

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO
1 13 15 18 31
Meganumber: 15
Jackpot: \$13 Million

FANTASY 5
17 18 23 29 39

DAILY 3
Daytime: 5 6 0
Evening: 7 2 0

DAILY DERBY
1st: 08 Gorgeous George
2nd: 05 California Classic
3rd: 02 Lucky Star

RACE TIME: 1.42.14
Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site: <http://www.calottery.com>

**NEWS OF THE WEIRD**
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

Recurring Themes: In March, Gary Brunner became the latest person to go to a police station and ask naively if there were any warrants on him, only to find the answer to be yes and that he was under arrest (for drug possession, Carmel, N.Y.). And Bryan Palmer, 21, and Peggy Casey, 31, were interviewed by police investigating a burglary in South Windsor, Conn., in March, but were released. Detectives changed their minds, though, and were futilely searching for them when the pair showed up at the police station to innocently ask how the investigation was going.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 115th day of 2006.
There are 250 days left in the year.

On April 25 1945, during World War II, U.S. and Soviet forces linked up on the Elbe River, a meeting that dramatized the collapse of Nazi Germany's defenses.
In 1859, ground was broken for the Suez Canal.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"A great many people think they are thinking when they are merely rearranging their prejudices."

WILLIAM JAMES
AMERICAN PHILOSOPHER AND PSYCHOLOGIST

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Kevin Herrera/Daily Press

GOOD HUMOR, MAN: Former schools superintendent John Deasy (foreground) shares a laugh with his family during a reception staged for him on Monday at the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences at 34th Street and Pico Boulevard.

Deasy come, Deasy go

Search for new superintendent off to rocky start; some want more public input

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD HDQTRS. — Before they go behind closed doors to search for a new schools superintendent, education officials here want to include the public before they exclude them.

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District posted a notice on its Web site Monday

announcing that it would be hosting two simultaneous forums today that serve as community meetings so citizens can give their opinions on what qualities, skills and experience they'd like to see in the next superintendent.

Spearheading the process is the consulting firm of Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates, Ltd., a search firm that specializes in assisting school boards with identifying and

selecting superintendents.

The firm was hired by the school district for \$35,000 to recruit a replacement for John Deasy, the district's former superintendent whose last day is on Wednesday. Former assistant superintendent, Mike Matthews, is serving as interim superintendent and has expressed an interest in

See **SUPER SEARCH**, page 6

CONSENT AGENDA

Steep into liquid: City antes up for bus fuel

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

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — Looking to secure and enhance bus operations over the next four years, the City Council tonight is expected to spend just over \$11 million, the

majority of which will go towards locking in a steady and reliable supply of liquefied natural gas.

In all, the council is expected to spend more than \$12.5 million tonight on Big Blue Bus operations, enhancements to City Hall and it's computer systems, and the

construction of water treatment plants near water wells contaminated by MtBE.

Almost \$590,000 of tonight's expenditures will come from grants and a settlement agreement

See **CONSENT AGENDA**, page 7

Teachers going to head of the class

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMC — The lesson of the day is union organization, as professors plan to hold the first of a series of rallies today aimed at drawing attention to a contentious contract dispute between faculty and administrators.

Professors plan to march from the main campus to the college's administrative headquarters each day until the board of trustees' next meeting, scheduled for Monday, May 5, said Mitra Moassessi, a math professor at SMC and chief negotiator for the Santa Monica College Faculty Association.

"They're always complaining that they don't have the money, but we have statements showing the district has come into a lot of money in the last few years," Moassessi said. "All we are asking for is what was given to administrators during that time."

The association and SMC have been at the bargaining table since September 2004. Most issues have been resolved, including health care, which the college has agreed to cover completely.

But a deal hasn't been reached regarding pay. Professors are seeking a 2-percent raise on top of the 3.5 percent the college has offered. Moassessi said a combined 5.5 percent raise would put faculty on par with administrators, who received similar raises last year.

Robert Sammis, the college's chief negotiator and vice president of planning and development, sees it differently. Sammis maintains that faculty already received a 2-percent raise in 2002, and that a 2-percent raise for staff and administrators in 2005 evened the score.

"(Faculty and administration)

See **SMC PROFESSORS**, page 8

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Photo courtesy

Main event was one for the two-wheelers

By Daily Press staff

The cyclists hit Main Street this past weekend to gear up for a ride of a lifetime. Bike Attack on Main Street hosted and sponsored the “Day on the Ride” from Aidslifecycle on Saturday, April 22. More than 300 participants of Aidslifecycle met on Main Street to cycle 89 miles along the coast in preparation for the big ride from San Francisco to LA in June. All of the money raised will be donated to Aids research and prevention.

After the ride, the cyclists met at the Bike Attack pro bike shop on Main Street for a post-ride party, while their staff took care of their bicycles. California Pizza Kitchen, Holy Guacamole and Urth Caffe donated food and drinks for this charity event.

For more information, log onto www.aidslifecycle.org and www.bikeattack.com.

Politics, the Democratic way

By Daily Press staff

The public is invited to the April meeting of the Santa Monica Democratic Club to discuss the upcoming June primary election including the statewide candidates and ballot measures.

The event will take place on Wednesday, April 26 at 7 p.m. at St. Anne’s community room, 2017 Colorado Ave.

The group will discuss propositions, hear judicial candidates, as well as endorse statewide races, propositions, and judgeships. Refreshments will be served and the public is invited. Free parking will be available.

Relay marathon brings in cash for Saint John's

By Daily Press staff

Thousands of people turned out this past weekend to run and raise money for Saint John’s Health Care Center.

The 25th Silver Anniversary Jimmy Stewart Relay Marathon, hosted by Robert Wagner and Isaiah Washington and sponsored by Lexus, was held on Sunday, April 23 at Griffith Park.

One of the largest five-person relay races in the United States, the relay marathon was comprised of numerous divisions, according to age, gender and corporate/industry affiliation. Race teams were comprised of five people, with each individual running 5.2 miles before passing the baton. There also are special categories for the very young, like the Diaper Dash and the Children’s Race, and the third annual media invitational relay challenge.

Winners of the Relay Marathon were:

- 1st place: Nike Team Run LA with a time of 2:13:16
- 2nd place: Celebrity runners CalPOP/IP Motors with a time of 2:17:40
- 3rd place: Run With Us with a time of 2:22:50

Winners of Third Annual Media Invitational five-mile Relay Challenge were:

- 1st place: LA Sport and Fitness Magazine with a time of 31:04.
- 2nd place: KABC-7 with a time of 32:26.
- 3rd place: Surfsantamonica.com with a time of 34:00

All proceeds benefit programs and services at Saint John’s Health Center in Santa Monica. Since the first race in 1982, the relay marathon has raised \$8.8 million.



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SNOW AND SURF REPORTS

SURF CONDITIONS DATA PROVIDED BY ONTHESNOW.COM

BEAR MOUNTAIN				
NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH 0"	LIFT HOURS 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM	RUNS OPEN 27	LIFTS OPEN 7/12
CONDITIONS: MACHINE GROOMED, HARD PACKED, SPRING, VARIABLE				

JUNE MOUNTAIN				
CLOSED				

MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN				
NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH 1"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM	RUNS OPEN 68	LIFTS OPEN 17/28
CONDITIONS: POWDER, PACKED POWDER, MACHINE GROOMED				

MOUNTAIN HIGH				
NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH 0"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM	RUNS OPEN 13	LIFTS OPEN 4/16
CONDITIONS: SPRING				

MT. BALDY				
NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH 0"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM	RUNS OPEN 20	LIFTS OPEN 3/4
CONDITIONS: MACHINE GROOMED, SPRING				

SNOW SUMMIT				
NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH 0"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM	RUNS OPEN 26	LIFTS OPEN 10/14
CONDITIONS: MACHINE GROOMED, HARD PACKED, SPRING				

SNOW VALLEY				
NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH 2"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM	RUNS OPEN 14	LIFTS OPEN 3/11
CONDITIONS: POWDER, PACKED POWDER, MACHINE GROOMED				

SURF CONDITIONS WATER TEMP: 59°

SWELL FORECAST (1-2 FT)
TUESDAY THE 25TH IS ALSO LOOKING LIKE A TINY DAY WITH RIPPLE-LIKE SURF AND TRANQUIL WATERS.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS
NW DUE WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY...
SW DUE THURSDAY-FRIDAY...
SMALL SW DUE ON 2ND...

TIDE FORECAST FOR SANTA MONICA

SATURDAY				
LOW TIDE	N/A	N/A	12:21PM	-0.3FT
HIGH TIDE	5:06AM	4.68FT	7:08PM	4.2FT

SUNDAY				
LOW TIDE	12:32AM	1.9FT	1:03PM	-0.3FT
HIGH TIDE	6:19PM	4.8FT	7:34PM	4.8FT

MONDAY				
LOW TIDE	1:26AM	1.1FT	1:40PM	-0.2FT
HIGH TIDE	7:21AM	4.9FT	8:02PM	5.3FT

TUESDAY				
LOW TIDE	2:15AM	0.2FT	2:51PM	0.1FT
HIGH TIDE	8:16AM	4.9FT	8:32PM	5.9FT

WEDNESDAY				
LOW TIDE	3:01AM	-0.5FT	2:49PM	0.5FT
HIGH TIDE	9:08AM	4.7FT	9:03PM	6.3FT

THURSDAY				
LOW TIDE	3:47AM	1.0FT	3:21PM	0.9FT
HIGH TIDE	10:00AM	4.4FT	9:36PM	6.4FT

FRIDAY				
LOW TIDE	4:33AM	-1.2FT	3:54PM	1.4FT
HIGH TIDE	10:53AM	4.0FT	N/A	N/A

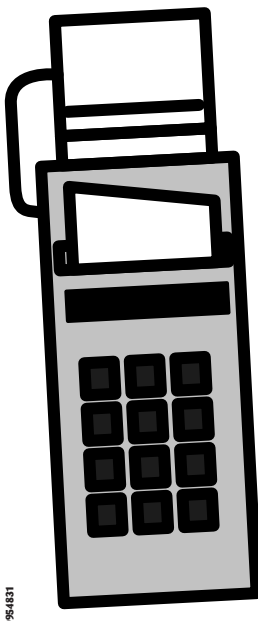
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Board of education mired in secrecy

Editor:

Even though it takes very few words to speak it, the board of education continues to operate as if we can't handle the truth.

