

FREE

TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2003

Volume 2, Issue 113

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTTO

FANTASY 5

01, 09, 13, 22, 39

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 4, 2, 8

Evening picks: 9, 2, 3

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 12, Lucky Charms

2nd Place: 03, Hot Shot

3rd Place: 09, Winning Spirit

Race time: 1:48.86



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

■ Police in Overland Park, Kan., arrested a 29-year-old man from Virginia on New Year's Eve (but his partner escaped) and charged him with defrauding the Embassy Suites Hotel by using two stolen \$500 money orders to obtain cash. By the time the hotel discovered that the money orders were bogus, the two men had checked out of their rooms, but fortunately, the 29-year-old man had just returned to the hotel because he had forgotten to get his \$20 room deposit back. He was arrested without incident.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.

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Library to cost \$21M more than expected

City officials look to cut other projects to pay for new facility

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

Cost overruns for the new library has forced city officials to consider diverting more than \$21 million from other projects to pay for the new facility.

The City Council tonight will consider taking money away from more than a dozen other projects so it can pay for the new library, which is now expected to cost \$72 million.

The original estimate for the library was \$56 million and city officials at the time expected \$9 million in cost overruns.

But that estimate has now bal-

looned another \$12 million, leaving city officials scrambling to make up the difference.

Final plans for the library are being finalized and construction is supposed to begin this summer. The current main library was closed to the public on Monday and a temporary library on Fifth Street is supposed to open in April.

"We saved a lot of money over the years," said Councilman Ken Genser. "Now we have to look at these other projects to see where we can take it."

Voters a few years ago approved a \$26 million bond to pay for part of the library and the rest was to come from downtown redevelopment funds.

But it appears it won't be enough. Money to fill the gap could

See LIBRARY, page 5

Suspected rapist caught

By Daily Press staff

Police have arrested a man suspected of raping a Santa Monica woman after he allegedly broke into her apartment through her bedroom window more than a week ago.

Darryl Renard Jackson, a registered sex offender, allegedly raped the 26-year-old woman in her apartment on 21st Street between Arizona Avenue and Santa Monica Boulevard on Friday, March 19 at 5:30 a.m. He was arrested last Wednesday, five days after the rape.

Jackson, 28, of Los Angeles, allegedly brandished a weapon during the assault, however it was not a firearm. He is currently being held in Los Angeles County Jail and has no bail.

Jackson has been charged with residential burglary and rape along with numerous associated offenses. He is scheduled to be arraigned today at the Santa Monica Courthouse.

The Los Angeles District Attorney will ask that bail be set at \$2 million. Jackson also faces charges of violating his parole.

Santa Monica sales tax hike on the horizon

BY JOHN WOOD
Daily Press Staff Writer

Sales taxes in Santa Monica may climb to nearly 10 percent by next year.

The increase being discussed, which is likely to go in front of voters this November, could generate \$12 million or more in annual revenue for the cash-strapped city, officials said.

Responding to a swelling \$11 million budget deficit this year and

\$23 million next year, the city may ask voters to increase local sales taxes by one-quarter or one-half percent, according to city documents.

That's in addition to Gov. Gray Davis' proposal of a 1 percent sales tax hike statewide. If both tax increases are passed, Santa Monicans and visitors could be shelling out nearly 10 percent on all retail sales.

City officials predict that the

See SALES TAX, page 6



Del Pastrana/Daily Press
Library workers on Monday station themselves outside of the Main Library to turn people away after the facility was closed to the public so a new one can be built.

City projects top nearly \$11M in spending tonight

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

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

Improvements to the city's streets, sidewalks, lights and parking structures account for nearly \$11 million the City Council is expected to spend tonight with

one vote.

The largest price tag is \$5,778,000 for this year's street and park parking lot resurfacing and sidewalk repair project, with another \$455,400 going toward a construction management contract for the work.

Of that, 44.5 percent is covered by the city's general fund while the remaining amount is funded through grants, "enterprise funds" and fees collected by the city. About \$400,000 will come from the state's Highways through Cities fund and \$204,460 will be paid by fees paid by developers.

The money will be used to

See PROJECTS, page 6

Bush expected to propose \$74.7 billion for war

BY ALAN FRAM
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — President Bush is expected to ask Congress for \$74.7 billion to pay for the war with Iraq, assuming a month of combat, and for strengthening counterterrorism efforts at home, lawmakers and aides said Monday.

The money measure, which the president planned to describe to congressional leaders he invited to the White House, was dominated by \$62.6 billion for the Department of Defense. It presumed the military

See WAR, page 10

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, March 25, 2003:

You're often held responsible at work or within your immediate crowd. Do you like that role? If not, you might want to make some adjustments. Creativity helps you invigorate others and allows them, as well as you, to see more options. Be more in touch with your feelings. Your high drive manifests itself in your career. You will see the results in the period following August. A promotion and a pay increase are likely. If you are single, romance will no longer be a stranger. Sort through your options and find that special person. If you're attached, your relationship will become more fun in April, when anything becomes possible. CAPRICORN might be pushy.

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You're in charge, whether you want to be or not! Much information could be dropped on you. You have the capability to decipher what few can. Think in terms of gains. Be more direct with someone in power. You'll gain as a result. Tonight: Express your leadership capabilities.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ In light of new information, you might question your possibilities. Your perspective takes you down a new path because of your willingness to incorporate information. Understanding becomes your byword. Tonight: Take in a movie.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You discover that others will listen to you, though you might question what the best course of action is. Discussions with a key partner bring on a positive set of actions. You could be quite pleased with the outcome. Someone close drives a hard bargain. Tonight: Let another ask, but know what you want.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You might be somewhat disturbed by all the news that heads your way. Investigate possibilities with new vigor and interest. What might be OK for you might not be right for a partner. Willingly flex with what appears to be a most demanding partner. Tonight: Let an associate air out his or her complaints.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Investigate a possibility. Sometimes you push someone quite hard, determined to have it your way. Your efficiency is tested to the max. Know that anything is possible under the present circumstances. Tonight: Work late.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Your high drive and creativity draw the type of results you ultimately desire. Don't push yourself too hard right now. A child or romantic tie could pre-occupy your mind. Consider what might be happening within your immediate circle. Tonight: Let off some steam.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Drive a hard bargain if you want to. Recognize your limits within a certain group or association. You might not be exactly sure what you expect from a friendship and a loved one. Establish boundaries. Tonight: Put your feet up at home.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Someone in your immediate circle could be playing Lady Bountiful, at least professionally. You need to give more to your work. Relate more of your ideas, allowing your creativity to flourish. Investigate opportunities that others might not consider. Tonight: Discussions continue over dinner.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Indulge yourself with others, especially financially. Do you want to treat a friend at a distance? Is it time for a trip? Take some time to think through your immediate expenditures in the near future. Discussions create more of a problem. Tonight: Pay bills.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Your personality helps carry someone over a problem or a liability. Brainstorm with someone you often get key feedback from. Security remains a high priority for you. Touch base with the many different people who impact your financial status. Tonight: Whatever makes you happy.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You might not want to reveal all that is going on within a relationship or situation. Not everything allows you to move smoothly through a problem like you want to. Do some thinking, especially if you feel bogged down or immobilized. Tonight: Take a night off.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Understanding your goals can help you make a difference. What an associate confides in you could have a lot to do with what might be happening. Rally others together, especially in an important meeting. Friends play a big role in helping ease some of your day-to-day pressures. Tonight: Where your friends are.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Homeless get off street and into the kitchen

By Daily Press staff

The fire is up and the kettle is hot in St. Joseph Center's culinary training program kitchen, where job training and practical food service skills are taught to homeless and low-income adults in the West Los Angeles area.

Recently Thomasine Howlett invited Stephen Perkins, executive chef at the Doubletree Hotel in Santa Monica, to come share his passion for the art of cooking with 12 of the training program's budding chefs.

Perkins, who became interested in the culinary arts when he helped his best friend's father prepare gustatory delights for the Emmy presentations, has been cooking for 20 years and has worked in hotels and restaurants from San Francisco to Germany.

St. Joseph's culinary program provides 10 weeks of training in food service and life skills, and places 76 percent of its graduates in jobs within 90 days after graduation. Established in 1991 and based on UCLA extension's program in culinary arts, the St. Joseph Center Culinary training program has graduated hundreds of students who have started careers in the food service industry.

Students spend six weeks in classes learning about food preparation at the St. Joseph Center facility and four weeks in internships at local hospitals and restaurants. They receive daily hands-on training in food preparation, food handling, service, safety, and sanitation. The program also includes instruction in job search strategy, goal setting, and time management. Instruction and all course materials are provided to students at no cost.

