

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

FANTASY 5

1, 8, 21, 23, 24

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 2, 6, 6

Evening picks: 7, 1, 7

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 6, Whirl Win

2nd Place: 3, Hot Shot

3rd Place: 9, Winning Spirit

Race Time: 1:45.04



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

■ A pickup truck driver was arrested by an Indiana state trooper because its cargo was blocking sight of the license plate in the back window; on closer inspection, the cargo was revealed to be 900 pounds of marijuana (Indianapolis, March).

■ In Lafayette, Ind., Joshua K. Kochell, 27, was charged with robbing two gas stations; his probation officer was able to track his whereabouts precisely that evening because Kochell was still wearing an electronic monitor from a 2001 sentence for theft (March).



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Psychiatry is the care of the id by the odd."

— Unknown



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John Wood/Daily Press
Jeff and Syrna Glasser got tangled in red tape at City Hall before they opened their cookie store on Ocean Park Boulevard.

Santa Monicans debunk Earth Day

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN — Coming together on Earth Day to plant trees, pick up trash and smile on one another may feel good, but it's hardly going to solve the planet's problems.

That's the message a local journalist and two scientists will deliver at a meeting in downtown Santa Monica tonight that aims to expose the dangers of living, working and playing near nature.

"I think it's lovely to see all the various Earth Day events that go on," said Suzanne Goode, a California State Parks biologist who lives in the Santa Monica Mountains. "But just that one little day of activity — while creating a great event — doesn't really do what needs to be done about changing our lives and our fundamental society, and the type of planning that we do."

Real progress entails educating residents about the rights of property owners, while encouraging owners to take better care of the land — and even offer them incentives, said Penelope Grenoble O'Malley, who will speak at the event. She added residents too often equate their slow-growth beliefs with environmentalism.

See EARTH DAY, page 7

Shopkeepers rolling out the dough to start venture in SM

Opening a business in SM is not a cookie-cutter process

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

OCEAN PARK BLVD. — After a 20-month bureaucratic boondoggle that tested their finances and their resolve, the owners of a local mom-and-pop cookie shop opened for business here on Monday.

Jeff and Syrna Glasser, both 38, blame City Hall bureaucracy for much of the delay. When the couple first took out their \$1,400-a-month lease on a tiny storefront in July of 2002, they thought they'd be open within a couple of months. They now estimate they've lost \$200,000 while wriggling through a system that delayed their opening nearly two years.

"I tell people, 'Don't do business in Santa Monica,'" Syrna Glasser said. "They don't make a small business feel welcome. The community does, but not the city."

With similar complaints becoming more frequent from local merchants, City Hall recently decided to pay a consultant \$75,000 to create efficiencies in the planning department. Critics say City Hall is

overly bureaucratic and favors corporations that can afford a protracted process. City Hall workers agree there's a problem, but counter they're bound by a host of state and local laws which regulate the approval process.

"I tell people, 'Don't do business in Santa Monica.' They don't make a small business feel welcome."

— SYRNA GLASSER

Owner, Schmerty's Gourmet Cookies

Santa Monica City Councilman Herb Katz said the situation surrounding Schmerty's Gourmet Cookies is a prime example of what's wrong with the system. Katz, a local architect, stepped in on

See STORE, page 6

Voting may become a right for local teenagers

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

SACRAMENTO — Teenagers could soon be able to vote in Santa Monica.

A bill proposing to change the state constitution to allow 17-year-olds who will turn 18 by the general election to vote in primaries will be heard today by the Assembly Elections Committee. Sen. Sheila Kuehl, a Democrat who hails from Santa Monica, is on that committee.

The bill, known as ACA 25, was introduced in February by Assemblyman Gene Mullin (D-San Mateo).

"Voter registration and turnout among young adults has been abysmal in California," Mullin said. "For most young adults, their first contact with the political process is in high school

through the mandated government classes during their senior year or through volunteering for campaigns for community service credit.

"This is the time to give them ownership in the process by getting them to vote in primaries while they still have a connection to their school and community," he added.

Under current California law, 17-year-olds must turn 18 by the first week in March, denying hundreds of thousands of students the power to pick the nominees who will appear on the November ballot.

"Currently, we miss the opportunity to introduce young voters to the ballot box while still in their local high school,"

See VOTING, page 6

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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)

★★★ An investment on the home front could pay off. Check out real estate or any involvement that might build security. Go forward with an idea, even if it seems a bit strange or unusual. Your high energy takes you down a new path. Tonight: Have a long discussion.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Be more upbeat and friendly. Others respond strongly today and in the next several weeks. Could this be a reaction to your Taurus ways? The Sun in your sign today clears the path in your chosen direction. The unusual occurs at work; you need to flex. Tonight: Smile away.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★ Read between the lines. You are coming from a point of security. Your impression could be very different from the facts. Carefully recheck your facts and figures. There could be a flaw in your thinking or your addition! Find the experts. Tonight: Take a night off.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Aim for more of what you want. Let others pitch in and help a project move to completion. Use your unique way of communicating, and others will naturally join in. Understand what might be bothering you about a partnership. Tonight: Out among the crowds.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ Deal with someone directly rather than skirting the issue. Finances play a large part in what happens at work. You could be bribed into putting in more overtime. You also might want to clarify a financial arrangement. Tonight: A must appearance.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Reach out for others, especially experts and those at a distance. You might be slightly confused about information handed to you. Clarify and investigate. Avoid any extreme health kicks right now. Check in with the doc first. Tonight: Rent a movie.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Deal with others directly, and you'll get the results you want. Others prove to be highly responsive. Take off your rose-colored glasses when dealing with a child or lover. Ultimately, you will be a lot happier knowing the real person. Tonight: Make nice.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Others knock on your door. It's quite clear that a special person needs more from you. You might not realize how valued you are. Explore the possibility that as a duo you could hit a home run. Togetherness becomes today's theme. Tonight: Go along with others' plans.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Dig into work, and you'll accomplish a lot more than you anticipated. Realize your role in creating an office or workplace that runs well. You might be up for a pay raise or promotion. Tonight: Work with facts, not premonitions.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Sometimes you might be easily goaded into taking a risk. The only answer is "no," as much as you would like to run with this offer. Money will slip through your fingers if you are not the careful Capricorn. Detach from the immediate and research information. Tonight: Break from routine. Enjoy yourself.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ While others attempt to clarify, you get more confused. Stay anchored within. A partner or associate makes a delightful offer, be it emotional or financial. Let it all happen. Let go of a need to control. Tonight: The fun is at home.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You might be making mountains out of molehills. Is that a possibility? Others seek you out, and discussions help ground you. You realize how much support you really have. Do not follow your intuition today. Tonight: At a favorite restaurant chatting with a friend.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Local business honored for environmentalism

By Daily Press staff

Several local business have been recognized for doing their part in cleaning up the environment through their daily practices.

The Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce and the city of Santa Monica have announced this year's winners for the Sustainable Quality Awards. For eight years, the program has honored local organizations and businesses that make contributions to the community.

As this year's top winner, Hines Lantana is a local property manager, owner and developer. Their list of sustainable business actions include performing an overall lighting retrofit that saves approximately \$60,000 a year, installing electric vehicle charging stations, and providing fair trade coffee for employees and guests. They also have extensive benefits for their employees, ranging from wellness programs to "pie day." Once the pies are devoured, they return the tins for reuse.

Another winner, New Directions is a local non-profit that has been providing residential drug and alcohol rehabilitation and job training for homeless veterans in LA County since 1992. Their environmental actions include extensive recycling, strong environmentally sound purchasing policies, and developing a vegetable garden that works with fifth-grade students and provides vegetables for their culinary arts program. Their economic development and social responsibility actions include utilizing local volunteers and interns, extensive health care packages and the New Directions Choir, which consists of volunteer alumni. The choir promotes the message of recovery throughout the community by singing at local churches and community events.

The third winner, American Red Cross of Santa Monica, is a humanitarian organization led by volunteers that provides relief to victims of disasters and helps people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies. In an effort to promote the connection between human health and the health of the environment, they recently participated in the city of Santa Monica's thermometer exchange program, which collected more than 250 thermometers and replaced them with non-mercury alternatives. They also participate in several material exchange programs and provide electric vehicles for staff to run local errands. The Red Cross offers several community classes at

See BRIEFS, page 7

Mystery photo winner

It took more than two weeks for someone to correctly identify where this cactus lives. But Paul Fahadian finally ended the mystery — it's located on the southeast corner of 11th and Cedar streets. Fahadian has won two free movie tickets to Loews Cineplex Broadway on the Third Street Promenade.



Mystery photo winner

John W. Stead was the first reader to correctly identify this box of treasures at Ace Lock & Key, 1427 Lincoln Blvd. Stead has won two free movie tickets to Loews Cineplex Broadway on the Third Street Promenade. Check the upcoming weekend edition for the next mystery photo.



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surf report

A continued slow drop in S swell, persistent NW wind swell and a touch of new NW ground swell hangs through the afternoon today. The good S exposed spots have waist high waves with a few bigger sets.

OUTLOOK: On Wednesday look for new SW swell to be on the rise with somewhat inconsistent waist-high surf at the good spots by the afternoon. Those waves hold on Thursday and then fade through the weekend. Also, new NW wind and ground swell will start to fill in late on Wednesday and looks best Thursday.

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

Today the water is:

62°

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	8:45	-0.3	7:04	2.8	12:45	5.4	4:22	3.0
SUNDAY	10:16	-0.3	9:28	3.1	1:57	5.0	6:09	3.4
MONDAY	11:34	-0.4	11:30	2.7	3:36	4.8	6:55	3.8
TUESDAY	NA	NA	12:33	-0.5	5:11	4.8	7:27	4.2
WEDNESDAY	12:41	2.1	1:18	-0.5	6:24	4.9	7:56	4.6
THURSDAY	1:32	1.4	1:55	-0.4	7:21	5.0	8:22	4.9
FRIDAY	2:15	0.9	2:27	-0.2	8:09	4.9	8:47	5.2

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The Q Line

This past weekend marked the 25th anniversary of Santa Monica's Renters' Rights, the city's most powerful political party. Its membership is broad and its leaders have been regarded as the forefathers of Santa Monica politics.

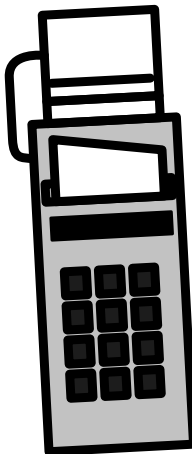
The left-leaning SMRR has dominated the City Council for years and has largely shaped life here through local government policies. And while it was built on securing rent control for Santa Monica citizens, that effort was wiped away decades ago

through a state law that all but abolished how apartment prices are regulated here.

Some wonder what SMRR's current purpose is and in the future.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "What should SMRR focus on now?"

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



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LETTERS

Why is Bush supported?

Editor:

Please help me to understand how people in this country continue to stand behind this failed presidency. How can middle- and lower-class Americans support a president whose interests from the moment he has taken office have been one with rich campaign contributors and large corporations? This president doesn't care at all for the average American. He has shifted the tax burden squarely onto our backs and off the backs of the corporations.

Since he views the U.S. government as a corporation, he views the rest of us simply as lower-class "consumers" to be manipulated and lied to.

