

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

00000

FANTASY 5

4, 7, 32, 36, 38

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 7, 3, 8

Evening picks: 7, 7, 5

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 5, California Classic

2nd Place: 7, Eureka

3rd Place: 11, Money Bags

Race Time: 1:40.00



NEWS OF THE WEIRD
by Chuck Shepard

From a March Boston Globe interview with Morgan Lee, newly crowned Miss Gothic Massachusetts: (asked how she would describe Goth) "It's really a style and a way of thinking. Basically, you're miserable all the time. (We) just see the darker side that other people tend to ignore. The most interesting people are always the saddest." (Asked what her boyfriend thinks of her): "He's very proud of me. (He) is not a very descript person, kind of like an amoeba, but very cultured."



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Genius is 1 percent inspiration and 90 percent perspiration."

— Thomas Alva Edison



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City Hall sues landlord accused of tenant harassment

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

THIRD STREET — City Hall is suing a local landlord for allegedly harassing one of her tenants in a building near Montana Avenue, prosecutors said Monday.

Lisa Borten is accused of allegedly filing false complaints against tenant Jason Bernstein with the health and building departments, trying to evict him without cause and leaving harassing messages on his answering machine — one of which allegedly contained personal threats.

Borten, who oversees 21 units in two Santa Monica apartment buildings, was found liable in January by

the Santa Monica Rent Control Board for overcharging Bernstein by \$4,483 in rent. Prosecutors said Monday's lawsuit is separate, because it falls under City Hall's tenant harassment ordinance.

"The rent control board ruling addressed the overpayment of rent only," said Deputy City Attorney Adam Radinsky, who is prosecuting the case. "It's one thing to collect the excessive rent, but it's an entirely different thing to embark on this type of harassment."

Borten said she was unaware of the lawsuit and declined to comment on it. She called the reporting of the case an "invasion of privacy."

"I don't care to have any discus-



John Wood/Daily Press

A tenant in this apartment building alleges her landlord harassed him into leaving so she could hike up the rent.

sion further in the newspaper," she said.

Bernstein, who's lived in the building since March of 2000,

couldn't be reached for comment. He pays \$911.84 to rent a one-bedroom apartment in the

See LANDLORD, page 6

A memorable nap



John Wood/Daily Press

A man in Palisades Park naps Monday afternoon behind a November 1999 memorial for members of the United States Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines and Navy that have "given their all" to protect this country.

Floating dead body ID'd

By Daily Press staff

CORONER'S OFFICE — A nude corpse found last month floating 100 yards offshore has been identified as Barbara Faye Mason, a 35-year-old homeless woman.

It's unknown how Mason died. Coroners said her body was bloated and her skin was patchy, adding sea animals had begun to eat away at the corpse before it

was discovered on March 25 and brought ashore by lifeguards. More tests have been ordered.

Lt. Cheryl MacWillie from the Los Angeles County Coroner's Office said Mason had no known address and was therefore listed as homeless. She was identified through fingerprints.

Faye was found in the water off of Santa Monica Beach, west of Montana Avenue.

Environmentalists taking back the waters

BY JIM WASSERMAN

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — Environmentalists who successfully tapped taxpayer money to buy thousands of acres of California coastline to stop development are now targeting the Pacific Ocean, with a plan to curb human activity by buying boats, fishing permits and possibly underwater land.

The idea is provoking a renewed struggle between some of the world's wealthiest and most

powerful environmental groups and California fishermen who fear they gradually will be booted off the ocean they prowl for recreation and profit.

California voters could be pulled into the fight this November.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has taken no position on proposals that ask voters to steer state bond money to environmentalists' ocean wish lists — and also create

See ENVIRONMENT, page 7

Santa Monica College gets A+ for its failing students

BY JAMIE WETHERBE

Special to the Daily Press

SMC — Santa Monica College has been recognized as one of the best schools in the country when it comes to dealing with its faltering students.

SMC each year receives about 6,500 freshmen and as many as 35 percent of them earn less than a C average.

"The rate at SMC is a little high," said counselor Esau Tovar, adding that other colleges see a

rate closer to 15 percent.

In response, Tovar and others about two years ago started the "Student Enhancement and Educational Research Project," which has included nearly 2,000 probationary students — either because of poor grades or a low completion rate of courses.

The National Council on Student Development, an affiliate of the American Association of Community Colleges, gave this year's "Best Practice Award" to

See SMC, page 6

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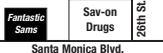
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Happy B-Day Rob Piubeni!



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)

★★★★ Confusion might be the name of the game, but don't be afraid to walk where angels fear to tread. Agreements made now and in the next few weeks are unlikely to stick. Think very carefully about your priorities, as they could change in the near future. Tonight: Opt for togetherness.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Others might not be getting your message as clearly as you would like. Better yet, allow those around you to put their cards on the table. You will not get a solid yes or no. Discuss clearly what is on your mind. Tonight: Honor another's request.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Once more, your Ruler does a backward jig. Sensitivity will make a difference, though you might find it frustrating to deal with the many different people and demands. Get important messages and details down on paper, although even that might not help. Tonight: Work off stress.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Your imagination leads you in a new direction, but a friend could be skeptical about an idea or two. Don't look for a consensus right now. Know that you are at the helm of your ship. You don't need to prove anything. Tonight: Use your ingenuity.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ You need to remain anchored, especially as much will change rapidly on the professional front in the near future. Avoid gossip in the next few weeks, because it could be loaded with innuendoes and untruths. Play it cool. Think about a trip, but don't schedule it yet. Tonight: Order in.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ You aim for more of what you want in the next few days. Consider what needs to happen with a friendship or relationship that has been exhibiting instability lately. Don't take action yet; just evaluate. Tonight: A friend could be a bit dour.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ Be careful when dealing with others. Not everyone looks at a money situation like you do. Conflict involving joint finances could take you in a new direction. Confusion surrounds communication, and will for a while. Tonight: Your treat.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ The Moon in your sign signifies high energy, which you will need, as chaos could erupt among friendships, goals and financial arrangements. Keep your John Hancock off any papers right now, as verbal agreements would work better. Tonight: Let your popularity speak.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Know when to duck — like now! Others have a tendency to get matters confused. Dealings with those in charge, as well as partners, could be disappointing. You might find this an ongoing trend for a while. Relax. Tonight: P.S.: Expect a blast from the past very soon.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Aim for what you want, but only count on yourself. Others mean well but could get caught up in their own problems. Detach and get as many facts as you can on your own. Right now, confusion surrounds communication. Tonight: Join a pal or two.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ Listen to someone who knows what he or she wants, but don't feel that you must acquiesce. How you see a child and the way you deal with him or her could be changing. A relationship also might experience a challenge or two. Tonight: Work as late as necessary.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You gain insight by observing, surfing the Internet or through some other fact-finding mission. You do not want to depend on others right now, as they might not be as clear as you'd like. Make a call to a loved one at a distance. Tonight: Relax your overactive mind.

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1427 Third Street Promenade, Ste. #202 • Santa Monica, CA 90401 • www.smdp.com

PUBLISHER

Ross Furukawa ross@smdp.com

EDITOR

Carolyn Sackariason sack@smdp.com

STAFF WRITER

John Wood wood@smdp.com

CHILD DEVELOPMENT COLUMNIST

Margie Altman margiealtman@yahoo.com

ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER

Rob Piubeni rob@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Steve Averil steve@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Rob Schwenker schwenker@smdp.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Del Pastrana del@smdp.com

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Alejandro Cesar Cantarero II alex@smdp.com

ADMINISTRATIVE TRAFFIC MANAGER

Heather Rich heather@smdp.com

CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE

Mitch Troy mitch@smdp.com

CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE

Kitty Seeger kitty@smdp.com

CIRCULATION MANAGER

Michael Aviles michael@smdp.com

CIRCULATION

Keith Wyatt keith@smdp.com

CIRCULATION

Glenn Bolan glenn@smdp.com

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Dave Danforth dave@smdp.com

MASCOT

Maya Furukawa maya@smdp.com

LOCAL

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SM honors its 'Elks'

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica Elks recently held their annual awards night and honored those Elks that have done an "exceptional job" during the past year.

