Thursday. A hearing is scheduled for April 1 at the county courthouse.

Laseter denied the allegations Friday, saying he never hit Tucker nor had he ever been physically abusive in any way.

Tucker said in a written statement that on Jan. 29 she was awakened when Laseter poured "ice cold water on me and started yelling at me."

She said he started poking her in the chest and grabbed her by the throat. A sheriff's deputy was called to the scene, but Tucker did not want to file charges.

Tucker locked herself in a bathroom, and Laseter kicked in the door, according to the deputy's report.

Roberta Ann Carroll, Tucker's personal assistant, also filed an order of protection against Laseter. Carroll wrote that Laseter struck her in the eye and pulled her hair. She claims Laseter has threatened to kill her.

HUNTINGTON BEACH — Nick Carter of the Backstreet Boys was arrested last weekend for alleged drunken driving, police said.

Carter, 25, was behind the wheel of a vehicle

observed committing a traffic violation when police stopped him Saturday night in downtown Huntington Beach, police Lt. Dave Bunetta said.

"The officer that stopped him noticed some traffic violation was occurring," Bunetta said. "When he was contacted by the officers they conducted an investigation which would include field sobriety tests and they formed the opinion he was under the influence."

Carter was arrested and booked for investigation of drunken driving and his vehicle was impounded, Bunetta said. The type of vehicle wasn't disclosed.

It wasn't known how long Carter was in jail. Motorists arrested for drunken driving in Huntington Beach are typically held for a minimum of four hours then, after evaluation, are released with a citation ordering them to appear in court within 45 days, Bunetta said.

"Nick Carter deeply regrets the current situation. He is on doctor-prescribed medication and was unaware of its interaction possibilities," Carter publicist Juliette Harris said in a statement Monday.

The Backstreet Boys, whose hits include "I Want it That Way," "Shape of My Heart" and "Show Me the Meaning of Being Lonely," recently announced a 13-city tour that will start March 21 in New York.

Jive Records said they will perform all their hits plus songs from their upcoming CD. The Backstreet Boys haven't produced a new album since 2000's "Black & Blue."

Carter released a solo album in 2002.

SYDNEY, Australia — Her marriage to a crown prince was like a fairy tale, so it was fitting when the Australian-born crown princess of Denmark was named as an honorary Hans Christian Andersen ambassador.

Princess Mary, a former Sydney real estate worker who married Danish Crown Prince Frederik in a lavish ceremony in Copenhagen last year, will promote the Danish author's works in Australia as part of her new role.

Born in 1805, Andersen is known for such fairy tale classics as "The Little Mermaid," "The Ugly Duckling" and "The Red Shoes." He died in 1875.

Mary was given the honorary title Monday by her husband at a ceremony at the Sydney Opera House to mark the 200th anniversary of the author's birth.

Also named as ambassador's for Andersen's works were Oscar-winning actor Geoffrey Rush, best-selling author Bryce Courtenay, Australian children's author Mem Fox and television talk show host Andrew Denton.

The prince and princess, who are in the second week of their official visit to Australia, later unveiled a bust of Andersen on a hill overlooking the opera house and Sydney Harbor.

OUAGADOUGOU, Burkina Faso — A South African film took top honors at Africa's premiere film festival, where the movie celebrating a reporter's struggle against apartheid marked only the second-ever English-language submission to be judged best film in Francophone Burkina Faso.

"Drum," by South African director Zola Maseko, picked up the Gold Talon prize for best feature-length film late Saturday at the closing of the 19th Panafrican Film and Television Festival, known locally as "Africa's Cannes."

Maseko won the equivalent of about \$20,000 for his film celebrating a black journalist's ultimately fatal fight against South Africa's former Apartheid regimes.



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