In much the same way that a corporation will lie to and distort the truth about their products in the name of profit, this president has lied to us and distorted the truth for his political gain. It's time we take back our country from the corporations that George Bush is giving us over to.

The goal of a government is the betterment of its people, not to increase the bottom line of corporations at the expense of its people. I beseech the American public to stop listening to the distortions, half-truths and outright lies of this administration and its right wing propaganda machine. We are more than we can consume. Stand up and be heard.

Patrick M. Eden
Santa Monica

Smoking law bites the hands that feed

Editor:

The recent beach smoking ban passed by the City Council brings to mind the interesting dependence of government on smoking. State, federal and some local governments benefited from a total of \$20 billion in tobacco tax revenue last year. Another \$8 billion comes in from the tobacco lawsuit settlements. Many states, including California, depend on this annual lawsuit revenue to fund the interest payments on municipal bonds.

So, on one hand, the government tries to end tobacco sales and smoking by prohibiting smoking in public places through anti-smoking ads, by ever increasing taxes and through litigation. On the other hand, they are addicted to revenue smoking produces. One day the golden tobacco goose will be killed when the companies declare bankruptcy. Presumably some of the revenue decline will be offset by reduced health-care costs, however, I suspect that at that point a new lucrative source of revenue will be needed. How about a tax on french fries and some lawsuits against food companies that are contributing to the obesity epidemic?

Glynn Morris
Playa del Rey

Council missed the boat on Target

Editor:

Kudos to Marilyn Brennan for her remarks about Target being rejected by Santa Monica (SMDP, April 15, page 4). I recently visited the new Target on La Brea in Hollywood. What an experience. I saw a parking structure equal only to the one at The Grove at the Farmers' Market at Third Street and Fairfax Avenue. This is the kind that Target proposed to build with their new store in Santa Monica. It is not only large and very well lighted, but also has security people watching for trouble and directing traffic. They even offered bus tokens to seniors to encourage them to use the Santa Monica Big Blue Bus. So, our wonderful City Council and Planning Commission turned them away.

Target spent hundreds of thousands of dollars presenting plans for their store. And guess what we have coming in now, and without parking on premises? Circuit City. How great. Another job well done Santa Monica. I have lived in this area all of my 72 years and am so disappointed in the direction Santa Monica is going.

Oh yes, and they have actually made only one lane of traffic in the area of the massive apartment complex in the Target area. Good work. What are you thinking?

Barbara Barnard
Santa Monica

Blow it out your ear

Editor:

Miss Susan Ann Connor, are you trying to make my life harder? You really can't stand the audible rape of my leaf blower? (SMDP, April 16, page 5). Here, let me lobby across the United States to ban a blower. Heh, heh, ban a blower ... If we're banning blowers, let's ban Monica Lewinsky.

You wanna know what real noise pollution is? I can't listen to my Julio Iglesias CD on my Discman while I blow your lawn because of the horrendous roar of your hair dryer, your AOL browser chirping that you've got mail, your Krups cappuccino maker mixing up your morning espresso latte and the useless power tools your husband is using to set up your new IKEA futon couch/bed for two. Let's not mention the chug, chug roar of the little septic tank that could. You should have laid off the sushi last night. You know raw food can't really be that good for you.

Here is your mission, if you choose to accept it: Let's ban Starbucks, the decibels emitting from their foam makers exceed noise pollution standards in Santa Monica. Jamba Juice uses modified torque suspension to excel the velocity of the blade spinners, obviously illegal in Santa Monica and voiding the manufacturers' warranty. Electric Humvees with anti-gravity hover systems with modified anti-matter blasters to zap trash should replace the current street sweepers. Get a day job lady.

Zoila Rosa del Corral
Santa Monica landscaper

Final thoughts entered into the 'Flora Files'



THE FLORA FILES

By Todd Flora

Friends, loyal readers and detractors, it has been an incredibly fun 17 months writing weekly for the Daily Press. From 2003's "Think Twice," which I co-wrote through the generosity of my friend Evelyn Jerome, to "The Flora Files" this year, I have enjoyed sharing some views with you on a variety of issues.

However, I don't need to tell any of you that life can get a bit too busy at times. As much as possible, I like to be realistic and commit wholly to things. As such, this will serve as my final column. Perhaps you'll see on occasional guest column from me. I encourage you to keep reading and writing to the editor about what you see on these pages. A strong democracy needs an active public dialogue, and I applaud the Daily Press and all of Santa Monica's local papers for carrying news about our vibrant city.

The following are some big picture thoughts I want to leave you with as I enter my hiatus.

THE NATION

This country must seriously ask itself how many chances it's going to give the Bush family. Do these men and their ilk really deserve a third term in office? They can't manage money or an economy, with deficits and our national debt once again threatening to hemorrhage the economy for future generations. They are obsessed with a foreign policy that is losing the U.S. respect overseas. We're losing jobs and civil liberties at home. If the president's rich friends aren't destroying the environment through some form of polluter protection he's arranged, they are screwing their employees by choosing lavish parties for executives over giving the working and middle class managers a decent raise. And the tone this president has set is leading to hung juries, not "tough on white collar crime" policies.

Aren't you tired of feeling this way? There is a dirty film covering the entire country and it's time to wash it off. And the only way to begin doing that is to rid this country of the person at the top of the

pile who is creating this awful tone at home and abroad. There are no good wholesome values in anything George W. Bush is doing. As the bumper sticker says, "If you aren't outraged, then you aren't paying attention."

THE STATE

Sacramento is a cesspool, and much like Washington D.C. or LA City Hall, a place steeped in an isolated world of exaggerated self-importance. We send some great people to all of these centers of government, but the politics alone must change in order to change Sacramento.

There was too much campaign money floating around long before Gray Davis and our current governor made the chase for campaign cash an art form. It buys access, pure and simple. And uneven access to our leaders leads to public policy going one direction over another and completely shuts out those with the voices that have merit. There are several things about state government on which I could comment. But above all else, we need public financing of campaigns to change the profile of who gets elected, and in other cases the way they can govern. We need to take away our legislators'

need to spend half of their time raising money so that they may govern with the conscience that led them to public service in the first place.

OUR CITY

It is ridiculous for anyone who writes on these pages to claim one group, elected official, the homeless or anyone else alone is responsible for all of Santa Monica's problems. We need a little more civility and a little more bridge building. There is too much vitriol and it all seems too personal.

Santa Monica is a wonderful place and should hardly be the political tinderbox it seems. Yes, there are competing visions for this city, and I more than understand that at the end of the day we have to choose our team. But we can and must find areas of agreement without polarizing ourselves so much, without wearing our primary colors so brightly that they cannot be blended for the sake of some common ground when possible.

Thank you, readers. All my best to you.

To comment or to keep in touch with Todd, e-mail him at: reformadvocate@yahoo.com.

OPINION

Politicians bark up wrong tree, city goes to the dogs



LEGAL VIEWS AND NEWS

By David Pissarra

London, Paris, Rome, Seattle, New York. These are all great cities and there are many more that one could name.

The question of the day is, why doesn't Santa Monica rank among them?

Could it be the lack of cultural activities? Possibly it is too small for a grand museum, but the Getty is just up the road. We have a symphony, but no opera house, large theater, or even a venue ready to be used for such events. There is the current Civic Center Auditorium, which is part of the "new downtown" development, but that is at least a decade away from being redone.

Our architecture could certainly be world class. Look at the number of great architects in the city. Developers want to build here, clearly. All we need to do is look to Howard Jacobs and the proposed development that was at the end of my street to see wasted efforts. The old Boulangerie Bakery was slated to be developed, and had any workable plan been approved timely by the City Council, the property could have been a boon to the local economy. Instead it was a nest of homeless thieves and currently provides nothing but an eyesore. The current council has done everything but say outright that they will not allow it to be developed quickly or easily.

No council member will outright tell you that they are unconcerned about building a great city. In lofty language and verbal sidestepping, they will espouse their

Santa Monica has all the elements necessary for a great city. Fantastic location, a beautiful oceanfront, great weather, educated population, culturally aware residents, public assets and private money. There really is no excuse for this city to be less than great.

love of the city and their hard work to make it so. Their actions, however, speak louder than any words could convey.

The community has a tremendous need for housing, retail spaces, cultural venues, and developers and builders willing to provide them. But the community's needs go unmet. Yet, there is plenty of room and funding for a homeless shelter.

Santa Monica has all the elements necessary for a great city. Fantastic location, a beautiful oceanfront, great weather, educated population, culturally aware residents, public assets and private money. There really is no excuse for this city to be less than great.

So why isn't it? From where I stand, it seems to me that there has been too much focus on trying to be the saviors of the downtrodden. Our profligate council spends millions on lost causes and a pittance on culture. They fight ATM fees, and we get a summer concert series. I like the concert series, but what more can we afford?

We must be more like an airline passenger. When the announcement is made about sudden loss of cabin pressure, we are told to save ourselves first, and then assist the weaker ones in our group.

Our city has lost cabin pressure and Santa Monica needs to put its oxygen mask on. We need to understand that by helping a developer provide the city with housing, we are creating a tax base that will then allow us to help the helpless. By allowing a homeowner to increase the

value of his home, we are helping the community as a whole. Not because of the increase in property taxes, but because the new owner is more likely to spend more money in the city.

The great cities all have their problems. Paris has dog poop. London has pigeons, Rome has small streets and psychotic drivers. Seattle has rain. My point is that they also have a desire to be great cities. They have done the work to make their cities world renowned for the food, culture, art and architecture.

We have a non-smoking pier (whose idea was that?) and a Bubba Gump Shrimp restaurant coming.

The council bewails the loss of small businesses and then courts the corporate sugar daddies. In a misguided attempt to keep visual pollution to a minimum, the city makes it impossible for small business to promote themselves while allowing the proliferation of Staples, Circuit City and subsidiaries of The Limited Group. They will tell you that everyone is playing by the same rules. But the small businessman who is forced to decide

whether to comply with the city's regulations and lose his shirt or close up shop, will tell you that he doesn't have the resources to play by the rules.

Rather than arguing over whether I "own" my dog or am his "guardian," why isn't the City Council concerned that we have no world-class museums? Why aren't we arguing about how best to foster business in a responsible manner? It is business that pays the bills around here, not the pets. It gives new meaning to the term, "this city is going to the dogs." Hours are spent on municipal ordinances, which then go unenforced, because we have to "educate the homeless" about the implications of the new ordinance. I might feel more sympathetic if I was given an educational warning about parking five minutes into a "No Parking" time slot, rather than a ticket.

The City Council wants to be all things to all people. They want everyone to feel good about what is going on. That is called people pleasing, and it generally fails. We have all the makings of a world-class city: location, weather, population, assets. We should demand one from our government, after all, we're paying for it.

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

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LOCAL

Review of planning department is halfway complete

STORE, from page 1

behalf of the Glassers to see if he could help expedite the process.

"They were just put into a bureaucracy they couldn't get out of ... and they carry it to such horrendous extremes that these poor people got had," Katz said. "It's just awful what we do to little people like that. Small people with small businesses."

Syrna Glasser attributed part of the delays in opening her store to a penny-pinching landlord who fought every upgrade and a sometimes lackadaisical contractor who let work slide for weeks. But the real culprit, she added, was a non-responsive City Hall.