In September 2002, more than 350 Los Angeles business owners, professionals, and community leaders were present as Ingrid Barnes, one of St. Joseph Center's culinary students, received the "education award" at the Westside Shelter and Hunger Coalition's Seventh Annual Breakfast and Awards Ceremony.

Then Santa Monica mayor, Michael Feinstein, congratulated Barnes for her progress from a life of homelessness to self-sufficiency. Barnes was able to obtain employment as a chef at Universal Studios where her recipe for chicken tarragon was put on the restaurant menu.

"The success of people like Ingrid is based on their willingness to make a change in their lives," said Rhonda Meister, St. Joseph Center executive director. "And on a range of programs and services that provide the opportunities for that change."

Haduia Greaves, a recent program graduate now doing a four-week internship at an elegant Beverly Hills restaurant, was recently offered a job opportunity by Wolfgang Puck.

Housed at St. Joseph's Bread & Roses Café, which serves free hot meals Monday through Friday to the homeless, the program offers job training, life skills coaching, and logistical support, including resume preparation, mock interviews, and bus tokens for transportation.

Last year St. Joseph Center helped more than 7,500 homeless and working poor people by providing infant toddler development, childcare and parenting, case management, job training, after-school mentoring, and senior outreach.

New pavilion offers new venue at pier

By Daily Press Staff

Pacific Park, the amusement park on the Santa Monica Pier, has a new location for parties, the Pier Pavilion.

The 4,500-square-foot venue offers space for business lunches, full service banquets and corporate receptions and mixers.

"The beautiful ocean setting with views of Catalina Island, the Palos Verdes Peninsula and the Santa Monica coastline is certain to have a favorable appeal to corporate, special event, and party planners," said Mary Ann Powell, CEO and general manager at Pacific Park.

Custom events packages are available. Choices include a sit down buffet dinner and bar service for up to 300 guests and seating for up to 450 guests at a cocktail style reception with an appetizer buffet, bar service, entertainment and a dance floor.

Already people can rent Pacific Park's Seaside Cabana for children's birthday parties.

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surf report

Information compiled by Jesse Haley

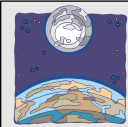
South swell is coming in too steep for LA's mostly southwest exposures. At the same time, the last northwest continues to fade today, leaving surf on the decline, though there are some fun waves left.

South swell actually peaks today, spilling over into Wednesday, and we could see some increase in size, even with the 180 degree swell angle.

Standout spots are seeing head sets at times, but most locations are hitting waist- to chest-high height on average.

Note the minus tide at 11 a.m., but dawn patrol looks promising.

Expect a slight drop in size on Wednesday, up to one foot or more at spots that get the northwest exposure.



Today's Tides:

High- 2:45am 4.62'
Low- 10:58am -0.18'
High- 6:16pm 3.37'
Low- 10:30pm 2.72'

Location	Tuesday	Wednesday	Water Quality
County Line	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	B
Zuma	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	C
Surfrider	1-2'/Poor	1-2'/Poor	D
Topanga	2-3'/Poor	2-3'/Poor	A
Breakwater	2-4'/Poor	2-3'/Poor	A
El Porto	3-4'/Fair	2-4'/Fair	A

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The Q Line

Now that the United States is engaged in a full-blown war with Iraq, tensions at home are running high.

State and local governments around the country are taking extra precautions in case more terrorist attacks hit U.S. soil as a response to what some see as acts of aggression by us.

So this week, Q Line wants to know:

"Do you feel safe? Are you confident that Santa Monica is prepared to deal with a possible attack?"

Call (310) 285-8106 with your response before Thursday at 5 p.m. We'll print them in Friday's paper. Please limit your comments to a minute or less; it might help to think first about the wording of your response.

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OPINION

LETTERS

A thanks to Prop. A volunteers

Editor:

Save Our Neighborhoods thanks all of the citizens of Santa Monica who took time to get familiar with the issues in the Prop. A election and to cast their votes. Speaking up for our beliefs is an important part of living in and caring about our city, its past, and its future.

We also thank all of the volunteers who gave their time, energy, funds, and moral support to both sides of the Prop. A campaign. Our level of awareness and understanding of important preservation issues has been raised in Santa Monica, and this is a good thing.

Thanks to all.

Bea Nemlaha

Save Our Neighborhoods

It's the governor's fault

Editor:

Educational funding at all levels have become a serious dilemma, but none more damaging than the budget cuts for the state's community colleges. Santa Monica College has taken painful steps to reduce classes, part-time staff, academic programs, and administrative positions. To their credit, both the president and the trustees have worked diligently in exploring all possibilities to balance the college's budget, while working with the California legislature to re-establish funding.

Unfortunately, there are some that would have you think otherwise. A minute group of individuals have accused the college administration and the board of trustees as being irresponsible with the budget cuts.

It is understandable that many are angry, but accusing SMC officials is outright foolish. If one is determined to find the responsible party, then look to Sacramento, where Gov. Gray Davis decisively ripped through the budget of the community college system.

Placing blame on the ones who have to deal with the governor's narrow vision is unwarranted and disrespectful.

Joe Weichman

Santa Monica

Let's not stop at light rail

Editor:

It's great to see Pam O'Connor and other MTA representatives pressing Congress for rail money in order to reduce congestion in the Los Angeles area. We desperately need more alter-

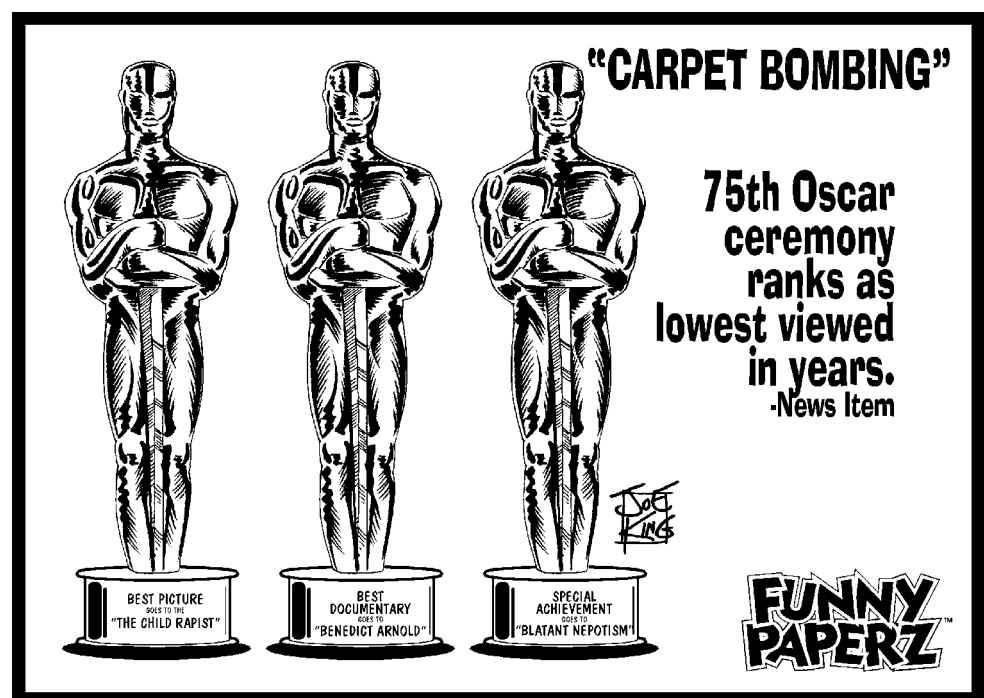
natives to buses and cars. Having lived in Chicago for three years, rail is a smart alternative.

However, we should not settle for pure light rail. Light rail would force major streets to close for passing trains, further slowing traffic. If the trains are as successful as we all hope, more trains will be needed during rush hour when the streets are full of traffic which could further increase gridlock by forcing street traffic to come to a halt for at least 15 seconds. Light rail would also not prevent hurried people in cars and on foot from disregarding the closures.

We should be wise about rail and ask for the money that will allow the MTA to build overpasses or underpasses where the trains encounter streets so no arteries are blocked. By not blocking the streets we will be able to receive the maximum benefit from a rail system. Even if it costs a little more in the short run, it will be well worth it in the long run.

Dan Kolhoff

Santa Monica



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American traditions continue despite war



Evelyn Jerome

■ Oscar should be ashamed of himself.

There's a war going on, Hollywood, haven't you heard? Several dozen American and British soldiers have been killed in the conflict since it began last week. And yet Hollywood's

elite gathered on Sunday at the posh Kodak Theatre to pat themselves on the back.

