

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

24 29 31 34 46
Meganumber: 26
Jackpot: \$52 Million

FANTASY 5

10 19 22 23 30

DAILY 3

Daytime: 5 7 5
Evening: 5 3 0

DAILY DERBY

1st: 10 Solid Gold
2nd: 12 Lucky Charms
3rd: 08 Gorgeous George

RACE TIME: 1.47.34

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ On Feb. 23, a woman asked a clerk at the Get Go! convenience store in McKeesport, Pa., to "microwave something for me. It's a life-or-death situation." The clerk complied, but when she realized that the item might be a severed penis, she called police. The woman later explained that it was a dildo-shaped container of urine because she had to be drug-tested for a job afterward and needed urine heated to "body temperature." Unexplained still in subsequent press accounts was why she stored the urine in that type of device. She was charged with criminal mischief (for contaminating a microwave food oven).

■ In December, Auckland, New Zealand, police arrested the man who had robbed a bank but then, disappointed at the size of the loot, had telephoned the bank manager and ordered him to stand out front with more money, which he would grab on a drive-by. (The robber never showed up, but police traced the phone call.)

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Our constitution protects aliens, drunks and U.S. Senators."

WILL ROGERS
US HUMORIST & SHOWMAN (1879 - 1935)

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No guts, no glory



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

James Chan (center) plays the role of a surgeon, pretending to remove the liver of Frank Yang, as Rose Hsiao assists in the mock procedure. The "operation" was part of a protest in Palisades Park on Sunday to heighten awareness for the alleged secret concentration camps in China, where thousands of people have their organs harvested and sold.

CONSENT AGENDA

City officials are expected to do some trash talking

(Editor's note: This story is part of an ongoing series that tracks the city's expenditures appearing on upcoming Santa Monica City Council consent agendas. 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 KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — To ensure that the city's garbage continues to be disposed of properly, elected officials are expected tonight to approve the purchase of eight new garbage trucks to the tune of just over \$1.8 million.

In all, the City Council is expected to spend a little more than \$2.7 million, much of it going towards the garbage trucks, street improvements along Cloverfield Boulevard and 20th Street, and the completion of a new courtyard where the former police building was demolished.

The new garbage trucks will replace older models. According to

a city staff report, the trucks will be provided by Boerner Truck Center at a cost of \$233,044.93 each. The trucks will include automated side loaders currently used by Waste Management personnel for collecting trash, recyclable and landscape waste.

In January, city staff published notices inviting bids to furnish the eight trucks. Bid forms were mailed to 61 vendors and notices were advertised, according to a report from city staff.

Two vendors were chosen because of the variety of offers they presented. One company was Boerner, the other, Carmenita.

See CONSENT, page 6

STATE

Route of the problem: MTA mulls fare hikes

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The county transit authority likely won't be able to close a looming budget shortfall without fare hikes and route changes, an official said.

The one-time fixes and cash reserves used to shore up the budget in previous years have almost run out, said Metropolitan Transportation Authority chief Roger Snoble, who is expected to propose a budget that includes a January fare increase.

Next year at this time, the agency expects to have less than \$70 million in reserve, although the shortfall for fiscal 2007 will likely reach \$150 million.

Public transit activists, like the Bus Riders Union, vowed to fight higher fares. They said a fare hike would force the poorest riders off the system, and that the agency should save money by stopping construction of expensive rail lines.

City says it's not ready for civil trial

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press Staff Writer

SM COURTHOUSE — Victims of the horrific Farmers Market crash nearly three years ago will most likely have to keep their civil lawsuits against City Hall and others on hold until the man responsible for the accident is tried in a criminal court.

Attorneys representing City Hall argued Monday in a Santa Monica courtroom for a delay in the civil proceedings because they have been unable to prepare an adequate defense. The man at the center of the case, Russell Weller, now 89 years old, has been unwilling to participate in a deposition out of fear that his statements would be used against him in a criminal trial, set to begin July 10, attorneys for City Hall said.

City Hall attorneys are requesting that the civil trials be postponed until 60 days after the criminal trial has concluded so as to give them enough time to prepare.

"Mr. Weller's physical and mental health at the time of the accident is crucial to our defense in this case, and without an opportunity to interview Mr. Weller at length and to interview his doctors and do a follow up, we would be unable to present the best case possible for our clients," said Dana Alden Fox, an attorney with Lynberg & Watkins, who was hired by City Hall.

Judge Valerie Baker said she will hold off on a decision of whether to proceed with the civil cases while defense lawyers seek immunity for Weller. If the District Attorney's Office grants immunity, prosecutors would be barred from using Weller's statements in the criminal trial.

Weller, who has pleaded not

See MARKET CRASH, page 7

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HOROSCOPES

Defer to others, Aries

Santa Monica Daily Press

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS The stars show the kind of day you'll Have:

★★★★★-Dynamic ★★★★★-Positive ★★★-Average ★★-So-so ★-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ This morning, uproar and power games surround the best-intentioned Rams. There is nothing you can do right now but pull back and not play the game. You could be wondering what you need to do in order to see a clear path. Tonight: Defer to others.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Your imagination and a new-born frivolous attitude stir up an associate's ire. Proceed with care. What might be wise is to buckle down and get into some serious work. Think through a problem later in the day. Tonight: Realign your priorities.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ You hit flak no matter which way you turn or what you say this morning. The good news: If you tread with care this afternoon, you can reverse any a.m. hassles. To your delight, others suddenly become easier! Tonight: Act as if there is no tomorrow.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Use care when approaching others, as events could certainly take a wayward action or motion. You might be cleaning up the mess that develops for several days. Try to prevent a problem before it comes to fruition. Tonight: Curl up at your favorite place -- home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Troubles surround an emotional or financial risk. You could be going "ouch!" for a long time and/or explaining yourself. Communication helps ferret out problems this afternoon. Yes, you are very serious. Tonight: Easy does it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Good intentions often pave the way to hell, as you discover. For all the tea in China, you cannot satisfy a close associate. Carefully consider your options that surround funds and security. Put on your serious garb. Tonight: Take a hard look at your budget.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ If ever there was a day to get up late, it easily could be today. The good news is, as trying as your morning could be, your afternoon could be just as easy or successful. Someone you care about is oh so serious. Tonight: As you wish.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Don't get any money tied up in a project. Don't even buy a lottery ticket with your friends. If there ever was a time to pull back and be serious, it is now. Assume a low profile, and you will be much happier. Tonight: Zero in on your needs.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ You could make a responsibility or a must appearance a lot more difficult than it needs to be. Know when to let others run the show. Know when you cannot win for losing. Right now, a lot is going on. Pull back. Tonight: Follow a friend's suggestion.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ If you try to get a grasp on what is going on, you might run away. Simply stand back and know that this too will pass -- in fact, by late afternoon. A partner could be unusually testy and difficult. Take the lead. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ You might not be able to compensate for someone's outrageousness, so don't worry about it. If you take an overview and recharge your sense of humor, you'll smile. Others need someone who is relaxed. Why not you? Tonight: Rent a movie.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★ Pull back, and don't play into the present set of events. You might be uncomfortable with this style or decision, but ultimately it is a lot better. See what is going on behind the scenes. You cannot always be in control. Tonight: Let someone else run the show.

CIRCULATION AUDIT BY

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Photo Courtesy

Raedean Kiesz (right), past Exalted Ruler of the Santa Monica Elks, congratulates Redondo Beach Elks lodge officers Lisa Meinhart (left), Leading Knight, and Judith Larence (center), current exalted ruler.

Lady Elks running rampant

By Daily Press staff

Raedean Kiesz, past Exalted Ruler of Santa Monica Elks, attended the inaugural ball of the Redondo Beach Elks to congratulate her good friend Lisa Meinhart, who was being installed as Leading Knight (first vice president).

Judith Larence was installed as the Exalted Ruler of Redondo Beach Elks Lodge. Elsewhere in the district, Mona Young Lopez was installed as the Exalted Ruler of Santa Monica Elks Lodge and Mary Lou Rocha was installed as Exalted Ruler of Torrance Elks Lodge.

According to Kiesz, 12 years ago the first woman joined the St. George, Utah Elks Lodge, after a long legal battle. Until that time, the Elks had been a “men’s only” organization.

Since their legal victory, women have held local, state and national Elks’ posts.

Earth gets a little spit and polish

By Daily Press staff

Heal the Bay is celebrating Earth Month in April with coastal and creek cleanups, and family activities in Playa del Rey, Compton Creek, the Santa Monica Pier Aquarium and Malibu Creek State Park.