Raedeon Kiesz received a plaque recognizing her leadership in the Santa Monica Elks. Kiesz also presented "The Elk of the Year" award to Anna Scully.

"In addition to Ann being the assistant lodge photographer," officials said. "She was always there. She was there whenever the lodge needed decorating. In fact, her nick name is Ann 'she was there' Scully."

Raymond Beers was chosen as officer of the year.

"Ray performed all of his duties in an exceptional manner," officials said. "In addition, he was ritual coach and primary advisor to the Exalted Ruler and the lodge. He put on the talent show, the 11 o'clock toast contest and other special programs. Ray not only knew what needed to be done, but he would normally be doing it without being asked."

Max and Ray Feinberg received the "Elk Family of the Year" award, and Bob Baldwin and Pete Armstrong received special recognition for their significant contribution to the Santa Monica Elks.

To your health

By Daily Press staff

The YWCA and Wild Oats Market this month will host a range of events to benefit both body and chakra.

Upcoming events at the YWCA, located at 2019 14th St., will include:

Monday, April 12 — Free lecture: "Vegan and Gluten-Free Diets for Better Health" from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Join Danielle Rochelle, cookbook author and founder of Zen Bistro — an upscale vegan restaurant in Sedona, Ariz. — as she details the benefits of vegan and gluten-free lifestyles. Free vegan and gluten-free food will be offered to all attendees, and coupons will be handed out to the first 30 people.

Monday, April 26 — Free lecture: "Holistic Medicine: The Key to Wellness" from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Lorri Beaver, D.C., holds a master's degree in traditional Oriental medicine and is a licensed acupuncturist. Come hear what holistic therapies such as acupuncture, essential oils, homeopathy and herbs can do for you. Wild Oats will provide free refreshments, and coupons will go to the first 30 attendees.

All classes at YWCA held in the community room. Free parking will be available. For more information, call (310) 452-3881.

Events at Wild Oats, located at 1425 Montana Ave., will include:

Saturday, April 17 — Earth Day celebration from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. Celebrate Earth Day with Wild Oats and register to win an energy-efficient washing machine, an Electra Cruiser bicycle, free groceries from Wild Oats and more. A variety of free samples will also be up for grabs.

Saturdays, April 10 and April 24 — Complimentary chair massage from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Feeling stressed? Come by Wild Oats and relax with a free chair massage from Mary Trumpi, a licensed massage therapist and chiropractor.

Wednesday, April 7; Tuesday, April 13; Thursday, April 22; Tuesday, April 27 — Free aura and chakra readings from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Spiritual and energy healer Elizabeth Hezghian will offer complimentary aura readings under the outside store awning. For more information, visit www.Healing-Light.com.

Mystery Photo winner

Nicky Five Aces/Special to the Daily Press

Maria Sirotti is this week's mystery photo winner. Sirotti correctly identified the face of former Sen. John P. Jones, in front of the California Heritage Museum, located at the corner of Ocean Park Boulevard and Main Street. Sirotti has won two free movie tickets to Loews Cineplex on the Third Street Promenade. Check the upcoming weekend edition for the next mystery photo.



surf report

Look for the current SW swell to fade today as WNW swell strengthens a bit. The better exposed SW/combo breaks see waist-high surf. The good NW breaks also pulse into the waist-high range.

OUTLOOK: Smaller surf on Wednesday, as both swells fade, but NW wind swell pulses up a touch.

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	8:40	1.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
SUNDAY	10:25	0.8	N/A	N/A	1:02	4.1	N/A	N/A
MONDAY	11:29	0.4	11:01	3.0	3:01	4.0	7:10	3.4
TUESDAY	12:10	0.1	11:52	2.6	4:33	4.2	7:12	3.7
WEDNESDAY	N/A	N/A	12:42	-0.1	5:32	4.6	7:22	3.9
THURSDAY	12:28	2.0	1:09	-0.3	6:18	4.9	7:37	4.2
FRIDAY	1:03	1.5	1:35	-0.4	6:58	5.1	7:55	4.6

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The Q Line

The Santa Monica City Council recently passed a law forbidding the public from smoking on the beach. Add this to prohibitions against alcohol and dogs on the beach, and some citizens are beginning to feel as though an unreasonable amount of their freedom is being taken.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "Do you think it is OK for smoking to be prohibited on the beach in the

name of public health or do you think this unfairly violates the freedom of Santa Monica's citizens?"

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

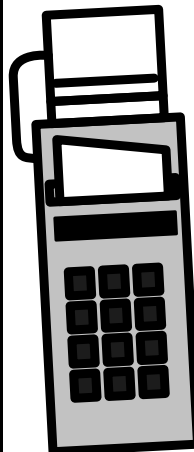
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OPINION

9-11 could've been prevented with a real foreign policy

The squabbling and finger-pointing surrounding the 9/11 commission only serve to obscure the fundamental lesson of that horrific day. Whatever errors or incompetence on the part of a particular individual or intelligence agency, what made Sept. 11 possible was a failure of policy. Our government, whether controlled by Democrat or Republican, had for decades conducted an accommodating, range-of-the-moment, unprincipled foreign policy.

Sept. 11 was not the first time America was attacked by Islamic fundamentalists engaged in "holy war" against us. In 1979 theocratic Iran — which has spearheaded the "Islamic Revolution" — stormed the U.S. embassy in Tehran and held 54 Americans hostage for over a year. In 1983 the Syrian- and Iranian-backed group Hezbollah bombed a U.S. marine barracks in Lebanon, killing 241 servicemen while they slept; the explosives came from Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement. In 1998 al-Qaeda blew up the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, killing 224 individuals. In 2000 al-Qaeda bombed the USS Cole in Yemen, killing 17 sailors.

So we already knew that al-Qaeda was actively engaged in attacking Americans. We even had evidence that agents connected to al-Qaeda had been responsible for the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center. And we knew in 1996 that bin Laden had made an overt declaration of war against the "Satan" America.

But how did America react? Did our

government adopt a principled approach and identify the fact that we were faced with a deadly threat from an ideological foe? Did we launch systematic counterattacks to wipe out such enemy organizations as al-Qaeda, Hezbollah and Fatah? Did we seek to eliminate enemy states like Iran? No — our responses were short-sighted and self-contradictory.

To cite only a few of depressingly many examples: We initially expelled Iranian diplomats — but later sought an appeasing rapprochement with that ayatollah-led government. We intermittently cut off trade with Iran — but secretly negotiated weapons-for-hostages deals. When Israel had the courage to enter Lebanon in 1982 to destroy the PLO, we refused to uncompromisingly support our ally and instead brokered the killers' release. And with respect to al-Qaeda, we dropped a perfunctory bomb or two on one of its suspected camps, while our compliant diplomats waited for al-Qaeda's terrorist attacks to fade from the headlines.

At home we treated our attackers as if they were isolated criminals rather than soldiers engaged in battle against us. In 1941 we did not attempt to indict the Japanese pilots who bombed Pearl Harbor — we declared war on the source. Yet we spent millions trying to indict specific terrorists — while we ignored their masters.

Despite emphatic pronouncements

from Islamic leaders about a "jihad" against America, our political leaders failed to grasp the ideology that seeks our destruction. This left them unable to target that enemy's armed combatants — in Palestine, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Saudi Arabia — and the governments that assist them.

Is it any wonder then that, although our intelligence agencies prevented many planned attacks, they could not prevent them all?

Tragically, little has changed since Sept. 11. Our government's actions remain hopelessly unprincipled. Despite the Bush administration's rhetoric about ending states that sponsor terrorism, the president has left the most dangerous of these — Iran — untouched, while his officials periodically seek "rapprochement" and work with Iranian officials to foster "religious values" at U.N. conferences. The attack on Iraq, though capable of justification, was hardly a priority in our war against militant Islam. And because the war was waged with no view to the long term, Iraq is in danger of slipping into the hands of Shiite clerics and other militant Islamic leaders — and thus of becoming even more of a threat than it was.

Moreover, when Bush does strike at a militant Islamic regime, he does so only haltingly. He stresses that the conflict is not ideological and, morally unsure of his right to protect American lives by force,

cowers before any sign of world disapproval over civilian casualties. The result was that he reined in the military forces in Afghanistan and allowed numerous Taliban and al-Qaeda fighters to escape.