"We came in doing everything by the book, legally, because we didn't want to get in trouble — and we got nailed for everything," said Glasser, while packaging cookies in the back of her store on Monday afternoon. "One person would sign off it, and then you'd go back and it was like the left person didn't know what

the right person was doing ...

"I feel like sitting down and writing a book — 101 on getting a business started in Santa Monica."

After repeatedly receiving conflicting information from staffers on everything from minor aesthetic details to major structural concerns, the Glassers said they were stuck in City Hall for months over a handicapped-accessible ramp inside their shop. The Glassers wanted to install a short concrete ramp, like the ones used by other merchants on the street, but they said City Hall wouldn't allow that.

It was a space issue for the shopkeepers. The store is only 700 square feet — and about 15 feet wide — and a handicapped ramp that meets code would have had to turn at least once inside the store. So the Glassers said they next considered selling their cookies straight onto the street, but officials said that wouldn't work either, because handicapped workers also needed a proper way to enter.

In the end, the two sides compromised. The Glassers paid \$5,000 to have a handicapped ramp installed that doesn't comply to code, because it's about twice as steep as allowed. The ramp still takes up more than half of the front of the store, where customers purchase cookies at a counter.

Tim McCormick, head of the building department, said the Glassers weren't treated as bad as it may sound. He said the Glassers didn't submit their plans until Jan. 28 of 2003, and that staff returned them with comments on March 13. The plans came back to City Hall on May 22 and were approved by planners on June 6, McCormick said. A permit was issued June 12 of 2003. Their issue with the handicapped ramp dragged out the matter for several more months.

McCormick said plans for the average business are reviewed and returned to developers within six weeks, and amended submissions usually are reviewed within three weeks. Plans for 93 percent of merchants are approved by the third time they are submitted, he said, adding small merchants like Schmerty's usually only require two submissions.

"Let me just say that it was unusual for

the process," McCormick said. "The amount of time that was taken, it's not typical of the system ...

"I think there is a legitimate issue with staff being able to review plans in a shorter time period, based on the number of plans that staff has," added McCormick, who said the outside study of the planning department is already halfway complete. "That study is well underway and is pointing to various important policy decisions about how to improve the process. They involve the regulations, efficiency improvement and staffing capacity."

Meanwhile, some local merchants said time is running out. They worry City Hall has grown accustomed to the deep pockets and seemingly endless patience of corporations like those that have sought space on the Third Street Promenade.

"They don't deal with people who own their own places," said Margie Ghiz, owner of the Midnight Special Bookstore, an independent business that struggled last year to open at its new location on Second Street. "They deal with their architects, or even their architects' assistants ... Two or three weeks (of delays) is nothing to them."



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Legislature will consider voting rights for 17-year-olds

VOTING, from page 1

said Santa Monica City Councilman Kevin McKeown. "Enfranchising 17-year-olds in primaries will encourage a lifelong commitment to being part of the electoral process."

McKeown also said that the primary happens senior year for most high schoolers. And, if they are given a stake in the process when they still have ties to their home communities — before they go to college or leave looking for work — they are more likely to be regular voters.

In the 11 other states — Arizona, Delaware, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, Nebraska, North Carolina, Ohio, Virginia and West Virginia — which have approved similar changes, there has been an increase in young people turning out to the polls, officials said. In 2000, the turnout for voters between 18 and 24 years old in California was below 48 percent, but was 60 percent in Virginia.

McKeown, who is a member of the Green Party, introduced the bill for his party's support and recently gave an

endorsement.

"I work at (Santa Monica High School), Olympic and Malibu High and I see some really inspiring kids," he said. "They never get to vote in Santa Monica because they go off to college or start their careers."

McKeown added that when the Santa Monica City Council in February of 2003 debated whether or not to pass a resolution opposing the war in Iraq, several high school students who testified at the hearing were able to sway at least one council member's vote in favor of it.

The sponsor of the bill, Secretary of State Kevin Shelley, agrees young voters deserve to be recognized.

"Currently, a person who is 17 years of age is eligible to work at a polling place as an election worker and to serve our nation in the armed forces," he said. "ACA 25 acknowledges that if a person is old enough to work at the polls on Election Day or protect our national interests abroad he or she should be old enough to cast a ballot."

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Abroad he draws as many as half-million people to a single talk, making this a special opportunity to interact with him. Sri Sri says "if any part of the world is ignorant, impoverished, or uncivilized then there is danger to every other part of the world. The time has come for humanity to focus on values that are common to all traditions, rather than symbols and customs".

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LOCAL



Malibu septic tanks need to go, author says

EARTH DAY, from page 1

O'Malley, a book author, said she moved from West Los Angeles in 1986 to the Point Dume area of Malibu to escape urban sprawl. But O'Malley said she quickly realized rural areas also face serious ecological challenges.

"I learned a lot about the environment that I had no idea about," said O'Malley, 59, who later moved to live on an acre in the Canejo Valley, where she now lives with her husband. "I went out to Malibu to isolate and get close to nature, and I found out it was a lot harder than I thought ... It's a sense that you just can't run away and say, 'I'm tired of being responsible in the city. I'm just going to come out here and lay back and smell the ocean, and whatever' — you really need to be more diligent."

O'Malley said what she calls "negative" or "defensive" development in Malibu has caused the wildfires to recur more often, move faster, grow larger and burn hotter. Mudslides and floods are the result, she added, saying the environment takes a beating the entire time.

"We need to be creative," O'Malley said. "Development is going to happen. We have to learn how to use the development process to protect the environment and to create a model for how people live close to nature ... Malibu could still be a model for how to do this."

O'Malley said Malibu officials could learn from areas like the Santa Rosa plateau in San Diego, where land buyers are given discounts in exchange for limited development plans. She said onerous laws for land owners need to be replaced with "positive" and "creative" environmentalism. And Malibu is just the place to

do it, she added, because of its open spaces and its affluent and creative residents.

"We need to be creative. Development is going to happen."

— PENELOPE GRENOBLE
O'MALLEY
Author

Dr. Shelley Luce, the science and policy director for Heal the Bay, a local non-profit organization, will join Goode and O'Malley at the Midnight Special Bookstore on Second Street in downtown Santa Monica at 7:30 p.m. tonight to "expose the destructive flip side of living and recreating close to wild land." O'Malley also will read from a book she wrote called, "Malibu Diary: Notes from an Urban Refugee."

O'Malley said there's a lot to be done in a short amount of time. As an example of creative thinking, she pointed to the situation near the Malibu Lagoon, where locals have retained their septic tanks in lieu of installing a sewer system to limit new construction. The effect, she said, is the septic tanks sometimes leak, and that leads to contaminated ground water and closed beaches.

"In reality, what you could do, is you could put in a self-contained sewage treatment plant," O'Malley said. "As opposed to having the businesses and people who live in those areas use septic tanks, which eventually leak effluent into the ground water."

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 3

discounted rates and utilizes volunteers from a multitude of community groups, providing support for their organization, as well as job training for volunteers.

Four companies will receive an "Excellence Award for Stewardship of the Natural Environment." The companies have exhibited a commitment to the environment by incorporating sustainable practices into their everyday operations. They are: Napoleon Café, Sea Shore Motel, Bravo Cucina and Pizzeria, and Yellow Cab Company. In addition, Step Up on Second and Wild Oats Natural Market will receive honorable mention for their commitment and progress in all three categories.

This year there also are two unique awards given to businesses that are contributing to the community in different ways. The Arborview Rehabilitation and Wellness Center has only been open to the public for one month and has already incorporated sustainability into their daily operations. For their efforts they will receive the "SQA Great Start Award." Also, the Natural Resources Defense Council will be recognized for the construction of their new Santa Monica headquarters, which is one of the "greenest" buildings in the country.

Winners will be honored at the Chamber of Commerce luncheon on May 4. The luncheon will be held at the Four Points Sheraton, located at 530 Pico Blvd., from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The cost is \$25 for chamber members paid in advance and \$35 for non-members. Reservations are required. Call (310) 393-9825, ext. 10.

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STATE

Activists force institutions to consider environment

BY TERENCE CHEA
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — For more than a decade, Margie Richard and her neighbors waged a scrappy campaign against a corporate giant whose chemical plant was spewing toxic fumes and sickening residents in Norco, La.

Taking their plight to courtrooms, television sets and the Internet, Richard and her allies prevailed in what is hailed by many as a model for environmental activism. In 2002, Shell Chemical agreed to reduce plant emissions by 30 percent and to pay resettlement costs for Norco residents.

Richard, 62, is one of seven activists being honored Monday in San Francisco with the Goldman Environmental Prize — the best-known award for environmentalists. Awards are given to activists in six regions — Africa, Asia, Europe, Island Nations, North America and South/Central America — and each recipient receives \$125,000.

Among this year's winners are two Indian labor leaders seeking justice for an industrial disaster that killed more than 20,000 people, a Ghanaian lawyer campaigning against a World Bank water privatization project and a Colombian activist fighting for territorial rights for the country's black communities.

Experts say this year's prize winners illustrate the growing strength of the global environmental movement. Often facing powerful foes, community activists are forcing corporations and governments to reconsider how their activities impact the communities and environment where they operate.

"You're seeing some shifts in how industries proceed," said Barbara Rose Johnston, a researcher with the Center for Political Ecology in Santa Cruz. "If they have an ugly record of human rights and environmental abuse, it's going to be difficult to do business in the future."

Over the past decade, the Internet and other new technologies have given environmentalists new tools to publicize their campaigns and link up with other activists around the world.

"It's more difficult for (corporations) to hide," said Stephen Mills, the Sierra Club's director of international programs. "It's easier for us to hold them accountable. It's easier for us to embarrass them publicly and inform their shareholders."

An increasingly global network of environmentalists is pressuring corporations that moved their most polluting operations abroad, where labor is cheap and environmental regulations are lax. Community activists are linking up with international environmental groups that can provide resources, publicity and expertise for their campaigns.

"International solidarity is very important for creating pressure on institutions like the World Bank and IMF," said Rudolf Amenga-Etego, this year's award winner for Africa, who has been fighting a major World Bank water privatization project in his native Ghana. "Through (international groups), we are able to reach activists in these western countries and we are able to get results."

Increasingly, activists are finding allies in consumers who want to know where and how products are produced, and shareholders who want corporations to

adhere to higher environmental standards, said the Sierra Club's Mills.

Meanwhile, people in developing countries are learning their rights and protesting when corporations violate them, environmentalists say.

Manana Kochladze, the Goldman winner for Europe, has campaigned to protect the environment and local communities in her native Georgia from multinationals building a major oil pipeline from the Caspian Sea to the Mediterranean. She said the oil companies have started to pay more attention to citizens in the former Soviet bloc country.

**"It's easier for us to hold
(corporations) accountable.
It's easier for us to embar-
rass them publicly and
inform their shareholders."**

— STEPHEN MILLS
Sierra Club,
Director of international programs

"Now it's much more difficult to ignore the people because people now know their rights," said Kochladze, 32, of Tbilisi, Georgia. "The corporations are more willing to talk to us."

Yet despite their successes in holding powerful institutions accountable, activists still encounter many challenges in their efforts to achieve environmental justice.

Even with their improved ability to broadcast their campaigns, grass-roots activists still are battling powerful interests that have more money, power and resources.

