

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

12 15 17 19 44
Meganumber: 18
Jackpot: \$12 Million

FANTASY 5

24 32 36 38 39

DAILY 3

Daytime: 4 7 9
Evening: 0 1 4

DAILY DERBY

1st: 04 Big Ben
2nd: 02 Lucky Star
3rd: 05 California Classic

RACE TIME: 1:48.92

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

In a December Rocky Mountain News report, Colorado's one-size-fits-all juvenile-sex-offender program was widely criticized as one of the nation's least sensible, with restrictions for a one-time incident of adolescent curiosity nearly as harsh as for teenage predators. In the former category was "Victor," who is barred from public venues where younger children go, must file an action plan with his treatment team to visit other venues, must phone his parents hourly, must avert his eyes if he inadvertently sees young children, and has formal requirements for which his parents must pay (group therapy weekly, individual therapy twice a week, periodic polygraph tests). Victor's exasperated therapist said he considers the boy "normal."

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 102nd day of 2005.
There are 263 days left in the year.

On April 12, 1945, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt died of a cerebral hemorrhage in Warm Springs, Ga., at age 63; he was succeeded by Vice President Harry S. Truman.

In 1955, the Salk vaccine against polio was declared safe and effective.

In 1983, Chicagoans went to the polls to elect Harold Washington the city's first black mayor.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Life is sexually transmitted.

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Nicky Five Aces/Five Aces Photo

A surfer passes by the mural "Unbridled" on Ocean Park Avenue. Both "Unbridled" and "Whale of a Mural," located across the street, have been deemed priority items for restoration by the Santa Monica Arts Commission. City Council is being asked to finance the restoration of "Whale" to the tune of \$61,400.

Rising medical costs may prove hazardous to City Hall's budget

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

BY KIM CALVERT

Special to the Daily Press

CITY HALL — Medical insurance will take a big bite out of Santa Monica coffers at tonight's City Council meeting.

A new three-year agreement with the city's non-safety employees and city firefighters is expected to cost more than \$8.2 million. In the first year of the agreement, City Hall's contribution cap will increase from \$475 per month to \$532 per employee. For the subsequent two years, City Hall's contribution cap will increase by a percentage required to cover the

medical insurance premium, or 12 percent, whichever is less.

The total increase in medical insurance costs to City Hall will amount to \$557,500 for fiscal year 2004-05. In the next fiscal year, the increase will jump to \$1,740,800, and in the third year, it will top off at an estimated \$3,070,900.

The money needed to fund the increases for the current fiscal year will be taken from available fund balances, while future costs will be included in fiscal year budgets yet to be developed, according to city staff.

City Hall also will use budget

savings from last year to establish a reserve account in the amount of \$2.65 million for a non-sworn employees' retiree medical trust and for out-of-pocket medical insurance contributions by covered employees. A payment in the amount of \$250,000 will be established for a firefighter's retiree medical trust — coming to a one-time lump sum for both entities of \$2,900,000.

The City Council also is expected to approve another \$405,600 for an array of projects, which include the following:

See **CONSENT**, page 5

Parting is sweet sorrow for TV show

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

A new reality TV show is looking to help settle disputes between Santa Monica neighbors who've lost that loving feeling.

According to representatives with Nash Entertainment, an affiliate of Turner Broadcasting, they

are currently casting for "Loser Leaves Town," a comedy reality series in which neighbors will hash out issues over six television episodes while earning \$100,000.

The catch? The losing family has to move.

"The premise behind this show is that everyone has neighbors who are annoying," said Roz Taylor-Jordan,

vice president of casting for Nash Entertainment. "Everyone has a neighbor whose dog poops on the yard, won't mow the lawn or kids play basketball all night.

"There's a whole spectrum for anyone watching to say, 'That could be me.'"

See **YOU'RE OUT**, page 6

Hammer hearing bumped 'til May

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

AIRPORT COURTHOUSE — The underage sex case against a Santa Monica High School band director is in settlement negotiations.

A preliminary hearing for Carl Hammer was scheduled to begin on Friday, but was postponed until May 2 so attorneys can attempt to reach a settlement out of court. However, attorneys on both sides declined to discuss any details of the negotiations.

If a settlement isn't reached, prosecutors on May 2 will present their case and Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Keith Schwartz will determine if enough evidence exists to proceed with a trial.

Hammer, who worked in Santa Monica public schools for nine years before his August 2004 arrest, and was widely respected within the community, declined to discuss the case.

"We're trying to figure out the best way to settle this case," said Los Angeles Deputy District Attorney Eva Jabber.

Hammer appeared in court wearing a dark blue suit, and was calm and clean-shaven. He spoke during court proceedings only once, when asked by Judge Schwartz if he was willing to waive his right to a speedy trial.

"Yes," he said, quietly nodding his head.

Hammer was freed immediately after his arrest on \$40,000 bond. He pleaded not guilty in October.

On July 8, the Santa Monica Police Department was contacted by the California Department of Children and Family Services regarding a child abuse investigation. Police then conducted their own investigation and issued a war-

See **SEX CHARGES**, page 5

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Ever playful, Gemini

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)
★★★★ You might wonder how much someone has really been holding back once he or she starts spilling the beans. The insights you get are best kept to yourself. Don't worry so much about others. Make calls. Catch up on news and meetings. Tonight: Favorite spot, favorite people.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ You might want to think through what you say, as there could be ramifications left and right. Someone you trust deeply might not be as supportive as you would like. Visualize more of what you want out of life. Tonight: Indulge in an energizing activity.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ You have what it takes to make a difference. Your smile warms up many, though a cantankerous boss could make you antsy and tired. Rise above problems, using your innate creativity and intellect. Tonight: Ever playful.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Don't worry so much about a change in plans. Not everything is as easy as you would like. You are coming from a solid place; therefore, finding solutions might be a lot easier than you realize. Be imaginative. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Realize your limits right now, and you won't be jolted by a close associate who reverses his or her stand. You have discovered the importance of being more independent. Speak your mind. Tonight: Catch up on a friend's news.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Others could be flaky at best. What you need to do is remain level and clear. For some reason, a friend needs to question what you are doing. Don't get upset. Focus on where your success lies. Take charge of what works. Tonight: Out late.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ As plans dissolve and re-form, take the high road and don't trigger. You laugh, and others relax. Do your own investigation and research. You know what you want. Zero in on just that. Tonight: Listen to a favorite piece of music.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ A partner wants total control — just for now. The smart move is to give this person what he or she wants rather than fight the inevitable. You might need to rethink a decision. Take your time. Close your door. You do your best thinking alone. Tonight: A long-overdue chat.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Others hold the cards. Rather than try to buck the current trend, stay mellow and direct. How you see a situation could change with some startling news. Revise and rethink as you deem necessary. Friends come through. Tonight: Go along with another's suggestion.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Emphasize what you can accomplish. A friend tosses a roadblock into your path. Your knee-jerk reaction might not be the best. Investigate other ways to handle this hassle. You could jump right over the problem. Tonight: Catch up with someone you respect.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ You know what is best for yourself, though convincing others might be futile. You are your own person. Start claiming your power ASAP. Insist on detaching from a problem rather than reacting. Tonight: Look forward, not backward.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ The unexpected runs riot, mainly because of actions you take. Calm down, and others will become much more stable and willing to pitch in. You might not have all the answers, but a partner or associate will provide solutions when you can't. Tonight: Get some extra sleep. You are going to need it.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

The write stuff: SMC hosts Asian women series

By Daily Press staff

Want to know which Asian women writers you should put on your reading list? Then you might want to check out “Fighting Against Iron-Strong Reality: Contemporary Asian Women Writers,” a series being presented by the Santa Monica Public Library and Santa Monica College.