Actresses wearing thousand-dollar designer gowns dripped with Harry Winston diamonds, as state-run Iraqi television showed U.S. soldiers being mistreated in clear violation of the Geneva Accords.

Oscar host Steve Martin cracked jokes as the wives and mothers of American sol-

diers learned that their husbands and sons had been ambushed on Sunday by Iraqi soldiers, and four of them killed.

And Oscar-winning documentary filmmaker Michael Moore railed against what he called an "unjust" war to an audience evenly split between cheers and boos.

How hypocritical ... or is it just that they have a short attention span? More than any other civilian industry, Hollywood has exercised its right to free speech for months in vocal opposition to the war. But now that our soldiers are actually involved in combat, the entertainment industry moved on to their annual show of self-congratulation called the Oscars.

ABC, in a tacit admission that the Oscar telecast was poorly timed, interspersed some news updates in the commercial peri-

ods. Oscars, war update. Oscars, commercials, war update.

At least some of the celebs were embarrassed with the Academy's "The Show Must Go On" attitude, and opted out. At least the Academy took one step in the right direction — they pretended to eliminate the pompousness and frivolity called the red carpet entrance. But they just used a shorter red carpet and got rid of the fawning spectators.

Would it have been appropriate to postpone the show? I think so. Do I advocate canceling or postponing all major cultural events during this war, when we don't know when it will end? No.

I advocate using common sense. The Oscars award artistic excellence, which is a major contributor to American culture. But common sense would have allowed the

Academy to postpone the ceremony, still rewarding cultural achievement but not at the exact same time that our soldiers are fighting half a world away.

In 1942, soon after the U.S. entered World War II, the Academy asked the women who attended the Oscar ceremony not to wear orchids, as they had done in years past, but rather to donate the money they would have spent on orchids to the Red Cross. Since they insisted on holding the Oscars during a war, a similar gesture among the glitter would have been appropriate.

(Evelyn Jerome is a past president of the Los Angeles County Young Democrats and a member of the New Democrat Network. To respond to or reach Jerome, e-mail her at evelyn_thinktvice@yahoo.com.)



Todd Flora

■ Each night, I pray for a cousin and a college roommate who are serving in Kuwait and Iraq. OF COURSE their lives are more important to me than basketball. OF COURSE the lives of American servicemen and women are more important than an awards show. OF COURSE these are challenging times that require greater attention and care from all Americans and citizens of the Earth.

But cancel the NCAA tournament, the start of the baseball season, and the Oscars telecast? I say no. Suggestions to do these things are well-meaning but wrong-headed notions that will do nothing to truly strength-

en our nation, or honor those who serve the way I feel they themselves would choose.

Whether you support this military action or not, or question its motivation, I sense our men and women in uniform nevertheless feel it is these rights of spring that are the kind of normalcy and American tradition for which they fight. The Oscars didn't stop during World War II, and neither did baseball. In fact, President Roosevelt insisted on baseball going forward — even with many players entering the armed forces — to give Americans hope, a sense of normalcy, and a constant reminder of the importance of our traditions.

Further, do we stop an awards show because 44 million Americans are without health insurance? Do we turn off the game to watch President Bush's war on the envi-

ronment unfold? Do we bypass going to see the Dodgers on opening day because the state budget is in shambles? There are many serious battles for which we could literally "freeze" our lives. Instead, I would argue we must work to solve problems while living life.

I believe that opposition to this war and "supporting our troops" are NOT two separate things. I also believe that living my life, and fulfilling my responsibilities as a citizen here at home, can come with enjoying the traditions of spring without dishonoring the importance of the situation or the peril facing our armed forces.

Nicole Kidman (never thought I would be quoting her) may have said it best on Sunday night. In winning for Best Actress,

she asked, "Why come to the Oscars? ... because art is important." It remains so. So is baseball. So is the "good kind" of March Madness — the NCAA basketball tournament. Now let's get our troops home so that they may enjoy the summer in the states that we certainly will.

(Todd Flora is a professional issues manager who has served as state director of the California Clean Money Campaign, a campaign finance reform effort, and the Concord Coalition, a budget watchdog organization. He is a former steering committee member of the Human Rights Watch "Young Advocates," and a speakers bureau member with Heal the Bay. To respond or to reach Todd, e-mail him at junkfood6@aol.com.)

LOCAL



Library officially moving, facility closed to public

BY SARA VAN DYCK

Special to the Daily Press

As plans finalize for the new Main Library, and the Montana and the Fairview branches have reopened, the shape of Santa Monica's updated library system is increasingly clear.

The public is invited to see the most recent plans for the Main Library at the Library Board meeting on Thursday, April 3 at 7 p.m. in the Santa Monica Public Library auditorium, 1343 Sixth Street. Architects and planners Moore, Ruble and Yudell will be joined by the Main Library design team in presenting the interior design, public art, graphics and signage, landscape architecture and sustainability features.

The library has design and construction updates for the new Main Library on its Web site at www.smpl.org/construction.

The Main Library closed to the public on Monday to prepare for the move to temporary facilities. However, for the April 3 library board meeting the Main Library auditorium will be open to the public. The temporary main library, located at 1324 Fifth Street, opens in late April or early May.

To provide new items for Fairview

Branch, such as shelving, furniture, and a sound system for the community room, the Friends of the Santa Monica Public Library hope to raise \$50,000 in private donations from a brick paver campaign. The 8"x8" pavers, engraved with the donor's message, such as family names, quotes, or tributes, will be placed near the library's front entrance and will be part of the new floor of the back patio.

Patio pavers are \$100 and front entry-way pavers are \$200. To order the brick pavers, to get more information about the campaign, or to volunteer call (310) 392-1306. Forms are available online at www.smpl.org/construction/fairview, or at the Fairview Branch, located at 2101 Ocean Park Blvd. Pavers from a similar campaign have just been installed and can be viewed in the front walkway of Montana Avenue Branch.

In other library news:

The Friends of the Library congratulate the winners of the High School Photography Contest sponsored by the library board. Erin Neff was awarded the first prize and Carolyn Schneider the second prize, Cassandra McGrath and Kristen Robertson tied for third prize, and a number of students also received honorable mentions.

Officials consider issuing debt to pay for library

LIBRARY, from page 1

come from a host of other capital improvement projects that total \$30 million.

The city, which is facing a \$11 million deficit this year, enjoyed a cash surplus over the past 10 years that allowed officials to allocate millions of dollars for capital improvement projects. About one-third of the funds are earmarked for maintenance and replacement programs, and two-thirds are for one-time projects.

To deal with the growing deficit from a loss of sales tax revenues, city officials already have deferred millions of dollars in capital improvement projects.

The city could halt funding on even more projects ranging from maintenance of Santa Monica Boulevard to a City Hall expansion.

There is more than \$6.7 million available from CalTrans which transferred the money to the city to pay for long term maintenance on Santa Monica Boulevard. Another \$6.1 million could be used for the library if officials put a seismic upgrade and rehabilitation of City Hall on hold.

Another \$2.6 million earmarked to upgrade downtown parking structure lobbies and restrooms could be put off, and another \$400,000 planned for "traffic calming" measures along city streets may be axed.

Crosswalk improvements, which would cost \$1.1 million, is on the chopping block, as well as \$5 million budgeted for a complete overhaul of the Civic Center Area, where City Hall, the courthouse the civic auditorium are located. The project, which is in its early planning

stage, will cost well over \$120 million.

Plans to rebuild the Santa Monica breakwater, just north of the pier, could be put on hold indefinitely, giving the city another \$2 million. Another \$2.2 million could be diverted from various projects including rebuilding a historic beach house on Pacific Coast Highway, new city signs, a new park on Euclid Street and improvements to facilities at other parks.

The Airport Park could be put on hold, which would free up \$6.2 million. The project, still in the planning phase, wasn't supposed to be constructed until 2005.

When voters approved the library bond in 2000, city staff had proposed issuing debt to fill the \$9 million gap. But that was when the city was financially stable and cost overruns hadn't swelled by \$12 million.

Now, some have suggested that debt be issued to avert putting off capital improvements. But city staff told council members in a written report that issuing debt service wouldn't be a wise move.

"Issuing debt of this magnitude nearly doubles the amount that will ultimately be paid and would require 20 years of debt service of \$2.4 million annually," the report states. "In contrast, the diversion of capital funds is one time in nature and their use will not impact the city's long-term ability to provide on-going programs and services. Over the next years, the city will be cutting ongoing expenditures and identifying new revenue streams to eliminate its deficit. In this climate it would be imprudent to introduce additional ongoing costs, further exacerbating the deficit and deepening the amount of cut required."