Rashida Bee and Champa Devi Shukla, the Goldman winners for Asia, have spent years trying to hold Dow Chemical accountable for a 1984 Union Carbide gas leak in Bhopal, India that killed more than 20,000 and injured more than 150,000 people.

But Dow Chemical, Union Carbide's parent company, denies the claims of the Indian activists. Spokesman John Musser said Dow believes the case was resolved in 1989, when Union Carbide paid \$470 million in a settlement with the Indian government.

"The forces that we have to fight against are too powerful," said Rashida Bee, 48. "There is no effective law enforcing agency to hold large multinationals accountable." Richard Goldman, whose foundation created the environmental prize in 1990, said the awards help activists gain recognition and credibility in their home countries, and often bring protection from repressive regimes.

"The prize has become better recognized every year, sometimes in foreign countries more than our own," Goldman said. "They prize makes people more sensitive to the (activists). They're treated better than they used to be."

This year's recipients said that winning a Goldman prize not only helps publicize their causes, but also strengthens their resolve.

"In a poor, obscure country, you think nobody's listening, nobody's watching," said Amenga-Etego, 40, of Accra, Ghana. "And you wake up one morning and you are told you've been recognized. It's very encouraging. It has given us new hope."

STATE



Private communities undermined by cash shortages

BY JIM WASSERMAN
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — "Welcome to our neighborhood," says the sign in the development once known as Franklin Villa. "No gangs. No drugs. No guns."

What started 35 years ago as a pleasant community run by a private homeowners association has become an object lesson in the worst that can happen when such a neighborhood starts to unravel.

Its original owners moved out, new owners failed to maintain the property, neglect accelerated into falling property values, then crime and eventual collapse. Now, state and local taxpayers are paying \$80 million to turn it into a nonprofit housing complex called Phoenix Park.

While extreme, it could be the fate of thousands of privately run communities throughout the nation, which are flirting with declines by failing to spend adequately on upkeep, even as owning a home in private communities has become the nation's fastest-growing lifestyle.

Amid more than 260,000 private communities nationally and 36,000 in California, at least one third have steadily put off raising necessary assessments for fear of political conflict, and now need repairs and facelifts for which they significantly lack money, say those who monitor homeowner association finances.

"If you give me a list of 30 names, 10 are on the list," says Robert M. Nordlund, owner of California's Association Reserves, Inc., which analyzes private communities in 41 states, Canada and Mexico. For those 10, he said, "the deficit is so significant they'll need one or more special assessments to make it up."

In Tampa, Fla., Len Colodny, president of the Lake Place Condominium Association, faces the challenge of asking the residents of his neighborhood to pay a one-time special assessment of up to \$4,000 per home to pave streets, rebuild a wall and make other repairs caused by years of deferred maintenance.

Colodny says he expects significant opposition from fellow residents of his 18-year-old, 90-home complex, but adds, "If you can't afford to take care of the place, you can't afford to live here."

One half to three fourths the state's older private communities have reserve funds too small to meet their physical needs, Colodny estimates, saying that newer developments "can get away with lower maintenance. But if they haven't been saving up they're going to run into that cycle, too."

The trend, especially in older privately run neighborhoods represents a striking parallel to the financial deficits plaguing local and state governments. As the public sector has delayed maintenance, many private association boards are also watching streets, pools, bal-

conies, siding and clubhouses slowly deteriorate while their reserve funds contain half or less of the money needed to eventually fix them. And just as city halls and statehouses fear raising taxes, voluntary, often-inexperienced association boards fear the wrath of homeowners over possible higher assessments.

As a result "they tend not to do that, or raise them in very small increments," says Tyler Berding, a California attorney who specializes in private communities.

Many states lack reserve fund requirements for privately run communities, while those with laws typically set few requirements.

In Florida, which with California contains 40 percent of the nation's condominium communities, association boards must calculate appropriate reserve funding. But a majority vote among members can block the assessments needed to reach it.

There, Nordlund says, older residents of such neighborhoods tend to think, "Why do I care about the roof in five years?"

But underfunded reserves could threaten the 40-year-old culture of living in a privately run neighborhood, which is where 80 percent of all new homes are built nationally, according to the Community Associations Institute of Alexandria, Va. The group, which advises association-governed communities, estimates that 50 million Americans — nearly one in six — live inside such communities with half paying between \$100 to \$200 a month to maintain them.

In California, private communities with monthly or yearly dues now contain more than one-fourth of the state's 12 million places to live and 60 percent of its new housing. Many of the state's 477 cities encourage privately run communities inside their boundaries because they build and maintain their own streets and parks, even as their residents also pay property taxes to support city facilities.

Though newer communities need fewer repairs and typically have up to 80 percent of what they need to keep up appearances, they can also run into trouble if their developers set assessments too low to maintain them.

That happened to Ken Nelson, a small businessman and the first president of the 256-home Wolf Creek Estates Homeowners Association in Plano, Texas, where he says the association "ran out of cash 60 days after I was elected."

The developer had set annual dues at \$420. "From the day I got elected that was my No. 1 issue," Nelson says. "The crowning achievement of my life is an 83 percent vote to double our dues."

But such votes are typically more critical for private neighborhoods built during the 1970s and early 1980s.

A recent study by the Oakland accounting firm, Levy and Co., estimated that reserves for communities more

than 21 years old — nearly half the private neighborhoods in California — are typically about 40 percent funded. Experts recommend at least 70 percent and many prefer 100 percent.

Low interest rates have kept reserve funds from building in recent years. Associations can also foreclose on homeowners who don't pay their dues, so resident are often wary of raising them.

That means new buyers will most likely have to pay higher fees to compensate for what previous owners failed to assess themselves, experts say.

CAI officials say they don't think the problem is that serious in California.

But new buyers' complaints have prompted California real estate agents to push for rules that better warn potential home and condominium buyers of a private community's true financial picture. They say they've been stung by clients' unhappiness over unexpected bills to fix shared facilities within a year or two of moving in.

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Santa Monica

A weekly look at events and programs for

Being present in your child's life is not just physical

Guest Commentary

By Vickie Falcone

Study after study has concluded that "connect-ness" is the single most important factor in a child's success and happiness. Yet it's easy to fall short of connecting emotionally with our children and each other. That's because our society places little value on it, and we don't realize how powerful and crucial it is to our children's well-being.

You can experience three levels of presence or connecting with your child. In order to spend most of your time at the highest level, it's helpful to be able to recognize the less-than-optimal levels. The levels are:

■ **Low-level connecting:** At this level, you're "there, but not there." Your physical body might be in the room, but your mind is miles away thinking things like, "did I remember to put dog

biscuits on the grocery list?" or "how do I want my hair cut tomorrow?"

■ **Medium-level connecting:** At this mid-level of connecting, you're "there with your agenda." You may be quite present, but you're not open to the possibility of fully connecting with your child because you already have a goal in mind. Some activities that constitute a medium-level connection include shopping, driving, going to a movie, running errands and doing various family activities planned by the parents.

Medium-level connecting is certainly an improvement over low-level connecting, and many medium-level activities are great fun, or absolutely necessary. I'm not at all suggesting that you abandon these types of activities. The problem happens when we mistake medium-level connection for high-level connection.

■ **High-level connecting:** In the strongest level of connecting, you are "there with their agenda." You're fully present, making the current moment the most important thing on your agenda. No parent can operate in high-level connecting mode all the time. However, if you want a strong relation-

ship with your child and the rich rewards that closeness brings, aim to connect at this level as often as possible.

A DAY AT THE POOL: THREE LEVELS OF CONNECTING

Here's an everyday example of how the same event can lead to very different levels of connection.

Low-level connecting: You head to the pool with your children with the thought that maybe you can have some fun, catch up on your reading and squeeze in a quick coat of polish on your toes while the kids are preoccupied. Halfway in to your second coat of polish, your children whine for the third time, "Mom, come in the pool with us." Near the end of the day you jump in the pool for a few minutes to appease their demands.

Medium-level connecting: Your children ask you to come in the pool a few times, and though you mean well, you end up talking for half an hour with a friend who has just returned from a two-month trip across Europe. "Stop interrupting," you say to your 5-year-old who is intermittently chanting, "Mom, Mom, Mom..." Later, you jump in the pool and have a great time playing Marco Polo

while sharing the details of your friend's trip with everyone in your family.

High-level connecting: You head the pool intending to connect as a family. The children ask you to get in the pool right away and though you had hoped to read a short magazine article, you enthusiastically join them. After playing some pool games, you spot your friend who has just returned from her trip to Europe. "I have so much to tell you!" she exclaims. "I can't wait to hear all about it," you say, "I'm in the middle of an important game of Marco Polo right now. Shall I call you tonight?"

When a child feels that you are truly present with him during an activity or interaction, even just a few times each day, everyone benefits. The rewards are great — a decrease in misbehavior and a closeness with your child that is irreplaceable.

(Vickie Falcone speaks nationally and is the author of "Buddha Never Raised Kids and Jesus Didn't Drive Carpool: Seven Principles for Parenting with Soul" (Jodere, 2003). She spoke this past weekend at Agape Spiritual Center in Culver City.)

Overindulging your children creates problems for them later



How Much Is Enough?

By David J. Bredehoft

Here is a sample of the responses I hear from parents and grandparents after telling them I do research on overindulging children and how it affects them when they grow up to be adults:

■ "She's my favorite grandchild. I have a right to spoil her if I want to. I don't see a problem with that."

■ "I can see that overindulgence might be bad for them, but what I am doing is indulging them, not overindulging them. So, what if I do it every day?"

■ "I am a recent immigrant to the U.S. and that's what I thought you were supposed to do — give them everything they want. Isn't that your secret for making children happy?"

■ "Why shouldn't I give my kid everything he wants? I have the money to do it, and besides, I enjoy it and he really likes it. What's the harm in overindulging anyway?"

I admit, it is a fair question to ask. After reading about the harm that overindulgence really does, many parents may want to consider doing things a little differently.

What is the harm in overindulging a child? And why should parents and

grandparents be concerned?

First, our participants said they had a huge hole in their daily lives because they lacked many adult life skills which are important for being a capable person. This skill deficiency resulted from a type of overindulgence called "over-nurture." Over-nurturing is not about giving too much love. Over-nurturing is providing too much care — care that may look loving, but keeps a child from achieving his or her full potential (to read more about over-nurture go to www.Overindulgence.info or read about it in "How Much Is Enough?").

The most common missing skills were:

- Communication, interpersonal, and relationship skills.
- Domestic and home skills.
- Mental and personal health skills.
- Decision making skills.
- Money and time management skills.

■ The ability to be responsible.

Second, the participants from our study, who were overindulged as children, said they now have difficulties with:

- Food.
- Spending money and buying gifts.
- Parenting and child-rearing.
- Feelings of what's normal.
- Conflict with interpersonal boundaries and relationships.
- Decision making.
- Engaging in excessive activities such as working, going to school, exer-

cising, playing and having fun.

Third, our research clearly shows that the impact of childhood overindulgence lasts well into adulthood. Listen to the pain in these direct quotes of what they felt are results of being overindulged as children:

■ "I have extreme difficulty making decisions."

■ "I need praise and material reward to feel worthy."

■ "I don't have to grow up because other people will take care of me."

■ "I feel like I need lots of things to feel good about myself."

■ "I'm unlovable."

■ "I have to buy gifts to be loved."

■ "I constantly need outside affirmation from my friends."