Santa Monica College English professor Hari Vishwanadha is hosting a series of discussions on contemporary Asian women writers in May.

The series will focus on writers from four Asian countries. On Tuesday, May 3 at 11:15 a.m. Bangladeshi author Taslima Nasrin and her book “Shame” will be discussed at SMC in room 214 of the art building.

Korean literature will be the topic on Saturday, May 14 at 2 p.m. at the Montana Avenue Branch, 1704 Montana Ave. Discussion will focus on two writers, Pak Wan-so, author of “The Naked Tree,” and O Cong-hui, contributing author of “Words of Farewell.”

SMC will host the May 19 event, which begins at 11:15 a.m. in room 214 of the art building, and will focus on Vietnamese author Duong Thu Huong and her book “Novel Without a Name.”

The final event in the series will take place at the Montana Avenue Branch, 1704 Montana Ave., on Thursday, May 26, at 7 p.m. Two Chinese authors will be discussed, Can Xue, author of “Old Floating Cloud,” and Chen Ran, author of “A Private Life.”

All events are free and open to the public. Seating is on a first arrival basis. For more information, call (310) 458-8600 or check www.smpl.org.

A helping hand through history

By Daily Press staff

“Red Cross of Santa Monica: A History of Helping,” a new exhibition at the Santa Monica Historical Society Museum, is on display now until April 29.

The museum is located at 1539 Euclid St., between Broadway and Colorado Avenue. Open Tuesday through Friday 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and the second and fourth Sundays of each month, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call the museum at (310) 395-2290.

Pony Baseball encourages horsing around

By Daily Press staff

It’s time to pony up.

Santa Monica Pony League’s annual Fun Day will be held at Los Amigos Park on Sunday, April 17. The event begins at 10 a.m. and ends at 2 p.m.

All of Santa Monica is invited to come and play games, eat food and win prizes. All proceeds go to support Santa Monica Pony Baseball, a community tradition for nearly six decades. Los Amigos Park is located on Hollister Avenue between Fifth and Sixth streets, behind John Muir Elementary and SMASH.

School offers laughs for tax day blues

By Daily Press staff

Tax day may need some comic relief.

The First Annual Will Rogers Comedy Night Benefit supporting the children of Will Rogers Learning Community will be held April 15. Tickets are available for \$10 in advance or \$15 the day of the show. Look for a ticket sales table in front of Will Rogers before and after school this week. Call (310) 804-8878 for information.

Bus service change-up

By Daily Press staff

There are changes happening to your local bus service.

As a result, the Big Blue Bus is offering community meetings to let people know of service changes.

Topics include service changes to lines 2, 3, 4 and 14, as well as the introduction of the new Rapid 3 line that will serve Los Angeles International Airport from Santa Monica.

The following is a schedule of meetings:

■ Thursday, April 14, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Vera Davis McClendon Youth Family Center at 610 California in Venice. Use Line 2.

■ Saturday, April 16, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Ken Edwards Center at 1527 Fourth St. in Santa Monica. Use Lines 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 or 10.

■ Tuesday, April 19, from noon to 2 p.m. at UCLA Athletic Department, 301-1/2 Westwood Plaza in the JD Morgan Center (press room). Use Lines 1, 2, 3, 8, 12 or Super 12.

For more information, call (310) 451-5444.

Do you have community news?

... Submit news releases

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Santa Monica Daily Press



SURF REPORT

On Tuesday, we’re in for a light burst of southern hemi SW with some lingering NW wind swell. Although the SW is a long period swell (16-18 seconds) it is far better angled at Central America, thus leaving California with a greater degree of angular spreading decay. As for the NW wind swell, this is weak with only 8-10 second periods from a steep 300 degrees or so. As for size, both west- and south-facing breaks are looking at waist-high sets with south-facing breaks seeing sets far less frequently.

Today the water is:

57°

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

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	4:23	-0.5	4:09	0.7	10:32	4.7	10:22	6.0
SUNDAY	5:05	-0.5	4:36	1.3	11:18	4.2	10:50	5.9
MONDAY	5:49	-0.4	5:00	1.9	12:09	3.6	11:19	5.6
TUESDAY	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
WEDNESDAY	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
THURSDAY	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
FRIDAY	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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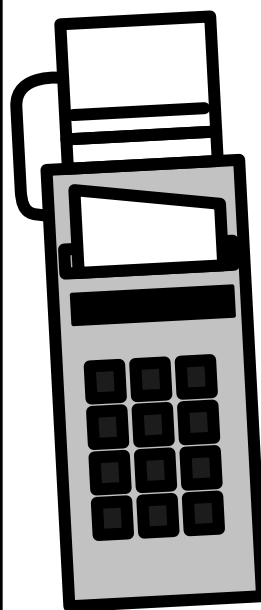
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The  Line

It appears that all is quiet this week here in this city by the sea. So, this week, the Q-Line question is: “What’s on your mind? What is the biggest issue facing Santa Monica and how should it be handled?”

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

City should build homes for the homeless

Editor:

We have a beautiful community here, but many, in fact I will say most, don't care to see our homeless sleeping, urinating, defecating, drinking, littering, loitering, panhandling and impeding pedestrians with shopping carts on the sidewalks, not to mention what happens at the bus stops and our public parks.

This isn't even talking about the ones that work and sleep in their vehicles on side streets because they can't find a place to rent or can't afford it. Several of our working homeless have small children. This can't be fulfilling for a parent or a healthy environment for anyone. Sure, they can clean up at the gym until it's no longer cost effective. Or the restroom at a gas station or restaurant until they get caught and usually get run off by employees of such establishment.

And then there is our elderly. Just think about your elderly parent not having a place to sleep at night and having to move from shelter to shelter, not to mention they can't stay during the day — they must leave at a specified time, then they can go to the day centers waiting to return to the shelter at a specified time. They want their dignity so they refuse to live with family members out of the area because of medical purposes, or this is where they want to live until they die.

Those that can afford it, store their sleeping bags, clothes, backpacks, toys, bikes, laundry, soap and other personal items at public storage facilities, going there in the morning to drop off the items they don't need during the day only to return later to pick up their items they need for the night.

The rumor I have heard and not confirmed is that Fisher Lumber sold to a private party only to be sold again to the City of Santa Monica for a figure between \$15 million to \$24 million so that they may expand the park. Now I truly hope this is not true. I really hope that they purchased the property for no other reason than to help our homeless situation by building apartments for all homeless no matter what their income is.

By getting the homeless off the street and out of the parks, they have given the parks that we have already back to the families and other visitors to enjoy morning, afternoon and evenings without seeing people sleeping next to their shopping carts, the smell of urine, the garbage and broken alcohol bottles and other activities known but overlooked.

Believe me, I am not putting the misfortunes down nor am I against the down and out. I want to see this city step up to the plate and really do something about the situation. If the city really can afford to purchase land for more parks but no money to help where it is really needed then maybe Santa Monica isn't such a great community after all.