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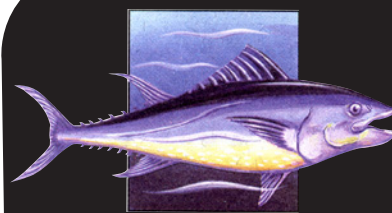
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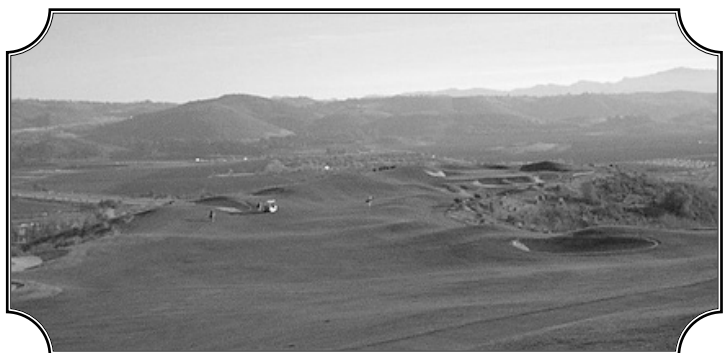


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LOCAL

Higher sales tax could generate \$12 million

SALES TAX, from page 1

budget deficit will grow to \$30 million annually by 2007 if revenues aren't increased and spending is cut. And that estimate doesn't consider possible city revenue losses because of the state's massive budget deficit and the negative economic impacts from the war with Iraq.

The city currently receives about \$25 million in sales tax annually — about 1 percent of the 8.25 percent sales tax collected on local sales by the state and county.

City Finance Director Mike Dennis has recommended to the City Council that Santa Monica be included in state bill AB 1412, which seeks legislative authority to allow local voters to increase the city's sales tax rate.

Assembly Bill 1412 has recently been introduced to authorize 32 cities, including Los Angeles, West Hollywood and Beverly Hills, to increase their local sales taxes. Santa Monica can be added to the bill through coordination with the author and Assembly member Fran Pavley.

Since the 1950s, sales taxes have been set exclusively by the state and county, City Treasurer Dave Carr said. Sales tax in Los Angeles County rose from 8 percent to 8.25 percent on Jan. 1 of last year.

Kathleen Rawson, executive director of Bayside District Corp., a non-profit organization that manages the downtown in conjunction with the city and promotes business, acknowledges that many people resist tax increases, but she said the revenue pays for important city services.

Some city officials said it's necessary to consider every potential revenue source during these tough economic times.

"I see nothing wrong with at least giving ourselves the option (to raise taxes)," Councilman Ken Genser said, adding that

any final decision will follow public input and a formal analysis. "Right now we don't even have that option."

Other council members agree.

"I think sales taxes tend to be regressive. But it's a matter of local control."

- KEVIN MCKEOWN
Santa Monica City Councilman

"I'm open to looking at all options, including this one," said Councilwoman Pam O'Connor. "There is a standard of services people in Santa Monica expect and desire. We can keep cutting things, but at some point we have to figure how to keep them."

Councilman Kevin McKeown said he favors increasing the city's options, but is skeptical of a tax increase.

"I think sales taxes tend to be regressive," he said. "But it's a matter of local control. Cities, and Santa Monica in particular, need the ability to create the funding the state has taken away from us. We cannot let California's mismanagement take away the resources to provide Santa Monica residents with municipal services."

Councilman Bob Holbrook said he favors keeping the option available, but getting voters to agree to a hike would be a challenge.

"It's just a down time," Holbrook said. "We've had three years in a row of down time, three years in a row of a tough market, three years in a row of people's retirement funds going down. It's just a hard economic time."

Lights for Santa Monica streets to cost \$780K

PROJECTS, from page 1

resurface streets, slurry seal roads, construct new curb ramps and bus pads, repair curbs, gutters and sidewalks.

Resurfacing is done once every seven years to various streets throughout Santa Monica. The project also includes improvements to the Santa Monica Airport runway and taxiway.

The next biggest ticket item is \$4,335,407 to seismic retrofit parking structure 7 at the corner of Broadway and Fourth Street, next to Santa Monica Place.

The project will be financed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and city redevelopment funds through the city's earthquake recovery development account.

While FEMA has committed to fund the seismic upgrades of some parking structures over the next two to three years, recent estimates show that actual costs will substantially exceed the funding available from FEMA.

Structure 7 is one of the newest and largest public parking garages with 958 spaces. The retrofit includes drilling and installing new foundation pilings. It also includes constructing new walls and strengthening the floors on each level.

Also, to make the garage comply with the American Disabilities Act, handicapped parking spaces will be made more accessible, and elevators and public telephones will be upgraded, among other improvements.

Another \$780,095 may be spent to replace deteriorated electrical circuits and lighting on streets throughout the city. The lights will be replaced with modern, reliable, multiple circuits and lighting fixtures. The multi-year project is based on prioritizing lights crucial to the safety of citizens.

The areas at the top of the list for improvements are:

- Wilshire Boulevard from 15th Street to 22nd Street.
- Wilshire Boulevard from 24th Street to Yale Avenue.
- 22nd Street from Wilshire Boulevard to California Avenue.
- 23rd Street from Wilshire Boulevard to California Avenue.
- 24th Street from Wilshire Boulevard to California Avenue.
- Goose Egg Park.
- Memorial Park.
- Ocean Front Walk (north of the pier).

STATE



Protest leads to arrest



Noah Berger/Associated Press

Police arrest an anti-war demonstrator in front of the Transamerica building in San Francisco on Monday. Activists aimed their morning protest at the Carlyle Group, a global investment firm, with offices in the building, that they say is one of the nation's biggest defense contractors.

Bill to fight e-mail spam clears first legislative hurdle

By The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — Internet users could sue e-mail marketing firms \$500 for each piece of unsolicited advertising "spam" under a Senate bill that cleared its first legislative hurdle Monday.

The bill, touted as a model to fight "offensive" unwanted e-mail nationally, passed the Senate's Business and Professions Committee despite widespread opposition from the nation's Internet establishment.

Representatives of America Online, Microsoft Corp. and the American Electronics Association said the bill puts legitimate marketing in the same category as "bad actors" that send unsolicited pornography to millions of online accounts.

"AOL and Microsoft argue there is a place for legitimate unsolicited e-mail in the marketplace," said Mark Berjka, Microsoft's senior director of public policy. He and others argued the bill "unwittingly snares" valid businesses using a fast-emerging and inexpensive form of advertising.

Santa Monica attorney Bennet Kelley, who represents California e-mail market-

ing firms, told the committee, "This is cutting off your hand to deal with a hangnail."

But senators said most consumers don't want the e-mail, and argued it costs businesses billions of dollars in computer costs to receive it.

The bill, by Sen. Debra Bowen, D-Marina Del Rey, would make it illegal to sell lists of e-mail addresses to so-called "spammers," and allow Internet users to seek damages of \$500 for each unwelcome solicitation they receive. It also allows judges to impose civil penalties of \$250 per violation, money that would be used to fund high-tech crime task forces throughout California.

Bowen cited studies showing unwanted e-mail increased 86 percent last year, and polls saying most people want it outlawed. Another anti-spam bill by Sen. Kevin Murray, D-Los Angeles, bypasses marketing firms to let consumers sue e-mail advertisers directly.

Bowen's bill now goes to the Senate Appropriations Committee. It must pass the full Senate and Assembly by next year, and be signed by Gov. Gray Davis to become law.

Minor quake shakes SoCal

By The Associated Press

DANA POINT — A minor earthquake shook the ocean floor off Southern California on Monday.

The magnitude-3.1 quake occurred 16 miles southwest of Dana Point, according to a preliminary seismology report from the U.S. Geological Survey and California Institute of Technology in Pasadena.

The communications center for the Orange County Sheriff's Department and police at Oceanside in northern San Diego County said no reports of the quake were received from the public.

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STATE

CALIFORNIA BRIEFS

Seal attacks swimmers

By The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — An attempt to show that seals and humans could share a cove went awry when a seal attacked a group of swimmers, clawing one man who emerged from the water bleeding.

Members of the La Jolla Cove Swim Club went into the water Sunday to try to show that swimmers should be allowed to use an area known as the La Jolla Children's Pool. A seal got in the middle of the swimmers and began to lunge at them and try to bite them.

One man was treated for claw marks and scratches, lifeguard Sgt. John Everhart said. The man was advised to seek further treatment for a possible infection.