On April 6, the board routinely passed, without discussion, their consent agenda. That's how the public learned for the first time how much the superintendent search firm of Hazard, Young, and Attea will be paid: \$35,000.

The next day — when teachers, staff and families were concentrating on the beginning of a two-week spring break, the first invitations soliciting “invaluable input” were sent out to employees and site governance reps by the search firm. Could they have picked a worse day to communicate such an important event, which asks for public participation the Tuesday (April 25) after vacation?

Adding insult to injury, there's been no press release announcing the scheduled April 25 open forums for community input in Santa Monica and Malibu. The board calls this “transparency.”

During the past five years, the board of education, relying on a broad — and I believe — an incorrect interpretation of the Brown Act, has made policy decisions and acted on compensation packages behind closed doors without first soliciting public direction.

In 2001, during salary negotiations with the departing superintendent, the board — absent any public input — established a number of firsts in his contract: a \$75,000 relocation allowance; a temporary \$1,500 per month housing allowance that was quietly made permanent a year later; a 10 percent performance bonus option; and the choice to select a fully-paid, family Blue Cross preferred medical plan.

John Deasy's \$1 million package over five years “set the table” for negotiations with all the members of the senior cabinet that followed.

Consider the following spate of activity over the past 10 months: Last June, the board approved the appointment of Dr. Donna Muncey as the first classified administrator to head educational services, since she does not hold valid California certificated credentials.

For her services, Muncey received a \$120,000 beginning salary, a \$5,000 tax-deferred 403 (b) district contribution, and a \$300 per-month transportation allowance.

The following month, on July 28, the board approved a new three-year contract with Winston Braham, assistant superintendent dealing in the business and fiscal services department. The contract raised his salary from \$120,000 to \$121,200 and added a \$5,000 stipend for medical reimbursements and a \$500 per-month transportation allowance.

At that same meeting, the board adjusted its initial six-month old contract with Tim Walker, assistant superintendent dealing with special education, by maintaining a \$122,500 salary, a performance-based 2 percent bonus option, a fully-paid PERS Choice family medical plan, a \$500 per month transportation allowance, extending his contract 17 months, and setting a \$7,000 amount to his stipend for medical reimbursements.

Four months later, the board agreed to increase Walker's salary by \$2,000 and to delete his transportation allowance and medical reimbursement stipend, replacing them with a \$13,000 tax-deferred 403 (b) district contribution.

Lastly in December, the board presented Mike Matthews, assistant superintendent dealing with personnel, with the first ever new three-year “contract -in-waiting,” since it doesn't begin until July 1, 2006.

On that date, his base salary will increase \$2,500 to \$122,500 and continue his \$5,000 tax-deferred 403(b) and \$500 per month transportation allowance. As Interim superintendent, Dr. Matthews receives a \$150,000 base salary and a \$1,200 per month contribution to his 403(b). All of these actions were decided in closed sessions by the board without a word of public discussion.

Like pro sports, the management team concept has given way to a bunch of free agents seeking the best individual deal. What message does this disproportionate two-tiered system send to the certificated teachers and classified support staff concerned with the same raising costs for housing, transportation, medical coverage and savings?

It isn't a question of whether or not these compensations packages are commensurate with what's being offered in similar districts; it's a question of whether or not the public has a right to timely review of public documents and to be heard before policy decisions are made.

And I believe the Brown Act demands it considering the following in its opening declaration: “The people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for them to know and what is not good for them to know. The people insist on remaining informed so that they may retain control over the instruments they created.”

The news is filled with too many stories about war and disasters, disease and famine, and, of course, corporate and community crime. But I believe the biggest “killers” of all are government secrecy and the apathy that allows it to happen.

Speak out, or be left out.

Jim Jaffe
Santa Monica

Just one thing to blame,
just one thing ... plasticsWHAT'S
THE POINT?

BY DAVID PISSARRA

I was speaking recently with a friend about the gas price crisis. He asked me my opinion on what President Bush should do to correct the situation. He was certain that I would take the opportunity to bash the president and his Republican party policies on the environment and the failure of the administration to prevent or alleviate the current gas crisis.

Most people expect the president to be able to do something about the price of gas. Contrary to President Bush's grandiose dreams, he's not in charge of the entire world. The president, through his secretary of treasury, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, and other assorted and sundry political wonks can have an impact upon the country's finances, but at the end of the day the world market dictates everything from the cost of the lettuce in our burritos to double mocha lattes.

The reality is that even though we live in a multi-cultural world, which consists of democracies, republics, theocracies, monarchies and dictatorships — each individual political subdivision of the globe partakes in the much larger global marketplace.

Though some countries believe themselves to be capitalist havens, and others choose to describe themselves as Communist or socialist, the harsh reality is that at the end of the day, all countries come together on the world market, buying and selling their individual products and resources.

The answer as to why we have high gas prices lies not in the White House, but rather in Wal-Mart.

Though there are many who would like to say that the war in Iraq, the instability throughout the Middle East and the need to pay Lee Raymond's \$400 million pension are the reasons why gas prices are now tipping \$3.50 a gallon, they would be wrong.

The simple fact of the matter is that gasoline, like everything else on the planet, is subject to the laws of supply and demand. The problem we are running up against right now is that the demand for petroleum products far exceeds the supply. This is not to say that those people who drive Hummers are responsible for high gas prices. It also is not to say that the Arabs have intentionally restricted gasoline production to increase gas prices.

The fault lies in two main areas. First, it is the overzealous packagers, who put plastic products in plastic containers which then go into plastic bags to be taken home and put in our plastic bins. Secondly, it is two white-hot economies manufacturing plastic products to be put in plastic packaging which is shipped here, so they can show up on our shelves where they are then sold and put into plastic bags.

China and India are two major producers of plastic products. They are manufacturing products at an alarming rate to be sold to Americans, which are plastic based. All one needs to do is look at the

amount of plastic on their computer keyboard, the disposable containers purchased at the grocery store and the amount of packaging that surrounds something as simple as a memory chip that goes into our cameras.

I purchased a one gigabyte memory chip for my phone the other day. It measures no more than three quarters of an inch by three quarters of an inch and is approximately an eighth of an inch thick. Essentially it's plastic with some semiconductors inside. It came permanently sealed in a plastic box, and one needs an arc welder to open the package.

Once I removed the hard outer plastic case, there was this slim chip encased in a cellophane wrapper. After purchasing this plastic chip, the clerk put it in a plastic bag. I politely refused the bag since I felt that I am man enough to carry it out the door without the needed assistance of the bag handles.

The point of all this is that the product I purchased, this tiny piece of plastic encased in plastic and then wrapped in plastic is a petroleum-based product. Plastics come from petroleum. The more plastics we use the greater the pressure there is on the petroleum market.

High gas prices are nothing more than a natural outgrowth of booming economies, whether those economies are based in the United States, in China, or India. The fact is as we consume more plastic based products in America, we put pressure on the world petroleum refineries. One trip through a Wal-Mart, Target, Kmart, or your local Vons or Ralph's, you can see that the amount of plastic products and packaging that is now available has grown significantly in the last five years.

The simple truth is that in the world market, we don't have enough refineries to meet the global demand for petroleum based products. As much as I would like to blame the gas guzzling SUVs, the Hummer driving governors, and a Texas oil man in the White House, it's not their fault. The fault lies with all of us.

Every time we go to Starbucks and get one of those little plastic caps on our coffees, or we use those disposable food containers, or we throw out the mayonnaise jar that used to be glass but now is plastic, we're contributing to the global demand for plastic, and that is what is driving up our gas prices.

What this means for us locally is a sad reality. The economy of Santa Monica is due to take a huge hit as a consequence of \$4 a gallon gasoline. High gas prices will result in low tourism rates because people will not be driving or flying as much. And this summer, we can expect to see the ripple effects of higher gas prices across our economy — from our electric bills, to our food bills.

And that is nothing more than the market balancing itself. People will hold off buying a new computer, upgrading to a bigger plasma screen TV, and many will stay at home this summer. That will slowly decrease the demand for petroleum-based products, which in turn will alleviate the pressure on gas prices, sometime in the middle of 2006.

(David Pissarra can be reached at (310) 664-9969 or dpissarra@pissarra.com.)

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OPINION



In the 'NO'? Neighbors seek more participation



(Editor's note: "In the Hood" is a regular column written by residents who represent organized neighborhood groups throughout Santa Monica. Published each Wednesday in the Daily Press, residents will cover the pressing issues facing their neighborhoods and call upon their neighbors to get involved. They'll sometimes scrutinize policies and actions of local government, or bring to light a subject that needs attention in their respective environs.)