Fisher Lumber was a great part of Santa Monica, so keep it that way, homes for homeless and old parks made new again. What do you say Santa Monica? Save our existing parks and homeless?

Penny Elsberry
Santa Monica

No exceptions to 'thou shalt not kill'

Editor:

Regarding Judy Linkey's letter (SMDP, April 6, page 4), I would like to commend her on her stand that abortion is not someone choosing for themselves about what goes on in their own body, but is murder and against the Fifth Commandment, "thou shalt not kill."

I have to assume then that she also is against the killing of our young men and women in our ongoing wars; the countless men, women and children of Iraq who have been killed; and the killing of those sentenced to die for their crimes. After all, as far as I know, that commandment does not say, "thou shalt not kill, except in war," or "thou shalt not kill, except for capital punishment," etc. It says, "thou shalt not kill," period.

I am sure she wouldn't just pick and choose how to apply that commandment like most of the other anti-abortionists. For them, the killing is all in the timing. You can't abort a fetus, but it's OK to send a 19-year-old fetus to his or her death in a war. Doesn't make sense. Of course, it's not about logic or sense, is it?

I'm for anyone believing what he or she wants to believe, as long as the rest of us are free to believe what we want to believe as well. That's what this country stands for.

Marilyn Brennan
Santa Monica

Duty free: Escaping a jury can leave a void



ANY DAY
IN LA

BY HEIDI MANTEUFFEL

I couldn't figure out the 12 down in the daily crossword for the life of me: Adult LA Citizens serving their country.

I stared at the word "serve" blankly. Since when was "serve" a part of LA vocabulary? I couldn't even get two passersby to take a picture for me last Thursday, and I'm about as intimidating as the cast of "Full House." But, apparently, adults of LA are ripping off their bumper stickers in hordes and serving.

And then, I noticed the two-letter word found on my mail that day fit neatly in the blank space: Jury duty.

The crossword definition failed to mention that the service was obligatory. Sure, you can postpone jury duty like most of us do, but when reality hits the fan, you will have to serve your country.

Forced service — an ironic but necessary component of LA judicial life.

I decided to bite the bullet. No extensions, fake black lung, scurvy, nothing. I filled in the back of my affidavit, called 800-jury and prepared to walk the plank.

Apparently, you have to call a week ahead of time to tell an automated response system that you filled in the affidavit, not that you actually sent it in. Alas, another week of waiting for my sentence of forced patriotism.

For those of us originally from out of state, you may be more familiar with the old fashion type of jury duty. Go to the courthouse on the date of summons, watch cheesy propaganda films, get put on a jury or get dismissed.

But no, in true LA style, they make you call them wondering if your big break has come.

The waiting started last Sunday night to find out if I would be an extra in LA's "big" summer blockbuster: "Juror with a Red Wagon." The stars attached to the film were Dave Coulier, French baby sensation Jordy, and the entire Sugar Hill Gang. I called in, and the automated voice told me I had no jury duty for Monday, April 4. Call back tomorrow.

Every day this past week I wondered and waited if today would be the day I served my country. Truthfully, I was more curious on whether or not I needed to work a little bit harder to get all my work done for the week.

I kind of liked the old days when the judge kicked me out the courtroom and called me an anarchist. You knew you had done your American duty, and could go home and receive your well-earned jury check.

I admit, at 18, I had great aspirations never to serve my country, and there I was, the first one in the group to be called. The judge brought me over for questioning, the first words out of his mouth being, "Do you believe in interpreting the law as it is?" I very calmly said "No, I do not," without providing an explanation that would make me appear less insane. The judge's face began to redden in rage, and out came an undistinguishable diatribe. I will translate it for you.

"You mean to say you would just prefer to decide which laws you will abide by and which you won't? (nostrils flaring) Why, why if everyone were like you, we would have anarchy!" He then yelled in my basic direction to leave the courtroom in front of two of my conservative high school friends' parents.

I rushed out of the courtroom with feigned tears running down my cheeks. But once the courtroom's doors sealed shut, I raised my fists in victory. I fought the law, and still had time to get ice cream.

Surprisingly, the parents I were sure would never again allow me to interact with their sons and daughters, applauded my performance. To my amazement, they warmly congratulated me, telling me it was the best thing they'd seen all day.

Well, Thursday night came, and I received the message they didn't need my willing, serving presence that week. Maybe it's just as well I didn't enrage another keeper of the law. It could only end in tears. This flash backs to the days of jury yore brought me to the realization that maybe I too need to work on this "serve" thing, and not wave anarchy in judge's frustrated faces.

(Heidi is actually not an anarchist, and can be reached at anydayinla@gmail.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.

Walking to the nearest newsstand increases circulation.
Santa Monica Daily Press

LOCAL



Hammer awaits fate while on paid leave

SEX CHARGES, from page 1

rant for Hammer. The two charges stem from an alleged encounter on July 6, 2004.

The Daily Press is not identifying the victim or her family. Though the victim was not a Samohi student, her siblings are. The alleged victim and Hammer were neighbors.

While the case works its way through the criminal court system, Hammer has

been placed on paid leave from the Santa Monica-Malibu School District and has been ordered to stay 100 yards away from the victim and not associate with minors, except his own children, who attend local schools.

Samohi's award-winning band is widely respected, thanks in part to the tutelage of department chair Terry Sakow and Hammer, who also played trombone for the Santa Monica College orchestra.

Mural, mural on the wall: City asked to restore art

CONSENT, from page 1

MINIMIZING RISK

The City Council is expected to approve \$30,000 to upgrade software used by City Hall's risk management department to manage and track a variety of claims, including worker's comp and public liability claims. An additional \$160,000 will be used to purchase a five-year extended maintenance contract for the new software.

Tom Phillips, the department's manager, said the upgrade will provide his 12-member staff and the city attorney's office with an easier-to-use web browser interface.

Valley Oak Systems, which provided the existing risk management software, will provide the software upgrade and maintenance contract.

SUPPORT FOR THE CITY'S AFFORDABLE HOUSING DIVISION

The housing department is asking City Hall to approve \$75,000 to renew a contract with Program Compliance Solutions to assist with various measures needed to ensure that Section 8 housing residents and low-income housing providers meet Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) guidelines.

In addition to helping City Hall in collecting paperwork required by HUD, Program Compliance Solutions will continue to work with City Hall to determine the eligibility of applicants and conduct field audits to verify Section 8 program compliance.

RENOVATIONS CONTINUE AT CITY HALL

City Council is expected to approve

\$79,200 for design services needed to prepare for the demolition of the former Santa Monica Police building that adjoins City Hall. The police department relocated to the new Public Safety Facility in September of 2003 and the old police wing has been vacant since then.

City officials decided in 2003 to demolish the old police wing and replace it with a landscaped courtyard. The demolition is part of an ongoing project to remodel and renovate City Hall, which was constructed in 1939.

PRESERVING THE CITY'S ARTWORK

City staff will ask council members to allocate \$61,400 from City Hall's arts and conservation fund to restore the "Whale of a Mural" on Ocean Park Avenue at Fourth Street.

Barbara Stinchfield, Santa Monica's community and cultural services director, said City Hall sets aside about \$100,000 annually to cover the cost of maintaining and restoring the city-owned artwork, which includes 13 murals. She said "Whale of a Mural," along with "Unbridled," a mural of horses running on the beach located across the street from the whale mural, had been deemed priority items for restoration by the Santa Monica Arts Commission.