“The ocean is a huge part of Southern California’s culture,” said Heal the Bay Executive Director Dr. Mark Gold. “We are fortunate to live in an area with incredible natural beauty and we have to make sure we keep our coastline clean.” Earth Month is a great time to teach people the importance of the environment and how they can help protect it, Gold said.

The Santa Monica-based environmental group will kick off Earth Month with a cleanup at Playa del Rey Beach from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, April 15.

See BRIEFS, page 7

CORRECTION — In the April 10 edition, it was erroneously reported that Lawrence Williams, who was arrested for allegedly cultivating marijuana and possession for sales, was a professor at the University of Southern California. Williams was never a professor at USC. He lectured there for one semester and is no longer affiliated with the university.

SNOW AND SURF REPORTS

CONDITIONS

DATA PROVIDED BY ONTHESNOW.COM

BEAR MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 36" - 72"	LIFT HOURS 8:00 am - 4:30 pm	RUNS OPEN 27	LIFTS OPEN 12/12
CONDITIONS: Machine Groomed, Hard Packed, Spring				

JUNE MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 120" - 144"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 50	LIFTS OPEN 6/6
CONDITIONS: Powder, Packed Powder, Machine Groomed				

MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 216" - 240"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 150	LIFTS OPEN 26/28
CONDITIONS: Powder, Packed Powder, Machine Groomed				

MOUNTAIN HIGH

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 12" - 36"	LIFT HOURS 8:00 am - 10:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 29	LIFTS OPEN 8/16
CONDITIONS: Spring				

MT. BALDY

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 18" - 36"	LIFT HOURS 8:00 am - 4:30 pm	RUNS OPEN 26	LIFTS OPEN 4/4
CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Made, Machine Groomed, Spring				

SNOW SUMMIT

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 36" - 72"	LIFT HOURS 8:00 am - 6:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 26	LIFTS OPEN 14/14
CONDITIONS: Machine Groomed, Hard Packed, Spring				

SNOW VALLEY

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 42" - 72"	LIFT HOURS 8:00 am - 4:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 24	LIFTS OPEN 5/11
CONDITIONS: Machine Groomed, Hard Packed, Spring				

CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 59°

DATA PROVIDED BY WETSAND.COM

SWELL FORECAST (3-5 FT)

Today may see some rain move through the region. As for surf, Tuesday is when our next southern hemi swell is due. This is angled somewhat steeply for SoCal (170-180) and forming such a long ways from our region around the ice cap, the good sets will likely be a little infrequent.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

Significant WNW swell hits Ncal Wednesday, SoCal Thursday...

TIDE FORECAST FOR SANTA MONICA

MONDAY				
LOW TIDE	2:29AM	1.2FT	2:39PM	0.3FT
HIGH TIDE	8:21AM	4.6FT	8:57PM	4.7FT
TUESDAY				
LOW TIDE	2:58AM	0.8FT	2:59PM	0.5FT
HIGH TIDE	8:55AM	4.5FT	9:13PM	5.0FT
WEDNESDAY				
LOW TIDE	3:29AM	0.4FT	3:18PM	0.7FT
HIGH TIDE	9:29AM	4.4FT	9:31PM	5.2FT
THURSDAY				
LOW TIDE	4:00AM	0.1FT	3:38PM	1.0FT
HIGH TIDE	10:04AM	4.2FT	9:51PM	5.4FT
FRIDAY				
LOW TIDE	4:33AM	-0.1FT	3:57PM	1.4FT
HIGH TIDE	10:41AM	3.9FT	10:13PM	5.5FT

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The Q Line

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Despite threats of a lawsuit, the Planning Commission has approved plans for the creation of a public beach club at the old Marion Davies estate. While the decision was warmly received by supporters of the project, a handful of neighbors near the property are demanding that certain conditions, such as 24-hour security and a new traffic signal at the club's proposed entrance, be put in place before the project moves forward.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know: **“How should city officials weigh the opinions of residents in cases like this, in which the general public supports a project but a handful of residents closest to the issue does not?”**

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

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LA is the South of our time**Editor:**

David Pissarra likes to ridicule Southerners, but Los Angeles is drifting off from the rest of the country and is the South of our time.

If anyone reads his column outside of West LA, it's for laughs, whether he intends to amuse or not. He's a caricature as much as any character on Hee Haw, as is the writer of Incites.

Pissarra is particularly humorous because he's a lawyer and all his advice contradicts the law.

The latest column on immigration is a perfect example (SMDP, April 4, page 4). Does he not care if millions violate the law? His arguments are more of a comedy skit than debate. The idea that illegals are all picking lettuce is a joke. Modern technology requires less workers on farms or anywhere else. Pissarra can laugh about it because one of the only jobs not threatened by illegals is lawyers.

I read recently that a good percent of computer programmers overstay their H1B visas. It's often said they pay taxes, but likely they would be working on contract and responsible for their own taxes. Of course, they're not going to pay them, and can undercut legal workers more easily. Indeed, they're not the only ones violating the law.

Mr. Pissarra is not concerned about the law and he's a lawyer. If the law doesn't matter than our elections are pointless and we're living in a state that's not legitimate, our own little confederacy of idiots.

Frank Palardy
Santa Monica

Police paint jobs: Poetic justice?**Editor:**

Should we paint police cars black and white or stay with blue and white?

When it comes to cops' colors, how about mimicking a beating in black and blue?

The logic for "pro" says tourists need to recognize cops on sight. The argument for "con" worries about an aggressive image over which someone may sue.

They're cops with sticks and guns, aggression already part of the job. Fighting over a paint job with these thoughts is just wrong.

Attack the cost instead. An empty budget says skip the paint job. But, who cares what color the cars are, when the bank balance is strong?

Two hundred cars at \$4,000 (each) is \$800,000. Citizens at the body shop pay half, but they can haggle.

FDR taught us government can inject money into the economy like flowing sand. Did the body shops lobby City Hall? If so, our fingers will waggle.

Once the paint dries, the issue will pass, now so tender. One thing to consider, do cops want the change for the stated reason?

A cop once said on hot days he enjoys putting suspects hands on a black fender.

Since 9-11 even to suggest any flawed cop personalities is called treason.

So follow the money and see which body shops get paid.

Time and fairness says evenly divide the work.

But, if a few get more jobs; well the trap has been laid.

And someone will use a mirror to reflect sunlight into the murk.

Gregory Jacobs
Santa Monica

WANT TO TICKLE YOUR FUNNY BONE?
CHECK OUT THE COMICS ON PAGE 12!

Do you have community news?



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Santa Monica Daily Press

HIV identification bill puts governor to the test



**WHAT'S
THE POINT?**
BY DAVID PISSARRA

The headline read "California names-based HIV reporting bill headed to governor."

My first reaction was abject horror. We have an Austrian governor and any system that reports names to the government just evokes images for me of the movies "1984," "Soylent Green" and the "Holocaust." I was appalled that this bill, which was unanimously approved in the California Senate, is going to the Governor, a man who seems to be marching more with the far right Republicans as each day brings us closer to his re-election.

But as I read the article, it turns out that the Aids Healthcare Foundation president Michael Weinstein co-sponsored the bill and is absolutely giddy that the Senate moved so swiftly on getting this bill through the legislature and onto the governor's desk. It seems that the current system of reporting, which identifies people with HIV by a unique set of letters and numbers is inaccurate.

That inaccuracy is no longer acceptable to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, which is about to begin a new allotment procedure for their grant money. States which do not use a names-based system will lose funds, and California stands to lose up to \$50 million, which would directly affect those who are receiving care and treatment.

I had to look at why my immediate reaction was so viscerally anti-reporting. As someone who is not HIV positive I can't speak from the position of those whose names will be reported, so my reaction is all the more curious. Was it from years of fear of homophobic backlash? Was it from growing up in a culture that said HIV equals death? Is it that HIV is a sexually transmitted disease and we as a society have so many weird views on sex? Is this just internalized homophobia on my part? Am I just paranoid that the government is collecting information?

When I look at it, I believe I have been subjected to all of the above pressures that go into making one's opinion.

The gay community has been the subject of raids, scrutiny and discrimination, which still continue in many areas. Considered to be security risks by some and morale busters by others, we are discriminated against in the military. The Los Angeles Police Department has a few skeletons in its closet about the manner in which the gays were treated in the '60s and '70s, and into the '80s, which is when I started to get my first impressions of what being gay in America means.

As a teenager my mother created an atmosphere of fear and paranoia about HIV. Then when I came out of the closet, it was worse. I can still hear her voice just dripping with maternal fear, saying "for God's sake, just don't get sick." That was her way of dealing with HIV education.