Why do we overindulge our children?

Overindulgence starts from a good heart. Parents try to shield their children from the pains and difficulties they had to endure while growing up. Sometimes parents are responding to their own feelings of guilt and anxiety. Here are a few examples:

■ "I grew up in poverty. It was terrible and I don't want my children to experience that same thing. That's why I give them everything."

■ "Both of us work. We feel guilty that we don't have as much time to spend with our children as our parents did. Besides, we are beat when we get home and don't have the energy. That's

why we give in."

■ "My parents were extremely rigid and I hated that. That's why I don't have rules or make them follow rules."

Now that you are aware of the hazards of overindulgence, consider doing things differently. Choose one of the tips for avoiding overindulgence listed below and try in the upcoming week:

■ Ask yourself, "Am I doing this for my child or am I really doing it for me?"

■ Ask, "Am I doing something for my children that they really are old enough to be doing for themselves?"

■ Let your children make decisions that are appropriate for their age.

■ Hold your children accountable for their behaviors.

■ Practice saying, "You have had enough for now."

(David J. Bredehoft Ph.D., Jean Illsley Clarke Ph.D., and Connie Dawson Ph.D., are co-authors of "How Much Is Enough? Everything You Need to Know to Steer Clear of Overindulgence and Raise Lovable, Responsible and Respectful Children — From Toddlers to Teens." Bredehoft is chair of the social and behavioral sciences department at Concordia University in St. Paul and can be reached at bredehoft@csp.edu. To read more about overindulgence go to www.overindulgence.info.)

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or Santa Monica mothers and mothers to be

CALENDAR OF MOMMY EVENTS:

SPECIAL EVENTS

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY, APRIL 21 & 22 THE WIGGLES IN CONCERT! Universal Amphitheatre, 3:00 & 7:00 p.m. Also at Long Beach Convention Center Arena, April 24 & 25 (Sat. & Sun.), 1:00 & 4:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 - \$35, all kids and adults age 1 and up need a ticket. Buy tickets at the venue box office, at all Ticketmaster outlets, at ticketmaster.com or call 213-480-3232 (LA) or 714-740-2000 (LB).

SAINT JOHN'S SHOTS for TOTS & TEENS SATURDAY, APRIL 24 - 10:00 a.m. - noon Free immunizations and TB skin tests to infants, adolescents and teens under the age of 18. Saint John's Health Center - Cafeteria - Ground Floor, Arizona and 22nd St., 310-829-8234

DINO FAIR, SATURDAY, APRIL 24 - 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., 401 Ashland Ave. Pony rides, arts & crafts, petting zoo and game booths for kids ages 3-7 and families.

LA LECHE LEAGUE WESTSIDE/MAR VISTA YARD SALE SATURDAY, APRIL 24 - 9:00 a.m., 1663 Hayworth Ave. (1 block west of Fairfax between Venice and Pico Blvd.) Giant, multi-family sale benefiting LLL

LOS ANGELES TIMES FESTIVAL OF BOOKS SATURDAY & SUNDAY, April 24 - 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., April 25 - 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. This event showcases the world of reading and literacy through workshops, presentations, storytelling and visits from costumed characters. At the UCLA campus, 405 Hilgard Ave., 213-237-3364, free admission

FIESTA AND SILENT AUCTION for CANYON CHARTER SCHOOL - SUNDAY, APRIL 25. Featuring music, food, game booths, and a playground transformed into an amusement park. Free admission, for all ages, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., 421 Entrada Drive, 454-7510.

13TH ANNUAL SANTA MONICA FESTIVAL - SATURDAY, MAY 1 - Clover Park. More details coming or visit www.arts.santa-monica.org.

SESAME STREET LIVE - OUT of this WORLD (sesamestreetlive.com) Kodak Theatre - Hollywood - May 14 - 16, group discounts call 866-LA-GROUP
Long Beach Terrace Theatre - May 20-23, group discounts call 809-988-9859
Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza - May 27-30, group discounts call 805-522-8010
Tickets went on sale March 29th, available thru Ticketmaster 213-480-3232

TUESDAY

Movies for Moms presents: "In America" showing April 20, 11:00 a.m., Loews Broadway, 1441 3rd St. Promenade - for Moms and babies newborn - 1 year old. Doors open early for socializing and getting comfortable. www.reelmomms.urbanbaby.com. Filmmaker Jim Sheridan (My Left Foot and In the Name of the Father) wrote and directed this drama about an aspiring Irish actor who moves his wife and two young daughters to New York to pursue his dreams. His children befriend an intense artist who lives next door. Starring Samantha Morton, Paddy Considine, Sarah Bolger and Djimon Hounsou. Rated PG-13 for some sexuality, drug references, brief violence and language.

Storytelling - Toddler Storytime at Reed Park, 10:00 & 10:30 a.m. Stories for two year olds with adult.
Fairview Branch Library - 2101 Ocean Park Blvd - 310-450-0443.
Cuentos Para Pequeños - 10:00 a.m., next session April 27 - June 1. Six-week series in Spanish for 24 - 36 month olds with adult.
Lap Time - 11:00 a.m., next session April 27 - June 1. Six-week series for babies 0-24 months, co-sponsored by the SMMUSD Infant and Family Support Programs.
Twilight Story Time - 7pm - an ongoing program for 3-5 year olds.
Montana Avenue Branch Library - 1704 Montana Ave - 310-829-7081.
Family Story Time - 7:00 p.m., all ages.
Ocean Park Branch Library - 2601 Main St. - 310-392-3804.
Toddler Storytime, 10:00 and 10:30, April 13 - May 18, registration begins March 31. Music, rhymes and stories for 24-36 month olds with adult.
Tiny Tuesday Storytime at Storyopolis

Themes change weekly; for ages infant to 3. 11:00 a.m. 116 North Robertson, Plaza A, LA. 310-358-2500, www.storyopolis.com
Barnes and Noble at the Grove - Storytime for ages 2 - 6, 10:00 a.m. 189 Grove Drive, LA, 323-525-0270

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.
Itsy-Bitsy Yoga at Ocean Oasis Day Spa - 1333 Ocean Ave.
Tots (crawling to 24 months) - 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.; Babies (6 wks. to pre-crawling) - 11:30 - 12:30 p.m. On-going 6-week series; \$120. Pre-register at 458-8190; visit www.khefnr.net for more info or contact khefnr@earthlink.net.
Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381 - Mommy & Me (ages 0-5 years) - 10 - 11 a.m.; Pre-natal yoga - 7: 8:15 p.m.
Yoga Works - 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal - 12:15 - 1:40 p.m., \$15. Mommy and Me - 1:45 - 3:00 p.m.
Mommy Care - 11870 Santa Monica Blvd., at the Dance Factory, West LA, 310-394-6711. Pregnancy Exercise - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m.; Post Partum Exercise - 10:15 - 11:15 a.m. (babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)

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

Other
Sewing Arts Center - 3330 Pico Blvd., 450-4300
April 20 - Handbag "fan" class, 6-9 p.m., pre-registration required.

May 19; for 2 year olds.
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.
APRIL 21 - YU-GI-OH PARTY at the Montana Ave. Library, 1704 Montana Ave. All ages welcome to come and play. 4:00 p.m.

Yoga & Exercise
Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381 - Mommy & Me (ages 0-5 years) - 10 - 11 a.m.; (infants only) - 1 - 2 p.m. Pre-natal yoga - 11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-

THURSDAY

Storytelling
SPRING PUPPET SHOW at the **Fairview Branch Library** - Join Woody and his friends for springtime fun. 3:30 p.m., free, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd.
Storytelling
Babystyle, 1324 Montana Avenue, 434-9590
10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4.
Main Library - Reed Park
Toddler Storytime at Reed Park; 10:00 a.m.; for 2 year olds.
Preschool Story Time at Reed Park; 10:30 a.m.; for ages 3-5.
Fairview Branch Library - 2101 Ocean Park Blvd - 310-450-0443.
Toddler Story Time - 10:30 a.m.; next session April 29 - June 3; for ages 2-3.
La Hora Del Cuento - 7:00 p.m. Spanish stories, songs and rhymes for all ages.
Montana Avenue Branch Library - 1704 Montana Ave - 310-829-7081.
Toddler Story Time - 10:15 a.m., April 15 - May 20; for 2 year olds.
Preschool Story Time - 11:15 a.m.; for 3-5 year olds.
Ocean Park Branch Library - 2601 Main St. - 310-392-3804.
Lap Time - 9:20 & 10:20 a.m., next session May 6 - June 10, 6-week series for babies 0-24 months, co-sponsored by the SMMUSD Infant and Family Support Program.

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 Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381 - Mommy & Me (ages 0-5 years) - 10 - 11 a.m.; Pre-natal yoga - 7: 8:15 p.m.
Yoga Works - 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal - 12:15 - 1:40 p.m., \$15. Mommy and Me - 1:45 - 3:00 p.m.
Mommy Care - 11870 Santa Monica Blvd., at the Dance Factory, West LA, 310-394-6711. Pregnancy Exercise - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m.; Post Partum Exercise - 10:15 - 11:15 a.m. (babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)

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

Other
Sewing Arts Center, 3330 Pico Blvd., 450-4300
April 22 - featured on HGTV's "Simply Quilts", a 3-part class, Russell's "Dazzled" Coat
April 29 - Part one of a 5-part beginning quilting series - Double Irish Chain. Both classes 6-9 p.m., pre-registration required.

5150 Pre/Postnatal - 12:15 - 1:45pm, \$15
Ocean Oasis Day Spa, 1333 Ocean Avenue, 458-8190. Pre/Post Natal Yoga/Gentle Flow - 5:30 - 6:45 p.m. Private sessions available; call Kate Thomas, RN - 408-1717

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

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

FRIDAY

La Leche League of LA/Mar Vista - meets the 2nd Friday of each month at 10:00 a.m. Call 310-390-2529 for info. (next meeting May 14)

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Works - 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal - 12:15 - 1:45 p.m., \$15.
Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381 - Mommy & Me (ages 0-5 years) - 10 - 11 a.m.; (infants only) - 1 - 2 p.m. Pre-natal yoga - 11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Ocean Oasis Day Spa, 1333 Ocean Avenue, 458-8190. Pre/Post Natal Yoga/Gentle Flow - 10:30 - 11:45 a.m.; Yoga for Fitness - noon - 1 p.m. Private sessions available; call Kate Thomas, RN - 408-1717
NEW LISTING - Next session begins April 23rd. **Prenatal Breath and Movement** - a Continuum Movement and Yoga-based program designed to support women through various sound and movement explorations that celebrate pregnancy and labor as powerful rites of passage. 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. With Deborah Raulo at the Continuum Studio, 1629 18th St., #7. For more info call 625-3739, www.openskymovement.com. \$108 for a six-week session.

SATURDAY

LA LECHE LEAGUE WESTSIDE/MAR VISTA YARD SALE - 9:00 a.m. 1663 Hayworth Ave. (1 block west of Fairfax between Venice and Pico Blvd.) Giant, multi-family sale benefiting LLL

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 - 10:30 1/2 Pico Blvd, LA - 10:30 a.m., 310-559-800K
No story time this week - April 24.