The City Council will be asked to award the contract for the mural's restoration to Rainer Zebala Partners. The restoration work, which will be done by artists, is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Conservation funding for "Unbridled" will be performed under a separate agreement.

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Nudging neighbors is focus of reality show

YOU'RE OUT, from page 1

"Loser Leaves Town" will pit two families who live next door or across the street from each other at odds, and make them take part in competitive challenges, the show's representatives said.

"We may do something where the neighbors have to clean each other's yard, and the other neighbors on the street will decide who does the best job," Taylor-Jordan said.

Taylor-Jordan said those looking to have fun challenges with their neighbors should contact the show for casting. The show will be filmed for three weeks this summer on the neighbors' street and inside their homes. Both neighboring families must own or rent their homes and have two kids each between 10 and 19 years old.

"We're hoping that at least one of the families will be fun, outgoing people," Taylor-Jordan. "The other family can be

For more information on how you and your neighbors can participate in "Loser Leaves Town," visit the Web site at www.ltnshow.com or call 1-800-605-5062.

grumpy, I guess."

Both families will receive \$100,000 for their participation in the series. The losing family will be required to move from their home, but not necessarily "leave town."

"They can move around the block, as long as they move," Taylor-Jordan said.

Show representatives said the show will buy the losing family's home and spring for the moving costs.

"Not only will you walk away \$100,000 richer if your family participates, you won't be living next to your neighbor anymore," Taylor-Jordan said. "Of course, by the end of the show, the neighbors are going to make up and be sad someone has to move."

Santa Ana museum staff dig for clues in mummies

BY BEN FOX
Associated Press Writer

SANTA ANA — This much experts know: One was a priest from a wealthy family. Another was a young girl who sang during religious rituals. A third was a child, buried in a finely carved wooden coffin.

But there is much more to learn about the six Egyptian mummies that were wrapped and buried in strips of resin-encrusted linen thousands of years ago to protect them from the elements.

Using 21st century medical technology, curators and radiologists in Southern California are examining the relics of the ancient world on loan from the British Museum to learn more of their secrets.

"It's a virtual autopsy," said Dr. Linda Sutherland, a radiologist who has volunteered her services for the project. "We get to see what's inside the mummy without destroying it."

The project is preparation for "Mummies: Death and the Afterlife in Ancient Egypt," a Bowers Museum exhibit that opens on April 17. It features some 140 objects from the British Museum, which has the largest collection of Egyptian antiquities outside Egypt.

Researchers at Bowers hope their scans will add to what has already been learned about the mummies from archaeological analysis and standard X-rays. They believe it's the largest collection of CT scans ever performed on Egyptian mummies using the latest scanning technology.

All six mummies are believed to be 2,000 to 3,000 years old. On Wednesday, team members carried them to a tractor trailer parked behind the Bowers Museum in Santa Ana, where each was subjected to the powerful, rotating X-ray detectors of a mobile CT scanner.

In a live human, a CT scan can pinpoint infections, tumors, fractures, internal bleeding and developmental problems such as

curved spines. With mummies, however, there is little left except dried skin and bones, so there's no guarantee the process will yield a definitive cause of death.

On Thursday, the researchers announced their initial findings. Dental analysis showed the child previously thought to be about 18 months old was at least 4 when its body was compressed to fit into a coffin. They also found the body of a man from 700 B.C. had been crushed at the time of burial and a wooden pole had been placed in his chest in an apparent attempt to correct the problem.

The radiologists and curators will analyze the images further in the next several months in search of more information, said Daniel Weissberg, chairman of MRD Inc., the radiology practice that donated its services to the project.

Last month, experts in Egypt announced that a CT scan conducted on King Tut contradicted two theories of his death, showing he wasn't murdered by a blow to the head and that his chest wasn't crushed in an accident.

The analysis of Tutankhamun didn't establish a cause of death but it did yield his age as 19 and other previously unknown details.

Archaeologists have been able to make some conclusions about the six mummies in the Bowers exhibit based on archaeological evidence. The gilded plaster face mask and ornate, beaded vest on the one known as Irthorru suggest he was a priest. Others, such as the wooden coffin of the child, are more mysterious.

The thousands of CT images should provide more clues to how these ancients lived and died as well as more information about the mummification process.

"It will tell us more about what is inside those wrappings than anything else we've done before," said Nigel Strudwick, a British Museum curator who supervised the operation.

INTERESTED IN YOUR DAILY FORECAST?
CHECK OUT THE HOROSCOPES ON PAGE 2!



STATE BRIEFS

On second thought: Schools super moves swiftly

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — In an effort targeting nine low-performing schools, Superintendent Roy Romer plans to reassign staff, hire outside consultants and trim class sizes to boost test scores.

The proposals come as Romer faces increasing pressure from the school board and federal officials to deal with ailing secondary schools. Board members have expressed frustration over the slow pace of reform aimed at improving lagging campuses.

“All of these plans are aimed at producing a better learning experience for youngsters and have them be successful not just in high school but in the next steps in their careers,” Romer said.

Romer is required by the federal No Child Left Behind law to take action when schools miss state achievement goals for seven consecutive years. Besides the nine target schools, plans are being drawn up for 63 other schools that repeatedly miss goals on math and English tests.

Among reforms, Romer wants to reconfigure 2,100-student Samuel Gompers Middle School in Watts into smaller 200-student learning centers. Each grade would be divided into separate “houses” and more qualified teachers will be hired.

Horace Mann Middle School in South Los Angeles was divided into academies organized by grade level in 2002 and a new principal was brought in. But officials said to boost student achievement, they must improve student discipline programs and campus safety.

Mount Vernon Middle School in the Crenshaw district underwent a series of changes after takeover by the state in 2002. The campus already has been divided into four small learning groups. School officials plan to provide more mentoring opportunities for teachers and more professional development for administrators.

Other targeted schools include Sun Valley Middle School, Roosevelt High School in Boyle Heights, Woodrow Wilson High School in northeast Los Angeles and Fremont High School, Jefferson High School and Locke High School, all in South Los Angeles.

School board president Jose Huizar, who had not yet reviewed Romer’s proposals, said he hopes that board members will be given “something that is.

Mayor in for a bumpy ride

By The Associated Press

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO — Former Dana Point Mayor Thomas Eggers was arrested for allegedly crashing into a car while drunk.

Eggers, 57, currently a San Juan Capistrano planning commissioner, was driving on Ortega Highway near Interstate 5 on Saturday evening when he lost control of his Jeep and hit a car, Sheriff’s Department spokesman Jon Fleishman said.

The California Highway Patrol had received a 911 emergency call minutes earlier from a motorist who said Eggers’ Jeep was traveling the wrong way and dodging oncoming vehicles on the northbound lanes of I-5, the spokesman said.

It couldn’t be verified that Eggers had been driving on the wrong side of the freeway.

Deputies arrested Eggers and he was booked for investigation of drunken driving, Fleishman said. He refused to comment after release from the Orange County jail in Santa Ana on Sunday afternoon.

Eggers served on the Dana Point City Council from 1988 to 1994 and was mayor in 1992. In 1999, he was appointed to the San Juan Capistrano Planning Commission.

Self-service halting hassles at LAX

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Travel hassles are being eased by self check-in kiosks at Los Angeles International Airport.