Seals began to populate the area in the early 1990s, and by 1997, contamination from the seals led the city to bar swimmers, scuba divers and sunbathers. A rope strung across the beach is intended to keep people from going too close to the seals.

Patrick Hord of the La Jolla Friends of the Seals said Sunday's incident should be taken as a lesson. He said the Children's Pool offers a rare place where people can view wildlife in a natural state. "And here when we have this opportunity, people are trying to drive them away."

Motel stays over 30 days may be legal now

By The Associated Press

ANAHEIM — A newly reconstituted City Council will revisit an ordinance that prohibits stays of more than 30 days at some motels.

Critics of the law contend the limit makes life difficult for the poor who often live full-time in the rooms. Several council members agreed.

"They're doing the right thing," said Los Angeles attorney Frank Weiser, who has filed federal lawsuits against Anaheim, Buena Park, Fullerton and other cities with similar practices.

California cities began adopting the ordinances several years ago, believing they would help rid cheap motels of prostitution and drugs. But motel owners said tenants who bring crime to their establishments are customers who rent for one or two nights.

Councilman Tom Tait has long opposed the length-of-stay limit but was outvoted. With three new council members, Tait may prevail when the council reconsiders the issue Tuesday.

"The conditions don't accomplish anything, other than place an unjust burden on the poor," Tait said. "That's just wrong."

Refinancing boom is 'off the charts'

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The refinancing boom is paying off for Los Angeles County's registrar-recorder's agency.

Processing each mortgage means more work and more money — \$10 million more than anticipated this fiscal year.

"We're just off the charts," said Registrar-Recorder Conny McCormack.

In 2002, the county recorded 3.1 million documents, a 58 percent increase from two years earlier.

County workers who record and index each property deed racked up so many hours that they burned through their yearly overtime budget, about \$650,000, in less than six months.

The race to refinance shows no signs of slowing. With mortgage rates at 42-year lows, the Mortgage Bankers Association of America reported last week that refinancing accounted for a record 79.8 percent of mortgage applications.

Eleven-year-old 'indebted' to spelling

By The Associated Press

LONG BEACH — After he spelled "indebtedness" correctly, 11-year-old Timothy Johnson leaped for joy.

His spelling prowess earned him \$1,000 Sunday at the second annual Southern California Spelling Bee Championship.

"I feel great," said Timothy, of Torrance. "I'm just a good speller."

Timothy competed against 30 other elementary school students at Bay Shore Community Congregational Church in Long Beach.

Robert Johnson, Timothy's father, said his son competed in a couple of spelling bees about three years ago, winning one, and making fifth place in another. He said Timothy wants to become an editor someday.

Contestants came from as far away as San Diego. Nine-year-old Sharad Vikram said he used the car trip to study with his dictionary.

Organizer Justin Rudd, who works with a community action group, said he tried to motivate the students with the \$1,000 prize.

A high-stakes spelling bee is "something I wish were done when I was a kid," he said.

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NATIONAL



Census shows women trail men at highest salary levels

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Women are less likely than men to reach the highest salary brackets and are more likely to live in poverty, according to a government survey released Monday.

Nearly 16 percent of men age 15 and older who worked full-time in 2001 earned at least \$75,000 a year, compared with 6 percent of women, the Census Bureau reported. About 20 percent of men earned between \$50,000 and \$75,000, compared to 12 percent of women.

Women are far more likely than men to live in poverty, especially at older ages. For instance, 12 percent of women age 65 and older lived in poverty, compared to 7 percent of men.

The estimates are from a survey conducted in March 2002 by the Census Bureau. They are being released to coincide with Women's History Month.

Despite lingering disparities, a separate Census Bureau report last week showed that earning levels for women are at

record highs, with those holding college diplomas especially benefiting. The number of women with at least a bachelor's degree is also at a record high.

In the workplace, 9.4 million women worked in executive or managerial positions — 45 percent of such jobs in 2002. Women held the majority of the jobs in the field of technical or related support services.

Nearly one-quarter of the 63.6 million working women in 2002 worked in administrative or clerical positions, larger than any other field.

Other highlights:

■ Of the 282.1 million U.S. residents in March 2002, 51 percent were women.

■ Women age 15 and older were slightly less likely than men in the same age group to be married and living with their spouse. Women were much more likely to be widowed than men (10 percent versus 3 percent).

The survey did not cover people living in group quarters, such as jails or nursing homes.

Five immigrants die in sugar cane field fire, one injured

BY LYNN BREZOSKY

Associated Press Writer

RAYMONDVILLE, Texas — Five illegal immigrants sleeping in a sugar cane field near the U.S.-Mexico border were killed Monday when a fire swept through, authorities said. One person was in critical condition.

The field was set on fire about 10:30 a.m. Monday as part of the harvesting process, Willacy County Sheriff Larry Spence said. The fields are burned every spring to clear away weeds and undergrowth so the cane stalks can be harvested.

Minutes after the field had been lit, a man ran out yelling that he was on fire and that there were five more people in the field, Spence said.

Three bodies were found burned. Autopsies will be ordered, but it appeared the men died of asphyxiation, said Justice of the Peace Sabas Garza.

A man and woman were taken by ambulance to a hospital, where they died. Spence said a sixth man was taken by medical helicopter to a burn center in Dallas; a hospital spokesman said the

patient was in critical condition, but he had no further details.

Spence said it was believed the group was sleeping in the field when the fire was set. He said windy conditions may have caused the fire to burn faster than normal.

Authorities were checking on the identities of the group. Some of the victims had identification that burned up, but an intact ID showed one of the men was from Guatemala, sheriff's officials said. Officials said they were undocumented immigrants.

A pair of tennis shoes, scattered water bottles and a travel bag containing deodorant and toothpaste was all that remained at the scene of the fire Monday.

Normally, signs are posted around the perimeter of sugar cane fields warning of an upcoming burn. Spence said about a half hour before the burn, farmers are required to speak through a loudspeaker in English and Spanish, warning of the upcoming burn. The warnings were issued before Monday's burn, he said.

Raymondville is about 40 miles north of Brownsville, which is along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Drug suspect found in fridge

By The Associated Press

BURLINGTON, Iowa — Police officers were surprised to find a drug suspect stashed in a refrigerator.

"I definitely heard comments that this was a first," said Greg Hoffer, an investigator with the Southeast Iowa Narcotics Task Force.

Police went to a house on a tip that the suspect may be living there. The homeowner told police the man wasn't there, but gave them permission to search the house.

After a short search, police found Jerome Anthony Dobbey hiding inside a refrigerator with the door shut. Hoffer said items had been stacked in front of the refrigerator, which was not plugged in.

Dobbey, 24, was arrested and jailed Friday on charges, including possession and intent to deliver crack-cocaine. The homeowner was charged with being an accessory after the fact.

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INTERNATIONAL

Administration proposes \$59.9B for 'emergency'



Jon Mills/Associated Press

A Royal Marine from 42 Commando stands in front of a Saddam Hussein mural at Umm Qsar, southern Iraq as the allied forces occupy a former U.N. base in the town on Monday.



U.S. Army, Spc. Joshua M. Reisner/Associated Press

Soldiers of 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), mourn the loss of Capt. Christopher Seifert at a memorial ceremony, Monday, at Camp Pennsylvania in Kuwait. Seifert was killed when a grenade was thrown into a sleep tent early Sunday morning by a fellow U.S. soldier. The attack left 15 other soldiers wounded.

WAR, from page 1

effort to oust Iraqi President Saddam Hussein would take 30 days, aides said.

The request was also expected to include \$4.2 billion for domestic security, chiefly for police and other so-called first responders. And it was to contain \$7.8 billion for aid to Israel, Afghanistan and other U.S. allies, a down payment on humanitarian aid for Iraq and for rebuilding the country, and money to increase security for American diplomats.

At Monday's meeting, Bush was expected to ask congressional leaders to send him a completed version of the bill by April 11, when lawmakers are to begin their Easter recess. He is expected to send his recommendations to Capitol Hill as early as Tuesday.

Though lawmakers are eager to demonstrate their support for U.S. troops, Democrats and many Republicans are expected to have problems with parts of the proposal.

Of the \$62.6 billion for the Defense Department, the administration is proposing setting aside \$59.9 billion in an emergency reserve fund that the Pentagon could largely spend with limited input from Congress, said Democrats who said they were familiar with a preliminary version of the proposal.

"We need to provide every single dime the troops need, but I do think we need to know where it's going and for what purpose," said Rep. David Obey of Wisconsin, top Democrat on the House Appropriations Committee.

Obey said that Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld "wasn't appointed to be the U.S. Congress with the power of the purse. We're supposed to know what we're doing before we open the purse strings."