Elsewhere in the Mideast, Bush continues to play by a double standard. His administration scolds Israel for killing its own bin Laden, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, while Bush pretends that the Palestinians and Islamic militants attacking Israel — and who have attacked Americans in the past and will no doubt try again in the future — are, somehow, different from al-Qaeda and deserving of a "peace" plan.

And now, both Republicans and Democrats wage a domestic war, senselessly and desperately trying to find a fall guy for Sept. 11. Thus, too unprincipled to identify the enemy and wage all-out war, but not yet completely blind to their own ineffectualness, leaders from both parties resignedly admit that we're in for a "long war" and that there will be more terrorist attacks on U.S. soil.

The lesson to learn from Sept. 11 is this. We must root out the amoral, pragmatic expediency that dominates our government's foreign policy and replace it with the principles of self-interest.

(Onkar Ghatge, Ph.D. in philosophy, is a senior fellow at the Ayn Rand Institute (www.aynrand.org) in Irvine. The Institute promotes the philosophy of Ayn Rand, author of "Atlas Shrugged" and "The Fountainhead." Send comments to reaction@aynrand.org.)

Guest Commentary

By Onkar Ghatge

Santa Monicans for Renters Rights group turns 25



THE FLORA FILES

By Todd Flora

On April 10, 1979, I was an 8-year-old second grader. I wouldn't meet my best friend of 23 years until we shared a classroom desk two years later. Then Governor Jerry Brown had a Chief of Staff named Gray Davis. Jimmy Carter was president, but the hostages had not yet been taken in Iran. Nobody really had cable TV and the world had not yet heard of AIDS.

And on April 10, 1979, the landmark rent control ordinance passed in Santa Monica. Thanks to the work of a smart, dedicated group of grassroots activists that today we call Santa Monicans for Renters Rights, or "SMRR," a policy was created by the will of the voters that this week turns 25. Rent control and SMRR have contributed a great deal to the city's housing policy, quality of life, and politi-

cal personality ever since. I congratulate the organization for which I am also a five-year member.

I've seen a lot of life since the founding of SMRR and the advent of rent control in Santa Monica. But SMRR has been there for thousands who have come and gone in our city all of that time. And as a beneficiary of rent control policy who is appreciative of SMRR's services, I want to say thank you to the organization for watching our backs for 25 years.

Two months after SMRR helped pass rent control in 1979, the city elected its first Rent Control Board — something we almost take for granted today. SMRR's Tenant Hotline (394-0848) is a well-known resource that for years has helped guide residents through next steps in difficult situations or with basic facts. I even learned a few things about the organization itself in the latest issue of SMRR's informative "Renters Write" newsletter. For instance, SMRR is sustained in part by more than 3,000 dues-paying members — many homeowners as well as renters. The organization prides itself on the thou-

sands of small donations it gets per year, which average \$27. This is not a group that has succeeded through the generosity of a few "limousine liberals." Its strength is in grassroots numbers.

SMRR's politics have naturally extended outside of tenant issues. The group's traditional progressive bent has led it to support city council candidates who believe in sustainable development and preservation of our neighborhoods over the favoritism to moneyed interests one might see in comparable cities.

You hear very little about SMRR in the pages of this newspaper. When you do, the group is usually referred to as "the city's dominant political party that has controlled City Hall for decades," or something similar. With all due respect to my gracious hosts, that kind of language is no accident. It's a strategy those in politics call "death by a thousand paper cuts." Many opinion leaders in town want you to feel "tired" of SMRR and the influence of the renters rights movement. Closer to election day, many of them are going to tell you that "25 years is long enough." I

assure you some of these same people are the types who believe labor unions aren't really necessary anymore, because after all, look at how well profitable supermarket executives take care of their workers. And while we're at it, maybe we don't need the Endangered Species Act anymore because heck, there are plenty of animals still around.

I'm a 33 year-old white male, "suit and tie" professional, and a renter. I am but one face of today's Santa Monicans for Renters Rights. You may be completely another. But on behalf of the organization, I want to invite all who wish to celebrate 25 years of the founding of this organization and its various successes to the Church in Ocean Park on Saturday, April 17. Starting at 7 p.m., you can join the party for \$25. Come on out and see old friends and make some new ones. For more information, call (310) 394-0848.

Todd Flora is a seven year resident of Santa Monica. He is active in Democratic Party and Heal the Bay. To comment or reach Todd, e-mail him at: reformadvocate@yahoo.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.

YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

Send your letters to Santa Monica Daily Press Attn. Editor:

1427 Third Street Promenade Suite 202 Santa Monica • 90401 • sack@smdp.com

OPINION

City Hall turns a deaf ear to business owners' plight



LEGAL VIEWS AND NEWS

By David Pizarra

The Daily Press' April 5 edition had a major article on the enforcement efforts by the city of Santa Monica regarding signs. The headline was "Signs of the times, tear 'em down or pay." As a business owner and a business lawyer, that article disturbed me — a lot.

It doesn't surprise me that the city is now deciding to enforce, after a three-year hiatus, its signage laws. This is merely one part of the concerted effort that the city will be putting forth, if it is to meet the stated goal of increasing its fines throughout the city. This is the way to cover the gaping deficit that the City Council, in its bacchanalian spree of spending, created.

About three months ago I read the proposed city budget. Yes, my life can be very dull sometimes, but the point is, buried in the budget was a tremendous increase over the previous year, in fines. It is one of those items that no one would really notice when a budget is proposed and approved. In the revenue section of a budget, people look to see the obvious categories of income: taxes, user fees and convenience charges. No one will ever really notice that the "fine

income" has a budget increase because it doesn't affect them, they think.

When reviewing a political budget one looks for the obvious pork. Where has the City Council created a new jobs program and who benefits? What new building is being built at a cost of XX million to pay off a political donor? Which homeless shelter is being funded and given a new home, to provide a payback for their fundraising and voter registration efforts on behalf of which councilmember? Which department is being cut because they didn't play ball with the council? These are the types of items that one looks for, to see who really controls our city.

In order to provide for the funding of the various pet projects of our esteemed council members, all of whom I believe are doing their best for their particular constituencies, they had to raise funds. Can't raise taxes — wouldn't be prudent. Can't raise user fees too much, that would annoy the voters and this is an election year, (watch what happens in 2005-2006. I bet fees go up.)

So the city is left with only one constituency it can politically attack and not worry about the backlash: The business owner.

But how do you extract more money from them? Increase the business license fees? They are already high. (Note: business license fees are due July 1 and are for the upcoming year. If you apply prior to the month of July, your license will be for the

previous fiscal year, and a renewal fee will be due July 1. The city of Santa Monica does not pro-rate their license fees, nor do they credit you for the upcoming year.)

The best way City Hall could continue its attack on business was to go after their signage. In an abundance of publicity to be fair to the business community, they have posted the following on their Web site in bright red type: "Don't forget that if you need a sign for your business, you must have it approved by the Architectural Review Board and pull a permit to install it. Much of the process can be handled at the planning counter at City Hall."

This innocuous looking paragraph makes it seem like that all you have to do is walk in to City Hall, pay a fee, and you get a permit.

You'd be wrong.

There is certainly the fee part, both the signage application and then the building permit. In the ARB process, they want to know how it will look. You'll need drawings. They want to know how it will affect the neighbors. So you need to have pictures, or drawings, of the buildings and signs of the neighbors. This process can take over a year, and drawings take money. Just ask the gents at Tom Foolery on Main Street.

Last week I wrote about how unsafe it is to live here. This signage issue is but one example of how unsafe it is to do business here. If you were to ask Joe Piperski, a man that owns two food establishments in town, the city pretty much killed his donut shop.

They made the licensing of it — and the operation of it — so difficult, that what should have cost a small amount, became cost prohibitive. All he wanted to do was sell donuts in a space that is unusable for anything else. Now his donut shop is gone and four more jobs have left the city.

The City Council sets the tone of the government. The actual bureaucracy runs, and ruins, the business climate. The City Council needs to send a different message: Make it safe to do business here. Make it easy for a business owner to start and operate a small business.

Councilman Ken Genser told the Daily Press, "People complain about people sleeping in their doorways, and they don't report it. We want our laws enforced, but it takes the whole community to help with it, you can't just be passive."