The 160 kiosks spread through eight of the nine airport terminals are expected to get much more use as passenger volume increases. Volume this year could exceed the record 67.6 million in 2000.

“The real solution to all this stuff is automation,” said David Stempler, president of the Washington-based Air Travelers Association. “The more we can automate these systems ... the faster things will go.”

The kiosk ticketing began after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Security measures created huge passenger bottlenecks as travelers waited to check in for flights.

United Airlines offers 49 kiosks, the most terminal lobby kiosks at LAX, followed by Delta with 24, American with 21 and Alaska with 18. USAirways, America West, Hawaiian, Northwest, ATA and Southwest also provide kiosks, and Southwest intends to add 18 more this year, said Larry Pitts, the airline’s LAX station manager.

Kiosks allow people to check in more quickly and select and change seats. At LAX, kiosks are used by nearly 60 percent of United’s passengers with electronic tickets, United spokesman Alan Wayne said.

“Lines? Yeah, there are lines in the peak (travel times) but they’re rarely more than 20 minutes,” said Wayne, whose Terminal 7-based airline is LAX’s top carrier in passengers served.

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Absorbing thoughts on diapers

By Daily Press staff

Cloth or disposable diapers? It's a question new parents inevitably find themselves pondering as they prepare for their baby's homecoming.

At one time, cloth diapers were the only option. In the early 1970s, however, new technology made disposable diapers affordable and available to all. Since that time, parents have been arguing over the convenience, cost and comfort of both types of diaper with all the intensity of a presidential debate.

Jeffrey Penso, a pediatrician with Saint John's Health Center, offers some perspective:

Convenience

For whichever parent is the primary caregiver, disposable diapers offer the incentive of convenience. Disposable diapers can be purchased in any supermarket or convenience store. They are often available in airport gift shops and highway rest stops. Disposable diapers can be discarded with minimal effort and even less lingering odor. Finally, with stretchable leg openings and Velcro-style tab closures, disposable diapers are easy to put on and take off of even fussy babies.

Cloth diapers come with benefits as well. They are delivered directly to your door by the diaper service. And cloth diapers now have convenient Velcro fastenings. However, they do have to be rinsed and laundered.

Cost

Over the length of the two to three years your child will be wearing diapers, the cost of purchasing disposable diapers and the cost of using a cloth diaper service even out.

The initial cost is higher for disposables, but cloth diapers require that you purchase more laundry detergent

and use more energy running the washing machine.

Also, disposable diapers remain dry for longer periods of time. When your baby is an infant, cloth diapers need to be changed more frequently.

Comfort

Disposable diapers are now made with a super-absorbent powder that traps moisture and converts it to a gel. Even a very full diaper can feel dry next to baby's skin. In addition, the flexible leg openings allow babies easy range of motion and a diaper that stays with them when they are on the go.

Some babies, however, find the plastic materials in disposable diapers irritating. For them, the soft, natural cotton of cloth diapers is preferable. And once parents become adept at diapering their baby, a cloth diaper will stay in place as securely as a disposable one.

Environment

If the environment is a hot button in your household, chances are you'll prefer using cloth diapers. Disposable diapers take up to 500 years to break down in a landfill. Throughout the world, there are hundreds of thousands of landfills packed with disposable diapers.

Cloth diapers, on the other hand, can be reused until they deteriorate. However, don't forget that cloth diapers have to be rinsed and washed — using energy and water.

Regardless of whether you choose to use disposable or cloth diapers, the most important thing is keeping your baby safe and comfortable. With a little common sense and the advice of a good pediatrician, most parents do just fine.

Remember, the best source of information about caring for your baby is a qualified pediatrician.

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TODAY! TUESDAYS beginning APRIL 12 – ATTACHMENT PARENTING CLASS

2:00 – 3:30 p.m. YMCA, 1332 Sixth St., 393-2721 (ask for Shelana Philip-Guide or Audrey Meyer). This new class for mothers/dads and babies up to 12 months is presented by Karol Darsa, PsyD, a licensed psychologist with extensive experience working with children and families. Fees: Members – 1 class - \$40, 5 class pass - \$180; Non-members - \$50, 5 class pass - \$200.

TUESDAY, APRIL 12 - SPRING PUPPET SHOW with WOODY & FRIENDS

3:30 p.m., Montana Branch Library, 1704 Montana Blvd., 829-7081, ages 4 and up.

WEDNESDAYS through JUNE 8 – ENCHANTED LUNCHTIME THEATRE

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. This lively and creative Parent and Me performing adventure features story time, theatre games, craft-making and play building with members of Actor's Repertory Theatre as everyone enacts the week's fairytale, legend or folk story together. Also includes a magical lunchtime meal. New theme every week so come once, twice or as often as you like. For ages 3 – 5 and their parents; \$15 per child, parents are free; \$5 for parent lunch; reservations required at least 24 hours in advance.

Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th St., 310-394-9779, ext. 2. This program is also available for birthday parties and pre-school field trips.

SATURDAY, APRIL 16 EARTH DAY on the PROMENADE

10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Celebrate Earth Day at this festival featuring 70 exhibitors with info on the environment, health and sustainable living. There are special attractions for children, speakers and music. Check out demos of the "Yo-Stick" – the new handheld toy that does tricks, flips and zips. Demos by National Yo-Yo Champion Brent Dellinger every hour between Broadway and Santa Monica. www.EarthDayLA.org.

CURE AUTISM NOW – 5K WALK and COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR

8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. This non-competitive walk designed with families in mind benefits research to prevent, treat and cure autism. Visit www.walknow.org for more info. Rose Bowl, 1001 Rose Bowl Dr., Pasadena.

SUNDAY, APRIL 17 – 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
DAWN BARNES KARATE KIDS hosts Martial Arts Extravaganza and Scholastic Author's Book Signing to benefit Kids Kicking Cancer. This fundraiser features famous martial art Masters demonstrations, book signing by nationally acclaimed instructor and author of "The Black Belt Club" Sensei Dawn Barnes, silent auction and raffle. For more info contact Santa Monica Karate Kids at 449-1700.

COMING UP – THURSDAYS, APRIL 21 – MAY 26 – 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

PARENTING EDUCATION & FAMILY ENRICHMENT – Final session this year! This class is based on principles of child development with a focus on active listening, problem solving, developmentally appropriate expectations and discipline techniques. Instructor: Marilyn McGrath, M.S., Director of the Early Childhood Institute at SMC. Presented by SMMUSD'S Infant and Family Support Program in partnership with St. John's Health Center. Class location: Child Development Services, Auditorium, 2802 Fourth St., Santa Monica. Call 452-6132 for more info. Class is free, but a refundable \$20

registration fee is required.

LOW-COST BIRTH DOULA SERVICES – DONA (Doulas of North America) Trained doulas seeking to attend births to fulfill certification requirements are available to you in exchange for completion of required paperwork and a minimal fee (\$50 - \$100) to cover expenses. Please call Nina at 310-395-7321 for more information.

What is a doula? "A woman experienced in childbirth who provides continuous physical, emotional and informational support before, during and just after childbirth." (Klaus, Kennell and Klaus in Mothering the Mother)

TUESDAY

Movies for Moms! April 12 – Fever Pitch starring Drew Barrymore, Jimmy Fallon and James B. Sicking. Romance/Comedy, Rated "PG-13." 11:00 a.m., Loews Broadway, 1441 3rd St. Promenade – for Moms and babies newborn – 1 year old. Doors open early for socializing and getting comfortable. Visit www.enjoytheshow.com/reelmoms for details.