HIV is a sexually transmitted disease and we all get weird when we talk about STDs. They are the subject of humor and embarrassment. They are not dealt with well in our society, mostly because we allow overprotective parents to dictate the subjects that are discussed. I've always found it curious that a child can watch television and see hate, violence and murders every night of the week, but one rarely sees responsible sexual behavior being demonstrated.

As open as I am, I still find myself having pockets of homophobia. It is a pervasive and corrosive thing that permeated my thoughts, and it has taken years of work to root out the majority of it.

Then there is the paranoia that the government is collecting information, which is really silly on my part. After all, if the government wants to find out if I'm gay, all it has to do is read a newspaper. So I know I'm safe on that front.

I know the government collects information on all of us for all sorts of reasons. It's no different than the credit card companies and the marketing companies collecting data points on purchases and Web site visits. It does however, seem to have a specter of sinisterness about it when the government is doing it.

The sad reality of it all though, is that HIV rates are increasing in certain demographics. Black women and men, young gay men, and Hispanics are all facing an increased infection rate. The government needs to get more and better information to slow the spread of this disease. Due to their own homophobia and denial, the black community is set to have a major wave of deaths in large part due to their denial about gay sex, and IV drug use.

The culture of machismo is going to do the same thing in the largely Catholic anti-condom Hispanic community. In the gay community, the factors of young men who don't know anyone who has died, and increasingly effective treatment options have led to a resurgence of infections due to unsafe sex.

It is scary that the disease has matured enough that it no longer evokes outrage, but rather support for a bill that backs names-based reporting. On the one hand it is just a disease, really not all that different from diabetes or cancer, and should be treated as such. On the other, the people who have it tend to be the disenfranchised, the unwanted, the easy targets of government abuse.

Given the Governor's anti-gay, pro-family values, hard line Republican stance, it is a veritable certainty he'll sign this bill. It is ironic though that the Governor who was so proud of his sexual prowess and drug use, would sign into law a bill which creates a database of HIV infected people which makes it that much easier to reduce their privacy and civil liberties. So much for the Republican values of individual freedom and less government interference.

(David Pissarra is a business development lawyer in the Santa Monica firm of Pissarra & Grist. He welcomes your questions and comments. He can be reached at dpissarra@pissarra.com or (310) 664-9969.)

OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to editor@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.



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INCITES
BY ED SILVERSTEIN

You deserve them. Especially you young people whose obsession with your iPods, Blackberries, Game Boys and camera phones has infected you with an apathetic brain rot that precludes your ability to comprehend that your entire future is being sold out in order to further enrich a small group of aging, white, male sociopaths.

You deserve them because you sat in a silent stupor as our country was reduced to a second rate banana republic when the presidential election was stolen by a cabal of racists, theological fanatics and rapacious CEOs. Nor did you utter even the faintest peep of protest when that same clan of conspirators ushered in electronic voting machines that defied exit polls by a consistent 3 percent in favor of their chosen candidate while deliberately omitting a paper trail that could evidence their deceit.

You deserve them because you let them use lies and smear tactics that even a cast member of Survivor would be embarrassed by, to discredit opponents who were decorated veterans. And when they slashed services and benefits for veterans, your only response was to wave your China-made American flags in rabid support of their audacious claims that they were the party of Patriots and their opponents did not support the troops.

You deserve them because your outrage was reserved for a presidential peccadillo, while ignoring the compromising of our national security by a president who approved the outing of an undercover CIA operative and the endangerment of the lives of her entire network of spies, out of petty vindictiveness against her husband who had the gall to tell the truth about the president's lies.

You deserve them because your voice was absent when the president took a month-long vacation after being advised that Bin Laden was going to use passenger jets to attack our country, then gave him high approval ratings for spending seven minutes reading to school kids after learning that Bin Laden had done just that.

You deserve them because you permitted your brain to be persuaded that it was OK to wage war against one country for the actions of another. Worse, you passively accepted revelation after revelation that exposed that the war had been planned

long before a single twin tower had fallen, that the intelligence had been intentionally manipulated, that there were no weapons of mass destruction, that \$9 billion vanished into thin air or into the deep pockets of the corporate cronies swimming in billions in no bid contracts, that a troop of 12-year-old Girl Scouts could have done a better job of prosecuting the war than those whom we elected and that we have spent \$300 billion (on our way to a trillion) to start a civil war, create a new theocracy that prays for our demise and to provide the best recruitment and training of terrorists that (lots of) money can buy.

And you parents — so protective that the only form of social intercourse your kids are permitted is sterile play dates, whose fear of compromising your child's delicate egos dictate that even losers get trophies, whose fear of exposure to the indelicacies of the real world require home schooling, where is the spitting rage that your government has mortgaged your kids future with a \$9 trillion in national debt, not to mention that "Leave No Child Behind" left the funding behind.

And the rest of you, so engrossed in "American Idol" that you failed to notice the corporate coup that allowed big energy, pharma, insurance, farming, media, autos and banking to divvy up our hard earned tax dollars inflating profits to record levels while repaying us with under funded pensions, the elimination of health care and sending our jobs overseas.

And then there's the evangelicals, fundamentalist, holy rollers and extremist, who turned a blind eye as poor and elderly were starved out and prisoners were tortured, to insure the far more important religious doctrine that members of the same sex never be permitted to marry.

You deserve this government because you didn't yell, bitch or march when they retreated into the shadows of secrecy, lied, cheated and stole, invaded our privacy, failed to protect us in the aftermath of natural disasters, destroyed our environment for short term profit and retaliated against anyone who chose scientific reality over expedient falsehoods or religious dogma.

You deserve this government because most of you don't have the slightest clue that any of this is going on.

So you got the government you deserve and because of that, when you turn around and realize that everything you held dear, everything you took for granted, is gone, then you'll have gotten the fate you deserve as well.

(Ed Silverstein can be reached at incites@incites.net.)

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NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF PROPOSED FY 2006-07 ONE-YEAR ACTION PLAN ALLOCATING FEDERAL CDBG AND HOME FUNDS

Notice is hereby given that the City of Santa Monica has developed the Proposed FY 2006-07 One-Year Action Plan. The One-Year Action Plan is submitted annually to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). It delineates the City's specific projects and activities for one-year use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME funds in order to meet the City's overall housing and community development needs as specified in the Consolidated Plan (FY 2005-10) adopted by City Council and submitted to HUD in June 2005. The City is seeking community comments on the Proposed One-Year Action Plan.

Copies of the Proposed FY 2006-07 One-Year Action Plan are now available to the public for a 30-day community review period ending May 9, 2006. Copies are available at City Hall, the Santa Monica Public Library (main and branch libraries), and on the web at smgov.net, or you may contact the Human Services Division, 1685 Main Street, Room 212, Santa Monica, CA 90401, telephone (310) 458-8701; TDD (310) 458-8696. Please send your written comments to the above address by May 9, 2006, or you may present your comments verbally at the City Council public hearing on that date.

The Council Chambers are wheelchair accessible. If you have any special disability-related needs/accommodations, please contact the Human Services Division.



LOCAL

City has bone to pick with cemetery records

CONSENT, from page 1

While Carmenita's price was the cheapest, staff recommended Boerner because their trucks offered greater maneuverability, operator comfort and dealer support, according to a city staff report.

Money for the trucks will come from the solid waste fund and be transferred to City Hall's vehicle replacement program, according to city staff.

MAKING STREETS SAFER

Cloverfield Boulevard and 20th Street are two of the most heavily traveled streets within the city, particularly in the area between the Santa Monica Freeway (1-10) and Pico Boulevard, according to city staff.

Because of the high traffic, city staff has proposed enhancing accessibility for both vehicles and pedestrians to the tune of \$450,000. The enhancements will include wider streets, new sidewalks and increased lighting.

As part of the project, city staff will host a series of public meetings to gather input that will be reflected in the final recommendations.

Amphion Environmental Inc. has been awarded the contract to facilitate the meetings. Amphion beat out two other firms for the contract. Amphion has extensive experience working with City Hall, having served as a consultant on the Transit Mall project, and is under contract in the Big Blue Bus Rapid 3 shelters project.

The process began in June of 2001, as city staff prepared a feasibility study to improve safety, accessibility and aesthetics between the freeway and Pico Boulevard. Several design alternatives were shared with various city departments, including the police and fire departments, Big Blue Bus, solid waste management, and more. Their input was incorporated into the study, city staff said. The project became inactive shortly after that, after funding dried up.