BY ELIZABETH RIEL

Special to the Daily Press

Overdevelopment downtown. Traffic congestion and shortage of parking. Overbuilt houses. Loss of trees and green space.

Those are the top concerns of residents who live North of Montana, according to a recent neighborhood-wide survey sponsored by the North of Montana Association (NOMA).

NOMA is a nonprofit volunteer group of residents working to improve life in the neighborhood and in Santa Monica. The boundaries of NOMA are Montana Avenue, Ocean Avenue, the northern city limits, and 26th Street, an area comprising approximately 5,200 residences.

A survey consisting of 21 questions about the overall quality of life in the neighborhood and in Santa Monica in general was sent to each residence within the neighborhood boundaries. NOMA board members were pleased to get a response rate of nearly 400 completed surveys — approximately 7 percent.

"Although NOMA was founded in 1998, it's been a while since we surveyed the entire neighborhood on issues that matter to them," said Mark Armour, NOMA co-chair. "The results of this survey provide us with good insight on where NOMA should focus its efforts and how we can better represent and bring our neighborhood together."

Questions asked on the survey included:

What do you like/dislike about living North of Montana?

Do you support selling residential parking permits to Montana business employees?

What would be your preferred option for dealing with the lack of parking on Montana?

What do you think about the size of new houses being built North of Montana?

Should current zoning laws be changed to regulate the overall size of new or rebuilt houses?

Do you support regulations protecting older trees from being cut down when new houses are built?

What do you think is the biggest problem facing the city?

What is your opinion about current development in the city?

Would you favor requiring voter

approval of large developments above a certain size?

Residents ranked the character of the neighborhood as the No. 1 thing that they liked about the area. However, 61 percent of residents said that their greatest concern about the neighborhood was overbuilt houses; "overbearing and ugly" were some terms used to describe the size and design of new houses. Fifty-five percent thought that zoning laws regulating the overall size of houses should be changed to reduce the size of new developments.

Residents also were concerned about the lack of parking for employees and shoppers on Montana, but 68 percent did not support selling residential permits to employees. Instead, the preferred options were to shuttle employees from existing underutilized local parking lots and to require businesses with parking lots to use those for employees.

Residents also feared for the loss of greenery in the neighborhood, with 80 percent in support of regulations to protect older trees from being cut down when houses are built, provided the trees are not in the path of new development.

When it came to citywide issues, North of Montana residents echoed the concerns of the majority of Santa Monica residents, stating that homelessness (50 percent) is the biggest problem facing the city. This was followed by traffic (34 percent) and over-development (20 percent).

Residents wanted to see less development and growth (39 percent) as a solution to dealing with downtown and residential traffic problems, as well as synchronized traffic lights (37 percent) and more public transportation (24 percent).

Opinions ran strong when it came to the direction the city should take with a new master plan. Sixty-four percent of North of Montana residents said that we don't need more growth and that the current height and scale of buildings should be retained (89 percent). In keeping with this sentiment, 81 percent of residents favored requiring voter approval of large developments above a certain size.

"The NOMA board is going to take the feedback we got from residents and members and craft its agenda based on this," Armour said. "I expect that City Hall will be hearing a lot more from NOMA in the future."

The results of the survey were unveiled on Monday at NOMA's general membership meeting. City Manager Lamont Ewell was the featured guest speaker and spoke about many of the issues brought up in the NOMA survey. Board members encouraged residents to get involved in NOMA.

"We'd love to get some new blood into NOMA, especially young families who will raise their children here, who really want to be part of a community and who will help plan neighborhood activities," said long-time NOMA board member Doris Sosin. "We are actively looking for new members who desire to have a say in the present and future of our neighborhood and city."

If you would like to join or get involved with NOMA, e-mail noma@smnoma.org and log onto the Web site at www.smnoma.org. NOMA welcomes the participation of all neighborhood residents.

(Editor's note: Elizabeth Riel writes a column in the Daily Press twice a month called "Eye on the City." She lives north of Montana Avenue.)

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 http://motion.santa-monica.org
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SHAPE THE FUTURE 2025

Santa Monica is entering the next phase of the Land Use and Circulation Element project after successfully wrapping up the Emerging Themes and Opportunities and Challenges efforts. We heard many great comments and ideas during those initiatives and now need your help to prepare goals that will guide alternative plans.

You are invited to participate in any way you choose by letting us know if we've captured what are Santa Monica's most important goals for the next 20 years!



Kevin Herrera/Daily Press

Among those who came out to bid farewell to former schools superintendent John Deasy (center) on Monday at the Recording Academy were: (foreground, left to right) City Councilman Kevin McKeown, former mayor and SMRR co-founder Denny Zane and Don Girard, marketing director for Santa Monica College.

Board keeps search quiet, for now

SUPER SEARCH, from page 1

the top job.

Representatives from the recruiting firm are meeting this week with various groups that have a stake in the school district so they can give their input. Those groups include parent teacher associations, classified employees, faculty members, the business community and the NAACP, said school board member Julia Brownley.

Meanwhile, the school board has decided to keep the selection process private in order to find top quality candidates. Recruiters and school officials reason that because many candidates may not be looking for a job and their consideration could threaten their employment, an open, public process might hinder the search.

"Your best candidates are not likely to be searching for a job," Bill Attea of Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates told the Board. "In our experience, it's the first question they ask: Is the search closed? They will not want to jeopardize their current jobs and relationships in their communities in order to participate in a process where they may end up not getting the job. Almost all our searches in the last few years have been closed, for this reason."

Brownley said if the search was narrowed down to three candidates who were willing to be open about their interest in working for the SMMUSD, then the school board would open the selection process to the public.

"It's certainly our intent to be as upfront and transparent as we can be," she said. "The search firms have been clear that finding the best candidate will require closed sessions because we don't want to expose the potential candidates."

But not all believe that the school district is being transparent.

Jim Jaffe, a retired teacher who worked in the district for 32 years, and whose wife is currently a first-grade teacher at Franklin Elementary, said the press release announcing the community forum to be held today was posted at the last minute, and therefore, didn't give enough people ample warning so they could plan ahead.

"I think they have been manipulating what information people get and what they don't," Jaffe said. "(Tuesday) is the forum and nobody knows about it, except focus groups."

School board member Kathy Wisnicki said she approved the press release on April

7, the day before spring break began. She said it was sent out to local media, various committees, city staff and the community at large. The forum was discussed at the school board meeting on April 6, she added.

The Santa Monica Daily Press never received information that a forum would be held regarding the superintendent search. Jaffe, who looks at the SMMUSD Web site daily, maintains the release was never posted until Monday.

Representatives from the recruiting firm are meeting this week with various groups that have a stake in the school district so they can give their input.

"It was put up today," he said Monday. "Nobody got that press release."

Jaffe has been critical of how the board and school administrators have kept many items out of public debate, particularly topics concerning employee contracts and salaries.

"It just bothers me that the board gets away with this," he said, adding he would like the public to be part of the selection process and he hopes Matthews is chosen for the job.

"I just hope they don't pick someone with the same ilk," Jaffe said of Deasy, who he described as a leader who set a policy of secrecy within the district.

"I think their management skills are a real problem," he said of school officials.

Jaffe likens Deasy to a carpetbagger who came from the East Coast and was billed as someone who would save Santa Monica.

"He came here to beef up his resume for five years," Jaffe said. "Santa Monica was doing just fine before Deasy."

The community forum meetings will take place on April 25 at 6:30 p.m. at the district office board room, located at 1651 16th St. in Santa Monica, and at the Malibu High School Library, located at 30215 Morningview Dr. in Malibu.

According to Brownley, the board hopes to have a superintendent hired by June.



City Hall bracing for next earthquake

CONSENT AGENDA, from page 1

involving oil companies over the contamination of city wells.

FILL 'ER UP

The most expensive item on the council's consent agenda will be a four-year, \$10 million contract with Clean Energy, a supplier of alternative, liquefied natural gas, or LNG, which burns cleaner than diesel fuel and is considered better for the environment.

With 89 alternative fuel buses in operation, Big Blue Bus currently consumes 10,000 gallons of LNG fuel a day. Over the next few years, Big Blue Bus looks to expand the LNG fleet, which requires a continuous supply of fuel by a proven LNG provider. Clean Energy was chosen by city staff as the most qualified.

The contract with Clean Energy is for one year, with three additional one-year renewals, for a total estimated cost of \$10 million. Spending for the subsequent years will be included in annual budget proposals.

SPARE PARTS

Continuing with the Big Blue Bus fleet, the council is also expected to purchase 10 LNG buses from New Flyer of America, the city's current supplier. Staff is calling on the council to amend a contract with New Flyer to allow for the purchase of the buses, plus spare parts, for a total of \$941,900.

The cost of the 10 buses is already included in the current contract. Council needs to make a modification to cover a contingency fee of \$390,093 and to purchase spare parts at a cost of \$422,759, plus \$34,878 in taxes. The 10 new buses will go to replace older models.

Maintaining a Smooth Ride

What's the point of providing transportation if it doesn't offer a smooth and comfortable ride? To ensure riders are sitting pretty, the council is expected to spend \$146,628 installing onboard hydraulic system upgrades to 36 LNG buses. Delafield Fluid Technologies is in the running for the contract, according to a city staff report.

AN EASY BUTTON

To help city staff and the community better access data, city staff is recommending the council approve \$392,908 in spending for upgrades to computer software and data storage.

The first contract to be considered is for \$93,000 to upgrade the city's financial management program. The upgrade is intended to make accessing financial records easier for staff.