Storytelling

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

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

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

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

Cuentos Para Pequenos – 10:00 a.m., six-week series in Spanish for 24 – 36 month olds with adult. Next session April 26 – May 31.

Lap Time – 11:00 a.m, six-week series for babies 0-24 months, co-sponsored by the SMMUSD Infant & Family Support Program. Next session April 26 – May 31.

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

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

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

TERRIFIC TUESDAYS – 3:30 p.m., stories and crafts for ages 5 – 9.

(Every other Tuesday, April 12 & 26, May 10 & 24).

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

Toddler Storytime, 10:00 and 10:30. Music, rhymes and stories for 2 to 3 year olds.

Register now for next session – April 19 – May 24.

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 – Infant/Toddler & Me Classes - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. – Walkers to 3 years; 10:45 – 11:45 a.m. & 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. – ages 0 to 1 year; classes in partnership with the Infant and Family Support Program. 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

Yoga & Exercise

Prenatal Aqua Aerobics at the Santa Monica YMCA

10:00 – 11:00 a.m and 7:30 – 8:30 p.m; Free for members, non-members \$90 for 10 classes. (also Thursday nights 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.) 393-2721. ext. 117 for more info.

Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:40 p.m., \$15. Mommy and Me – 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.

Mommy Care – at the Dance Factory, 11606 San Vicente Blvd., Brentwood, 310-394-6711. Combined Pregnancy/Recovery Exercise Group – 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. (babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)

Itsy Bitsy Yoga – Tots (crawling to 24 months) – 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Baby (6 weeks to pre-crawling) – 11:00 – noon. With Khefri Riley at Ocean Oasis, 1333 Ocean Ave. Register at www.khefri.net or call 323-549-5383.

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

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

Breastfeeding Group

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

WEDNESDAY

Storytelling

The Talking Stick Coffee Lounge – 1630 Ocean Park Blvd., 450-6052

10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4 at this neighborhood coffee shop.

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

Toddler Story Time – 9:30 a.m., for two year olds.

Preschool Story Time – 10:30 a.m.; six-week series for 3-5 year olds with adult.

Next session April 27 – June 1 for both..

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

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

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

Preschool Twilight Story Time – 7:00 – 7:30 p.m. Parents/children ages 3-5.

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

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

Classes

Rhythm Child Parent & Me Rhythms, Santa Monica Studios, 3025 Olympic Blvd., 9:30 – 10:15 a.m. Children explore rhythms through drum play. Ages 6 mos. – 3.5 years; \$100 for 8 weeks. Call 204-5466 or visit www.rhythm-child.net for more info and session dates.

YWCA – A Place for Parents –Infant /Toddler and Me (0-12 mos.) – 10:30 – 11:00 a.m.; 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45pm, \$15 **Fitness for Moms** – Babies Welcome! Step Aerobics, 10:30 a.m. at the YMCA, 393-2721, ext. 117 for more info. Free for members, non-members pay \$90 for 10 classes.

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

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

Breastfeeding Group

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

Other

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

THURSDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Toddler Story Time – 10:15 a.m., for 2 year olds. Session dates are Feb. 24 – March 31 and April 14 – May 19.

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

Classes

YWCA – A Place for Parents – Toddler & Me Classes, Walkers to 3 years – 9:15 – 10:15 a.m. and 10:45 – 11:45 a.m.; classes in partnership with the Infant and Family Support Program. Parent Support (3 – 5 years) – 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

Yoga & Exercise

Prenatal Aqua Aerobics at the Santa Monica YMCA

7:30 – 8:30 p.m; Free for members, non-members \$90 for 10 classes. (also Tuesdays at 10:00 – 11:00 a.m and 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.) 393-2721. ext. 117 for more info.

Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:40 p.m., \$15. Mommy and Me – 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.

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

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

Family Yoga, 5:15 – 6:30 p.m., includes 15 minutes of indoor play and song. 8-week series for parents and 1 child, \$250, \$100 each additional child. 1814 14th St., #208, 260-2736

Breastfeeding Group

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

FRIDAY

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

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

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

Planetarium Show at SMC's John Drescher Planetarium, 7:00 p.m. - Night Sky Show, 8:00 p.m. – featured program. \$5 adults, \$4 chil-

dren. Pico and 17th St., 434-3000.

Classes

YWCA – A Place for Parents – Toddler & Me (1-3 years) – 9:20 – 10:20 a.m.; Parent Support (1-3 years) – 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.(childcare provided). 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

Mommy and Me Dance– celebrate the wonderful world of imagination Fridays at the Electric Lodge. 9:45 – 10:45 a.m. ages 14 - 24 months; 10:45 – 11:45 a.m. ages 2 – 4. 6 classes for \$75 or \$14 per class. First class free! 1416 Electric Ave, Venice, 306-1854.

Yoga & Exercise

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

Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45 p.m., \$15.

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

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

Other

Baby Attuned - Fridays, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., A new program promoting sensitive parenting and developmental awareness. Parent-completed developmental screening, with review and feedback from a licensed clinical developmental psychologist and experienced pediatric nurse practitioner, Eileen Escarce, PhD, MSN. (PSY 18819). Introductory fee: \$15 per screening with feedback. 1137 2nd Ave, Suite 213. By appointment only 310-367-1155.

SATURDAY

Storytelling

Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade – Kid's Story Time – 10am – 310-260-9110

Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion – 10:30am – ages 2-5 – 310-475-4144.

Children's Book World – 10580 1/2 Pico Blvd, LA - 10:30 a.m., 310-559-800K.

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

Yoga & Exercise

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

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

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

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

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

Other

Cinderella at the Santa Monica Playhouse – 2 Weeks Only!

Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m, April 16-17 and 23-24; \$12 adults, \$10 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 2 for reservations,

www.santamonica-playhouse.com

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

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

Precious Prints – Ceramic Heirlooms for a Lifetime

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

SUNDAY

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

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

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

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Breastfeeding

Working Mother's Support Group The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd. - Call 826-5774 for more info.

MONDAY

Storytelling

Main Library – Lap Time at Joslyn Park, Craft Room, 9:30 a.m. A series for babies up to two years old.

"Family Connections" – 10:00 a.m., immediately following Lap Time - a series of discussions related to early childhood development and growth. Children welcome, free.

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

"Spanish for Little Ones", 11:15 a.m.

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

MOMS Club of Santa Monica – New Mother Group – for new moms with babies ages 0-6 months. Meet for conversation, support and playtime. All new Moms welcome!

Call Clare at 395-7422 for time, location and more info.

Classes

YWCA – A Place for Parents – Toddler & Me (1-3 years) – 9:20 – 10:20 a.m.; Parent Support and Play Group (6 months -3 years) – 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. (partial childcare provided). 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

Breastfeeding Group

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

Yoga & Exercise

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

Yoga Garden, - Restorative yoga for pre/post-natal – 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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STATE

Pension pullback seen as a cautionary tale

BY BETH FOUHY
AP Political Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Democrats may be crowing over Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's retreat from his pension reform plan, but the move begs an important question: why has the celebrity governor, with his uncanny powers of persuasion, begun to stumble so visibly?