Following a round of community meetings to be scheduled soon, a project design will be finalized, with construction to begin in the summer of 2007.

FILLING EMPTY SPACE

The City Council is expected to enter into the construction phase of a project to replace interim landscaping with a permanent courtyard in areas impacted by the demolition of former police building additions to City Hall.

City staff is recommending Pima Corp. for the construction contract, which is in the amount of \$217,200, with an emergency fund of \$27,120.

On Dec. 16, 2003, the City Council approved the demolition of the former police building and replaced it with interim landscaping until a permanent courtyard could be designed, according to a city staff report.

On Jan. 10, 2006, ROD Buildings Inc. was hired to rehabilitate those areas impacted by the police building, including infill of non-original openings and installation of doors and windows at historic locations in and near the courtyard. It is anticipated that the restoration work will be nearing completion, prior to installing the interim landscape, according to a city staff report.

Pima beat out nine other contractors for the bid. Pima has successfully completed several other projects in the city, including

repairs to pedestrian walkways to the beach, Santa Monica Airport landscaping, irrigation and drainage improvements, and traffic improvements for Sunset Park.

UNDERGROUND STORAGE

SunWest Engineering Constructors are in line to receive \$133,500 over the next three years as part of a deal to certify, test and maintain underground storage tanks that hold gasoline and diesel to fuel city-owned vehicles and emergency generators.

The contract would be for a two-year period with one additional one-year renewal option, according to a city staff report.

The tanks are located at various locations throughout the city, including underneath fire stations, the Public Safety Facility, and Big Blue Bus yards. They are subject to annual testing and certification of the electronic monitoring equipment and vapor recovery performance testing, which is required by the State Water Resources Control Board and the South Coast Air Quality Management District, according to a city staff report.

In October of 2005, City Hall published notices inviting bids for the project, and mailed bid forms to 46 vendors. Six bids were received and evaluated, based on competitive pricing, annual usage, responsiveness to bid requirements and references, according to a city staff report.

While Tank Specialists of California, the former supplier of those services, offered a lower price, city staff was not satisfied with their prior performance, particularly with administration, coordination, and follow-through of necessary maintenance and repairs, which led city staff to cancel the contract.

FINDING OUT WHERE THE BONES ARE BURIED

To keep better track of where Santa Monica residents have been laid to rest, the City Council is expected to award a contract to Intra U.S.A. for the conversion of all interment information and records into digital form so they can be preserved and more easily accessible.

The contract is in the amount of \$127,350, plus a 10 percent contingency of \$12,735.

More than 60,000 former Santa Monica residents have been buried at the Woodlawn Cemetery and Mausoleum, a 26.6-acre site stretching along Pico Boulevard, which the City Hall owns and operates. Services provided at the cemetery include the selling of grave sites, niches, and crypt spaces; the selling of urns, vases; interring and disintering human remains; and setting grave markers, according to a city staff report.

Currently, all of those services are tracked manually, with records being accessed daily by cemetery staff. Paper cards are used to store information while paper and cloth maps record who is buried where and which spaces are available, city staff said. The quality of those records has deteriorated over time and they have become increasingly difficult to read, according to a city staff report.

City staff said digitizing the information will be more efficient and accurate in accounting for cemetery business transactions. The automated system also will provide increased security through data back-



Judge is ‘more inclined to grant delay’

MARKET CRASH, from page 1

guilty to 10 felony counts of vehicular manslaughter with gross negligence, apparently lost control of his car after he rear-ended a Mercedes Benz at the intersection of Fourth Street and Arizona Avenue. Police say he hit the accelerator instead of the brake and traveled 995 feet through the market at speeds of up to 60 mph, hurling pedestrians into the air before stopping, a California Highway Patrol report said.

The 10 people killed ranged in age from 7 months to 78 years old.

The 36 civil lawsuits that have been filed against Weller, City Hall and other agencies believed to be liable, had been put on hold until criminal proceedings were finalized.

But Judge Valerie Baker ruled last fall that six of those cases must go forward because some of the plaintiffs — all of whom are victims of the July 16, 2003 accident — are

aging or their health is deteriorating.

On March 29, Baker ordered those cases to go to trial July 10, the same day the criminal trial is scheduled to begin.

In response, attorneys representing City Hall filed a motion requesting that the civil trial be delayed until 60 days after the completion of the criminal trial so they can gather statements from Weller. If granted, the civil trial date would tentatively be set for Sept. 5.

Lawyers for the victims are fighting the motion to delay the trial on grounds that defense attorneys had plenty of time to prepare for the case and still have an option of obtaining a deposition from Weller. That includes asking the District Attorney's office to grant Weller immunity.

Fox said he and the other members of the defense team will file a request for immunity, but he said the chances of prosecutors granting it are slim to none.

“Even if they did grant us immunity, that would leave us with very little time to

conduct the deposition, follow-up interviews and possible a medical exam,” Fox said.

The victims' attorneys said their clients have a right to have their cases heard before the court in a timely fashion. There is a concern that Weller may die before the trial begins, denying the victims a chance to learn the truth about the accident, which has left many with permanent physical disabilities and deep emotional scars.

“Justice delayed is justice denied,” attorney Steve Archer told Judge Baker during a status hearing Monday.

Representing 63 plaintiffs, Archer was one of more than a dozen lawyers who filled the courtroom, with some having to take a seat in the jury box because of space issues. Others had to argue from seats in the general audience.

Baker said she will continue to consider arguments for and against a July 10 trial

date and should have a final answer by May 22, she said. At that time, lawyers also will discuss the possibilities for mediation and settlement negotiations.

“There are two very strong interests here that I must balance,” Baker said. “On one hand, I do not want the defense to go without a deposition, but on the other, the plaintiffs are entitled to a fair and timely resolution. I'm more inclined to grant the delay ... (but) the defense must exhaust all options first.”

One of the plaintiffs has already died while waiting for the civil and criminal cases to proceed, thus making the pain and suffering clam null and void for her estate.

“I know I can make it (to a later court date),” said attorney Joyce Mendlin, who is representing two clients in the case, one of whom has lung cancer and a pacemaker, and may not be around long enough to testify. “But I'm not sure my client can.”

Pilot parking program might take flight following meeting

CONSENT, from page 6

up and storage.

PARKING PERMITTED

In the interest of promoting small businesses, the City Council is expected to adopt an on-street parking permit fee for employees of business located near 10th Street and Pico Boulevard.

The permit fee will be \$30 each, per quarter, generating \$2,400 in new revenue.

However, all of that money will go back into managing the program, as city staff will be required to process new permit applications and issue the permits. The City Council examined creating a permit fee that would generate more revenue than is required to run the program, providing a resource for community improvement projects, according to a city staff report. But the City Attorney's office determined that such a fee is not consistent with state law which authorizes the sale of employee permits, and therefore,

the idea was not explored further.

The one-year pilot program was approved by the City Council in February to provide relief for business owners along Pico Boulevard who complained about a lack of parking. Twenty permits will be issued, with a business eligible for five total. A lottery will be set up to determine which businesses will qualify. The cost of each permit will be \$120 per year or \$30 per quarter, according to a city staff report.

The suggested employee permit fee is double what is charged for a residential parking permit, which is \$15. It will take more time to issue employee permits, staff said, because it is more complicated to establish and verify eligibility, as well as to monitor whether or not employees and businesses are in compliance with the pilot program's regulations. Additionally, the materials fee per permit will be greater because the materials will be purchased in lower quantities, meaning less opportunities for discounts.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 3

An inland cleanup of Compton Creek will occur from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, April 22. Historically, the creek, which feeds into the LA River, has been one of the most polluted water bodies in the region.

Heal the Bay's Santa Monica Pier Aquarium will host family-oriented Earth Month events from 12:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. on April 22 and 23 with festivities and Earth Day activities.

Rounding out the community service activities is the Malibu Creek State Park Restoration on Saturday, April 29 where volunteers will help restore native plant life to Malibu Creek. Native plants provide habitat for local animals and prevent stream bank erosion.

Heal the Bay will conclude Earth Month with “Commotion in the Ocean,” a fun-filled day of marine exploration and ocean awareness, to be held from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday, April 30, at the Santa Monica Pier Aquarium. The day's activities will feature arts and crafts, oceanographic demonstrations and celebrity readings of environmental ocean-themed books.

“Human and marine health, as well as the economic well being of our community, depends on controlling runoff and preventing pollution of the ocean,” Gold said. “Our activities help educate people about this situation and give them fun ways to be a part of the solution.”