Democrats were also expected to complain that Bush's request had only \$543 million in humanitarian aid for Iraq, \$1.7 billion to rebuild the country and nothing for a peacekeeping effort after the war. Prior congressional and private estimates suggested the long-range expenses for those efforts would be many billions of dollars, though administration officials are hoping allied nations will help with the financing.

Democrats said they were also unhappy that the measure lacked additional money for other domestic programs such as tightening security at U.S. ports, borders, dams and facilities that generate radioactive materials.

Bush was preparing to send the Republican-controlled Congress his request just as lawmakers write a \$2.2 trillion budget for 2004. The House and Senate versions both excluded any funds for a war, though Senate Democrats last week — with support from three Republicans — added \$100 billion for the war in their chamber's version, taking the money from Bush's tax cut.

Democrats have complained repeatedly that the fiscal framework — which controls new tax cuts proposed by Bush — cannot be written without knowing what the war will cost. Some Democrats believe that information might undercut support for Bush's proposed tax reductions.

The administration had refused to provide its war estimate until now, arguing that there were too many uncertainties on the battlefield.

The requested defense funds will include \$10.4 billion for the call-up of Reserves and National Guard troops and extra salary paid to troops in combat. It will include money for troops searching for terrorists in Afghanistan, the Philippines and elsewhere, said one congressional aide speaking on condition of anonymity.

Also included for the Pentagon will be \$44.6 billion for operations and maintenance, and \$6.5 billion for new munitions and for research and development.

Foreign aid will include \$1 billion for grants and for federal backing of up to \$9 billion in guaranteed loans for Israel; \$1.1 billion for Jordan; less than \$1 billion for Egypt and other funds for countries including Oman and Bahrain.

Afghanistan would get \$400 million for humanitarian aid and economic development.

The measure will also contain \$1 billion for Turkey. That country has balked at letting the United States base troops there for an invasion of Iraq from the north, but has allowed some U.S. use of its air space.

The request will also include \$500 million to improve the FBI's domestic counterterrorism efforts, and about the same amount for the Coast Guard, which has some ships in the Persian Gulf region.

There is also \$250 million for a fund the president can use to prevent and respond to terrorist activities, and \$125 million for Congress to continue its operations in an emergency affecting the Capitol.

So far, the administration has decided to exclude aid for U.S. airlines, which have been lobbying Congress for assistance to help make up for business lost because of terrorism and the war with Iraq.

Among the chief proponents of such assistance has been House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., whose state is home to financially troubled United Airlines.

Key developments concerning Iraq

By The Associated Press

Key developments Monday in the war:

■ Coalition planes targeted Republican Guard forces just south of Baghdad in perhaps the largest assault to date on Saddam Hussein's highly trained troops, U.S. officials said. Troops pressed toward Baghdad but many were halted by a sandstorm, 50 miles to the south.

■ Troops farther south were facing deadly ambushes and discovering that many Iraqi fighters had discarded their uniforms for civilian clothes.

■ Gen. Tommy Franks said Saddam's regime is weakened but still issuing orders to military units — which are not always complying. Franks said his forces have captured 3,000 prisoners.

■ President Bush is expected to ask Congress for \$74.7 billion to pay for the war with Iraq, assuming a month of combat, and for strengthening counterterrorism efforts at home.

■ Iraqi state television showed two men said to have been the U.S. crew of an Apache helicopter forced down during heavy fighting in central Iraq. The Pentagon identified the missing men as Chief Warrant Officer Ronald D. Young Jr., 26, of Georgia, and Chief Warrant Officer David S. Williams, 30, of Florida.

■ In hopes of showing that he remained at the helm, Saddam boasted in a televised speech that "victory will be ours soon." U.S. and British officials said the language was so general that it was unclear when the tape was made.

■ In his first appearance since the start of the war, Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz held a news conference at a downtown Baghdad hotel. Aziz said the Iraqi leadership is in "good shape" and that Saddam is in "full control" of the army and the country.

■ Baghdad came under another heavy air attack but life returned to many streets later in the day, with stores reopening and traffic heavy in some areas.

■ The northern front appeared to be building, with American planes landing in Kurdish territory and airstrikes pounding positions of an Islamic group with alleged al-Qaida and Baghdad ties.

■ A U.S. envoy rushed back to Turkey to discuss Turkish plans to send troops into northern Iraq despite Washington's objections. The European Union head office also warned Turkey not to enter northern Iraq.

■ A British soldier was killed in combat in southern Iraq, the first such British death since the war began. Sixteen other British servicemen have died, and two others were reported missing.

■ U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan warned of a humanitarian crisis in Basra, scene of fierce fighting. Annan said "urgent measures" were needed to restore the city's electricity and water supply.

■ Arab nations called for an emergency Security Council meeting to demand an end to the U.S.-led war against Iraq and the withdrawal of all invading forces.

■ Anti-war demonstrators clashed with police outside the U.S. consulate in Hamburg and peace rallies emptied schools across Italy in a fresh swell of protests against the war in Iraq.



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A weekly look at events and programs for Santa Monica mothers and mothers to be

How to find the right pediatrician for your child

QUESTION: How can I make sure that the pediatrician I select will be right for me and my new baby?

ANSWER: Finding a good pediatrician is an important first step in ensuring your child's well-being and helping to reduce some of the stress involved in being a new mom. Having a pediatrician with whom you feel comfortable and confident about is crucial to getting the best results for your child's healthcare needs. Although selecting the right pediatrician is a very personal decision for parents, I suggest following the simple guidelines below to help you select a physician and make the best use of his or her medical services.

When visiting the pediatrician's office for the first time, take careful note of the following considerations as part of your initial evaluation:

- Is the office staff pleasant and well organized?
- How do the physician and staff relate to you and your child?
- Does your child seem comfortable with them?
- Do you have good communication with the physician?
- Are you given the opportunity to ask questions?
- Are your questions and opinions considered carefully?

When interviewing a new pediatrician, some of the key questions to ask include the following:

- How many years have you been practicing?
- Are you in a solo or group practice? If part of a group practice, who are the other physicians and what are their specialties?
- Who covers for you when you're unavailable?

■ Are you or a back-up physician available 24 hours a day, seven days a week? How do you handle emergencies?

■ Can I make a same-day appointment if my child suddenly becomes ill?

■ At what hospital do you have admitting privileges? If more than one, can I select the hospital that I prefer?

■ What is your philosophy about issues that are important to me? (i.e., breastfeeding, toilet training, discipline, etc.)

Once you've selected a pediatrician, there are several things you can do to make the best use of your doctor's services and ensure that your child is receiving the proper treatment. Write down questions as you think of them and bring the list with you to office visits so you won't forget to discuss important items.

Always keep up-to-date health records of your child, including immunizations and drug allergies, as well as any special treatments. If your child is ill, be ready with important information such as child's exact age, when symptoms began and note any temperature or behavior changes, etc. Have your pharmacy phone number available in case your pediatrician has to call in a prescription. Make sure you understand your pediatrician's advice and, if you're unsure, repeat the instructions back to him or her to eliminate any confusion. Don't be afraid to ask questions or voice any concerns about treatment regimens. And good luck on your search!

(Edward Malphus, M.D., is a pediatrician at Saint John's Health Center in Santa Monica. For more information, contact Saint John's at (310) 829-5511 or visit the hospital's Web site at www.stjohns.org.)

Guest Commentary

By Edward Malphus, M.D.

SCHEDULES:

TUESDAY

Storytelling

Main Library - Toddler Story Time at 10:00 and 10:45am - Reed Park/West Auditorium/7th and Wilshire - 2 yr-olds with parent, 310-458-8922

Fairview Branch - 2101 Ocean Park Blvd - 310-450-0443, Lap Time - 11am - Mar 4-April 8 - 6-wk series for parents & children up to 24 months. Twilight Story Time - 7pm - an ongoing program for 3-5 year olds. Cuentos Para Pequenos - 10am - Mar 4-April 8 - a 6-wk program of stories in Spanish for 24-36 months old

Montana Avenue Branch - 1704 Montana Ave - 310-829-7081 Family Story Time - 7pm Stories for the entire family Ocean Park Branch - 2601 Main St. - 310-392-3804, Toddler Story Time - Feb. 25-April 1, 24-36 months, series, registration required, call for info.