That is also the goal in digitizing records at Woodlawn Cemetery. City staff is asking the council to approve a contract worth \$168,848 with Ramaker & Associates Inc. for their help in converting all cemetery records and maps into digital format. Currently, the records are stored manually. The physical quality of these records has deteriorated and they have become increasingly hard to read, accord-

ing to a city staff report.

Once City Hall scans all the documents, it needs a place to store them. That's where Laserfiche comes in. The company has offered to store and make available to the public, police reports, citations, building permits, City Council documents and engineering drawings, all for a cost of \$131,000, with two years of software maintenance included. The move should save the city money and provide greater access to the public, according to a city staff report.

TAKING IT TO THE STREETS

Seeking the public's input on landscaping and street improvements to small stretches of Cloverfield and Pico boulevards, the council is expected tonight to approve a design contract worth \$450,000 to Ahbe, a firm specializing in landscape architecture and environmental planning.

City staff had originally recommended the contract go to Amphion Inc., but members of the council had reservations about the firm's work on the Transit Mall project, saying it was not "pedestrian friendly."

If the contract is approved, Ahbe will be required to conduct public outreach with residents and business owners of the Pico Neighborhood, where the street renovations will take place. There are plans to add lighting, trees, landscaping and sidewalk extensions, plus street furniture and improved crosswalks, according to a city staff report. It is anticipated the improvements will begin by summer 2007.

FREE MONEY

With funds left over from federal grants issued in the aftermath of the 1994 Northridge earthquake, the council is expected to modify a contract in an amount not to exceed \$285,889 for the seismic retrofit of City Hall.

The council has already entered into an agreement with Black and Veatch for \$875,000, but extra funding is needed for modifications to the old jail cell, which will be used as office space during construction. The renovation of the jail is scheduled to start early 2007 and be completed mid- to late 2007. The retrofit is scheduled to start mid to late 2007 and be completed in early 2008, according to a city staff report. The total estimated cost for the retrofit is \$5 million.

WATERED DOWN

Worley Parsons Komex is in the running for a \$304,000 design and build contract for two water-treatment plants near city wells at Charnock and Arcadia well fields.

The funds are part of a \$121 million settlement with major oil companies over the contamination of city wells. Worley has been providing technical consulting services to City Hall in support of the 2003 settlement.

As part of the contract, Worley would be required to attend meetings of the engineering and groundwater modeling committees, oversee the installation of monitoring wells, provide dispute resolution support and assist in cost estimates for various design alternatives.

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new neighborhood park
on Euclid Street between
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**Construction will begin this summer on Santa Monica's newest park.
Do you have a good name for it?**

Please submit suggestions and review the naming guidelines at smgov.net

Public Meeting:
Recreation & Parks Commission
Wednesday April 26, 2006 7:30pm
Ken Edwards Center
1527 4th Street
Santa Monica

The Recreation & Parks Commission will discuss the park's name and formulate a recommendation to the City Council. You may address the Commission and present your naming suggestion at the April 26 meeting, which begins at 7:30pm at the Ken Edwards Center, 1527 4th Street in Santa Monica (across from Macy's). The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible and served by Big Blue Bus lines 1-5, and 7-10. To request a disability-related accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter or assistive listening device, please call 458-8310, or TTY 58-8696.



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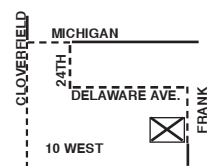
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Bush says deportation won't solve immigration

BY JENNIFER LOVEN

Associated Press Writer

IRVINE, Calif. — President Bush had a blunt message Monday for fellow Republicans focusing only on get-tough immigration policies: Sending all the nation's estimated 11 million illegal immigrants back to their home countries is not the answer.

"Massive deportation of the people here is unrealistic — it's just not going to work," Bush said. "You know, you can hear people out there hollering it's going to work. It's not going to work."

With Congress coming back from a two-week spring recess to a long election-year to-do list and tensions flaring nationwide over immigration, Bush urged lawmakers to adopt a middle-ground policy. He called a Senate bill, which creates a way for illegal immigrants to work legally in the United States and for many to eventually become citizens, an "important approach."

"It's just an interesting concept that people need to think through," Bush said of the bill sponsored by Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., which stalled before the congressional break.

As for Bush's comment on deportation, a Time magazine poll in January found 50 percent of the country favored deporting all illegal immigrants. But even Rep. Tom Tancredo, R-Colo., one of Congress' most outspoken advocates for tougher immigration laws, does not advocate mass deportation.

Well aware that November elections could end GOP control of Congress, Bush is walking a fine line on the emotional immigration issue, between his party's conservative base, which wants a clamp-down on illegal immigration, and business leaders who believe the economy needs

immigrants to fill jobs.

All sides are exerting pressure.

With armed citizen patrols popping up in border states, leaders in Arizona and New Mexico have pleaded for better policing of U.S. borders while other communities complain about the pressure that burgeoning immigrant populations are placing on local services. At the same time, tens of thousands of Hispanic and others — a potentially important voting bloc — have taken to streets across the country in the past few weeks to demand more immigration-friendly policies.

Reflecting that debate, when Bush turned to the audience assembled by the Orange County Business Council for questions, three of the eight queries he took were on immigration, including one from a woman who asked for his solution to emergency rooms crowded with poor people seeking routine care. Southern California's Orange County is a heavily Republican swath of sprawling Los Angeles suburbs that has been known — even parodied — as white, rich and conservative. But minorities now make up a majority of residents.

Bush said community health centers are the best place for the poor to get primary care. "There needs to be a campaign to explain what's available for people so that they don't go to the emergency rooms," he said.

He sought to highlight the contributions of immigrants to American society, and lamented the harsh — and sometimes deadly — conditions that many people face trying to illegally enter the country.

"One thing we cannot lose sight of is that we're talking about human beings, decent human beings that need to be treated with respect," the president said.

Budget may determine pay

SMC PROFESSORS, from page 1

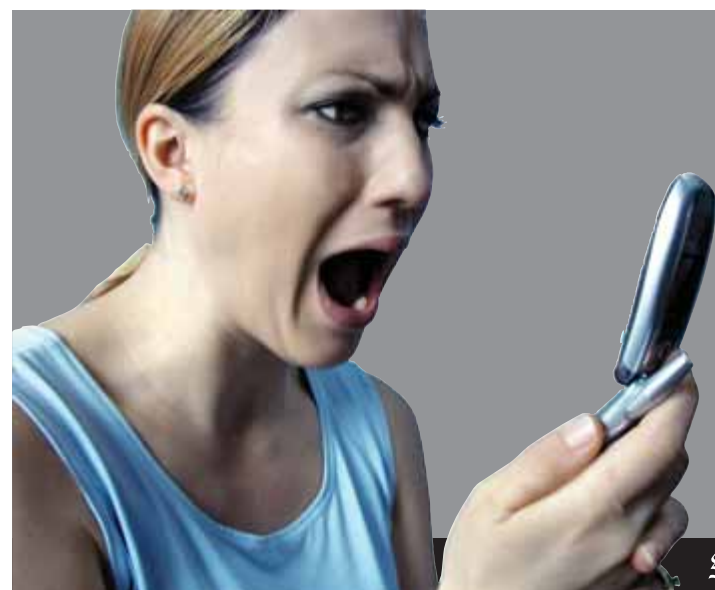
have already been brought into equity," Sammis said. "We have agreed to pick up 100 percent of their health care costs. Nobody does that anymore."

Moassessi said she is skeptical of the salary hike claim, pointing to years past when faculty worked without a contract and did not receive salary increases at the same rate as others.

Ultimately, it is the trustees who must decide what is fair.

Dr. Nancy Greenstein, president of the board of trustees, said the board is concerned about the lack of a final contract and sympathizes with the faculty's frustration. However, the board is waiting for the new president, Dr. Chui Tsang, to prepare a budget forecast so it can determine what the financial impact of a 5.5-percent raise would have on the college's budget.

"We are very committed to have a budget that is transparent and that everyone agrees reflects the health of the district and also the debt of the district," Greenstein said.



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STATE



Schwarzenegger says border wall is a step toward 'Stone ages'

BY MICHAEL R. BLOOD
AP Political Writer

LOS ANGELES — Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on Sunday said that building a 700-mile wall along the border with Mexico to deter illegal immigration would amount to “going back to the Stone ages,” and urged the federal government to use high-tech gear and more patrols to secure the nation’s southern boundary.

“We are landing men on the moon and in outer space using all these great things. I think that other technology really can secure the borders,” the Republican governor said in an interview on ABC’s “This Week.”

“If I say now, ‘Yes, let’s build the wall,’ what would prevent you from building a tunnel? How many tunnels have been built in these last 10 years? I mean, we’ve detected tunnels left and right that people can drive trucks through,” he added.

The comments were Schwarzenegger’s most detailed to date on the border wall proposal, which was included in legislation enacted in the U.S. House of Representatives. Schwarzenegger has said previously that fences might be appropriate in some areas, but raised doubts about the effectiveness of a wall snaking along the border.

Speaking on ABC, the governor said, “I think that it will be ludicrous to limit yourself to just building a wall. We’re going back to the Stone ages here.”

Schwarzenegger said relying on a wall as the only means to stop illegal immigration was “crazy.” But at other points he spoke more broadly in opposition to the proposal, on practical and symbolic terms. He alluded to the Berlin Wall, suggesting that such a structure on the U.S. border would send the wrong message to Mexico, “our friends ... our trading partners.”

“We can’t do that, either,” the governor said.