Schwarzenegger said the decision to pull the plug on an effort to privatize the state pension system was based on "misconceptions" that it could strip death and disability benefits from police officers and firefighters. But below the surface lies a cautionary tale of what can happen when a popular politician misjudges his opponents and fails to capitalize on his own strengths.

Last year, the rookie Republican governor pulled off an impressive balancing act — charming and disarming lawmakers to do his bidding while maintaining an image as an outsider answerable only to "the people." His focus on problem-solving won him stratospheric approval ratings, even among Democrats who form the vast majority of the state's voters.

Then, inexplicably, Schwarzenegger shed the mantle of bipartisanship he'd worked so hard to weave in favor of name-calling and confrontation.

The carefully crafted appearance showed signs of unraveling as early as last summer, when he mocked Democratic lawmakers as "girlie men" and delivered a red-meat address at the Republican National Convention.

It further eroded last fall when Schwarzenegger campaigned for President Bush in Ohio and later at a state women's conference where he ridiculed the nurses protesting his emergency order blocking a new law to ease nurse-staffing ratios.

And it more or less evaporated early this year, when he vowed to bypass the legislature in favor of a special election to consider several government reform initiatives. The measures targeted traditional Democratic constituencies Schwarzenegger has derisively labeled "special interests," such as teachers and public employees.

"The governor's drive for reform and labeling nurses, teachers, and public safety officials as 'special interests' have created an increase in partisanship. Republicans and Democrats have become polarized on this governor," said Phil Trounstine, a former communications

director for Gov. Gray Davis.

Trounstine now runs the Survey and Policy Research Institute at San Jose State University, whose polling has shown a steep drop in Schwarzenegger's popularity since the beginning of the year.

Compounding the problem has been Schwarzenegger's prodigious fund raising, which has allowed his opponents to paint him as a plutocrat out of touch with regular Californians. That characterization, in turn, has posed a direct threat to the governor's cherished image as a political outsider.

While Schwarzenegger has managed to anger labor unions and legislative Democrats, he's had little luck convincing voters of the need for a costly special election.

His skillful use of the bully pulpit is among his greatest strengths, but so far he has failed to build a persuasive case that the state's massive pension system needs immediate privatization or that paying teachers based on merit instead of seniority will suddenly improve struggling schools.

Meanwhile, the governor's opponents have managed to set aside whatever internal disagreements they may have with each other in favor of a remarkably cohesive message: that Schwarzenegger should abandon the costly special election and instead use the tools of government to achieve his goals.

"The legislative process is where issues like these should be discussed," said Carroll Wills, a spokesman for the California Professional Firefighters. "What the governor has done is subject people to a four-month diversionary tactic."

Schwarzenegger spokesman Rob Stutzman said the remaining reform measures are still headed for a special election, and many observers believe that despite the recent setbacks, the governor remains a powerful force to be dealt with. Legislators, never popular with the public, risk looking like obstructionists if they block Schwarzenegger's reform measures without producing their own agenda for solving the state's problems.

"There is reason for optimism," said GOP consultant Kevin Spillane. "The governor's team can take a step back, regroup and move forward with a reconstituted agenda. The Democrats are making a mistake if they underestimate this governor — if there is a special election, they are playing Russian roulette."

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Santa Monica Daily Press

INTERNATIONAL



New gold rush slams into opposition over strip mines

BY MARK STEVENSON

Associated Press Writer

MEXICO CITY — A surge in world gold prices is attracting U.S. and Canadian companies eager for another crack at the Latin American lodes that once enriched the Old World. But their modern-day methods — strip mines and cyanide-based refining — are meeting fierce resistance.

“The indiscriminate exploitation of our mines and forests with no ethical commitment is placing at risk the very purpose of creation — human life and future generations,” Cardinal Oscar Andres Rodriguez, Roman Catholic archbishop of Tegucigalpa, Honduras, warned last month.

The battle has mobilized Indian groups, environmentalists, farmers and religious leaders, and sometimes has turned violent.

In January protesters fired shots, threw stones and put up barriers of burning tires to stop a truck bringing equipment to the Marlin strip mine, owned by Glamis Gold of California, in the western Guatemala town of Solola.

Police shot one man to death and seriously wounded about 16 others in breaking through the roadblocks. The government said it had to honor the mining concession, or risk a huge lawsuit by the company.

The attraction in Latin America is industry-friendly laws, says Mike Steeves, Glamis’ vice president for investor relations — tax holidays and other incentives that amount to “a systematic decision to reform mining laws to encourage investment.”

While Glamis is winding down its gold mine in California, where “it’s hard to open any business, and mining is certainly included in that,” it is operating or opening mines in Mexico and Guatemala, Steeves said.

Payat Sampal, of the anti-mining group Earthworks, says the new mines employ relatively few people and “generate large amounts of waste proportionate to metal created,” said Sampal. “The scale of these mines and the fact they’re all above ground is unprecedented” in the region.

Foreign mining companies have been moving into Latin America since the 1990s and the recent surge in gold prices to over \$430 an ounce has sharpened their appetite.

But the Latin American colonies that flooded Europe with silver and gold from 1520 to 1820 dug tunnels that didn’t alter the landscape as much as strip mines.

Nor did they use “heap leach” refining, which involves pouring a cyanide-laced solution over heaps of ore in containment ponds. Colonial mercury-based techniques left their own pollution problem, but mercury is more stable and tends to scare people less than cyanide.

Also, hills and mountains hold religious significance for some Andean societies.

“The open-pit mines damage nature and they pollute the groundwater,” said Esteban Toc, mayor of Solola where the violence erupted in January. “Most of the people here are Mayas, who view nature as Mother Earth, and they don’t want to destroy it.”

Glamis still plans to start the Marlin mine by 2005, but Toc said the Guatemalan government has promised to grant no more mining concessions.

“If they try to start up other mine sites, there will be another confrontation,” Toc vowed.

In November, a protester was killed in an attack on the La Zanja mining exploration site in the highlands of northern Peru; days earlier, the U.S.-based Newmont Mining Corp., which part-owns La Zanja, closed another exploration site near the Peruvian city of Cajamarca after protesters blocked roads.

It was the first time Newmont had closed a mine under pressure.

“We did not fully appreciate the level of concern in the community and given those concerns, we decided it was not appropriate,” said Newmont spokesman Doug Hock.

It was the latest in a string of victories for mine opponents.

In December, Costa Rica’s highest court annulled a gold-mining concession held by a subsidiary of Canada’s Vannessa Ventures Ltd., saying it would jeopardize the environment.

The government had declared a moratorium on mining in 2002, but it didn’t cover earlier concessions.

Five months before the Vannessa ruling, Honduras canceled the concession of another Canadian company, SilverCrest Mines Inc., ruling that its strip-mine operation intruded on a nature reserve.

Cerro de San Pedro, the latest front in the mining battle, is itself a 400-year-old Spanish mining town riddled with abandoned mine tunnels.

Modern technology, combined with high gold prices, has made even those old deposits worth mining again.

A problem for activists in Mexico and Guatemala is that trade agreements allow investors to sue for damages if their operations are affected by changes in environmental rules.

A decade ago, opponents thwarted a U.S. company’s plan to build a hazardous waste dump not far from Cerro de San Pedro. But the company, MetalClad, Inc., sued the Mexican government, and in 2001 won \$15 million.