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station - 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, \$10 per class, first class free. Moms/babies 0-4months, 1:00 - 2:30pm

Yoga

Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga - 7:00-8:15pm, \$13, Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) - 10-11am, \$9
Yoga Works - 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150, Pre/Postnatal - 12:15 - 1:45pm, \$15, Mommy and Me - 1:45-3pm, \$15

WEDNESDAY

Storytelling

Fairview Branch - 2101 Ocean Park Blvd - 310-450-0443, Preschool Story Time - 10:30am - March 5-April 9, 3-5 year olds able to be on their own

Montana Avenue Branch - 1704 Montana Ave - 310-829-7081, Lap Time - 10 and 10:30am - 6 week series for children up to 24months, current series ends April 2. Toddler Story Time - 11:15 am - 6 week series for 2 year olds with adult

Ocean Park Branch - 2601 Main St. - 310-392-3804 Twilight Story Time - 7:00 to 7:30pm - for working parents with 3-5 year olds.

Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion - 7pm - ages 2-5 - 310-475-4144

Border's, Westwood - 11am - 310-475-3444

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station - 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, \$10 per class, first class free. Moms/babies 0-4months, 1:00 - 2:30pm

Yoga

Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga - 11:15am - 12:30pm, \$13, Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) - 10-11am, Mommy and me (infants) 1-2pm, \$9

Yoga Works - 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150, Pre/Postnatal

- 12:15 - 1:45pm, \$15

Yoga Garden - 310-450-0133, Restorative yoga for pre/postnatal - 6:30pm, www.yogagardenstudios.com

The Pump Station - Jennifer Triggs - 310-451-9051 (call first), Pre-natal - 6:30 - 7:30pm, \$10

Other

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

Fairview Branch Library - 2101 Ocean Park Blvd - 310-450-0443 WILDLIFE WENDY'S TROPICAL BIRD SHOW - 3:30pm, ages 4 & up

THURSDAY

Storytelling

Main Library - Preschool Story Time - 10:15am - Reed Park/West Auditorium/7th & Wilshire, Stories for ages 3-5 able to be on their own. 310-458-8922

Fairview Branch - 2101 Ocean Park Blvd - 310-450-0443, Toddler Story Time - 10:30am - March 6-April 10 - 6 week series for 24-36 month olds with adult. La Hora Del Cuento - 7:00pm - Stories in Spanish for all ages.

Montana Avenue Branch - 1704 Montana Ave - 310-829-7081, Toddler Story Time - 10:15am - 6 week series for 2 year olds with adult. Preschool Story Time - 11:15am - for 3-5 year olds.

Ocean Park Branch - 2601 Main St. - 310-392-3804, Lap Time - 9:20 and 10:20am - stories and songs for 0-2 year olds.

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station - 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, \$10 per class, first class free. Moms/babies 4-8 months, 1:00-2:30pm

Yoga

Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga - 7:00-8:15pm, \$13, Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) - 10-11am, \$9
Yoga Works - 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150, Pre/Postnatal - 12:15 - 1:45pm, \$15, Mommy and Me - 1:45-3pm, \$15

FRIDAY

Yoga

Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga - 11:15am - 12:30pm, \$13, Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) - 10-11am, Mommy and me (infants) 1-2pm, \$9

Yoga Works - 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150, Pre/Postnatal - 12:15 - 1:45pm, \$15

Classes

Pump Station - 2415 Wilshire Blvd, SM, 310-826-5774, HOT TOPICS FOR MOMS with babies 6-12 months - 1:00 - 2:30pm, \$15, no registration required, space is limited.

SATURDAY

Storytelling

Children's Book World - 10580 W. Pico Blvd, LA, 310-559-8008, 10:30 am, ages 3-8 (March 8, 15, 22)

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

Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion - 10am - ages 2-5 - 310-475-4144

Yoga

Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga - 9:15 - 10:30am, 10:45 - noon, \$13

Santa Monica Yoga - 1640 Ocean Park Blvd. - 310-396-4040, Prenatal yoga - 12:30 - 2:00pm, \$14

Other

Puppetolio - 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested
Santa Monica Playhouse "Dorothy's Adventures in Oz", 12:30 and 3:00pm, 310-394-9779 (thru March 30)

SUNDAY

Puppetolio - 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested
Santa Monica Playhouse - "Dorothy's Adventures in Oz", 12:30 and 3:00pm, 310-394-9779 (thru March 30)

MONDAY

Storytelling

Main Library (programs for the Main Library are being presented in off-site locations during renovation) Lap Time for parents and children up to 24 months, 9:30am, Joslyn Park/Craft Room/633 Kensington - 310-452-6132

Ocean Park Branch - 2601 Main St. - 310-392-3804 Cuentos Para Pequenos - 11:15 am, March 24 - April 28 - Stories in Spanish for toddlers and pre-schoolers. No registration required.

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

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station - 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, \$10 per class, first class free. Moms/babies 4-8 months, 11am - 12:30pm Moms/babies 0-4months, 1:00 - 2:30pm

Yoga

Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381 Prenatal yoga - 11:15am - 12:30pm, \$13 Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) - 10-11am, Mommy and me (infants) 1-2pm, \$9

Yoga Works - 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal - 12:15 - 1:45pm, \$15

Yoga Garden, 310-450-0133, www.yogagardenstudios.com Restorative yoga for pre/postnatal - 6:30pm



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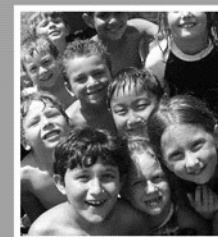
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 - 12 Game setting
 - 13 Hexed
 - 15 Old-time auto
 - 16 "A mouse!"
 - 17 Eastern philosophy
 - 18 Kind of fork
 - 20 Gaunt
 - 21 Coventry coins
 - 22 Ohio team
 - 23 Be generous
 - 25 Produce
 - 28 When pigs fly
 - 31 Do film work
 - 32 Book backs
 - 34 Actor Cheadle
 - 35 Arthur of TV
 - 36 Lee's org.
 - 37 In disgrace
 - 40 Area's trees
 - 41 Hindu force
 - 42 Up to now
 - 43 Convene
- DOWN
- 1 Unexpected growth
 - 2 Roster
 - 3 Destroyed
 - 4 Fish eggs
 - 5 Lie in the sun
 - 6 Dadaist Jean
 - 7 Fume
 - 8 Like marquetry
 - 9 Beauty parlors
 - 11 Big ditch
 - 14 Greece-Turkey separator
 - 19 Map feature
 - 20 Rome fountain
 - 24 Prepare for a return trip
 - 25 One of the Gorgons
 - 26 Beautiful boy
 - 27 Benevolent
 - 29 Concert cry
 - 30 Take up again
 - 33 Mubarak's predecessor
 - 35 Rotten kid
 - 38 Genesis woman
 - 39 Flight

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Yesterday's answer

- 20 Rome fountain
- 24 Prepare for a return trip
- 25 One of the Gorgons
- 26 Beautiful boy
- 27 Benevolent
- 29 Concert cry
- 30 Take up again
- 33 Mubarak's predecessor
- 35 Rotten kid
- 38 Genesis woman
- 39 Flight

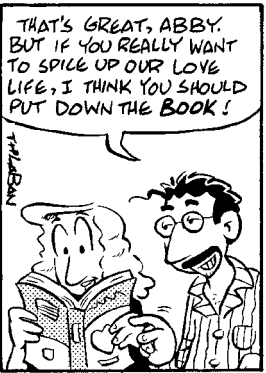
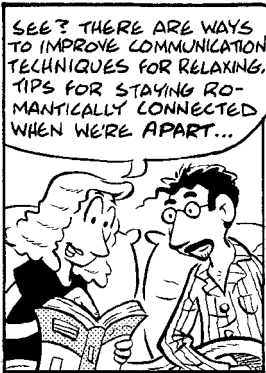
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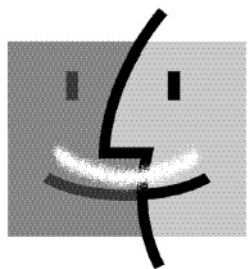
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SANTA MONICA °SCENE your guide to dining, entertainment and events

TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2003

°EVENTS

BLUE 7 PRESENTS 'Near and Far - Photographic Images of Nature.' The featured photographers are Scott Connell, Michael Gordon and Gavin Lauchenauer. Exhibit ends April 5th. Blue 7, 3129 Pico Blvd. (310)449-1444

TODDLER STORY TIME presented by the Santa Monica Public Library. Tuesdays at 10am and 10:45am. Reed Park, Reed Auditorium West, corner of 7th St. and Wilshire. Stories and activities designed especially for 2 year olds who are accompanied by an adult. For more information, call (310)458-8922.