Schwarzenegger, a native of Austria, also repeated his opposition to amnesty for illegal immigrants, but provided few specifics of what requirements an illegal immigrant would have to meet to achieve legal status in the United States.

“I think we should give them a chance for redemption,” he said.

Hispanics in uniform fired up

BY ELLIOT SPAGAT
Associated Press Writer

SAN DIEGO — Marcial Rodriguez, a U.S. Marine who grew up in a Mexican farming village, is offended that the country he went to war for might deport his relatives who are living here illegally.

Three months after the lance corporal returned to Ohio from the fighting in Iraq, the U.S. House adopted a bill that would make Rodriguez’s cousin a felon for being one of the nation’s 11 million illegal immigrants.

Rodriguez, 20, said he enlisted in the Marine reserves to repay the debt he felt owed to a country that had given him an education and a home for his family.

“People from many different countries are fighting, not just from Mexico,” he said. “We want to participate in this country.”

It is unclear how many soldiers find their loyalties similarly divided, but at a time when Pentagon has stepped up recruiting of Hispanics to fill recruiting quotas, experts say a crackdown on illegal immigration would undoubtedly cause resentment in the ranks.

“How do you tell them we’re going to deport their parents and grandparents?” asked Hector Flores, president of the League of United Latin American Citizens, a group that has encouraged Hispanics who do not plan to attend college to join the military. “That’s not America.”

Hispanics are increasingly joining the military as their numbers have grown, according to a 2004 study on Marine recruitment by CNA Corp., a research firm in Arlington, Va. The study found Hispanics have done exceptionally well in the Marines, with boot-camp attrition rates well below average.

Hispanics accounted for 16.5 percent of Marine recruits last year, up from 13.4 percent in 2002 and 11.7 percent in 1997, the firm said.

Soldiers and veterans have been a popular presence at a wave of pro-immigrant rallies across the country in recent weeks. In Houston, speakers at a rally this month repeatedly pointed to people in uniform on a nearby bridge, and they received roaring applause, said Eliseo Medina, a top official of the Service Employees International Union.

“They stick out like a sore thumb,” Medina said. “When (demonstrators) see people in uniform, it gives them tremendous pride and validates that we are contributing to this country.”

At a pro-immigration rally April 9 that drew 50,000 people in San Diego, Hispanic veterans from World War II carried signs that read “We Fought in Your Wars,” said Jorge Mariscal, a Vietnam veteran.

“After serving our country, to see our relatives now

criminalized through this legislation is provoking a lot of people,” said Mariscal, director of Chicano studies at the University of California, San Diego.

Rodriguez enlisted in 2004 after graduating from high school in Painesville, Ohio. Nine months later, he was combing Iraq for insurgents near the Syrian border. He barely escaped death when three friends of his were killed by a roadside bomb last June.

“People from many different countries are fighting, not just from Mexico. We want to participate in this country.”

MARCIAL RODRIGUEZ
U.S. Marine

Rodriguez is now a freshman at Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio, where he is studying international relations. He said he has dreamed since boyhood of joining the CIA. He speaks English and Spanish and is learning French.

His father, Ernesto Rodriguez, crossed illegally into the United States in 1976 after deciding that he would never be able to support a family in Mexico. He had dropped out of school after third grade and had been farming corn in the Mexican state of Guanajuato from age 16. After getting caught by the Border Patrol, he made it on a second try and worked on a chicken farm near Dallas.

The elder Rodriguez, now 47, became a permanent resident under a 1986 law that gave legal status to 2.6 million immigrants. He moved to Ohio to find work and in 1998 got permission to bring his wife and three children this country. Marcial was 13 at the time.

Marcial’s cousin Eli Rodriguez illegally crossed the border in 1999 and moved in with Marcial’s father. Eli Rodriguez paid a smuggler \$1,200 to bring him across the Arizona desert.

“He’s like a brother,” Marcial Rodriguez said. “He’s just working for a better life, nothing more. Mexico has nothing to offer him.”

Eli, 24, married a Mexican woman he met in Ohio, rented an apartment and makes \$10 an hour as a landscaper. He said he hopes to obtain legal status and join the military.

“I want to join the military, but I can’t. This country has given me a lot,” he said. “I would like to serve.”

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SANTA MONICA

A WEEKLY LOOK AT EVENTS AND PROGRAMS



DEAR DORIE

BY DORIE MEEK

Whoa, Nelly: Pull in the reins

Dear Dorie,

I have two young children — 2 years old and 5 years old — and just got back from a five-day vacation with my husband. We really indulged with staying up late, sleeping in, theme parks, kids sleeping in our bed, a little bit more sugar than usual. Basically, a great vacation but I am now paying the price big time. Is this temporary or did I really set regression in full mode?

Regretting Regression

Dear Regretting,

First, congratulations on a fantastic family vacation. I hope you got a little quality time with each family member as well as some quiet time for yourself. Vacations can be weary adventures and, yes, you'll pay the price of disruption in schedules, particularly with your toddler.

Here's the good news: It's not permanent. They will move back into their old routines as long as you are consistent and deliver the "goods." Children are resilient and generally positive about structure and limits. It's up to you to pull in the reins about sugar and sleep, and in a week or so you'll be looking at photographs trying to remember that holiday.

Vacations are about change and fun. If we did exactly the same thing as we do every day at home, all you'd end up with is a huge credit card bill. Deal patiently with the temper tantrums, re-adjustments and fond memories.

Dorie

(Dorie Meek is director of the Infant & Family Support Program, provided by Saint John's Health Center in partnership with the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. Meek answers questions concerning children ages birth to 5 years old. Submit your questions to "Dear Dorie" at meek@smmusd.org, or call (310) 452-6132; fax (310) 452-6392).

Bedtime not negotiable



HOW MUCH IS ENOUGH?

BY JEAN ILLSLEY CLARKE PH.D.

How I hated to hear my mom's voice, "It's time for bed." "It can't be time for bed. It's still light outside. I'm busy playing. The other kids are playing. Listen to them. I can't possibly go to sleep with all that racket."

She didn't look. She didn't listen. Summer in Minnesota. I'd gone to bed early all winter. She didn't care. I knew that she was wrong, wrong, wrong.

It happened again when I was a teen. "It's time for bed." "It can't be. I'm not done with my homework. I promised to call my friend. Anyway, I'm not tired."

Again she didn't listen, and I knew that I was not tired. I also knew that she was wrong, wrong, wrong.

But actually it turned out that she was right. A gaggle of new research shouts out the message that sleep is important, not only for the body and brain growth of the young child, but for the body health and brain growth for all ages, especially adolescents.

In the "How Much Is Enough?" book we learned that many of the adults who had been overindulged as children indicated that they had been given too much freedom (go to bed when you like), and that there were too few rules (set your own bedtime).

Now we have a compelling new book, "Sleepless in America," in which Mary Sheedy Kurcinka has gathered the plethora of research studies that combine to give us a clear picture of the importance of enough sleep.

For example:

■ Did you know that a high-energy child might have only a 15-minute window when the body is ready for sleep? Miss that and the body becomes wired for a burst

of activity that looks as if the child is not tired but is actually a call for being asleep earlier?

■ Did you know that teenagers' body clocks change and they really do get tired later and need to sleep longer in the morning?

■ Did you know that letting teens sleep all day on the weekend exacerbates the problem and they should be awakened at 10 a.m.?

■ Did you know that adolescents need nine hours of sleep a night? If school starts early, parents really do need to say, "Time for bed" and stick with it. The kids will be healthier and smarter when they do get to school.

■ Did you know that missing one hour of sleep eight nights in a row impairs cognitive function as much as going 24 hours without sleep?

We, as a culture, have been overindulging our children by letting them get by on too little sleep. That is having a negative impact on them right now. That was not what we intended as we let our children stay up for things that are good experiences, or culturally enriching, or educational, or because we want them to have fun. But we need to think about the price they and we pay.

So, how much sleep is enough? Of course it will vary. Here are Kurcinka's recommendations:

Infants: 14 to 18 hours in a 24-hour period

Toddler: 18 to 36 months —13 hours, including naps

Pre-school: 12 hours, including naps.

School-age children: 10 hours

Adolescents: 13 to 18 years — nine hours

Adults: Nine hours

Let the ideas in Kurcinka's book help you make it happen. Mother was right. When "It's time for bed," it really is time for bed.

Good luck and good sleep.

(Illsley Clarke can be reached at jiconsults@aol.com. To read more about overindulgence go to www.overindulgence.info.)

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Presented by Kids' Yoga Circle; (310) 260-2736, www.KidsYogaCircle.com.
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TUESDAY

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

Storytelling

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

Next session May 2 – June 6 for:

Baby Time – 10:15 & 10:45 a.m., babies up to 2 years.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St. – 392-8304

Story Time for Twos – 10:00 and 10:30 a.m., current session thru May 16, registration required.

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

Barnes and Noble at the Grove

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

Classes

YWCA – A Place for Parents –Toddler & Me Class - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. – 12 to 36 months; Infant & Me Class – 10:45 – 11:45 a.m. and 1:30 – 2:30 p.m., 0 – 12 months; 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.
BREAKTHROUGH PARENTING CLASS-ES – 7:00 – 9:30 p.m.

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

Yoga & Exercise

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

Mommy Care – at the Dance Factory, 11606 San Vicente Blvd., Brentwood, 310-394-6711.

Combined Pregnancy/Recovery Exercise Group – 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.. (babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)

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

Breastfeeding Group

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

WEDNESDAY

MOMS Club of SM South Playgroups – Newborn group - call for time.