Also, Heal the Bay will benefit from a 5K/10K benefit run starting at 8 a.m. on Sunday, April 30 at 2600 Barnard Way in Santa Monica. Called the “Carpe Diem Santa Monica Classic,” the run will take participants on a spectacular course to a picture-perfect finish on the Santa Monica Pier.

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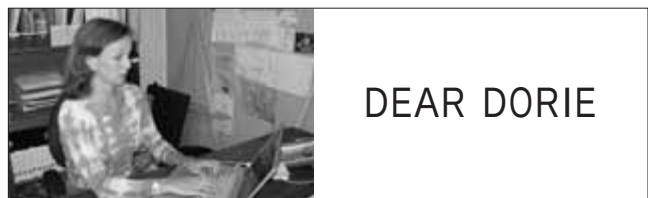
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DEAR DORIE

Don't be giving junior a hand

Dear Dorie,

When does parenting a toddler change from “setting limits” to real discipline? What are the forms of discipline being promoted/taught by the “experts?”

Dear Parent,

Most current experts agree that the term “discipline” carries connotations of harshness and emotional coldness, if not punishment or coercion. Therefore, early childhood professionals regularly use the term “guidance.” Using effective and appropriate guidance is one of the toughest challenges faced by parents.

There is no shift from one method at one age to another. Overall guidance is based on respect for your child.

In the real world of parenting, the primary goal of toddler guidance is to prevent injury caused by natural inquisitiveness and find safe ways to assert independence. In most cases, guiding your toddler is nothing more than a matter of environmental control. There are a few tips:

- Avoid needless conflicts. If she loves to climb, don't keep her in the dining room.
- Handle fighting firmly, but gently.
- Encourage negotiation. “We will read two more books, then go to the store.”
- Seek alternatives to no.

Be gentle when it comes to the little things. Above all, remember that corporal punishment — slapping a child's hand, spanking, etc. — not only does not improve behavior, but can often make it worse.

(Submit your questions to “Dear Dorie” at meek@smmusd.org or call (310) 452-6132).

Just playing the day away



HOW MUCH IS ENOUGH?

BY JEAN ILLSLEY CLARKE PH.D.

“Can we play now?” Clarissa was perplexed. Why did her children ask to play? They had been at Saturday swim classes all morning and their mom had spent the entire afternoon playing with them. They had played a competitive math game with flashcards. Clarissa had taught them three “taking no for an answer” games: “follow me,” “follow you,” “traffic cop,” and “red light, green light.” They had gone on a nature walk to see how many different kinds of birds they could spot.

All of that had been fun. At least Clarissa hoped so. Truth to tell, she was getting tired when Mason declared he was bored with birds and Madison whined, “Can we play now?”

“But we have been playing all afternoon,” Clarissa snapped, perplexed and slightly irritated. Well, more than slightly. “What do you want to play now?”

“Just play, mom. We want to play.”

All the “play” they did with mom was important. It strengthened connections with mom, and it was good learning time. But adult directed activities need to be balanced with child directed free play, the time children consider to be real play.

Mason and Madison needed some time for (real) free play. Time for them to select an activity, engage in it, create their own play scenario (free of adult direction), and bring the activity to closure. This need for free play time spans the childhood years.

Infants need some time to themselves. Babies who are entertained full time fail to develop self-comforting skills.

Toddlers must have free time to explore the environment — to touch, drop, taste, wiggle, throw, stack, smell and listen to a wide variety of safe objects, and yes, people. Important brain-building activities.

Two-year-olds need free time to practice their newfound physical capabilities, to struggle and master.

Three- to 5-year-olds need free play time to explore their own creativity and their relationships with peers,

real or imaginary.

School-age children must have free time to develop and test their knowledge of rules. Who makes them? Who follows them? What happens if you follow them? Break them? All the learning that happens when two-thirds of a softball game is spent arguing. That can't happen when an adult coach is running the show.

Adolescents need time to explore their relationships, to think about their values, to dream or dread about their futures.

Free playtime is not time controlled by the TV or game scenarios. It is time controlled by the children themselves and if they have lost the skill of doing that, adults need to act to alter the children's schedules.

How?

- Time to play out of doors.
- Less TV, video, games, and plugged in earphones.
- Fewer lessons, organized sports, clubs, volunteer activities.

Are those activities bad? Not necessarily. Just carve out enough time for free play.

Bergen (1988) views the difference between work and play in early childhood programs as a continuum from free play to work. For each of the five types of play or work activity, there is a corresponding type of learning that occurs. On this spectrum, free play corresponds to discovery learning, guided play (the nature walk) to guided discovery learning, directed play (adult guided games) to receptive learning, work disguised as play (math flashcards) to rote learning, and work to drill-repetitive practice.

How much free playtime does your child need? It varies with the temperament of the child, but we can safely plan for half-an-hour to one hour of free playtime every day.

In the overindulgence studies adults who had been overindulged as children complained about being overscheduled with not enough free time for themselves.

(Jean Illsley Clarke Ph.D., Connie Dawson Ph.D., and David J. Bredehoft 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.”* Illsley Clarke can be reached at jiconsults@aol.com. To read more about overindulgence go to www.overindulgence.info.)

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10:00 a.m. – noon; 630 W. 5th St., downtown LA; 213-228-7000.

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2:00 & 3:00 p.m. Plant your favorite flower; free with admission: \$5 adults; \$3 children. 6505 Wilshire Blvd., LA, 323-71-8989.

CHILDREN'S NATURE INSTITUTE WALK – 10:00 a.m.

Temescal Canyon, 15601 Sunset Blvd. Enjoy the outdoors on a guided walked geared for young children. Infants – 8 years; \$7 donation per family.

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KINDERGARTEN PREVIEW NIGHT
WED., APRIL 26, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

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PARENTING SEMINARS by BETSY BRAUN BROWN
THURS., MAY 11 – 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. – NURSERY SCHOOL KNOW HOW

Get acquainted with early childhood programs (preschools and nursery schools) available in the city and valley. Philosophies, finding the right school for your family and a time line for observing, choosing and applying will be discussed. \$40. THESE SEMINARS FILL EARLY! RESERVE YOUR SPOT ASAP! Call 459-9209 or visit www.parentingpathways.com for info and reservations.

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ONGOING CALENDAR BELOW

TUESDAY

Movies for Moms! 11:00 a.m., Loews Cineplex Broadway Theatre, 1441 3rd St. Promenade – for Moms and babies newborn – 1 year old. Doors open early for socializing and getting comfortable. Visit www.enjoytheshow.com/freelmoms for details.

Storytelling

Main Library – 601 Santa Monica Blvd. – 458-8621

Baby Time – 10:15 & 10:45 a.m., babies up to 2 years. Current session thru April 11.

Spanish and Bilingual Stories – 11:20 a.m. Ages 2 – 5.

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

Toddler Story Time in Spanish – 10:00 a.m., ages 2-3, next session begins Apr. 25.

Baby Time – 11:00 a.m., babies to age 2, next session begins Apr. 25

Twilight Story Time -7pm – an ongoing program for 3-5 year olds.

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

Family Story Time – 7:00 p.m., all ages.

Tiny Tuesday Storytime at Storyopolis For ages infant to 3. 11:00 a.m. 116 North Robertson, Plaza A, LA. 310-358-2500, www.storyopolis.com

Barnes and Noble at the Grove Storytime for ages 2 – 6. 10:00 a.m. 189 Grove Drive, LA, 323-525-0270

Classes

YWCA – A Place for Parents –Toddler & Me Class - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. – 12 to 36 months; Infant & Me Class – 10:45 – 11:45 a.m. and 1:30 – 2:30 p.m., 0 – 12 months; 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

BREAKTHROUGH PARENTING CLASSES – 7:00 – 9:30 p.m.

An advanced 10-week parent education course. Continuous enrollment. For info call Jayne A. Major, Ph.D., Breakthrough Parenting Services, Inc., 310-823-7846, jm@BPinAction.org.

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:30 – 1:55 p.m., \$15. Mommy and Me – 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.

Mommy Care – at the Dance Factory, 11606 San Vicente Blvd., Brentwood, 310-394-6711. Combined Pregnancy/Recovery Exercise Group – 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.. (babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end) Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-998-1981 - drop-in, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

MOMS Club of SM South Playgroups

Newborn group - call for time. 4:30 p.m., separate groups for children born in 2000 and 2001. Call or email Alison at 450-0209 or riversalison@hotmail.com for more info. All moms welcome!

Storytelling

The Talking Stick Coffee Lounge – 1630

Ocean Park Blvd., 450-6052
10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4 at this neighborhood coffee shop.