Yes, it takes the whole community, and the City Council represents the whole community. Remember they don't have districts, so when a community voice is active but not heard, doesn't that mean the City Council isn't doing its job?

The business community is screaming for help. But no one is listening in City Hall.

(David Pizarra is a partner in the law firm of Pizarra & Grist, he can be reached at (310) 664-9969 or by e-mail at dpizarra@pizarra.com. He welcomes your comments and questions).

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LOCAL

Landlord may face thousands of dollars in fines

LANDLORD, from page 1

building, said Tracy Condon, a spokeswoman for the rent control board. Though Borten raised the rent twice on that unit in 2001 and 2002, finally reaching \$1,105, the rent control board in January demanded she repay Bernstein \$4,482.99. As part of the rent control board's ruling, Borten was supposed to let Bernstein live in the apartment rent-free until the amount was repaid. It's unknown if Bernstein has paid rent since January.

The unit Bernstein rents was part of an "incentive" program offered to landlords by City Hall before vacancy decontrol took effect, which allowed landlords to charge market rates on some units if they offered other units to low-income tenants. Bernstein's apartment was a market-rate unit, but the 10-year incentive contract expired in May of 2001. The rent, by law,

"I don't care to have any discussion further in the newspaper."

— LISA BORTEN
Local landlord

is set at the same amount as it was 90 days before the contract expired.

But according to City Hall, which issued a press release on Monday, "Borten falsified legal records with the rent control board to justify raising (Bernstein's) rent far higher than permitted by law. When (Bernstein) finally questioned Borten about the rent, the suit contends, Borten did the following: Left harassing messages on his voice mail, one of which included personal threats; served him with

two different three-day (eviction notices) that falsely claimed he was creating a nuisance and damaging the building; filed false complaints against him with the health and building departments."

The lawsuit seeks fines, punitive damages, an injunction and attorneys' fees. Each of the seven alleged incidents carries a maximum \$1,000 fine. Punitive damages are based on the severity of the charges and the defendant's net worth. No amount of punitive damages is listed in

the lawsuit.

Borten is suing another tenant in the same building, which is located at 807 Third St. That lawsuit alleges the tenant, Patricia Lard, actually lives elsewhere and therefore shouldn't be entitled to protection under rent control law. Borten and her lawyer haven't returned calls related to that case.

Two tenants interviewed at the Third Street apartment building Monday afternoon said they had no problems with Borten. One was an elderly lady who refused to give her name or say how long she had lived in the building. The second was a Scottish law school student who's lived in the building for nine months.

"She's been very good," said Sally Robertson, 25, who added she pays \$1,280 for a large, one-bedroom apartment with a parking space. "I've had no problems."

Studying is not a priority for some SMC students

SMC, from page 1

SMC's program, citing the program's effectiveness, quality and significance to the field and adaptability of strategies to other colleges.

"It is testimony to the value of a sound research design and well thought out intervention strategies aimed at improving student success," Tovar said.

He added that given the success of the project, the sessions are ongoing and continue to be expanded to accommodate

more students.

"Not many colleges offer programs for probationary students," Tovar said, adding that students involved in the hour-and-a-half program get out of probation sooner. And while the seminar is offered to all probationary students, about one-third chose to attend.

During the program, counselors have sessions with groups of 10 to 15 students. The sessions are offered in the summer and winter before the fall and spring semesters. Topics of discussion include

motivation, attitudes toward education, how to relate to instructors and students' relationships with their parents and significant others, Tovar said.

Students also discuss with one another what landed them on probation.

"Sixty to 70 percent of the time, it's reasons other than lack of study skills," Tovar said. Often Latino and African-American students "work excessively to support their families," and their jobs often come before school.

A year-long study of probationary students completed in fall 2003 showed the effects on students' academic achievements. Findings included:

■ Half of the students who attended the re-orientation went off probation.

■ More than 70 percent of students involved in the program continued their studies the following semester, while 23 percent of students not involved in the project stayed in school.



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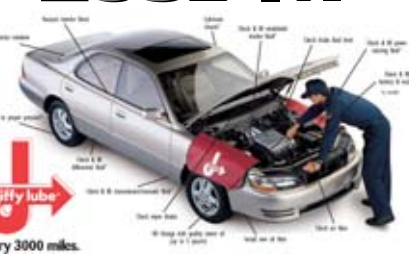
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STATE

Ocean recreationalists feel threatened by group

ENVIRONMENT, from page 1

a Cabinet-level Ocean Protection Council within state government.

The proposals, sponsored by the New York-based Natural Resources Defense Council, which has offices in downtown Santa Monica, and Washington, D.C.-based Oceans Conservancy, would represent the state's first major response to a Pew Oceans Commission report released last summer detailing the growing threat to the world's oceans from population growth and overfishing. They also represent a possible funding hike for ocean projects in a coastal state beset by cutbacks.

"The oceans are a public trust that bring billions for economic benefits, yet we keep the Department of Fish and Game on a starvation diet," said Karen Garrison, co-director of the NRDC's Ocean Initiative.

The 18-member Pew commission, a \$5.5 million project of Philadelphia-based Pew Charitable Trusts, recommends both a Cabinet-level ocean council and placing more areas of the ocean off limits to human and commercial activity.

"If we're going to reverse the trends that are happening right now with coastal development, water pollution, overexploitation of fishing and climate change, we need a lot more tools than we have now," said Chuck Cook, director of the California Coastal Marine Program for the Arlington, Va.-based Nature Conservancy.

Cook and others are seeking bond money to buy fishing boats and licenses

"The oceans are a public trust that bring billions for economic benefits, yet we keep the Department of Fish and Game on a starvation diet."

— KAREN GARRISON

Co-director of the NRDC's Ocean Initiative

that range from \$150 to \$150,000 each, and more for ocean mapping, remote vehicles with video cameras and scuba diving research time.

Other possibilities include leasing underwater land containing prime fish habitat and pilot projects to put more large ocean areas off limits to fishing and other human activity. In theory, the money could even buy oil leases within the state's three-mile offshore waters.

The target is money available under Proposition 50, the \$3.44 billion bond measure that California voters passed in November 2002 to protect the state's coastlines and wetlands and restore its estuaries, bays and coastal waters. Supporters, including groups that financed and put Proposition 50 on the ballot two years ago, want now to expand the bond measure's mission.

To enact the proposals, the Senate and Assembly would have to approve a new use for the bond money by June 25, a legislative deadline that is flexible. California voters then would have to do the same in November.

If approved, a new Ocean Protection

Council of legislators and key agency directors would help decide where to spend an amount of money that is so far unspecified.

Authorized by one of the Legislature's most powerful members, Sen. John Burton, D-San Francisco, the bills cleared the Senate's key Natural Resources and Wildlife Committee on March 23, and are scheduled before the Senate Appropriations Committee on April 19.

Opponents, including a wide variety of fishing groups and oil companies, still hope tight legislative deadlines will sink the bills, at least this year.

Recreational fishermen are especially hostile, believing the environmental agenda is to "lock up" more of the ocean and push them out of the state's regulatory process.

"It's like we don't have any representation," said Ron Aliotti, a Monterey fisherman and owner of the 34-foot fishing boat, the Silver Streak. "They want to keep it all pristine, just like God made it."

Randy Fry, government affairs director for the 6,000-member Pacifica-based Coastside Fishing Club, said fishermen believe "corporate environmental groups" are maneuvering around California's Department of Fish and Game and the fishing industry to impose restrictive "ocean zoning" and new no-fishing zones in state-controlled waters.

"Their No. 1 agenda is a network of marine reserves along the coast," said Fry, a contention Cook denies.

Fry was also critical of plans to buy fishing boats with Proposition 50 money, describing similar federal buyouts in recent years as "a welfare system for the commercial fishermen." He said several who took buyouts are back in business.

But Aliotti's cousin Rob in Monterey, who owns the 46-foot Alecia Dawn, expressed frustration with dwindling catches and increased regulations, saying, "Total it all up, write me a check and I'm through. I'll go buy me something on shore."

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A weekly look at events and programs for

Overindulgence is more than too many toys for your child

How Much Is Enough?

By Jean Illsley Clarke

Too many toys, too many clothes, too many activities, too much stimulation, too many choices, too much of anything can slow a child's growth.