ONGOING SUPPORT GROUPS for people 55 and older. Current openings in, So, What Are You Going to Do With the Rest of your Life? Tuesdays, 10:00 to 11:30am. Center for

Healthy Aging, 2125 Arizona Avenue. Sliding scale fee. Not drop-in groups. Phone interview required. Call Information and Referral. (310)576-2550.

CROSSROADS SCHOOLS in Santa Monica invites local musicians (grades 3-7) to join orchestra rehearsals. Rehearsals are ongoing and are held each Tuesday of the school year, from 3:15 to 4:15. Students may join at anytime. Cost is free, students must bring their own instruments. 1714 21st Street, SM. For more information please call (310)829-7391

MARGO CLASSE, Author of Hello Italy! will give a slide show presentation on a magnificent journey through Italy. You'll learn what to do before leaving home; how to travel conveniently & safely by train; eat delicious; affordable restaurants; and stay at charming budget hotels.

Presented by Magellan's, 1006 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica. Admission is FREE! Presentation starts at 6:30pm. (310)394-9417

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE EMERITUS COLLEGE BAND invites adult musicians who play a band instrument to join the band. Rehearsals are held each Tuesday evening in the Band room at Lincoln Middle School, 14th and California Streets from 7pm to 9:15pm. Concerts are given during the year. For more information call (310)474-5271.

JENNIFER APPELQUIST in the Foundation Room at the House of Blues, tonight at 9pm. Accompanied only by a piano, Ms. Applequist packs an incredible emotional power in her work. From cabaret-jazz to post-whatever hard rock. 8430 Sunset Blvd. jenn@14below.com or (310)699-2277.

MOVIE °GUIDE

LOEWS CINIPLEX BROADWAY CINEMA

1441 Third St. at Broadway
About Schmidt (R) 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30. View From the Top (PG-13) 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15. The Hours (PG-13) 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45. Willard (PG-13) 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00.

MANN CRITERION

1313 Third St.
Bringing down the House (PG-13) 11:30, 2:00, 4:45, 7:40, 10:20. How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days (PG-13) 12:45, 3:45, 7:20, 10:15. Tears of the Sun (R) 1:00, 4:15, 7:10, 10:00. Old School (R) 12:15, 2:30, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30. Dreamcatcher (R) 12:30, 1:30, 3:40, 4:45, 7:00, 8:00, 10:00.

AMC THEATRE SM 7

1310 3rd Street
Piglet's Big Movie (G) 2:10, 4:20, 6:45, 9:15. Agent Cody Banks (PG) 1:35, 4:00, 6:45, 9:15. Chicago (PG-13) 2:20, 5:05, 7:40, 10:05. Daredevil (PG-13) 1:50, 7:25. The Hunted (R) 1:40, 4:45, 7:20, 9:45. The Life of David Gale (R) 1:45, 4:40, 7:30, 10:15. Boat Trip (R) 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:25. Gangs of New York (R) 4:05, 9:45.

LANDMARK NU-WILSHIRE

1314 Wilshire Blvd.
The Pianist (R) 3:45, 7:00, 10:15.

LAEMMLE MONICA

1332 2nd St.
Irreversible (NR) 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50. The Quiet American (R) 1:45, 4:20, 7:20, 9:55. Bend it Like Beckham (PG-13) 12:00, 2:35, 5:10, 7:45, 10:20. Talk to Her (R) 2:00, 4:40, 7:15, 9:55.

AERO THEATRE

1328 Montana Ave.
Far From Heaven (PG-13) 5:00, 7:30, 10:00.



BACK PAGE

U.S. captives in Iraq and their families face uncertainty

BY HELEN O'NEILL

AP Special Correspondent

One soldier described himself as simply a mechanic, someone who fixes things. Another's family thought she was an Army cook, relatively safe from the horrors of the front lines. A third was planning to leave the service to join the U.S. Border Patrol.

They are sons and brothers, a husband, a mother. Now a handful of Americans have gained a chilling new title — prisoners of war.

Around the country, their tearful families wait for word, terrified of what has happened since their capture, even more terrified of the unknowns to come.

U.S. officials demand the captives be protected under the Geneva Conventions. But the conventions mean little to the mother who hugs her son's photograph, clutches her rosary beads and weeps.

"I don't want him to get cold, and I don't want him to get hungry. I just want him to come home alive," said Anecita Hudson of Alamogordo, N.M., after seeing her 23-year-old son, Army Spc. Joseph Hudson, interviewed on Iraqi television Sunday as a POW. The interview was carried on a Filipino station the family receives.

"He looked so scared," said his Filipino-born mother, shaking her head. "It's like a bad dream, seeing your son captured on television."

In the video, Hudson and his fellow POWs — three other men and a woman — are asked their names, hometowns, ages, and to explain what they are doing in Iraq. Along with footage of the prisoners, the Iraqi tape contained gruesome images of bodies identified as dead U.S. soldiers.

Asked about his mission in Iraq, Hudson stared defiantly at the camera as a yellow microphone was thrust into his face. "I follow orders," he said grimly.

His mother watched and wept again. Her son, a Fort Bliss, Texas, soldier assigned to the 507th Maintenance Co., joined the military to provide for his wife and 5-year-old daughter, she said. He's a mechanic, not a fighter.

Now another son, Joseph's 18-year-old brother, is

ready to sign up, too.

"I feel like loading up my shotgun and going overseas," Anthony Hudson said. "Send me over there. I'll get him back."

Then, clinging to his mother, the younger brother broke down.

In Kansas, another family watched portions of the tape with the same mixture of tears and dread, as Pfc. Patrick Miller appeared on the screen.

Gone was the bravado of a soldier sure of his mission, heading off to war. Gone was assurance that this proud young father of two expressed, telling his mother and wife that he would come home safely. After all, reasoned Miller, a welder, he was in a support unit, not a combat unit.

Instead his family in Park City, Kan., saw a pale, nervous 23-year-old who answered questions in a shaky voice, whose eyes blinked nervously from behind round glasses.

Asked by the Iraqis why he came to their country, Miller, also with the 507th, stammered, "I come to fix broke stuff."

Asked if he came to shoot Iraqis, he answered, "No, I come to shoot only if I am shot at."

Watching the video, Miller's half brother, 27-year-old Thomas Hershberger, cringed.

"He's always such a tough guy," Hershberger said. "It was hard to see him looking so scared." Miller joined the military last summer to help pay student loans, he said.

For now, Hershberger said, the family doesn't know what to think.

"We are just trying to be optimistic that because he was captured, he will not be killed," Hershberger said.

The family of another POW was clinging to the same hope.

Relatives of 30-year-old Army Spc. Shoshana Johnson spoke to NBC's "Today" show Monday about their fears for the single mother from Texas who loved nothing more than cooking for family and caring for her 2-year-old daughter. As the daughter of a retired serviceman, who grew up in the Fort Bliss area, she has the military in her blood, they said.

But, like other POW families, they assumed she was in a support group that was unlikely to come face-to-face with the enemy.

"I thought she was cooking," an aunt, Margaret Henderson of Miramar, Fla., told "Today."

Nothing had prepared them for the sight of a frightened looking Johnson, with a bandaged ankle, nervously answering questions from her captors.

"Hundreds of thousands of soldiers are out there," said a cousin, Tracy Thorne. "You never think that one of your family members would be one of those to be taken captive. It just never dawned on me that it would hit so close to home."

In Mission, Texas, the mother of 21-year-old Edgar Hernandez, also shown on the Iraqi video, had a message for her battered-looking son.

"To have faith in God and he will bring you back," Maria De La Luz Hernandez said in Spanish. Hernandez's face looked swollen and cut.

Hernandez was serving as a supply truck driver. "His job really is not that dangerous," said his brother, Joel, "but once you're out there anything you do is dangerous I guess."

U.S. military officials did not immediately release identities of the soldiers, who Iraqi television reported were caught in an ambush near Nasiriyah, a major crossing point over the Euphrates northwest of Basra. However, it was confirmed that some of the prisoners had been stationed at Fort Bliss, where a spokesman described the mood as "tragic."

The other POW on the Iraqi videotape was identified by various media sources Sgt. James Riley from New Jersey.

And the news got worse: On Monday, Iraq claimed that it shot down two Apache helicopters and was holding two crewmembers prisoner. Shown on Iraqi TV, two men wearing pilot overalls did not speak to the camera but appeared confused.

In Qatar, Gen. Tommy Franks talked boldly of his confidence in the POWs' training and in their motivation and courage.

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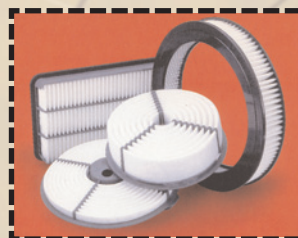
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