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

Story Time for Twos – 9:30 a.m. Preschool Story Time – 10:30 a.m.; ages 3-5. Next session begins Apr. 26.

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

Baby Time - 10:15 & 11:15 a.m., ages 0-2. April 12 – May 17.

Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St. –392-3804.

Preschool Twilight Story Time – 7:00 p.m. Parents/children ages 3-5.

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

Border's, Westwood – 11a.m. – 310-475-3444.

Classes

YWCA – A Place for Parents –Toddler & Me Class - 10:30 – 11:30 a.m., 5 to 36 months; 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

Rhythm Child Parent & Me Rhythms, Santa Monica Studios, 3025 Olympic Blvd., 9:30 – 10:15 a.m. Children explore rhythms through drum play. For toddlers. \$100 for 8 weeks. Call 204-5466 or visit www.rhythmhchild.net for more info and session dates.

Enchanted Lunchtime Theatre at Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th St., 394-9779 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. For ages 3 – 5 with parents. This theatrical adventure includes story time, theatre games, crafts, play building and lunch. Reservations required 24 hours in advance, \$19.50 includes lunch for child and lunch.

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal – 12:30 – 2:00 p.m., \$15 **Fitness for Moms** – Babies Welcome! Step Aerobics, 10:30 a.m. at the YMCA, 393-2721, ext. 117 for more info. Free for members, non-members pay \$90 for 10 classes.

Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-998-1981, drop-in, 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

MOMS Club of SM South Playgroup – 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. for children born 1/02 – 2/03; 3:30 p.m., for children born 3/03 – 12/03, Call or email Alison at 450-0209 or riversalison@hotmail.com for more info. All moms welcome!

Storytelling

Main Library – 601 Santa Monica Blvd. – 458-8621

Current session thru April 13 for:

Story Time for Twos – 10:15 & 10:45 a.m. **Preschool Story Time** – 11:20 a.m. Ages 3 – 5.

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

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.

Story Time for Twos – 10:15 a.m. April 13 – May 18.

Preschool Story Time – 11:15 a.m.; ages 3-5. Ongoing.

Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St – 310-392-3804.

Baby Time – 9:20 & 10:20 a.m. Babies to 2 years. Current session Apr. 11 – May 16.

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

Classes

YWCA – A Place for Parents –Toddler & Me Class - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m and 10:45 – 11:45 a.m., 12 to 36 months; Parent Support Group – 3:30 – 4:30 p.m., age 3 – 5 years; 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

BREAKTHROUGH PARENTING CLASSES – 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

An advanced 10-week parent education course. Continuous enrollment. For info call Jayne A. Major, Ph.D., Breakthrough Parenting Services, Inc., 310-823-7846, jm@BPinAction.org.

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:30 – 1:55 p.m., \$15. Mommy and Me – 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.

Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

Breastfeeding Groups

La Leche League of LA/Mar Vista – meets the 1st Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the Community Room of the Westchester Municipal Bldg., 7166 W. Manchester Ave., corner of Lincoln and Manchester. Call 310-390-2529 for info.

The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-998-1981 - drop-in, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 4-8 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

MOMS Club of SM South Playgroups

11:00 a.m. - playgroup for children born 10/04 – 5/05. Call or e-mail Alison at 450-0209 or riversalison@hotmail.com for more info.

Parent's Night Out at Child's Play, 2299 Westwood Blvd., 6:00 – 11:00 p.m.

Kids get a night of supervised fun with pizza, games and more while parents go out. Ages 3-10, \$9 per hour, \$7 siblings, 3 hour minimum. Reservations required, 470-4997. www.child-splayonline.net

Planetarium Show at SMC's John Drescher Planetarium, 7:00 p.m. - Night Sky Show, 8:00 p.m. – featured program. \$5 adults, \$4 children. Pico and 17th St., 434-3000.

Classes

YWCA – A Place for Parents –Toddler & Me Class - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. – 12 – 36 mos.; Playtime/Parent Support - 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881 for details and prices.

Yoga & Exercise

Kid's Yoga Circle Class at Exhale Spa – 3:30 p.m., for ages 5 – 11, 1422 2nd St., 260-2736 or yogaforkids@hotmail.com.

Fitness for Moms – Babies Welcome! Indoor Cycling, 10:30 a.m. at the YMCA, 393-2721, ext. 117 for more info. Free for members, non-members pay \$90 for 10 classes.

Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:30 – 1:55 p.m., \$15.

Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

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., every other Sat., 310-559-BOOK.

Village Books, 1049 SwarthmoreAve, Pacific Palisades – 10:30 a.m., 454-4063.

826LA, 685 Venice Blvd, 2nd Floor, Venice – 10:30 – 11:30 a.m., ages 3-6, RSVP to info

@825LA.com or 310-314-8418. (826LA is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting students with their creative and expository writing skills, and to helping teachers inspire their students to write).

Classes

YWCA – Toddler & Me - 9:45 – 10:45 a.m.; Parent Enrichment once per month , 11:00 a.m. – noon, call Barbara Olinger at 452-3881 for rates and dates.

Yoga & Exercise

Santa Monica Yoga – Pre- & Post-Natal Yoga, Saturdays – 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

1640 Ocean Park Blvd, 396-4040, www.santamonica yoga.com

Mommy Care – at the Dance Factory, 11606 San Vicente Blvd., Brentwood, 310-394-6711. Combined Pregnancy/Recovery Exercise Group – 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.(babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)

Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:00 a.m., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

Other

Puppetolio – 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested **Magiopolis** – 2 and 8 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$20 for evening, \$15 for matinee. Call 310-451-2241 for info.

Precious Prints – Ceramic Heirlooms for a Lifetime

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

Lakeshore Learning Stores "Free Crafts for Kids" – Saturdays, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., 8888 Venice Blvd., 559-9630.

"A Faery Hunt" – 10:30 a.m., every Saturday at Franklin Canyon Park. An interactive children's show, searching for fairies and other enchanted creatures in the magical canyon and finding them! \$10, call for reservations – 818-324-6802. www.faeryhunt.com. Meet in the

parking lot of the Sooky Goldman Nature Center, 2600 Franklin Canyon Dr., Beverly Hills.

SUNDAY – HAPPY EASTER!

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

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

Picasso's Fair – 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Weekly community fair featuring local music and art. Call for admission pricing. 115 S. Topanga Canyon Blvd., Topanga, 455-9977.

Prenatal Aqua Aerobics at the Santa Monica YMCA

9:30 – 10:30 a.m; Free for members, non-members \$90 for 10 classes. 393-2721for more info.

MONDAY

MOMS Club of SM South Playgroups

9:30 a.m. – for children born 1/04 – 9/04; call or email Alison at 450-0209 or riversalison@hotmail.com for more info. All moms welcome!

Storytelling

Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade – Toddler Story Time – 10am – 310-260-9110 **Baby Time** – 9:30 a.m. Storytelling for babies up to age two. Followed by Family Connections. Joslyn Park Craft Room, 633 Kensington Rd.

Family Connections – 10:00 a.m. Learn about child development, family relationships and many other parenting topics from well-respected experts in fields related to early childhood development and growth. This series is presented FREE! by the SMMUSD's Infant and Family Support Program. This is a great chance for moms with young babies to socialize and meet other moms. For moms with babies up to age two. Come at 9:30 a.m. for Baby Time Storytelling. Joslyn Park Craft Room, 633 Kensington Rd.

Classes

YWCA – A Place for Parents –Toddler & Me Class - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. – 12 – 36 mos.; "Playtime – A combination play time and parent support time", 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-998-1981 - drop-in, 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 – 12:30 – 2:00 pm, \$15 **Yoga Garden**, - Restorative yoga for pre/postnatal – 6:30 p.m., 310-450-0133. www.yoga-gardenstudios.com

Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

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- ❖ 1 Night Stay at Sheraton Delfina
- ❖ Free initial consultation from Geek Squad
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INTERNATIONAL

White House dampens talk of a military strike

BY NEDRA PICKLER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The White House sought Monday to minimize new speculation about a possible military strike against Iran while acknowledging that the Pentagon is conducting "normal military contingency planning" to deal with Tehran's nuclear ambitions.

White House press secretary Scott McClellan refused to confirm or deny a report in The New Yorker magazine that raised the possibility of using nuclear bombs against Iran's underground nuclear sites. "I'm not going to engage in all this wild speculation," President Bush's chief spokesman told reporters.

"Those who are seeking to draw broad conclusions based on normal military contingency planning are misinformed or not knowledgeable about the administration's thinking," he said.