Too many things can signal "throw it away and get a new one" instead of "learn to take care of it." Too many activities can convince the child he is the center of the universe and other people exist to provide that attention for him. Dad is proud to be able to provide what his son wants and often puts Andy's wishes first. Andy, age 10, wants a better bike and he wants it now! It doesn't matter that the family needs to save for a new car.

But, it's not only about things that cost money. Since overindulging is giving children so much of anything that it interferes with their development, too much attention can be as stifling as too many things. Andy's mom wants Andy to be happy so

she protects him from frustration. Coddling is caring and nurturing, yes, but it is over-nurturing. Clear, unconditional love lets a child not only feel loved but also become competent. The child who is wrapped in smother love has small chance of becoming competent. "I'll do that for you," can come from a good heart, but if the child doesn't learn to do for himself, the negative outcome for the child doesn't match the adult's good intent. Andy can't see any reason to contribute some of his money toward his bike. He hasn't needed to learn that life is a do-it-yourself kit.

Beside too many things and smother love, there is a third form of overindulgence. It is called "soft structure." Being overly permissive, over-protective, lacking or not enforcing clear rules, and not teaching children to do chores, are all signs of soft structure. Children need the security of knowing that a parent will keep them safe, and will not let them do things that are hurtful to themselves or others, and will insist that they learn skills and do chores. Andy's parents both work and they are too tired to enforce rules or teach him to do chores. It is much faster if they do things themselves.

In the research studies reported in the

book "How Much Is Enough?" adults who had been overindulged as children described their deep resentment at not having had to do childhood chores. Why? Because there are so many life skills one learns doing chores and as adults they feel lost without some of those skills. The household rule is that toys are to be put in the garage at the end of playtime. Andy left his bike outside (he was busy playing) and didn't notice it was raining (he was playing a video game), and his bike is a mess (not his fault that it rained) so he wants a new one NOW.

Poor Andy. If he gets the new bike NOW, double poor Andy. And poor parents. Where shall they start? Better to start in one place. Could be with cutting back on the spending and insisting that Andy learn to take care of his things. Or they could start by making sure that Andy experiences the consequences of his behavior. If mom is a dedicated over-nurturer, maybe she should get a puppy to coddle. Or they could start enforcing some rules or insisting on some chores. Will Andy resist? Probably. But, in the long run they will all be better off. As an adult, Andy will most likely be appreciative of them.

Tips for avoiding overindulgence:

■ Insist that your child learn to care for her belongings and to respect other people's property.

■ Be sure your child's day includes enough free time (away from the tube) for him to learn to entertain himself.

■ Be sure to allow your child to do what she is old enough to do for herself most of the time.

■ Have some clear rules and insist that children follow them.

■ Make sure that children do some household chores that benefit the whole family.

There is more help about avoiding each of these three ways of overindulgence in "How Much is Enough? Everything You Need to Know to Steer Clear of Overindulgence and Raise Likeable, Responsible, and Respectful Children."

(Jean Illsley Clarke Ph.D., David J. Bredehoft Ph.D. and Connie Dawson Ph.D., are co-authors of *How Much Is Enough? Everything You Need to Know to Steer Clear of Overindulgence and Raise Likeable, Responsible and Respectful Children* — From *Toddlers to Teens*).

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Guest Commentary
By Vickie Falcone

Our connection to our children colors our parenting experience more than anything else. So, it's essential that we make it our No. 1 priority. If you take the time to connect, the grocery shopping will go more easily, the power struggles will decrease, communication lines will open, and you'll feel better about how you parent.

A few other parenting practices:

- Dramatically increase your child's level of cooperation.
- Help decrease misbehavior.
- Motivate your child to listen better.

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Imagine someone you feel connected to, like a close friend. If she asked you for a favor, wouldn't you go out of your way to help? If someone you don't feel connected with (like the relative or coworker who only calls when he needs something) asks a favor, wouldn't you be less inclined to offer support? Children feel the same way. When they're experiencing a strong connection with us, they naturally want to maintain that connection and harmony by listening and cooperating.

Establishing this connection starts when we become aware of children's four emotional needs and the importance of meeting them. The acronym for the four needs is "PHIL": Children need to feel powerful, heard, important and loved.

Children, like adults, want to feel the authentic power that comes from having influence and input about their environment. We help children feel powerful when we offer choices (without rushing them), ask their opinion or allow them to lead us in an activity. Children also want to be heard and understood — not just the words they say, but the essence of their communications. We help children feel heard when we make eye contact when they are speaking and when we get down on their level to communicate. They want to feel important — that what they have to say matters and that they're valuable enough to warrant their parents' attention. Children feel important when parents take the time to ask and consider their opinion, and when parents spend time joyfully connecting with them. They also

need to feel unconditionally loved — loved simply because they exist.

Misbehavior happens when children inappropriately seek to fill the hunger for the four core needs. Power struggles erupt when children feel powerless. Children scream for

attention when they don't feel heard or important.

In the next interaction with your child, instead of asking yourself, how can I get my child to _____? change the question to, what is my child trying to tell me? Jump at the chance to discover your child's need then help PHIL it.

When your child knows a fulfilling connection with you is readily available, it's like a high-speed Internet line to your heart that's always live. They know they can easily tap into the power of your love and get connected. They feel better about themselves. They naturally feel less needy, so they often behave in a way that's less demanding. They feel PHILED — powerful, heard, important and loved. And you feel the peace of mind that comes with practicing peaceful, connected parenting.

(Vickie Falcone speaks nationally and is the author of "Buddha Never Raised Kids and Jesus Didn't Drive Carpool: Seven Principles for Parenting with Soul" (Jodere, 2003). Join her at Agape Spiritual Center in Culver City and learn practical skills for parenting: Sunday, April 18, 2004 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call Rev. Charles Hall at (310) 348-1260, ext. 428 or visit www.ParentingWithSoul.com).

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SNOWHITE - SATURDAYS and SUNDAYS, APRIL 3 - MAY 30. A brand new musical presented by the Santa Monica Playhouse.

For kids of all ages, based on the original European fairytale, with a gaggle of comic woodland elves and gnomes, a most romantic heroine, a well-meaning, if misguided, Queen, and a fantastical singing two-way mirror. Sat. and Sun., 12:30 and 3:00 p.m.; kids 12 and under \$10, adults \$12. Call 394-9779, ext. 1 or visit www.santamonicaplayhouse.com for more info.

KID'S and YOUTH PROGRAMS - City of Santa Monica
Registration began March 11, most classes/programs begin the week of April 5

Check out RecSpace in the Spring issue of SeaScope or visit www.santamonica.org for details on a variety of classes and programs including Parent & Me classes, sports, dancing, drama, art and more. 310-458-2239

COMING UP! THE WIGGLES in CON-CERT! Tickets are on sale now. Universal Amphitheatre, April 21 & 22 (Tues. & Wed.), 3:00 & 7:00 p.m.

Long Beach Convention Center Arena, April 24 & 25 (Sat. & Sun.), 1:00 & 4:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 - \$35, all kids and adults age 1 and up need a ticket. Buy tickets at the venue box office, at all Ticketmaster outlets, at ticketmaster.com or call 213-480-3232 (LA) or 714-740-2000 (LB).

SESAME STREET LIVE - OUT of this WORLD (sesamestreetlive.com)
Kodak Theatre - Hollywood - May 14 - 16, group discounts call 866-LA-GROUP
Long Beach Terrace Theatre - May 20-23, group discounts call 908-988-9659
Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza - May 27 - 30, group discounts call 805-522-8010
Tickets went on sale March 29th, available thru Ticketmaster - 213-480-3232

TUESDAY

Movies for Moms sponsored by: "Dirty Dancing: Havana Nights" showing April 6, 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.
www.reelmoms.urbanbaby.com

Storytelling

Main Library - Toddler Storytime at Reed Park; 10:00 & 10:30 a.m. Stories for two year olds with adult.
Fairview Branch Library - 2101 Ocean Park Blvd - 310-450-0443.
Cuentos Para Pequenos - 10:00 a.m., thru April 6, next session April 27 - June 1. Six-week series in Spanish for 24 - 36 month olds with adult.
Lap Time - 11:00 a.m., thru April 6, next session April 27 - June 1. Six-week series for babies 0-24 months, co-sponsored by the SMMUSD Infant and Family Support Programs.
Twilight Story Time - 7pm - an ongoing program for 3-5 year olds.
Montana Avenue Branch Library - 1704 Montana Ave - 310-829-7081.