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

SUNDAY

FIESTA AND SILENT AUCTION for CANYON CHARTER SCHOOL - Featuring music, food, game booths, and a playground transformed into an amusement park. Free admission, for all ages, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., 421 Entrada Drive, 454-7510.
Concerts on the Pier - every Sunday thru May 30 - 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., FREE! Live music, on the parking deck, weather permitting.
Snowwhite, a brand new musical for kids of all ages, at the Santa Monica Playhouse
Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m. April 3 - May 30, \$12 adults, \$10 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 1 for reservations, www.santamoniacaplayhouse.com
Main Street Farmer's Market - 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., corner of Main St. and Ocean Park Blvd. Pony rides, live music, lots of vendors and great family socializing.
Puppetolio - 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested
Magiopolis - 2 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$15. Call 310-451-2241 for info.

Avenue, 458-8190. Pre/Post Natal Yoga/Gentle Flow - 10:30 - 11:45 a.m.; Yoga for Fitness - noon - 1 p.m. Private sessions available; call Kate Thomas, RN - 408-1717

Other
Snowwhite, a brand new musical for kids of all ages, at the Santa Monica Playhouse. Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m. April 3 - May 30, \$12 adults, \$10 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 1 for reservations, www.santamoniacaplayhouse.com
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.
Youth Rugby - Santa Monica Rugby Club (ages 6-15, co-ed, non-contact) Saturday mornings thru May 15; times and location vary; get details at www.santamoniarugby.com/youth.html or contact Kilian Kerwin at smyouthrugby@earthlink.net.
Precious Prints - Ceramic Heirlooms for a Lifetime, Second Saturday every month at The Pump Station, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Contact Kristin Ritchie at 310-802-8013 or visit www.preciousprintsstudios.com for more info.

MONDAY

Storytelling
Main Library - Lap Time at Joslyn Park, 9:30 a.m., Jan. 5 - June 4 (no class May 31). Ages 0-24 months with adult in conjunction with the Infant and Family Support program of SMMUSD.
"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., next session April 19 - May 24 (no class April 5 & 12). Rhymes, songs and very simple stories in Spanish for ages 2-5 with adult.
Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade - Toddler Story Time - 10am - 310-260-9110

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

Yoga & Exercise
Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal - 12:15 - 1:45pm, \$15
Yoga Garden, - Restorative yoga for pre/postnatal - 6:30 p.m., 310-450-0133. www.yogagardenstudios.com
Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381 - Mommy & Me (ages 0-5 years) - 10 - 11 a.m.; (infants only) - 1 - 2 p.m. Prenatal yoga - 11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Ocean Oasis Day Spa, 1333 Ocean Avenue, 458-8190. Pre/Post Natal Yoga/Gentle Flow - 10:30 - 11:45 a.m.; Yoga for Fitness - noon - 1 p.m. Private sessions available; call Kate Thomas, RN - 408-1717

Sewing Arts Center, 3330 Pico Blvd., 450-4300. Melon Slice Quilt, an advanced quilting class, 11-4 p.m., pre-registration required.
Nature Walk (Children's Nature Institute) - Temescal Canyon (Pacific Palisades)-10a.m. Reservations - 310-998-1151, www.childrensnatureinstitute.org

Breastfeeding
Working Mother's Support Group
The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd. - 10:00 - 11:30 a.m., \$12 fee, led by Ilka Sternberger, certified lactation educator. Call 826-5774 for more info.

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Questions remain about proposed deal for Hearst Ranch

BY TIM MOLLOY
Associated Press Writer

SAN SIMEON — The Hearst Corp. is offering California the chance to permanently preserve some of the most stunning coastal land in the country.

The plan is supported by dozens of environmental groups, who see it as an irresistible opportunity to save some of the state's most pristine real estate.

But skeptics, including the Sierra Club, said the rights retained by Hearst under the proposal could allow it to develop parts of the land — even after it has been paid not to. They worry that the Hearst family could build mansions or vineyards on the ranch land it will continue to own.

The worst-case scenario, they said, is that state officials trying to meet a May 31 deadline set by the corporation could approve the plan without reading all the small print — some of which the company hasn't yet provided.

"I don't think we can say we're opposing it because we don't know what it is," said Susan Jordan, executive director of the California Coastal Protection Network. "It's fuzzy in areas that we consider to be of extraordinary importance."

For \$80 million in cash and \$15 million in tax incentives, the corporation is willing to sell the state 1.8 square miles of coastal land near Hearst Castle, along a lightly developed stretch of coast midway between Los Angeles and San Francisco. Another 128 square miles east of California Highway 1 would be placed under a conservation easement that would bar most development.

Hearst Castle, with its 165 rooms and 127 acres of gardens, terraces, pools and walkways became a state park in 1958, even though rolling hills and rugged beach nearby remained in the hands of the Hearst Corp.

State officials are currently negotiating with Hearst and the American Land

Conservancy, which is brokering the proposed deal.

Officials will take all the time necessary to make sure both sides get a fair deal, said Sam Schuchat, executive officer of the state Coastal Conservancy.

Much of the funding would likely come from state resources bonds. State transportation officials are considering chipping in \$23 million in money received from the federal government, with other funding coming from private donations.

Hearst attorney Roger Lyon said an independent appraiser has determined the land is worth more than double the asking price, but the company is willing to donate the difference. All the details of the agreement will come out eventually, a legal requirement because it involves state money, he said.

The land is cherished for its beauty and diversity.

On the coast, sea otters and wind-surfers frolic in tides that wash over rugged shoreline where elephant seals sprawl. Inland, forest and grasslands are home to cattle as well as zebras, sambar deer and other exotic species imported by William Randolph Hearst when the castle was being built.

Threatened red-legged frogs and endangered steelhead trout live in the free-flowing streams, and several species of oak found nowhere else thrive with California poppies and other native plants.

In 1998, the California Coastal Commission shot down a Hearst Corp. proposal to build an 18-hole golf course and 650-room resort on some of the ranch property after strong opposition from environmentalists, local residents and even some members of the Hearst family.

William Randolph Hearst's great-grandson, Hearst Corp. Vice President Stephen Hearst, began looking into selling the land and development rights after the commission decision.

He sees the current proposal as a way

to preserve business interests as well as protect the land where his family has camped, raised cattle and gone horseback riding since George Hearst bought the first acres in 1865.

"When we drive through the gate and enter the property, every one of us believes we're home," Hearst said. "There are lots of folks that have an emotional attachment. It doesn't come anywhere near the emotional attachment that this family has for this land."

Under the proposed deal, the company would retain the right to build a 100-room resort within existing Old San Simeon Village, next to San Simeon Point. It would be modeled after plans by Hearst Castle architect Julia Morgan that Lyon discovered in a Hearst building in 2002.

The company would give up the right to develop as many as 400 homes on the property but retain the right to build 27.

No exact locations have been set, but Lyon said the homes would be built to minimize their effect on the land. Each would be constructed on a five-acre site with surrounding 20-acre buffer zones.

The homes wouldn't be visible from Hearst Castle or Highway 1, no existing trees would be removed, and no new roads would be added.

Mark Massara, the Sierra Club's director of coastal programs, said nothing in the guidelines would prevent the company from building 27 new Hearst castles. In Orange County, as many as 100 homes have been built on a five-acre parcel, he said.

Hearst also could continue ranching on the property protected by the easement, but the Sierra Club and others are concerned the family could do much more.

San Luis Obispo County senior planner John Hofschroer said county agricultural policies would allow the land to be used for wineries and vineyards, a prospect that alarms the environmental group because of the water, fencing and pesticides involved. They want such use banned

under the easement.

"It's grazing land right now, and when you start intensive agriculture it can be as impacting as housing development depending on how it's done," said Sierra Club volunteer Tarren Collins, chair of the group's statewide coastal campaign.

So far, Hofschroer said, the company has done a good job balancing business and preservation.

"It's a very well-managed ranch, one of the best managed in the county," he said.

Hearst said buying the coastal land would allow the state to establish 18 miles of the California Coastal Trail, a project state officials have been seeking for years to fulfill hikers' dreams of a continuous oceanside route.

But the Sierra Club said any deal should include inland trails on the eastern side of the property, so hikers can cross the land on their way to Los Padres National Forest.

Shirley Bianchi, a San Luis Obispo County supervisor who fought the 1998 plan but supports the new one, said such trails might be a bad idea because hikers could be injured by cattle. She said she supports the new plan because it would preserve the open space — something she thinks would be enough for most people.

"That portion of California will never be developed," she said. "Most of the public really doesn't want to do more than drive by and look at it."

The Hearst Corp. has rejected another idea for the land: selling it to the U.S. Forest Service.

The agency had said in a recent briefing statement to Rep. Sam Farr, D-Calif., that some of the ranch could perhaps be part of a new national forest Farr has proposed carving from the Los Padres National Forest.

Stephen Hearst said the Forest Service doesn't pursue land deals when the owner doesn't want to sell. He said officials should focus on the one worked out by his company and the conservancy.

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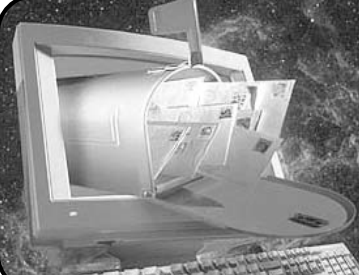


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NATIONAL



Ripples of Columbine — suicide, heartbreak and hope

BY CINDY BROVSKY
Associated Press Writer

LITTLETON, Colo. — Sean Graves knows exactly how he will mark the fifth anniversary of the Columbine High massacre: He will rise early, slip out of the home he shares with his mother and brother, and head to the school before the crowds.

He will find the spot where he was shot four times and paralyzed from the waist down by Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold. He'll look down at the grass where he lay injured and rubbed blood on his face to make the killers think he was dead in case they came back.

He will put a cigar on the ground where his friend, Daniel Rohrbough, died just a few feet away.

"Watching my friend die is still traumatic, but it is in the past," said the soft-spoken Graves, now 20. "I'm not trying to be mean. I just have to focus on today and looking at the positive and the future."

The attack remains the deadliest school shooting in U.S. history. Harris and Klebold killed a teacher and 12 of their classmates — two outside of the suburban Denver school and 10 more huddled under tables and chairs — before they committed suicide on April 20, 1999.

More than 20 students were wounded, including Graves and two others who were partially paralyzed.

There are dozens of survivors. Some have healed in private, graduating from Columbine and quietly moving on to college or careers. The struggles of others, including one survivor who lost a mother to suicide and a family plunged into financial crisis, have played out in public.

Graves spent two years in grueling rehabilitation and hasn't used a wheelchair since he graduated from Columbine in 2002. He said the power of prayer will allow him to walk away from his private memorial on Tuesday.

His mother is trying to heal her own emotional scars.

"We had to first heal our kids and families," Natalie Graves said. "We had to be strong for everyone. Our time to break down had to wait."

Natalie Graves, who survived breast cancer seven years before the shooting, said she repressed her anger with Klebold and Harris until her son was well on his way to recovery.

"Those two got five years of my life and they won't get a minute longer," she said.

Mother and son harbor no anger toward the parents of the killers. Graves only knew Harris and Klebold in passing, vague members of the self-described "Trench Coat Mafia."

"I truthfully think those two were the masters of deception," Natalie Graves said. "They took great pride in fooling everyone, including their parents. I would not want to be in those parents' shoes. They have to live their lives every day knowing what those two did."