McClellan repeatedly stressed that the administration's focus is on working with other nations to come up with a diplomatic solution to get Iran to suspend its uranium enrichment program.

Bush counselor Dan Bartlett made a similar statement to The Associated Press on Sunday, saying "those who are drawing broad, definitive conclusions based on normal defense and intelligence planning are ill-informed and are not knowledgeable of the administration's thinking on Iran."

Bush and other administration officials have said repeatedly that the military option is on the table.

British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw, in an interview with the British Broadcasting Corp. on Sunday, called the idea of a nuclear strike "completely nuts."

Straw said Britain would not launch a pre-emptive strike on Iran and he was as "certain as he could be" that neither would the U.S. He said he has a high suspicion

that Iran is developing a civil nuclear capability that in turn could be used for nuclear weapons, but there is "no smoking gun" to prove it and rationalize abandoning the plodding diplomatic process.

"The reason why we're opposed to military action is because it's an infinitely worse option and there's no justification for it," Straw said.

Defense experts say a military strike on Iran would be risky and complicated. U.S. forces already are preoccupied with Iraq and Afghanistan, and an attack against Iran could inflame U.S. problems in the Muslim world.

The U.N. Security Council has demanded Iran suspend its uranium enrichment program. But Iran has so far refused to halt its nuclear activity, saying the small-scale enrichment project was strictly for research and not for development of nuclear weapons.

Bush has said Iran may pose the greatest challenge to the United States of any other country in the world. And while he has stressed that diplomacy is always preferable, he has defended his administration's strike-first policy against terrorists and other enemies.

"The threat from Iran is, of course, their stated objective to destroy our strong ally Israel," the president said last month in Cleveland. "That's a threat, a serious threat. It's a threat to world peace; it's a threat, in essence, to a strong alliance. I made it clear, I'll make it clear again, that we will use military might to protect our ally."

Pentagon spokesman Lt. Col. Mark Ballesteros would not comment Sunday on reports of military planning for Iran. "The U.S. military never comments on contingency planning," he said.

Stephen Cimbala, a Pennsylvania State University professor, said it would be no surprise that the Pentagon has contingency plans for a strike on Iran.

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

‘Syriana’ hearing doesn’t have a Clooney

By The Associated Press

PARIS — A French court has delayed a hearing on a lawsuit filed by a screenwriter who alleges the complex global thriller “Syriana” was largely plagiarized from her script.

George Clooney won a best-supporting actor Oscar for his portrayal of a veteran CIA officer in the 2005 film.

A preliminary hearing on the lawsuit filed by Stephanie Vergnault that had been set for Monday was rescheduled to May 29 for procedural reasons, officials said.

The lawsuit targets Clooney’s production company, Section Eight, which he formed with director Steven Soderbergh; Warner Bros.; and “Syriana” writer-director Stephen Gaghan.

Vergnault has said she wants 35 percent of the movie’s earnings in France and the United States. She claims “Syriana” borrowed “very largely” from a script she completed in 2002.

Titled “Oversight,” her story line involves CIA intrigues with oil companies in the Persian Gulf, according to the court filing.

LOS ANGELES — It’s a boy for Gwyneth Paltrow and Chris Martin.

Moses Martin, the couple’s second child, was born this weekend in New York City, the office of Paltrow’s publicist, Stephen Huvane, said Monday. No other information was released.

Paltrow, 33, won an Oscar for her role in 1998’s “Shakespeare in Love.” The British-born Martin, 29, is the lead singer of Coldplay.

Their daughter, Apple, will be 2 on May 14.

After Apple’s birth, Paltrow appeared on “The Oprah Winfrey Show” and said she didn’t understand why people were making a big deal about her daughter’s name. Paltrow said it was Martin who came up with Apple.

“It conjured such a lovely picture for me — you know, apples are so sweet and they’re wholesome and it’s biblical — and I just thought it sounded so lovely and clean,” Paltrow told Winfrey.

campaign for Calvin Klein, the company said Monday — another sign that her career is back on track after cocaine use allegations.

The 32-year-old British supermodel, who first appeared as the face of Calvin Klein 14 years ago, will appear on billboards and in magazines this fall after signing a contract reported to be worth \$900,000.

“Kate and the Calvin Klein brand have a long history together and it felt natural to reunite them for this new Jeans campaign, which will inevitably re-ignite that spark and highlight the sexy, cool essence of both Kate and Calvin Klein,” said campaign creative director Fabien Baron.

The ads, which also feature British male model Jamie Dornan, will be shot in New York this week, Baron said.

It was the 1992 Calvin Klein commercials — where Moss appeared in a series of black-and-white shots with a bare-chested Mark Wahlberg — that made Moss a household name.

She continued to work with Calvin Klein until 1999.

Burberry and other fashion houses canceled contracts with Moss last year after a British tabloid published a picture of her allegedly using cocaine. But she has secured a number of new contracts after she apologized and attended a rehab clinic.

DURHAM, N.C. — Danny DeVito has partnered with ClickStar Inc., an entertainment company, that plans to offer legal download of movies while still in theaters.

The 61-year-old actor-director made the announcement Sunday at the Full Frame Documentary Film Festival.

ClickStar, founded in part by Morgan Freeman, plans to start offering movies this fall to help combat movie piracy, DeVito said.

He also announced the launch of Jersey Docs, a channel on the ClickStar network dedicated exclusively to documentaries.

It’s something “for many, many years I’ve been really dying to do,” said DeVito, who

called the channel “a space people will be able to go to to find things they really enjoy.”

DeVito played Louie De Palma, the grumpy boss on the TV comedy “Taxi,” which aired from 1978 to 1983. His screen credits include roles in “Romancing the Stone,” “Twins” and “Batman Returns.”

SOMERSET, N.J. — Star Jones Reynolds has urged members of a Somerset County church to realize the importance of faith in their lives.

“Beauty, wealth and success mean little if you have not developed a relationship with God,” the 44-year-old co-host of ABC’s daytime talk show “The View,” said Sunday at the First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens in Somerset.

“I’ve learned that a relationship with God is achieved through solitude, meditation, prayer and soul-searching and — above all — patience.”

Jones Reynolds also urged the congregation to “do some soul-searching and maximize their potential.”

She signed copies of her book, “Shine: A Physical, Emotional & Spiritual Journey to Finding Love,” for church members.

Jones Reynolds, who married banker Al Reynolds in a star-studded wedding in 2004, had a breast-lift procedure last month. She has had a dramatic weight loss in recent years.

BRANSON, Mo. — Regis Philbin said there should be a celebrity edition of “American Idol,” and he would try out for it.

“And if I don’t win it, there’s something wrong,” he said during an appearance Friday at the opening of an interactive, ship-shaped museum dedicated to the Titanic disaster.

Philbin, who has released two successful albums in the past two years, was responding to a challenge from Randy Jackson, an “Idol” judge who sat in for Philbin on “Regis and Kelly” on Friday.

Philbin and his wife, Joy, were in Branson to christen the “Titanic: The Legend Continues” museum. Philbin, 74, also performed a concert Friday night at the Grand Palace.

Santa Monica Daily Press

MOVIEGUIDE

SHOWTIMES FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2006

Broadway Loews Cineplex
1441 3rd Street
(310) 458-6232

ATL (PG-13)
1:50 4:30 7:20 10:00
Basic Instinct 2 (R)
1:30 4:05 7:00 9:45
Hills Have Eyes The (R)
10:15
Phat Girlz (PG-13)
2:30 5:25 8:00 10:30
She's the Man (PG-13)
2:10 5:00 7:40

Mann's Criterion Theatre
1313 3rd Street
(310) 395-1599

Ice Age: The Meltdown (PG)
11:30am 12:00 1:40 2:30 4:00 4:50
6:30 7:20 9:00 9:40
Lucky Number Slevin (R)
11:50am 2:20 5:00 7:40 10:30
Slither (R)
12:20 2:50 5:20 7:50 10:10
Take the Lead (PG-13)
1:10 4:10 7:10 10:00
V for Vendetta (R)
1:20 4:20 7:30 10:20

AMC7 Santa Monica
1310 3rd Street
(310) 289-4262

16 Blocks (PG-13)
10:15
Benchwarmers The (PG-13)
12:00 12:50 2:10 3:10 4:30 5:30 7:00
8:00 9:20 10:30
Failure to Launch (PG-13)
12:10 2:30 5:00 7:20 10:00
Inside Man (R)
12:30 1:50 3:20 4:40 6:40 7:40 9:50
10:40
Shaggy Dog The (PG)
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:50
Stay Alive (PG-13)
12:20 2:40 4:50 7:10 9:10