WEDNESDAY

Storytelling

The Walking Stick Coffee Lounge - 1630 Ocean Park Blvd., 450-6052. 10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4. This neighborhood coffee shop has a comfortable atmosphere, toys and storytelling every Wednesday.
Fairview Branch Library - 2101 Ocean Park Blvd - 310-450-0443.
Preschool Story Time - 10:30 a.m., March 3 - April 7, next session April 28 - June 2; six-week series for 3-5 year olds with adult.
Montana Avenue Branch Library - 1704 Montana Ave - 310-829-7081. Lap Time - 10:00 & 10:30 a.m., next session April 14 - May 19. 6-week series for children up to 24 months of age with adult.
Toddler Story Time - 11:15 a.m., next session April 14 - May 19. 6-week series for 2 year olds with adult.
Ocean Park Branch Library - 2601 Main St. - 310-392-3804.
Preschool Twilight Story Time - 7:00 - 7:30 p.m. An ongoing story time for parents and their children ages 3 - 5.
Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion - 2 pm - ages 2-5 - 310-475-4144
Border's, Westwood - 11am - 310-475-3444.

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, next session begins April 13 - May 18, registration begins March 31. Music, rhymes and stories for 24-36 month olds with adult.
Tiny Tuesday Storytime at Storyopolis
Themes change weekly; 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
Spring Vacation Special - April 6 & 13 at the Montana Ave. Library. Meet the authors and illustrators of two children's books. Ages 5 and up, 3:30 p.m.
April 6 - Gretchen Wolfe, author of Katje, The Windmill Cat
April 13 - Debrah Lanino, illustrator of Maria's Comet

April Jollies at the Ocean Park Library - April 13, 2601 Main St. 3:30 and 4:30 p.m. Spring puppet show and stories with Mr. Jesse and Lester. Ages 3-7. Tickets are free but must be picked up on the day of the show after 12 noon.

Yoga & Exercise

***New to our Calendar - 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.

***Itsy-Bitsy Yoga at Ocean Oasis Day Spa**, 1333 Ocean Ave. Tots (crawling to 24 months) - 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.; Babies (6 wks. to pre-crawling) - 11:30 - 12:30 a.m. On-going 6-week series; \$120. Pre-register at 458-8190; visit www.khefri.net for more info or contact khefri@earthlink.net.
Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381 - Mommy & Me (ages 0-5 years) - 10 - 11 a.m.; Pre-natal yoga - 7 - 8:15 p.m.
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 - 11870 Santa Monica Blvd., at the Dance Factory, West LA, 310-394-6711. Pregnancy Exercise - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m.; Post Partum Exercise - 10:15 - 11:15 a.m. (babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)

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 Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381 - Mommy & Me (ages 0-5 years) - 10 - 11 a.m.; (infants only) - 1 - 2 p.m. Prenatal yoga - 11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Yoga Works - 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal - 12:15 - 1:45pm, \$15
Ocean Oasis Day Spa - 1333 Ocean Avenue, 458-8190. Pre/Post Natal Yoga/Gentle Flow - 5:30 - 6:45 p.m. Private sessions available; call Kate Thomas, RN - 408-1717

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

Storytelling

Babystyle - 1324 Montana Avenue, 434-9590. 10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4.
Main Library - Toddler Storytime at Reed Park; 10:00 a.m. Stories for two year olds with adult.
Preschool Story Time at Reed Park; 10:30 a.m. Stories for 3-5 year olds with adult.
Fairview Branch Library - 2101 Ocean Park Blvd - 310-450-0443.
Toddler Story Time - 10:30 a.m., Mar. 5 - April 8, next session April 29 - June 3; 6-week series for 2 - 3 year olds with adult.
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., next session April 15 - May 20. Six-week series for 2 year olds.
Preschool Story Time - 11:15 a.m. Stories for 3-5 year olds with adult.
Ocean Park Branch Library - 2601 Main St. - 310-392-3804.
Lap Time - 9:20 & 10:20 a.m., thru April 15, next session May 6 - June 10. 6-week series for babies 0-24 months, co-sponsored by the SMMUSD Infant and Family Support Program.

Spring Break Art Workshops with Ally Keller at the Fairview Branch Library April 7, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Beginning watercolor techniques for students grades K - 2.
April 14, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Intermediate watercolor techniques for students grades 3 - 5.
Registration is underway. 450-4443

Yoga & Exercise

***New to our Calendar - 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 Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381 - Mommy & Me (ages 0-5 years) - 10 - 11 a.m.; Pre-natal yoga - 7 - 8:15 p.m.
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 - 11870 Santa Monica Blvd., at the Dance Factory, West LA, 310-394-6711. Pregnancy Exercise - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m.; Post Partum Exercise - 10:15 - 11:15 a.m. (babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)

Breastfeeding Group

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

FRIDAY

La Leche League of LA/Mar Vista - meets the 2nd Friday of each month at 10:00 a.m. Call 310-390-2529 for info. (next meeting April 9)

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Works - 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal - 12:15 - 1:45 p.m., \$15.
Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381 - Mommy & Me (ages 0-5 years) - 10 - 11 a.m.; (infants only) - 1 - 2 p.m. Prenatal yoga - 11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Ocean Oasis Day Spa - 1333 Ocean Avenue, 458-8190. Pre/Post Natal Yoga/Gentle Flow - 10:30 - 11:45 a.m.; Yoga for Fitness - noon - 1 p.m. Private sessions available; call Kate Thomas, RN - 408-1717

NEW LISTING - Next session begins April 23rd.
Prenatal Breath and Movement - a Continuum Movement and Yoga-based program designed to support women through various sound and movement explorations that celebrate pregnancy and labor as powerful rites of passage. 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. With Deborah Raoul at the Continuum Studio, 1629 18th St., #7. For more info call 625-3739, www.opensymovement.com. \$108 for a six-week session.

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.
April 10 - stories with Jennifer and Jon

Yoga & Exercise

Santa Monica Yoga - Pre & Post-Natal Yoga, Saturdays - 12:30 - 2:00 p.m. 1640 Ocean Park Blvd., 396-4040, www.santamoniciyoga.com
Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381; Prenatal yoga - 9:15 - 10:45 a.m., \$13
Mommy Care - 11870 Santa Monica Blvd., at the Dance Factory, West LA, 394-6711; Pregnancy Exercise - 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.; Post Partum Exercise - 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. (babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)
Ocean Oasis Day Spa - 1333 Ocean Avenue, 458-8190. Pre/Post Natal Yoga/Gentle Flow - 10:30 - 11:45 a.m.;

SUNDAY

Snowwhite - a brand new musical for kids of all ages, at the Santa Monica Playhouse

Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m. April 3 - May 30, \$12 adults, \$10 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 1 for reservations, www.santamonicaplayhouse.com

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

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

Yoga for Fitness - noon - 1 p.m. Private sessions available; call Kate Thomas, RN - 408-1717

Other

Snowwhite - a brand new musical for kids of all ages, at the Santa Monica Playhouse
Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m. April 3 - May 30, \$12 adults, \$10 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 1 for reservations, www.santamonicaplayhouse.com

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

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

Youth Rugby - Santa Monica Rugby Club (ages 6-15, co-ed, non-contact) Saturday mornings thru May 15; times and location vary; get details at www.santamonicarugby.com/youth.htm I or contact Kilian Kerwin at smyouthrugby@earthlink.net.

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 Group

***New to our Calendar - Working Mother's Breastfeeding 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.

MONDAY

Storytelling

Main Library - Lap Time at Joslyn Park, 9:30 a.m., Jan. 5 - June 4 (no class April 5, 12 and May 31). Ages 0-24 months with adult in conjunction with the Infant and Family Support program of SMMUSD. Followed immediately by "Family Connections" - 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., next session April 19 - May 24 (no class April 5 & 12). Rhymes, songs and very simple stories in Spanish for ages 2-5 with adult.