Other survivors avoid talking publicly about Columbine. Lance Kirklin, a sophomore who was shot near Graves, became a father last year. Anne Marie Hochhalter, who remains paralyzed, attended college and lives in suburban Denver. Her father, Ted, widowed after the shooting when his wife committed suicide, has remarried.

Mark Taylor, hit by more than a dozen bullets and with one still lodged near his heart, struggled to finish school and find work. His father left the family in 2001 after 34 years of marriage, telling his wife he couldn't handle the stress of what their son was going through. The family turned to the Salvation Army for help during one bleak Christmas.

Krista Flannigan, a victims' consultant who worked with Columbine and Oklahoma City bombing survivors, said some of the wounded became identified with the shootings.

"As time goes by it is a part of who they are, but it does not define who they are any longer," Flannigan said. "Now some of the students identify themselves

as college students and they may, or may not, mention they also survived the Columbine shooting."

Graves' girlfriend, Kara Dehart, was attracted to his sense of humor and tendency to pull pranks on friends. She was hesitant to ask about the shooting.

"At first I was scared to ask him about it," she said. "I knew, because my cousin went to Columbine. We just started talking about it one night and it really hasn't come up since."

Dehart has seen Graves' scrapbook, compiled after the shooting, that includes autographed photographs of him with President Clinton and singer Shania Twain. She's also coaxed him back onto a golf course, something he hadn't done since before the shooting.

Some survivors and their relatives will need much more time to recover.

"At the fifth anniversary of the Oklahoma City bombing, some of those affected had remarried and had children," Flannigan said. "Some had moved on to new careers. But others were still struggling with illness or emotional scars."

Some families who rally during tragedy can fall apart. Natalie Graves and her husband, Randy, who both work at Lockheed Martin, divorced nearly two years ago.

"We had issues before Columbine," she said. "Columbine probably helped us stay together for a little longer."

Her son doesn't relish talking about Columbine, but feels a responsibility as an eyewitness to the bloodshed.

"I never think about why it happened," he said. "It was just straight and simple evil — just evil."

Harris and Klebold were armed with assault rifles, a sawed off shotgun and handguns when they began killing students outside school about 11 a.m. Rachel Scott was the first to die. Richard Castaldo, eating lunch, was shot and paralyzed.

The killers ambushed Graves, Rohrbough and Kirklin as the three walked outside the school cafeteria.

Graves tried to run back inside but was hit again by a gunshot that knocked him to the ground.

He watched in horror as Klebold returned, shot Kirklin in the face and then pulled the trigger on the shot that killed Rohrbough. Klebold stepped on Graves before walking back into the school.

Graves knew that Rohrbough, his friend since seventh grade, was dead because the body was so still.

School videos released after the massacre showed the killers laughing as they gunned down their terrified classmates. They said "peek-a-boo" to students cowering under tables and made comments about Isaiah Shoels' brains spilling out from the shotgun blast that killed him.

Graves said he had nightmares about being shot before the massacre.

"Deep in my heart, I knew this was meant to happen," he said. "I used to have nightmares of being paralyzed."

Waiting for paramedics to rescue him, Graves listened to bombs rigged by the killers going off in the school. He couldn't move his legs.

"I knew right then, that my worst nightmare had come true," he said.

The nightmares have vanished since the shooting.

"To me, that's a sign that it's over. It happened but now it's over," he said.

Graves at times resisted rehabilitation, but kept at it, going to class during the day and undergoing intensive therapy. He graduated on schedule, using a crutch to walk across the stage to get his diploma — an act his mother said was "thumbing his nose at the two who paralyzed him."

Graves now takes computer classes at a community college and likes to solve puzzles, including repairing vehicles. A hunter, he worries the memories of the victims, including his good friend Rohrbough, have been overshadowed by the "blame game" and an outcry over guns.

"People don't know that Dan had a great sense of humor," he said.

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NATIONAL

Without notice, school safety gets the short shrift

BY JON SANCHE

Associated Press Writer

DENVER — When 16-year-old Sean Fitzpatrick walked into his Spokane, Wash., high school last fall and fired a shot into a classroom wall, school officials were able to quickly evacuate 2,000 students because they had practiced.

Within 15 minutes of the first 911 call, a SWAT team had contained the teenager inside a chemistry lab. Officers had floor plans and photos of Lewis and Clark High School generated by a computer program. And the fire department immediately got a list of chemicals stored in the lab.

"What we did, we did very well, but we were very lucky at the same time," principal Jon Swett said.

Ever since two teenagers walked into Columbine High School five years ago with guns, knives and bombs and killed 12 students and a teacher before killing themselves, schools across the nation have adopted violence prevention and response programs. They have also worked more closely with law enforcement — a relationship that came under scrutiny in the aftermath of the Columbine attack.

At Columbine, no officers entered the building until about 40 minutes after the first 911 call from the school. Critics have said that decision might have contributed to the death of teacher Dave Sanders, who bled to death from gunshot wounds.

For decades, police were trained under a doctrine that had patrol officers wait until SWAT teams could be assembled to enter shooting scenes.

"We realize now that time is not on our side," said Curt Lavarello, executive director of the National Association of School Resource Officers. "At shootings, whether in a school or not, we don't have the time to sit back and wait for the 'experts' to arrive. We all have to go in and stop the threat immediately."

After Columbine, a review panel recommended that Colorado schools develop violence prevention and

response plans and update them regularly, install a formal procedure to assess students as potential threats and increase cooperation and communication with emergency response agencies.

Children were encouraged to report suspicious behavior by other students — a tactic that has led to numerous arrests or expulsions nationwide — and schools began using anti-bullying programs.

"Anecdotally, there's not much doubt in my mind that most districts and schools have far better emergency response plans in place than they ever had before," said Kathy Christie, a policy analyst at the Education Commission of the States, based in Denver.

Even in Colorado, however, some schools have not followed up on the recommendations and the use of prevention programs has diminished, experts said. The intense focus on school security and safety that lasted for several years after Columbine has also dropped off.

"The problem is that when public attention fades away, momentum also does," said Assistant Attorney General Don Quick, who served on the Governor's Columbine Review Commission and continues to meet with school officials on safety and security issues. "We're trying to prevent that."

Kenneth Trump, president of a Cleveland consulting firm, National School Safety and Security Services, said only the latest crisis gets the most attention. He said the Columbine massacre prompted schools to catch up on a decade of negligence regarding safety planning.

He said that progress has stalled and schools nationwide are in a dangerous backslide, whether due to declining budgets, changing political trends or complacency.

Administrators faced with a choice of hiring a security officer or a tutor are likely to go with a tutor because of the increasing emphasis on test scores, Trump said. And tight budgets leave teachers precious little time for crisis or anti-violence training.

"Because of our human nature, the reality is that we're at high risk of not moving forward again until there's another spate of high-profile (school violence) incidents," Trump said.

Surveys show that public school students in Jefferson County, the home district for Columbine, feel more secure and believe that employees deal effectively with bullies, spokesman Rick Kaufman said. Students also are increasingly willing to report threats or suspicious behavior by other students, he said.

"A message we truly harp on is you can never let your guard down," Kaufman said. "It's when it surprises us that we wish we would have stayed vigilant."

At Lewis and Clark High, officials have opened its doors for training by SWAT officers and firefighters.

Emergency evacuations and lockdowns are practiced nine times each year, a planning committee meets monthly and a crisis team meets four times per year to update plans.

Prosecutors in Washington have not yet decided whether to file adult or juvenile charges against Fitzpatrick, who was shot and wounded by SWAT officers when he pointed his gun at them. He had written a suicide note, and apparently had no intention of hurting anybody but himself.

No one knew that when he walked into the school, Swett said.

"You can plan for and be confident in what you practice, but every situation is different and teachers and staff have to be able to think on their feet," Swett said.

Effect of the Columbine massacre on school safety in the United States

By The Associated Press

A Cleveland consulting firm, National School Safety and Security Services, defines U.S. school safety in three eras: Pre-Columbine, post-Columbine and post-Sept. 11, 2001. Among other things, the firm says the massacre at Columbine had the following effects:

■ Placed school safety at the top of the agenda in K-12 schools.

■ Raised expectations for safety in schools.

■ Led to threats and other "spin-off" cases of violence.

■ Led to a greater emphasis on school security measures and crisis preparedness strategies.

■ Changed how school, law enforcement and other officials assess and manage threats.

■ Generated closer relationships and cooperation among school leaders and public safety officials.

■ Helped lead to increased referrals of youth for mental health services and heightened awareness about understaffing of school counselors, psychologists and related support staff.

The firm also found that school-associated violent deaths in the 2003-2004 school year had reached 43 by April 1, exceeding the number for the past two school years combined (33) and totaling more than any other school year since before the Columbine attack.

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Ridge forms task force to bolster security for targets

BY KATHERINE PFLEGER SHRADER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — With an eye on a large number of symbolic gatherings, Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge is forming a new government task force to better coordinate public and private security.

Beginning with the dedication of the new World War II Memorial in Washington over the Memorial Day weekend, Ridge said high-profile public events this year may be attractive targets for al-Qaida and like-minded terrorist groups.

"With so many symbolic gatherings in the next few months, we must be aggressive. These targets of opportunity for the terrorists are opportunities that can't be missed to tighten our security," Ridge said, according to remarks prepared for a Monday speech.

"Wherever possible, we will ratchet it up," he later added.

With the new task force, Homeland Security officials will be joined by represen-

tatives from nine Cabinet-level agencies in an effort to improve coordination as the government works to secure critical infrastructure and increase the nation's readiness.

Ridge was to announce the move officially in a speech Monday at a National Association of Broadcasters meeting in Las Vegas.

Ridge said officials don't have specific intelligence about possible attacks. But based on analysis, the government is paying attention to potential targets.

These include next month's war memorial dedication, the June meeting in Georgia of the Group of Eight industrialized nations, large gatherings nationwide for Fourth of July celebrations, the July Democratic convention in Boston, the August Republican convention in New York and the August Olympics in Athens.

Jose Maria Aznar, outgoing prime minister of Spain and a strong U.S. ally in the war in Iraq, has warned President Bush that terrorists may try to affect the U.S.

elections in November, as they did in Spain with the March 11 Madrid train bombings. Nearly 200 died, and Aznar's ruling Popular Party lost to a rival calling for the pullout of Spanish troops from Iraq.

National security adviser Condoleezza Rice said Sunday the United States is bracing for possible attacks before the elections.

Ridge, however, said the elections are not the factor in forming the "working group," which still lacks an official-sounding name. "Depending on how the terrorists interpret Spain's response — whether it did or did not impact — is almost immaterial to this effort," he said. "Again, we know we are the No. 1 target."

Even though the nation spends most of its time at yellow alert Ridge said security is still stronger than it was a year ago and will continue to improve.

Extensive plans are already in the works to protect the party conventions and the G-8 meeting, which have been

classified as National Security Special Events. With the designation — a concept that evolved from the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta — comes heightened security coordinated by Homeland Security's Secret Service agency.

To improve security operations for these and other high-profile events, Ridge said his department is leaning on its authority from two of Bush's homeland-security directives to create the task force, which will also work with industry, governors and police and other first responders. The group, for instance, will coordinate with states to implement the infrastructure strategies they have submitted to his department.

"Chemical facilities have been on everybody's mind," Ridge said, noting that Homeland Security is already working with states and companies to protect more than 300 identified chemical sites.