“There is a ghost behind the battle for the Cerro de San Pedro,” Calvillo said. “And that ghost is MetalClad.”

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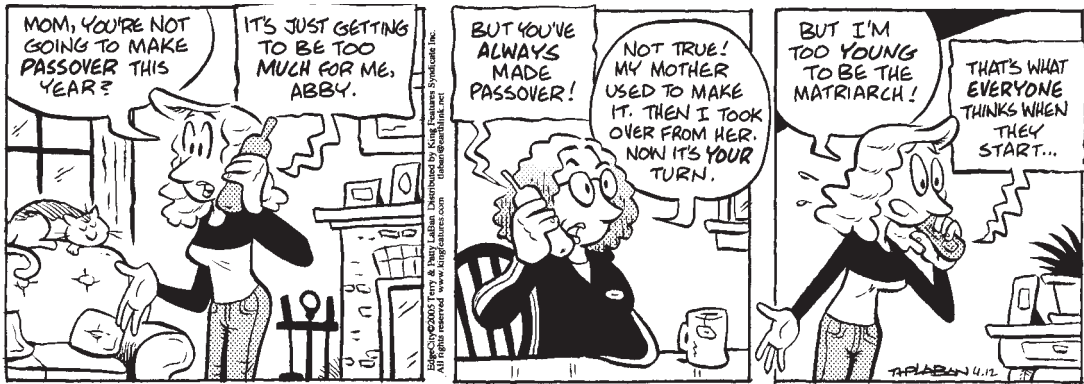


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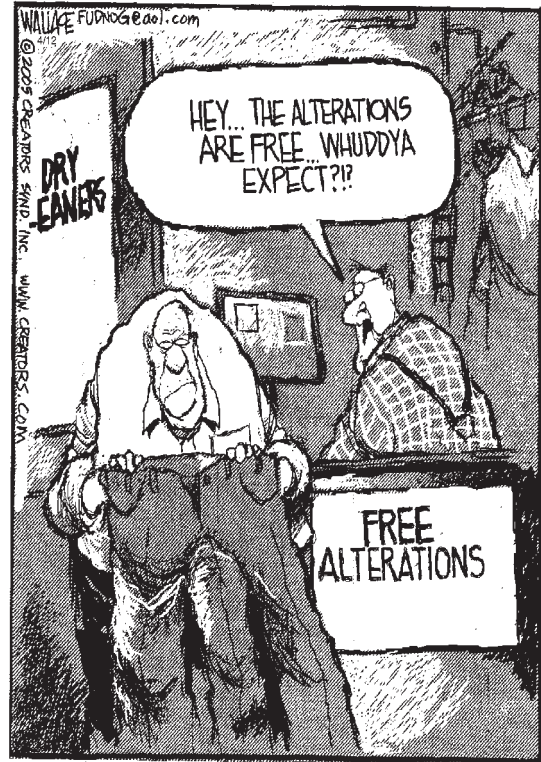


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- 11 Big name in daytime TV
- 12 Concur
- 13 Toaster, perhaps
- 15 Anger
- 16 Peace sign
- 17 Actor Carney
- 18 Goals
- 20 Spotted cube
- 21 Horace's "— Poetica"
- 22 Dandling spot
- 23 Shuts with a bang
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- 29 Finish
- 30 Writer Malamud
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- 35 Genetic messenger
- 36 Soccer's Hamm
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DOWN

- 40 Plumed bird
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- 3 Command
- 4 Young fellow
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- 7 Nest item
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Yesterday's answer

- 14 Takes home
- 19 Stadium event
- 22 Acute
- 23 Woody Allen film
- 24 Way back when
- 25 Neighbor of Spain
- 26 Searches for food
- 28 Ivy League school
- 30 London-ers, e.g.
- 31 Pedro's pal
- 32 Hunting need
- 33 Appointments
- 38 Rocker Nugent
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

'Friends' don't let 'Friends' be baptized alone

By The Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — One of Courteney Cox's high-profile "Friends" joined her in Birmingham this weekend for the baptism of her and husband David Arquette's 10-month-old daughter, Coco.

Jennifer Aniston was named one of Coco's godmothers during a "wonderful gathering" Saturday at St. Stephen's Episcopal, said the Rev. Doug Carpenter, who led the ceremony and had also married Cox and Arquette in San Francisco in 1999.

The baptism was witnessed by about 110 friends and family.

Aniston, who dined with Cox, Arquette and other family members at Highlands Bar & Grill Friday night, was the only high-profile friend of Cox's who attended Saturday's ceremony, Carpenter said.

"There were no cameras during the ceremony, but afterward, everyone wanted their pictures taken with the stars," he said, adding that Cox, Arquette and Aniston "seemed to enjoy that."

LOS ANGELES — OutKast member Antwan "Big Boi" Patton has a problem: He's got 17 cars but only has space for six in his Atlanta area home.

"I'm in the process now of building another house," he said, lamenting he's currently forced to store 11 of his prized possessions in different locations.

And while the crown jewel of his collection is a

\$300,000-plus Rolls-Royce Phantom, which he loves, he's passionate about his vintage Chevrolet Impalas. He's got five of them — 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963 and 1964.

"That's my favorite muscle-type car," Patton says in the spring issue of DuPont Registry Celebrity Car magazine, which arrives on newsstands this week.

"Living out here, there's a lot of older people that have cars that are garage kept, and on Sundays they put them on the side of the road with a for sale sign and I just go out there and get 'em," Patton said.

But he's not a speed demon.

"I'm more of a cruiser, but I like when you go from driving something's that's modern to something that's older," Patton said. "I like something that you can put your foot all the way to the ground in."

LAS VEGAS — Eva Longoria of "Desperate Housewives" had a celebrity-laden crowd purring when she helped open a new lounge featuring the famous Pussycat Dolls at Caesars Palace hotel-casino.

Armed with a horse whip, wearing knee-high leather boots and a zebra-striped mini skirt, Longoria introduced the sexy song-and-dance group to Las Vegas with a provocative meow on Saturday night. The Pussycat Dolls have long performed their cabaret-style shows around Los Angeles, and often feature celebrity guest performers.

"I've always been desperate to be a pussycat," Longoria, 30, said while prancing around a stage at the

center of the lavish room. "And here I am, a bona fide, show-stopping pussycat."

TAMPA, Fla. — Real estate millionaire Chris Shelton, a contestant on NBC's "The Apprentice," was arrested on a disorderly conduct charge.

Shelton, 22, one of six remaining contestants competing for a job with Donald Trump, was taken into custody early Sunday at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino. He was released after posting \$250 bail.

A tribal police officer said he heard a noisy Shelton in the hotel lobby and asked him twice to calm down before arresting him, said Seminole police spokesman Gary Bitner.

"He was loud and he just wouldn't calm down," Bitner said.

Shelton was peeved over a \$20 cover charge for the hotel bar. Shelton "was at the lobby causing a scene," the police report said. "There were several patrons in the area who were visibly shaken by his actions. After several attempts to calm Shelton, he continued to yell and curse, refusing to calm down and stop causing a scene."

Shelton and some friends were staying at the hotel and celebrating his continued success on "The Apprentice," Bitner said.

"We don't really have any comment," NBC spokesman Jim Dowd said. "This is clearly a private matter with Chris." All but the final episode has been taped, and it isn't known if Shelton makes it that far.

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