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

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
Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381 - Mommy & Me (ages 0-5 years) - 10 - 11 a.m.; (infants only) - 1 - 2 p.m. Prenatal yoga - 11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Ocean Oasis Day Spa - 1333 Ocean Avenue, 458-8190. Pre/Post Natal Yoga/Gentle Flow - 10:30 - 11:45 a.m.; Yoga for Fitness - noon - 1 p.m. Private sessions available; call Kate Thomas, RN - 408-1717

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STATE

For father and son, gay marriage is ultimate wedge

BY LISA LEFF

Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — When David Knight married his boyfriend of 10 years, his parents weren't among the mothers and fathers proudly snapping photos and sipping champagne at San Francisco's City Hall. His mother is long gone, dead of cancer when he was 17. And his father, well his father...

Knight chooses his words with care.

These are precarious times for the gay son of state Sen. William J. "Pete" Knight, the arch-conservative architect of California's Defense of Marriage Act. Does he heed his head or his heart? He doesn't want to hurt his family, but saying nothing exacts its own price.

"He believes in something I don't," David Knight says finally, his voice tight with checked emotion as he talks about the patriarch he idolized in his youth. "I'm sorry about that and I feel sad that we can't discuss it ... I don't agree with him, but I think he's a good man."

Whether same-sex couples should be allowed to marry moved from a hypothetical question to a presidential campaign topic after Massachusetts' highest court and San Francisco's mayor forced the issue, prompting conservatives to call for rewriting the U.S. Constitution and dividing state legislatures across the land.

For the Knights, it's the ultimate wedge issue.

The elder Knight, a 75-year-old Republican who will be termed out of office this year, is California's most outspoken opponent of marriage for gay and lesbian couples. Since spearheading the 2000 ballot initiative that reinforced California's "one man, one woman" marriage laws, he has used the courts to keep state agencies from granting spousal rights to same-sex couples. More recently, his nonprofit group has been at the center of the legal challenges to San Francisco's same-sex wedding spree.

The younger, a 42-year-old custom furniture maker in Baltimore, flew to the city with his longtime partner and got married just two days before the California Supreme Court shut down the same-sex weddings on March 11. The court is considering whether city officials had the authority to contravene state law by sanctioning almost 4,000 gay and lesbian marriages.

Sen. Knight wouldn't talk about his son's legally uncertain marriage to Joseph Lazzaro, an architectural designer. But during an interview with The Associated Press, he insisted his drive to keep gays from marrying doesn't make him anti-gay.

"We've had homosexuals since time immemorial," he said, "and nobody cared as long as they did their work and they didn't flaunt their sexuality and didn't try to push it on you and say, 'You have to accept me.' But now they are going to say they want to be classified as normal, and I can't accept the fact that two men, married, is normal."

They have navigated this uncomfortable terrain before, father and son. It has made real communication between them impossible. The senator, who represents a heavily Republican Southern California district, took his 14-word California Defense of Marriage Act to voters after twice failing to get a similar bill through the Democrat-controlled Legislature.

Years earlier, David Knight had told his father he was in a committed relation-

ship with another man.

David Knight was the only one of the retired Air Force colonel's three sons to follow their father, a record-setting test pilot, into a career as a military pilot. He graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy and flew jets in the first Persian Gulf War.

"My father was certainly proud of me. He spoke at my pilot training graduation. He was proud of me," David Knight haltingly recalled.

After he came out, David Knight said everything they shared was severed by their disagreement over what his father considers an unacceptable "lifestyle."

"As far as the rejection, it's hurt every day since, and that's just a reality," David Knight said. "I don't think he's proud of me anymore, but I will say I could call my father at any time and he would not hang up on me."

The younger Knight doesn't think his father's crusade has anything to do with his own sexual orientation. Reserved and apolitical, he lives openly but not overtly as a gay man.

David Knight nevertheless felt compelled to lend his voice to the heated campaign over "the Knight initiative," as Proposition 22 became known. His opinion piece for the Los Angeles Times in 1999, "My Father is Wrong on Gays," characterized his estranged father's position as "a blind, uncaring, uninformed, knee-jerk reaction to a subject about which he knows nothing and wants to know nothing."

David returned to his quiet life in Baltimore with the spark he had lit "still smoldering," but didn't publicly counter his father's politics again until San Francisco launched its historic experiment.

With the senator calling the parade of unprecedented nuptials "a sideshow," his son found himself torn between familial loyalty and his responsibility as a gay man to make another statement.

"The worst image David could muster for himself was that he would be the poster child, and it has taken a long time for him to understand that you can do that without selling your guts," said Lazzaro, 39, the more naturally extroverted of the pair. "For David, there is this real feeling of purpose overshadowing honor, this dead honor that isn't giving anything back, and that's the wrestling match."

The day before they got married, Knight and Lazzaro told Knight's older brother, who worried that this act of defiance would end any hope of a renewed relationship with their aging dad.

But the son wasn't dissuaded. The memory of his father reaching out to shake his hand at family events, while refusing to greet or even look at Lazzaro, still angered him.

"We're a classic conservative family — keep it in the closet. If you don't talk about it, it's not a problem," he said. "I know I have my father's love and I honestly feel that, but I want his acknowledgment. I want him to recognize me and Joe."

As the gay offspring of a conservative politician, David Knight belongs to a small, but visible group that also includes the lesbian daughter of Vice President Dick Cheney, the lesbian stepdaughter of U.S. Rep. Mary Bono, R-Calif., and the gay son of Christian activist Phyllis Schlafly. All are undoubtedly dealing, in the privacy of their family lives as well as the pointed glare of public debate, with the fact that gay marriage is no longer just an abstract idea.

NATIONAL □ INTERNATIONAL



WORLD BRIEFLY

Sharon: Palestinians may not get a state

By The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Palestinians might not get a state for many years as a result of Israel's unilateral "disengagement" plan, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said in interviews published Monday, providing more details of his proposal to withdraw from all of the Gaza Strip and four West Bank settlements.

Sharon also said Israel is no longer bound by a pledge to the United States not to harm Yasser Arafat, saying the Palestinian leader and the head of Lebanon's Hezbollah guerrillas, Hassan Nasrallah, are potential targets for assassination.

The prime minister gave wide-ranging interviews to the Yediot Ahronot and Haaretz dailies, as well as Israel Radio and Israel Army Radio, ahead of the weeklong Jewish holiday of Passover.

Israeli security forces were on high alert for the holiday.

Sharon said the withdrawal plan is a "deadly blow" to the Palestinians and that he would not coordinate with them — an apparent response to ultra-nationalist critics who have accused him of succumbing to Palestinian violence.

"In the unilateral plan, there is no Palestinian state. This situation could continue for many years," Sharon told Yediot.

Taiwan group seeks to void election

By The Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan — Taiwan's opposition on Monday launched a new challenge to the March 20 presidential

vote, asking the High Court to nullify the entire election and order another one.

The request by losing candidate Lien Chan was part of his two-pronged legal strategy to overturn President Chen Shui-bian's narrow victory. Lien and his Nationalist Party claim the vote was marred by irregularities and a mysterious election-eve shooting that wounded Chen.

Lien's first step came last week when he petitioned the High Court to order a recount — a move the president endorsed. The two sides are negotiating the details of the re-tally, and were scheduled to discuss the process with the High Court on Wednesday.

Nationalist spokesman Alex Tsai told reporters that Lien on Monday filed a petition with the High Court for a new election because the president "used fraud to gain power ... and people will question the legality of his power in the next four years."

Church settles sex abuse case

By The Associated Press

BOSTON — The lawyer representing four alleged sexual abuse victims of former priest Paul R. Shanley said a settlement has been reached over a civil suit with the Archdiocese of Boston, but vowed the criminal case against the one-time street priest would continue.

"It's not over until Paul Shanley is in jail," attorney Roderick MacLeish Jr. said early Monday morning. He said the settlement was reached about 11 p.m. Sunday.

MacLeish, who declined to reveal the size of the settlement at the request of his clients, said a joint state-

ment by his office and church leaders was to be released Monday.

A call to archdiocesan headquarters was not immediately returned.

The four alleged victims and their families refused to sign onto a massive \$85 million settlement with the church last September.

Shanley, once known for his street ministry to gay and troubled youth, has pleaded innocent to charges of raping boys in the Boston suburb of Newton in the 1980s. He was released on \$300,000 bail last December, and is awaiting trial.