"There will be a lot more activity in the months ahead," he said.



WORLD BRIEFLY

Missing student found dead

By The Associated Press

PEQUOT LAKES, Minn. — Feelings of anger, fear and pain fueled calls for justice in Dru Sjodin's hometown a day after the body of the University of North Dakota student was discovered in a ravine, marking a heartbreaking end to a five-month search.

The residents' target is Alfonso Rodriguez Jr., the man charged with kidnapping Sjodin.

Searchers found Sjodin's body Saturday morning near a county road northwest of Crookston. Sjodin, 22, was last seen alive Nov. 22 at a Grand Forks, N.D., shopping mall.

Rodriguez, 51, has pleaded not guilty, but could face a federal murder charge now that Sjodin's body has been found. The convicted sex offender was arrested in December and is jailed in Grand Forks, N.D., on \$5 million bail.

Attorneys familiar with the case have said federal prosecutors probably will take over the case, although the top federal prosecutors in Minnesota and North Dakota have said that is too early to determine. Neither state has capital punishment, but federal law allows the death penalty for murder committed during a kidnapping.

On the University of North Dakota campus in Grand Forks, several hundred mourners left candles on the lawn in front of Sjodin's sorority after gathering for a memorial Sunday night.

Israel to invest in West Bank

By The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israel will invest tens of millions of dollars in West Bank settlements even as it pulls out of the Gaza Strip and a few other settlements, Finance

Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Monday.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has proposed removing all settlements in Gaza, as well as four in the West Bank, and rapidly completing a separation barrier Israel is building in the West Bank.

Palestinians fear the move will strengthen Israel's hold over the rest of the West Bank, which they want as part of a future state.

Netanyahu announced his support for Sharon's plan Sunday, giving it a crucial boost in an upcoming referendum among the 200,000 members of Sharon's hard-line Likud party.

Netanyahu told Israel Radio on Monday that he decided to support the plan after President Bush announced that Israel would not have to absorb Palestinian refugees or evacuate major Israeli population centers in the West Bank in any peace deal.

Netanyahu reaffirmed Israel's commitment to the settlements that will fall on the "Palestinian" side of the barrier and said he would approve tens of millions of dollars "to invest in the settlements beyond the main fence."

Kerry's stand: Bush 'misled America'

By The Associated Press

PALM BEACH, Fla. — Broadening his criticism of President Bush's Iraq policies, presumptive Democratic nominee John Kerry says voters deserve to know the truth about the war and what led up to it.

In a broadcast interview and at a noisy rally before thousands of students at the University of Miami on Sunday, Kerry accused Bush of misleading not only the country but "even members of his own administration about what he was planning to do in Iraq."

"The American people, with respect to issues of war

and peace, are owed the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth," he said.

Kerry sat for a one-hour interview on NBC's "Meet the Press," where he repeated his pledge to create 10 million jobs and cut the deficit in half within four years if he wins the White House. He conceded that soaring deficits might make him scale back some proposals.

In the interview, Kerry was pressed hard about his stance on the Iraq war, and he drove home his argument that Bush "misled America" by rushing to war. He pledged to build an international coalition, but would continue to prosecute the war — increasing troop levels if needed — because stability in Iraq is essential.

Bush acts 'patriotic'

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Key provisions of the Patriot Act aren't set to expire until after the election, but President Bush picked Pennsylvania, an electoral swing state, to argue the law is critical for keeping tabs on terrorists and should be renewed.

Critics of the Patriot Act — a measure Congress passed after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks to expand the government's surveillance and detention powers — say Bush is touting the law now only to bolster his record on national security.

"Bush clearly is fighting a defensive battle against both Democrats and Republicans who are asking questions about the Patriot Act," Anthony Romero, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union, said in an interview. "Increasingly, there are hard questions coming from Democrats and Republicans about whether we went too far too fast."

At two events — in Hershey, Pa., on Monday and Buffalo, N.Y., on Tuesday — Bush and law-enforcement officers will stress the Patriot Act's effectiveness.

During his 27th visit as president to Pennsylvania, an important state in his re-election bid, Bush also will attend a fund-raiser in Pittsburgh for Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., who is facing opposition in a GOP primary on April 27.



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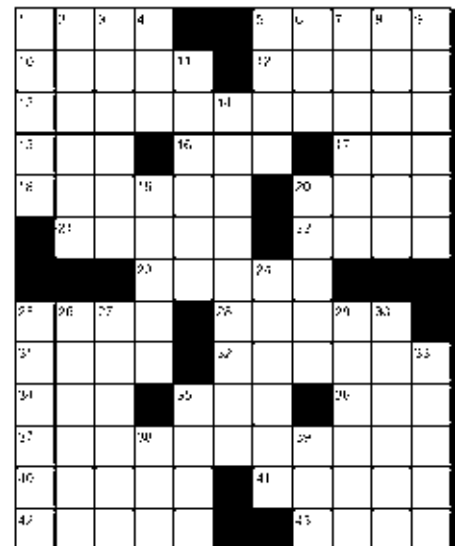
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The Los Angeles Clinical Skills Evaluation Center is currently recruiting for the following positions:

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Obituaries

Leon Hyatt



WE HAVE learned that Leon Hyatt, a long time business-man of the Santa Monica West Side Area passed away, Monday April 5th from an un-named, un-known lung disease. Leon Hyatt opened the Arsenal Restaurant & Lounge in 1960. He added a successful Sports Bar in January 2000, just months before retiring to the San Fernando Valley. Mr. Hyatt was a veteran of WW II in the Asiatic-Pacific Theatre, where he served in the Army Occupation of Japan. Leon is survived by his wife Ginny, and daughters, Katrina Roberts, Cynthia Roberts, and Mona Bradley, as well as eight grand-children.

Personals

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Obituaries

DANIEL BYRAM MAY



A joyous service in honor of beloved son and brother, Daniel Byram May, will be held on what would have been his 29th birthday, Tues., April 27, 2004 at 10:30 a.m. at the Windmill Chapel of Self Realization Fellowship Lake Shrine at 17190 Sunset Blvd., Pacific Palisades 90272. (Use the first SRF entrance up Sunset from PCH.) All who knew Daniel are invited to this celebration of a life notable for compassion, cordiality, courage, humility, service, scholarship, patriotism and devotion to God. Daniel skipped two grades, graduated with honors with a B.A. in Physics, received the Chancellor's Service Award, provided leadership for the undergraduate Physics society at UCLA, and played clarinet at the Rose Bowl with the UCLA Marching Band. He was also a very dedicated teacher, who took nine Compton students to Disneyland in a limousine. He started an Internet "newspaper" (AngelsWeekly.com) which showcased good things happening in the LA area. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Daniel's honor to Self Realization Fellowship, where Daniel served as camp counselor, Sunday School teacher, choir member and audio/visual crew member. Following the service, the celebration will continue at a reception in Malibu.

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Owner of the BunnyRanch offers celebs cheap thrills

By The Associated Press

■ **LAS VEGAS** — A former Moonlite BunnyRanch prostitute who accused Vince Neil of assaulting her is suing the former Motley Crue frontman, the brothel and its owner.

The lawsuit, filed last week, seeks unspecified damages of at least \$20,000 for lost wages and other costs stemming from the July 10, 2003, incident.

Neil, who has a home in Las Vegas, pleaded no contest earlier this month to misdemeanor battery in the incident. He was fined \$1,000 and ordered to complete anger management classes.

Andrea "Trixxie Blue" Terry claims in her lawsuit that Neil grabbed her by the neck, pushed her against a window, and pulled her to the floor after she and another prostitute refused to have sex with him until he paid \$4,000 for each woman.

The lawsuit claims brothel owner Dennis Hof was negligent because he didn't call police and because the panic button in her room wasn't working.

Hof told the Las Vegas Sun he believes Terry made up the story. Neil was at the brothel in the tiny community of Mound House at Hof's request. He was signing autographs a day after he performed with Poison during a concert in Reno.

Hof said Terry should have known Neil would not have to pay for her services.

"We don't charge celebrities, we pay the girls ourselves," Hof said.

■ **DALLAS** — Elton John's antique piano sold for \$164,500 and a guitar owned by Kurt Cobain during his early days with Nirvana was purchased for \$117,500 at

a Dallas auction. The "Icons of 20th Century Music Auction" was conducted Saturday night by Heritage Galleries of Dallas in conjunction with the 27th annual Dallas Guitar Show and MusicFest 2004.

John's white, 1910-era upright piano sold to an anonymous buyer outside the United States, according to a news release by Heritage Galleries.

"Elton John and his longtime composing collaborator, Bernie Taupin, wrote more than 100 songs on the piano, including 'Your Song' and 'Tiny Dancer,'" said Greg Rohan, president of Heritage Galleries.

The piano, which had been autographed by John and Taupin, was owned by collector Tom Fontaine of Indianapolis, who displayed it the past two years at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland.

Other auction highlights included \$15,312 for the Hollywood Walk of Fame Star brass plaque awarded to John in October 1975 and \$11,750 for a party invitation card autographed in 1964 by the Beatles and their manager. John Lennon's 1975 Grammy presenters medal went for \$8,225, and two dress shirts worn by Elvis Presley sold for \$1,225 each. Names of the winning bidders weren't disclosed.

■ **CHAMPAIGN, Ill.** — A film that cost less than \$200 to make is among the attractions at Roger Ebert's sixth annual Overlooked Film Festival. This year's festival, which opens Wednesday, includes a variety of big-budget movies and independent works such as "Tarnation" by Jonathan Caouette, which cost \$187 to make on a computer.

Film restoration expert Robert Harris, who discovered a 70mm print of the 1962 Oscar-winning film, "Lawrence of Arabia," in a studio vault and then

restored it, will kick off the festival. He will explain how he found and restored the movie.

The lineup also includes Gregory Nava's "El Norte," Buster Keaton's masterpiece "The General," Jay Russell's "My Dog Skip" and the obscure Al Pacino drama "People I Know." Ebert, film critic for the Chicago Sun-Times, started the festival in 1999 to call attention to movies he feels have been forgotten or ignored by audiences, critics and distributors.

■ **NEW YORK** — Tiger Woods, Lance Armstrong and Yao Ming are among the athletes selected to Time Magazine's list of the 100 most influential people in the world.

The sevens sports figures chosen all are listed among "Heroes and Icons," one of five categories used by the magazine in the issue on newsstands Monday.

Also selected: New England Patriots coach Bill Belichick, Real Madrid's David Beckham, British marathoner Paula Radcliffe and yoga teacher B.K.S. Iyengar.

On Woods, the magazine said: "When only four golfers have won more majors than you have at 28, honors like five straight Player of the Year awards are no longer good enough. ... He's the rare phenom who exceeded the hype."

Armstrong overcame testicular cancer and has won the Tour de France five times. "If Armstrong wins the Tour de France again this summer, he will establish a new standard for the sport," the magazine wrote.

Phil Simms, the former New York Giants quarterback, profiled Belichick, who guided the Patriots to the Super Bowl title: "He's not as dull as people think. Heck, he goes to Bon Jovi concerts!"

DID YOU KNOW?: Starting in the summer of 2004, only civil disputes will be heard at the Santa Monica Courthouse. All criminal matters will move to the Airport Courthouse near LAX.

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