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

Storytelling

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

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

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

Next session begins Apr. 26 for: Story Time for Twos – 9:30 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Classes

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

Rhythm Child Parent & Me Rhythms, Santa Monica Studios, 3025 Olympic Blvd., 9:30 – 10:15 a.m. Children explore rhythms through drum play. For toddlers. \$100 for 8 weeks. Call 204-

5466 or visit www.rhythmchild.net for more info and session dates.

Enchanted Lunchtime Theatre at Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th St., 394-9779

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. For ages 3 – 5 with parents. This theatrical adventure includes story time, theatre games, crafts, play building and lunch. Reservations required 24 hours in advance, \$19.50 includes lunch for child and lunch.

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal – 12:30 – 2:00 p.m., \$15

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

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

Breastfeeding Group

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

Other

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

THURSDAY

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

Storytelling

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

Next session May 4 – June 8 for:

Story Time for Twos – 10:15 & 10:45 a.m.

Preschool Story Time – 11:20 a.m. Ages 3 – 5.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Babystyle, 1324 Montana Avenue, 434-9590

10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4.

Classes

YWCA – A Place for Parents –Toddler & Me Class - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. and 10:45 – 11:45 a.m., 12 to 36 months; Parent Support Group – 3:30 – 4:30 p.m., age

3 – 5 years; 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

BREAKTHROUGH PARENTING CLASS-ES – 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

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

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:30 – 1:55 p.m., \$15. Mommy and Me – 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.
Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.stroller-strides.com for more info.

Breastfeeding Groups

La Leche League of LA/Mar Vista – meets the 1st Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the Community Room of the Westchester Municipal Bldg., 7166 W. Manchester Ave., corner of Lincoln and Manchester. Call 310-390-2529 for info.
The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-998-1981 - drop-in, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 4-8 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

MOMS Club of SM South Playgroups

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

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

Kids get a night of supervised fun with pizza, games and more while parents go out. Ages 3-10, \$9 per hour, \$7 sibs-lings, 3 hour minimum. Reservations required, 470-4997. ww.childsplayon-line.net

Planetarium Show at SMC's John Drescher Planetarium, 7:00 p.m.

Night Sky Show, 8:00 p.m. – featured program. \$5 adults, \$4 children. Pico and 17th St., 434-3000.

Classes

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

Yoga & Exercise

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

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

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

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

SATURDAY

Storytelling

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

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

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

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

826LA, 685 Venice Blvd, 2nd Floor, Venice – 10:30 – 11:30 a.m., ages 3-6, RSVP to info @825LA.com or 310-314-8418. (826LA is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting students with their creative and expository writing skills, and to helping teachers inspire their students to write).

Classes

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

Yoga & Exercise

Santa Monica Yoga – Pre- & Post-Natal Yoga, Saturdays – 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. 1640 Ocean Park Blvd, 396-4040, www.santamonicyogacom

Mommy Care – at the Dance Factory, 11606 San Vicente Blvd., Brentwood, 310-394-6711.

Combined Pregnancy/Recovery Exercise Group – 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.(babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)

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

Other

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

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

Precious Prints – Ceramic Heirlooms for a Lifetime

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

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

“A Faery Hunt” – 10:30 a.m., every Saturday at Franklin Canyon Park. An interactive children's show, searching for fairies and other enchanted creatures in the magical canyon and finding them! \$10, call for reservations – 818-324-6802. www.faeryhunt.com. Meet in the parking lot of the Sooky Goldman Nature Center, 2600 Franklin Canyon Dr., Beverly Hills.

Princess Bean's Messy World – 2:00 p.m., Sat. and Sun. in April and May.

A musical about real princess spirit featuring Cinderella, Snow White, Sleeping Beauty and Princess Bean. Rock and roll dance party after performance. Ages 3 – 9. Electric Lodge Theatre, 1416 Electric Ave., Venice, 823-0710. \$10 admission.

admission.

SUNDAY

Main Street Farmer's Market – 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., corner of Main St. and Ocean Park Blvd.

Pony rides, live music, lots of vendors and great family socializing.

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

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

Prenatal Aqua Aerobics at the Santa Monica YMCA

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

Princess Bean's Messy World – 2:00 p.m., Sat. and Sun. in April and May.

A musical about real princess spirit featuring Cinderella, Snow White, Sleeping Beauty and Princess Bean. Rock and roll dance party after performance. Ages 3 – 9. Electric Lodge Theatre, 1416 Electric Ave., Venice, 823-0710. \$10 admission.

MONDAY

MOMS Club of SM South Playgroups

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

Storytelling

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

Baby Time – 9:30 a.m. Storytelling for babies up to age two. Followed by Family Connections. Joslyn Park Craft Room, 633 Kensington Rd.

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

Classes

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

Breastfeeding Group

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

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal – 12:30 – 2:00 pm, \$15

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

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

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NATIONAL



Colorado committee OKs unprecedented water basins charter

BY STEVEN K. PAULSON

Associated Press Writer

DENVER — Hoping to someday end Colorado's in-state battles over scarce water, a House committee on Monday approved an unprecedented charter for compacts between users in different river basins meant to bring together groups ranging from fishermen to farmers.

"We're walking on ground that hasn't been walked on before," said Marc Catlin, a member of the Inter Basin Compact Committee that drew up the proposed charter.

Battles for limited water supplies can be fierce in the West, often pitting fast-growing cities that want water for drinking and lawn-watering against other groups that depend on farming and recreation for their well-being.

Catlin said water users and providers who have been at each other's throats for years came together to come up with a plan that will force them to discuss the best ways to keep water in Colorado and reduce the impact on the state's water basins, which are facing heavy demands.

The state's seven major rivers are also facing heavy demand from millions of people in 10 downstream states who depend on Colorado water for their survival.

Catlin said his father negotiated water deals for years, and the negotiations always started: "No, hell no."

"Now we're saying, 'Let's talk about it.' They're starting to understand there is more than a wolf standing at the door," he told the House Agriculture, Livestock and Natural Resources Committee, which approved the proposed charter. It now goes to the House Appropriations Committee to determine how to pay the estimated \$1.2 million cost.

Army program seeks to save endangered plants in Hawaii

BY KARIN STANTON

Associated Press Writer

POHAKULOA TRAINING AREA, Hawaii — The twisted skeleton-like trunks and branches of ohia trees stretch in every direction to the horizon, but a small group of people are intent on one tiny green sprout protected by a circle of wire fence.

It is one of only 155 known hedyotis coriacea, or kioele, plants that remain, and it is a focal point of the U.S. Army Pohakuloa Training Area's environmental team.

Just finding it is a major accomplishment for the team of 16 biologists, botanists and horticulturists.

"Surveying for plants is a real skill," said Darryl York, chief biologist at the Army's 110,000-acre training area in the middle of the Big Island. "We have a special commitment to work in this area. The Army is really proactive and supportive."

The area, home to more threatened and endangered species than any other military installation, is shaped roughly like a big wedge, with headquarters at the apex and large swaths of conservation area extending along each side.

The middle is used for live fire exercises and combat training.

In recognition of Earth Day, York and fellow biologist Lance Tominaga led a tour last week through the dry-land ohia forest to highlight how the Army is preserving, protecting and managing the cultural and natural resources.

During the 20-minute drive from headquarters, herds of feral goats can be seen springing across the uneven lava and through the brush.

"This really is about as desolate as it gets," York said.

The dry-land ohia forest sits at about 6,000 feet above

sea level and gets about 10 inches of rain annually. York and his crew still don't know what these conditions mean to the various plants they have identified.

When a rare or endangered plant is identified, the crew erects a bright orange protective fence and clears other vegetation from the area. It is time-consuming, hot, back-wrenching work, but it needs to be done three or four times a year to ensure the plant is not overrun.

In many cases, seeds or samples are rushed to the greenhouse back at headquarters. Biologists also send samples to another location, to ensure all existing plants are not destroyed if there is a catastrophic fire, earthquake or volcanic eruption.

The goal for York and his crew is to grow enough specimens in the greenhouse to allow them to be replanted in the wild. More than 3,000 plants have been planted across the Pohakuloa Training Area.

"We don't know if this is the historical range (for these plants). All we know now is this is where it's found," he said. "After 200 years of unrestricted grazing ... we just don't know what it used to be like."

Eleven endangered plant species are found on the grounds. Also on the endangered list are one mammal, the Hawaiian hoary bat, and three birds, the Hawaiian goose, or nene, the Hawaiian owl, or pueo, and the petrel.

In the 11 years since the Army's Natural Resource Program began, none of the endangered plants has become extinct and one — silene hawaiiensis — is thriving and moving toward being removed from the threatened list.

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INTERNATIONAL

7 car bombs explode in Baghdad

BY THOMAS WAGNER
Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Seven car bombs exploded across the capital Monday, killing at least six people and wounding dozens, as politicians met to try to finalize a new Cabinet. Police discovered the bodies of 20 Iraqis.

Three roadside bombs, five drive-by shootings and a mortar round killed 12 Iraqis in Baghdad and elsewhere, police said. The violence underlines the challenges as prime minister-designate Jawad al-Maliki begins the tough task of assembling a Cabinet out of Iraq's Shiite, Sunni and Kurdish parties.

On Monday morning, political parties met separately in Baghdad to discuss proposed Cabinet ministers and were to meet as a group later in the day, said Kamal al-Saeidi of al-Maliki's Dawa party.