Study: Fly better with 'no-frills'

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A new study of airline quality shows that no-frills airlines generally provide better customer service than traditional carriers.

The annual airline quality rating explains why low-cost carriers like Southwest and JetBlue are taking customers from the big airlines, its authors say.

It "adds further evidence to the emerging performance gap between the legacy carriers and the no-frills network carriers," said Brent Bowen, director of the University of Nebraska's aviation institute and a co-author of the study.

JetBlue had the second-best on-time performance, arriving punctually 86 percent of the time. Its passengers also filed fewer complaints — 0.31 per 100,000 — to the Transportation Department than all other airlines but Southwest.

Southwest, with 0.14 complaints per 100,000 customers, consistently generates the lowest complaint rate in the industry, the report said.

Continental and Northwest were tied for most complaints, 0.95 per 100,000 customers.



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Kristine Johnson Fountain of Joy

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

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- 11 NBA's Shaquille
- 12 Wrinkly fruit
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- 15 Solo in space
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- 32 Streisand film
- 34 Play on words
- 37 Idiosyncrasy
- 38 Soup veggie
- 41 Movie-planning pictures
- 44 Took notice
- 45 Move like a cat
- 46 Molif
- 47 Arkansas neighbor

DOWN

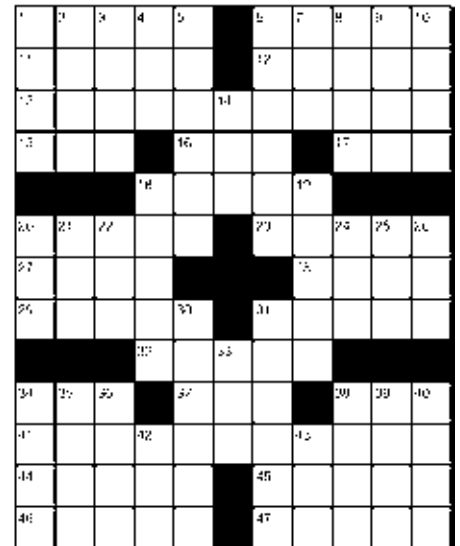
- 1 Snack
- 2 Ancient Peruvian
- 3 Quite bright
- 4 Pickle holder
- 5 Warns
- 6 Car-washing aid
- 7 Depression, e.g.
- 8 Go around
- 9 Destroy
- 10 Nudnik
- 14 Squeezing snake
- 18 Small bouquet
- 19 Net receipts?
- 20 School org.



Yesterday's answer

- 21 Long swimmer
- 22 Informant
- 24 Future rose
- 25 Hol time in Paris
- 26 Curtain holder
- 30 Enter anew
- 31 Without markup
- 33 Pen point
- 34 "You there!"
- 35 Idaho neighbor
- 36 Pay heed
- 38 Racing's Grand —
- 39 Writer Buchanan
- 40 Is inquisitive
- 42 Daiquiri ingredient
- 43 Pub order

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4-6

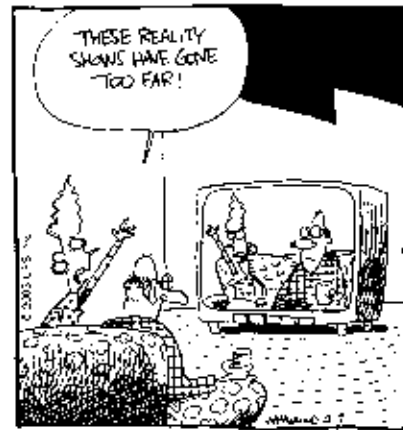


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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Soccer star's affairs kicked around by British press

By The Associated Press

■ **LONDON** — Reports that David Beckham had an affair with a former personal assistant were splashed across British newspapers Monday amid speculation about the future of his marriage.

A media frenzy was sparked by a Sunday newspaper report that the soccer star had a sexual relationship with Rebecca Loos in Madrid between September and December while his pop star wife, Victoria, was in England.

Beckham issued a statement Sunday describing the story as "ludicrous" but stopping short of denying the allegations.

"During the past few months I have become accustomed to reading more and more ludicrous stories about my private life," Beckham said Sunday in a statement through his agent. "What appeared this morning is just one further example.

"The simple truth is that I am very happily married, have a wonderful wife and two very special kids. There is nothing that any third party can do to change these facts."

A series of sexually explicit phone text messages that Beckham and Loos reportedly sent to each other was published Sunday in the News of the World and reprinted in Monday's tabloids.

Loos' brother, John, was quoted in Monday's papers as saying his sister had confirmed an affair with Beckham.

"If they've got text messages between the two of them, I don't see how she could really deny an affair took place," John Loos was quoted as saying.

Rumors about the state of Beckham's marriage have abounded since he moved to Real Madrid last summer from Manchester United.

Beckham and Loos, the 26-year-old daughter of a Dutch diplomat and English mother, were photographed together in a Madrid nightclub last September. The Beckhams released a statement at the time denying any marital problems.

Victoria Beckham — formerly Posh Spice of the Spice Girls — has declined to move full-time to Spain

as she tries to rekindle her pop career. She spends most of her time in England with the couple's two young sons, 5-year-old Brooklyn and 18-month-old Romeo.

■ **SEVIERVILLE, Tenn.** — Dolly Parton, hosting her amusement park's opening, says she has no plans to retire after nearly four decades in the country music business.

"I'll be like Bob Hope, touring when I'm 100," said the 58-year-old Sevierville native. "I love being busy."

Parton dressed up like Cleopatra for a parade during weekend events for Dollywood's opening day, played the role of a lumberjack to promote a new roller coaster, and was the opening act for a traditional Irish dance troupe.

Dollywood, set in the Smoky Mountains town of Pigeon Forge, is Tennessee's top tourist attraction.

Parton, who said she has no plans to tour this year, wants to do a musical about her life story for Broadway. The singer released an album last year titled "For God and Country," and said she wants to focus on work for children.

"I do write a lot of children's songs, and I'm going to do a children's television show, which also means I'll be doing a lot of albums," she said. "So I do hope my future will hold a lot of things for children."

Parton said a tribute album she did has prompted other singers to call her and ask about another one.

"There are a lot of people around who said they have grown up with my music," Parton said. "Shania (Twain) was one of the first people who called and said, 'I want to do 'Coat of Many Colors' because that song has touched my life so much,' and that was real nice to hear."

Parton said she likes being the face and name of an amusement park, and hopes to keep expanding the park.

"I will never retire," Parton said. "I hope to fall dead in the middle of some great event or some great song I'm singing. Then they'll say, 'Oh well, she went happy and doing what she loves.'"

■ **MONTCLAIR, N.J.** — New York Giants defen-

sive end Michael Strahan has abandoned his run for a seat on the Montclair Township Committee.

Strahan said his professional and philanthropic obligations were too great for him to give full attention to duties on the governing body of the Essex County community of 40,000.

"I have come to this conclusion with deep regret and personal disappointment," the 32-year-old said in a statement issued Saturday.

The NFL player had announced last month that he planned to run for an at-large seat in the May 11 municipal election.

Strahan and his wife, Jean, moved to Montclair four years ago and have restored a 1906 Georgian mansion. Strahan has been active in several local and national charities, including the Starlight Children's Foundation, the American Cancer Society and Housing Enterprises for the Less Fortunate.

■ **WEST HOLLYWOOD** — Dyan Cannon was released from a hospital after suffering smoke inhalation when a fire broke out in her condominium over the weekend.

The actress was awakened by a smoke detector around 8 a.m. Sunday and left her eighth-floor unit, said Los Angeles County fire Capt. Steve Martin.

Cannon was taken to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and released later in the day, hospital spokeswoman Kelli Stauning said Monday.

The fire was put out in about 15 minutes. A preliminary investigation indicated it may have been started by an electrical short in the vent above a stove, said fire Inspector Ricardo Rodriguez.

About 200 other building residents, including actress Suzanne Pleshette and actor Danny Woodburn, also had to evacuate during the fire.

Cannon, 67, starred with Warren Beatty in the 1978 hit film "Heaven Can Wait" and appeared more recently on the TV series "Ally McBeal."

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