Nuwilshire Theatre
1314 Wilshire Blvd
(310) 281-8228

Thank You for Smoking (R)
11:45am 2:15 4:45 7:15 9:50
Tsotsi (R)
1:30 4:00 7:30 9:55

Laemmle 4-Plex Theatre
1332 2nd Street
(310) 394-9741

Devil and Daniel Johnston The (PG-13)
9:30
Friends with Money (R)
12:45 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
Kinky Boots (PG-13)
7:00
L'Enfant (The Child) (R)
1:40 4:20 7:00
Marilyn Hotchkiss' Ballroom Dancing & Charm School (PG-13)
1:20 4:10 7:10 9:45
Maxx (NR)
1:55 4:30 7:20 9:50

Information: calendar@smdp.com

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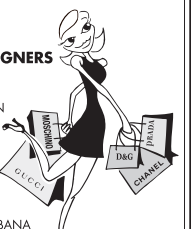
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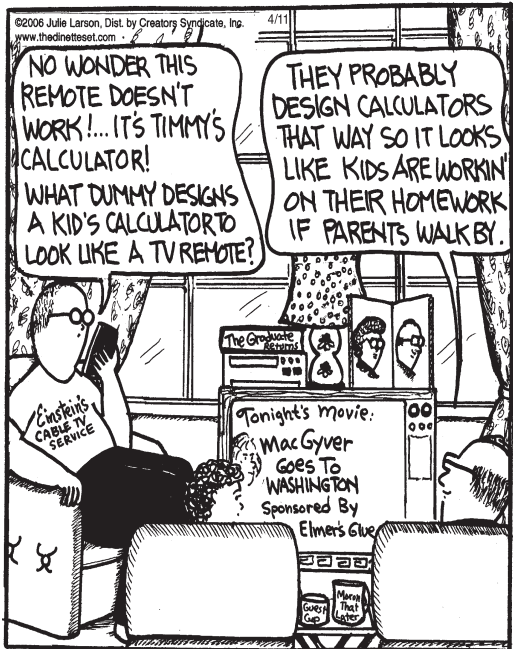
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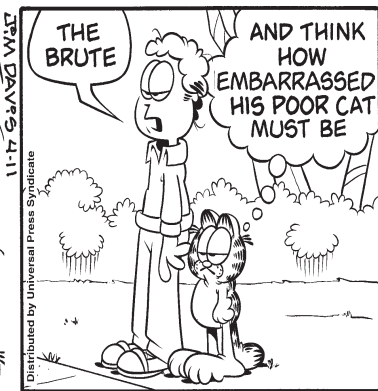
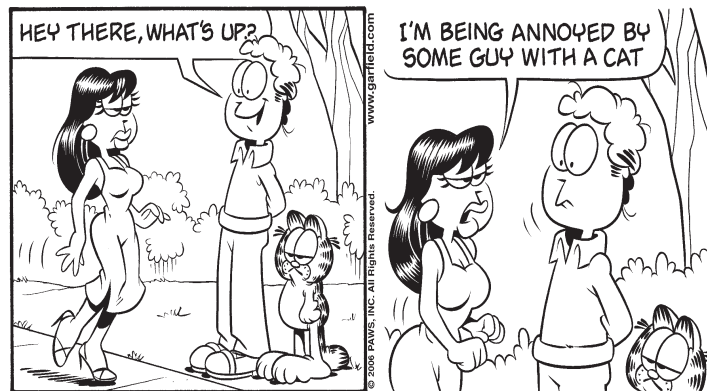


COMICS

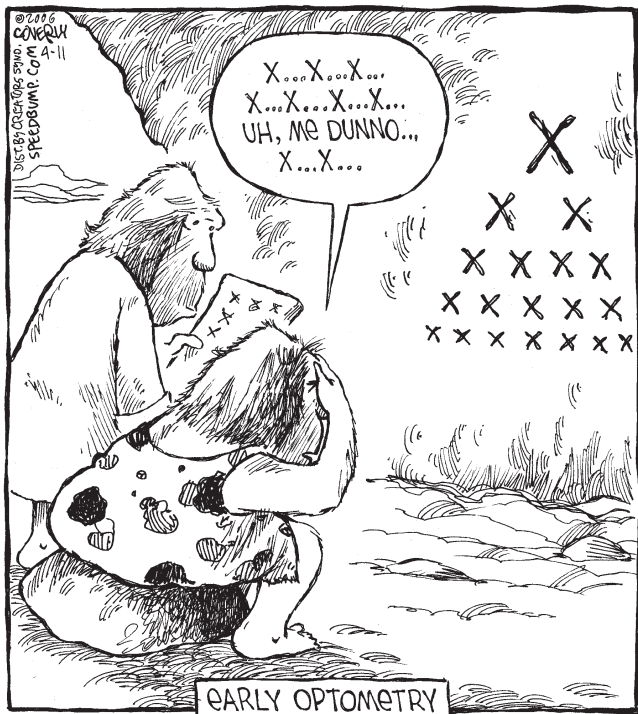
The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



edge city by TERRY & PATTY LABAN



Speed Bump® By Dave Coverly



Natural Selection® By Russ Wallace



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Old Nick
- 6 Big hit
- 11 Chilled
- 12 Rashness
- 13 Fourth of July popper
- 15 Had a bite
- 16 Actor Hanks
- 17 Jiffy
- 18 Scamps
- 20 Winter ailment
- 21 Online address, for short
- 22 Singer Billy
- 23 Fads
- 26 Peter of "Casa-blanca"
- 27 They may clash
- 28 — Palmas
- 29 Clinic cost
- 30 Did the walls
- 34 Battleship letters
- 35 Suffer
- 36 S&L offering
- 37 Thief of a sort
- 40 Plant with spiny leaves
- 41 Uncle's relative
- 42 Traditions

DOWN

- 43 Pub game
- 1 Until now
- 2 Novelist Brookner
- 3 Car quartet
- 4 High card
- 5 Sweet fruit drinks
- 6 Fakes
- 7 Buddy
- 8 Requests
- 9 Pittsburgh pro
- 10 Sleuth Poirot
- 14 Bakery buy
- 19 Pool needs
- 22 Opera's Carreras
- 23 Thumbs-down
- 24 Way back
- 25 Succeeds
- 26 Scandina-vian region
- 28 Den
- 30 Duel count
- 31 Captain Picard's second-in-command
- 32 Build
- 33 Challen-ges
- 38 Cain raiser
- 39 Snoop grp.

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4-11

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Experienced, bring at least 2 references to your interview
English Speaking
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If you qualify please call Miss Clara at 310-278-9601 or 310-659-5025

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Santa Monica taxi company seeks experienced drivers and dispatchers. Call Don Alexander at (310) 466-4063 or (310) 828-4200 for details.

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is seeking a news clerk to assist with editorial and news content.

The position is 12 to 15 hours a week, with opportunity to increase hours in the future.

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Applicants interested should send their resumes to editor@smdp.com. No phone calls please.

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SANTA MONICA \$850/mo single/1bath, cat ok, laundry, quiet neighborhood, full kitchen, natural light (310) 395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA \$995.00. Single, Utilities Paid, Parking, NO Pets, 2535 Kansas Ave., #108-B, Open Daily for Viewing 9am-7pm, Mgr: #101

SANTA MONICA \$995/mo single/1bath garden guest house, cat ok, hardwood floors, quiet neighborhood (310) 395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

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Notices

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
Date of Filing Application: APRIL 3, 2006
To Whom it may concern:
The Name(s) of the Applicant(s) is/are: STROUK GROUP INC.
The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at: 1260 THIRD STREET PROMENADE, SANTA MONICA, CA 90401.
Type of License(s) Applied for: 41 - ON-SALE BEER AND WINE - EATING PLACE.
Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control INGLEWOOD.
SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS
04/11/06, 04/18/06, 04/25/06

NOTICE OF Initiation of the Section 106 Process Bechtel Corp., intends to construct a wireless telecommunications facility, which will consist of the installation of antennas and associated equipment at 1511 Montana Ave Santa Monica, CA 90403. The purpose of these projects is to provide wireless coverage to Santa Monica. Comments regarding potential effects to Historic Properties may be sent to Jessica Ochoa at Terracon Consultants, Inc. at 3189-F Airway Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92626. Phone (714) 444-2322, FAX (714) 444-4985. Reference No: LSAN-CA0644F
4/4, 4/11/06
CNS-948617#
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