A day earlier, President Bush called al-Maliki, the Iraqi president and the parliament speaker and urged the quick formation of a coalition government. Al-Maliki, a Shiite, has 30 days to choose a Cabinet, but the political parties are under enormous pressure to move quickly without the often intractable haggling over ministries.

U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad, a key player in protracted political negotiations since Iraq's Dec. 15 elections, repeated his call for the quick creation of a Cabinet of "competent" ministers — implying those chosen for their skills and not sectarian or political ties.

The United States is hoping the new government will unify Iraq's bitterly divided factions behind a program aimed at reining in both the Sunni-led insurgency and the Shiite-Sunni killings that has escalated during months without a stable government.

Baghdad's first car bomb exploded during morning rush hour on a major street near the Tigris river, close to a complex of government buildings, a hospital and a bus station. Three people were killed and 25 wounded.

Two hours later, bombs hidden in two cars parked near Mustansiriya University in eastern Baghdad exploded, killing three civilians, including a 10-year-old boy, and wounding 22 people, said police Lt. Bila Ali.

A car bomb also exploded near a square near a U.S. military convoy in central Baghdad, wounding at least 11 civilians, including a young girl, said police Maj. Abbas Mohammed Selman. U.S. forces closed off the area, and it was not immediately known if there were American casualties.

Bombs in two cars parked about 100 yards apart then exploded one after another near Iraqi police patrols in the New Baghdad part of the capital, wounding three policemen and three civilians, said police Lt. Ali Abass.

That was followed by a car bomb that targeted a police patrol in the Mansur area of Baghdad, wounding three policemen and four civilians, said police Capt. Jamil Hussein.

Police in Abu Ghraib, just outside Baghdad, found a small truck containing the bodies of 15 men who had been tortured in captivity, said police Lt. Maitham Abdul Razzaq. Two other corpses were found in southwest Baghdad; one appeared to have been hanged, said police Capt. Qassim Hassan. Three bodies were found in the northern city of Mosul, including that of a university student who had been kidnapped hours earlier, police said.

On Sunday, at least three U.S. soldiers and 31 Iraqis

Baghdad's first car bomb exploded during morning rush hour on a major street near the Tigris river, close to a complex of government buildings.

were killed, including seven who died when mortars hit just outside the heavily guarded Green Zone in Baghdad, not far from Iraq's Defense Ministry.

Sunni Arabs say Shiite militias have infiltrated the Interior Ministry and used death squads to kill Sunnis following the Feb. 22 bombing of a Shiite shrine in Samarra, north of Baghdad. But the killings have gone both ways.

Police said the bodies of six Shiites were found Sunday in the mainly Sunni district of Azamiyah in Baghdad, their hands and legs bound and their bodies showing signs of torture. Two more bodies were found in a mixed district south of Baghdad.

The chief of the Azamiyah district council, Sheik Hassan Sabri Salman, said relatives also identified the bodies of 14 Sunnis kidnapped last week. The bodies were handcuffed with signs of torture, he said. Police did not confirm the deaths.

The Iraqi Islamic Party, the main Sunni faction in parliament and a likely participant in the next Cabinet, warned of "the repercussions of sectarian cleansing." It urged the new government to stop "the criminal gangs" involved in the killings.

Khalilzad also said Iraq's next government must decommission sectarian militias and integrate them into the national armed forces, warning that the armed groups represent the "infrastructure for civil war." He spoke at a news conference with Iraqi President Jalal Talabani in the northern city of Irbil.

A key question will be control of the Interior Ministry, currently held by the Shiite Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq. The SCIRI ran the feared Badr Brigade militia during Saddam Hussein's rule.

Rebels in Nepal storm army bases in assault on the government

BY BINAJ GURUBACHARYA
Associated Press Writer

KATMANDU, Nepal — Communist rebels stormed army bases and government buildings Monday in a bold assault in northern Nepal, battling government troops in a night-long gunfight that left six people dead. In the capital, security forces fired rubber bullets on crowds of pro-democracy protesters.

With no sign of the violence abating, the U.S. State Department ordered all non-emergency embassy staff and family members to leave Nepal. About half the staff were expected to leave.

Katmandu has been the scene of nearly three weeks of demonstrations in which police have clashed with protesters demanding King Gyanendra relinquish the power he seized 14 months ago. The rebels and Nepal's main political parties are both backing the movement.

Five rebels and one government soldier died in the fighting in the north-central town of Chautara after Maoist guerrillas launched an attack on several government installations, the army said. Four civilians were injured.

The attackers knocked down an antenna tower, severing communications, and raided an army base, police post, local jail and district administration office, a local official said on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized speak to the media. Security forces eventually repelled the attackers.

The official said the rebels also bombed the local hospital, post office and education office, and that soldiers were combing the area for the attackers.

The Maoists have seized control of much of Nepal's countryside in a 10-year communist anti-monarchist insurgency that has killed about 13,000 people.

In the northern edges of Katmandu, meanwhile, police fired rubber bullets at hundreds of protesters who had gathered ahead of a massive protest set for Tuesday. Seven people were wounded, news reports said.

The protest was smaller than on previous days and located on the ring road that surrounds the city, which did not fall under the 7-hour curfew imposed in the capital city. Tuesday's protest called by the opposition alliance will start from several points on the road. Hundreds of thousands of people were expected to attend.

"We urge all the people, the old and the young alike, to come out of their homes, their villages, their neighborhoods and get to the nearest point on the ring road for the mass rally," the opposition statement read.

Protests across the Himalayan country have intensified since Friday, when Gyanendra offered to allow the alliance to nominate a prime minister and form a government. Opposition leaders and the communist rebels say the king's offer fell short of a key demand — the return of parliament and creation of a special assembly to write a new constitution that could limit, or even eliminate, the monarchy.

On Sunday, police and protesters clashed on the ring road outside Katmandu, leaving several demonstrators injured. By late afternoon, the protests had degenerated into young men hurling bricks and bottles at police, who responded with tear gas and baton charges.

In the southern town of Bharatpur, hundreds of women chanted slogans against the king, banging plates and utensils. In Nepalgunj, 310 miles southwest of Katmandu, farmers came out with plows to protest. Some broke down the statue of King Tribhuvan, Gyanendra's grandfather.

The chaos in Nepal has stoked worries among the international community of a humanitarian crisis in what was already one of the world's poorest countries. Many also worry that a political vacuum could give the Maoist rebels a route to power.

Fourteen protesters have been killed since the general strike began on April 6.

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Truth about split is out there

By The Associated Press

LONDON — Gillian Anderson and documentary filmmaker Julian Ozzanne have separated after 16 months of marriage, their lawyers said Monday.

“Gillian Anderson and her husband, Julian Ozzanne, are saddened to announce that their marriage is at an end and they are in the process of separating,” said a statement released by Schillings law firm.

“At this difficult time they request that their privacy is respected. There will be no further comment.”

The couple married at a friend’s beach house on Lamu’s Shella island, off Kenya’s Indian Ocean coast.

Anderson, 37, who starred as agent Dana Scully in TV’s “The X-Files,” has an 11-year-old daughter, Piper, from her previous marriage to production designer Clyde Klotz.

OLD SAYBROOK, Conn. — Katharine Hepburn never sought a memorial while alive, but nearly three years after her death, her name will adorn a new arts center in her hometown on Long Island Sound.

The town is refurbishing the more than 90-year-old Town Hall into the Katharine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center. Fundraisers hope to net more than \$1 million for stage lighting, seats, sound, projection and other equipment.

An endowment for the theater will be established to fund scholarships and performances.

Without the arts center, the only tangible sign of the four-time Oscar winner is a garden at the library.

“She was part of the town. People respected her,” said Walter Hirsch, chairman of the construction committee. “We need something to remember her. That little park is nice but it doesn’t do her justice.”

Cynthia McFadden, a friend of Hepburn’s and executor of her will, is serving as an honorary member of the fundraising campaign. Others who have joined the project include Lauren Bacall, CBS newsman Morley Safer

and Dominick Dunne.

Hepburn, who grew up in Hartford, spent summers at Fenwick, a shoreline community in Old Saybrook. She maintained a home in New York City, but spent summers and most of her time later in life in the nine-bedroom family home.

Construction of the arts center is expected to begin in late summer.

LOS ANGELES — Kevin Dillon, star of the HBO comedy series “Entourage,” has married fiancée Jane Stuart in Las Vegas.

The couple were married Saturday in a downtown wedding chapel in a brief service that included several songs performed by an Elvis Presley impersonator, Us Weekly reported Sunday on its Web site.

Stuart, 27, who is pregnant, wore a white, floor-length dress, according to the magazine, which had two reporters in attendance. Dillon, 40, was dressed in jeans and a leather jacket.

The service was witnessed by Dillon’s “Entourage” co-star Kevin Connolly, the magazine said.

Screen credits for Dillon, brother of Oscar-nominated actor Matt Dillon, include roles in “Platoon,” “The Doors” and the upcoming “Poseidon.”

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Jim Nabors, best known as television’s Gomer Pyle, has been inducted into the Alabama Stage & Screen Hall of Fame.

At the Saturday ceremony, an episode was shown from the ‘60s comedy “Gomer Pyle, U.S.M.C.” in which Nabors sang the stirring “The Impossible Dream.” Nabors, an Alabama native, told the gala audience of about 400 people that it was the first time he’d seen that recording of the song.

“I really never watched myself on TV,” he said. “Now I know why.”

Nabors also played Pyle on “The Andy Griffith Show.”

The 75-year-old actor-singer entertained the audience with true-life stories, spun in a Gomer

“can you believe this?” fashion, but choked up when talking about Carol Burnett, who helped him through his health problems. He had a brush with death in the early ‘90s before a liver transplant saved his life.

“Carol is like a sister to me,” he said. “Carol saved my life.”

“I could go on all night about my wonderful experiences,” he said. But he concluded simply, “It’s always good to be home.”

ENTERTAINMENT

‘Silent Hill’ makes noise with \$20.2M

BY DAVID GERMAIN

AP Movie Writer

LOS ANGELES A real scary movie bumped off the spoof variety at the box office.

Sony’s fright flick “Silent Hill,” set in an eerie ghost town, debuted with \$20.2 million, taking over the top spot from the Weinstein Co. comedy “Scary Movie 4,” which slipped to No. 2 with \$17 million in its second weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The White House assassination tale “The Sentinel,” a 20th Century Fox thriller starring Michael Douglas, Kiefer Sutherland and Eva Longoria, opened in third place with \$14.65 million.

The weekend’s other new major debut, Universal’s George W. Bush-“American Idol” parody “American Dreamz” featuring Dennis Quaid and Hugh Grant, debuted a weak No. 8 with \$3.7 million.

After two weekends in limited release, Jennifer Aniston’s comic drama “Friends With Money” expanded nationwide and came in at No. 10 with \$3.55 million. Aniston plays a down-on-her-luck housecleaner with three well-to-do pals (Frances McDormand, Catherine Keener and Joan Cusack).

Santa Monica Daily Press

MOVIEGUIDE

SHOWTIMES FOR APRIL 24, 2006

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

American Dreamz (PG-13)
1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00

Brick (R)
2:30, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30

The Sentinel (PG-13)
1:30, 4:05, 7:00, 9:40

Somersault (NR)
2:10, 5:00, 7:40, 10:15

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

Ice Age: The Meltdown (PG)
12:00, 2:30, 4:50, 7:20, 9:40

La Mujer de Mi Hermano (R)
12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:50, 10:20

Lucky Number Slevin (R)
11:40am, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:30

Standing Still (R)
12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 10:00

Take the Lead (PG-13)
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50

V for Vendetta (R)
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:10

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

The Benchwarmers (PG-13)
1:05, 3:15, 5:30, 7:40, 10:05

Inside Man (R)
1:00, 2:20, 3:50, 7:00, 8:10, 9:50

Scary Movie 4 (PG-13)
1:10, 2:45, 3:20, 5:00, 5:40, 7:10, 8:00, 9:40, 10:30

Silent Hill (R)
1:40, 4:30, 5:20, 7:30, 10:35

The Wild (G)
1:20, 3:30, 5:45, 7:50, 10:00

Nuwilshire Theatre
1314 Wilshire Blvd
(310) 281-8228

The Notorious Bettie Page (R)
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

Thank You for Smoking (R)
11:45am, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:50

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

The Almost Guys (PG-13)
11:45am, 2:10, 4:45, 7:10, 9:35

Friends With Money (R)
12:45, 1:45, 3:00, 4:00, 5:20, 6:20, 7:40, 8:40, 10:00

Kinky Boots (PG-13)
11:45am, 2:20, 4:55, 7:30, 10:10

Information: calendar@smdp.com

MORE TODAY IN HISTORY

■ **In 1785**, American naturalist and artist John James Audubon was born in Haiti.

■ **In 1865**, John Wilkes Booth, the assassin of President Lincoln, was surrounded by federal troops near Bowling Green, Va., and killed.

■ **In 1937**, planes from Nazi Germany raided the Basque town of Guernica during the Spanish Civil War.

■ **In 1945**, Marshal Henri Philippe Petain, the head of France’s Vichy government during World War II, was arrested.

■ **In 1964**, the African nations of Tanganyika and Zanzibar merged to form Tanzania.

■ **In 1968**, the United States exploded beneath the Nevada desert a 1-megaton nuclear device called “Boxcar.”



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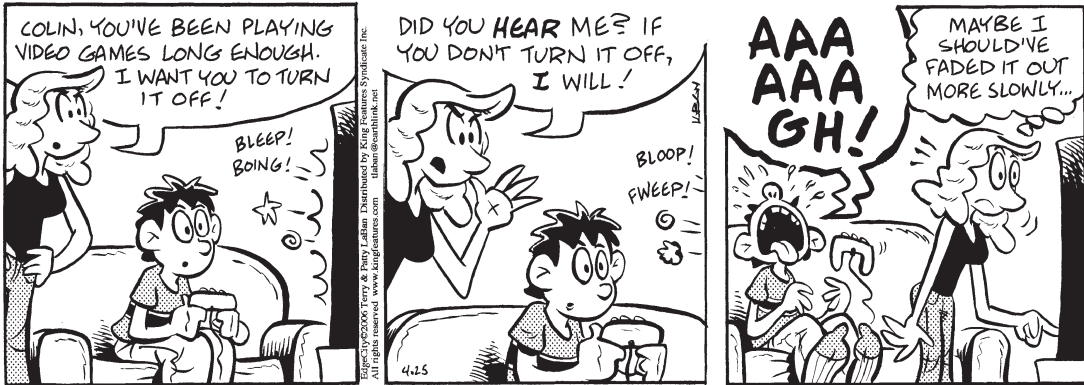


COMICS

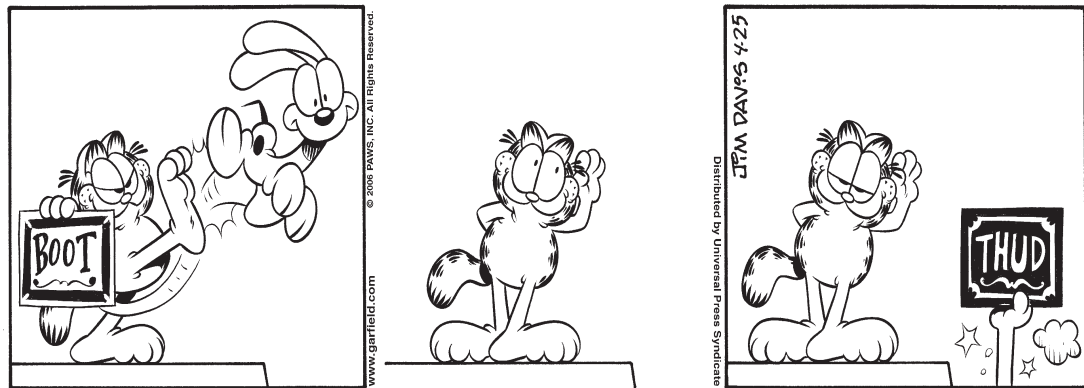
The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



edge city by TERRY & PATTY LABAN



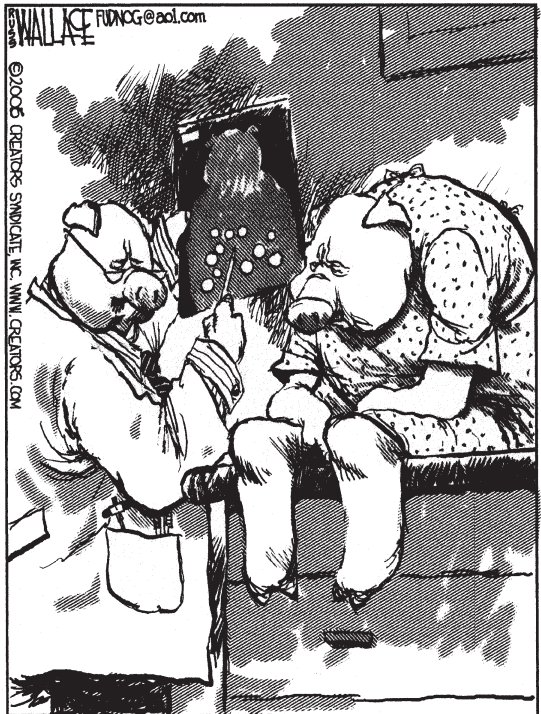
Garfield® By Jim Davis



Speed Bump® By Dave Coverly



Natural Selection® By Russ Wallace



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By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Slob's creations
- 7 Placid
- 11 Haul in
- 12 Skunk's defense
- 13 Marking for deletion
- 15 Composer Copland
- 16 Battle group
- 18 Motel worker
- 21 Off-Broadway award
- 22 Arcade chomper
- 24 Ho from Hawaii
- 25 Approval
- 26 Mine rock
- 27 Uncovers
- 29 Love song, perhaps
- 30 Raucous
- 31 Wrestling needs
- 32 Evil spirit
- 34 Causing disgust
- 40 Prime
- 41 Acts author
- 42 Bike part
- 43 Nickname for Eric

DOWN

- 1 Comic Bernie

- 2 Bungle
- 3 Hit show abbr.
- 4 Bun-topping seed
- 5 School paper
- 6 Com-motion
- 7 French brandy
- 8 Com-motion
- 9 Gehrig or Brock
- 10 "The A-Team" star
- 14 Wanderer
- 16 Seething
- 17 "Help!" drummer
- 19 Folder's phrase

C	L	A	P	P		P	U	G	E	T
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Yesterday's answer

- 20 Challeng
- 21 Peculiar
- 22 Some hit songs
- 23 Capture
- 25 Some Picassos
- 28 Soap opera, in slang
- 29 Swing
- 31 Calendar page
- 33 Haze
- 34 Joke
- 35 Future fish
- 36 Stop — dime
- 37 Owned by us
- 38 Luau music maker
- 39 Senator Kennedy

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42					43					

4-25

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