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DAILY 3

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Evening: 1 2 3

DAILY DERBY

1st: 07 Eureka!
2nd: 10 Solid Gold
3rd: 05 California Classic
RACE TIME: 1:48.79

NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

Sales of bottled water for dogs (with prices similar to that for people) are growing, according to a March Wall Street Journal report, spurred not only by sudden concern about vitamin deficiency but apparent certainty among some owners that their pets find tap water disagreeable and thus are dangerously at risk of dehydration. Of course, veterinarians cited by the Journal are puzzled by this recent rejection of municipal water and suggest it might be a food-bowl-smell problem rather than a new dog generation's preference for fine beverages. (Also, some vets believe dogs prefer the cooler temperature of, say, toilet-bowl water to that of food-bowl water.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 122nd day of 2005.
There are 243 days left in the year.

On May 3, 1945, the Soviet Union announced the fall of Berlin, and the Allies announced the surrender of Nazi troops in Italy and parts of Austria.

In 1957, Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy, the controversial Republican senator from Wisconsin, died at Bethesda Naval Hospital in Maryland.

In 1960, convicted sex offender and best-selling author Caryl Chessman was executed at San Quentin Prison in California.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

"Even a liar tells a hundred truths to one lie; he has to, to make the lie good for anything."

HENRY WARD BEECHER
AMERICAN CLERGYMAN (1813-1887)

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Sunset cycling



Fabian Lewkowicz/Special to the Daily Press

A cyclist enjoys a ride along the bike path at Santa Monica Beach at dusk.

City Hall lawsuit against feds heard

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — The U.S. District Court heard oral arguments Friday in a precedent-setting lawsuit, joined by Santa Monica, that challenges taxpayer-funded projects that cause climate change.

Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth, and the cities of Boulder,

Colo., and Oakland, Santa Monica and Arcata, Calif., have all filed the suit on behalf of their members and citizens against two U.S. government agencies — the Export-Import Bank (Ex-Im) and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC).

Judge Jeffrey S. White took the case under submission, and it's unknown when he'll make a ruling. Santa Monica city attorneys

are hopeful that the questions Judge White asked point in their favor.

"The tentative ruling was to deny the government's summary judgment, which is a motion to throw out the case," said Deputy City Attorney Adam Radinsky. "The judge asked questions which called into question the govern-

See **FEDERAL SUIT**, page 5

Citizens expand on city's future plans

BY RYAN HYATT
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — Santa Monicans who feel their needs may not be met in the future have asked their elected leaders to reconsider the themes of its long-term growth plan.

Two dozen Santa Monica residents who spoke at last week's City Council meeting said they're concerned City Hall's new development and transportation policies neglect key components that could have serious impacts on Santa

Monica's future.

The public outcry came in response to City Hall's initial assessment of its "Shape the Future" and "Motion by the Ocean" projects, both two-year undertakings intended to overhaul Santa Monica's land use and transit policy for the next 20 years.

City staff presented 12 broad-based "emerging themes" at the April 26 City Council meeting that were taken from a six-month public input process. Santa Monicans were asked what kind of

development and transportation policies should be in place in the city for the coming decades.

The themes emphasized the need for Santa Monica to encourage traffic and parking solutions, strong neighborhoods, sustainability, diversity and safety, and to maintain a small-town community. The themes were approved by the Santa Monica City Council.

City staff said the emerging themes will be a starting point by

See **THEMES**, page 5

How SM got Yahoo!

BY RYAN HYATT
Daily Press Staff Writer

MID CITY — The company that boasts one of the most frequented sites on the Internet recently revealed why it's important to have its headquarters in Santa Monica.

Representatives from Yahoo explained to an audience of 50 local business leaders last week that the local pool of employee talent and proximate location to other media-related businesses are what prompted the Internet giant to expand its presence in Santa Monica starting in August.

Yahoo signed a 10-year lease to occupy 229,728 square feet of office space in the Colorado Center, which will be renamed Yahoo Center. The \$100 million deal with complex owner Equity Office is the largest and most expensive for Santa Monica in recent years.

Roger Van Overbeek, a corporate real estate broker for Yahoo, told members of the Westside Economic Collaborative (WEC) — a nonprofit regional economic development group — the expanded Santa Monica location will become Yahoo's media hub as the company focuses on developing content for its Web sites. To do this, Van Overbeek said Yahoo will continue to seek partnerships in the local media and entertainment industry.

"Media content is such a force for Yahoo," Van Overbeek said. "We can accomplish so much more with partnering."

The company's presence at its new business complex is second only to anti-virus company Symantec, which will vacate its space in 2008. After that, Yahoo will have more than 100,000 square feet more than the next largest tenant, Rubin Postaer.

See **YAHOO**, page 4

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Out and about, Capricorn

Santa Monica Daily Press

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS The stars show the kind of day you'll have:
★★★★-Dynamic ★★★★★-Positive ★★-Average ★-So-so ★-Difficult



ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ Realize your limits within certain constraints. How you handle a personal matter could change with unusual feedback. Don't question your assets. Trust in your natural gifts. Know what you want and where you are heading. Understand rather than judge. Tonight: Vanish while you can.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Zoom in and get much more of what you want and need. Knowing when to say "enough" could be instrumental to the success of a project. Use your charm when saying "no." You will evoke the response you want. Tonight: Follow your heart's desire.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Others look to you for advice, which you might or might not want to give. Asking the right questions could help others determine what will work. Laugh and enjoy a dear friend or associate who you haven't had enough contact with. Tonight: Responsibilities call.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Others find you to be solemn and serious. Recognize the impact of your behavior on others. Laugh and relax more. A partner has what he or she thinks is a great moneymaking venture. Listen, but don't feel compelled to say "yes." Tonight: Put on a favorite piece of music.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ A partner works for you, making possible much that you haven't even thought of. Listen to someone you care about. He or she could be overly serious. An honor falls on you. Be happy for the opportunity. Tonight: Be a duo.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Allow others the opportunity to help out and pitch in. Know when to put a halt to a situation. You have a sense of limitation. Use it to stay out of trouble, but at the same time, don't allow this same trait to limit your potential. Tonight: The only answer is "yes."



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Pace yourself and stay on top of demands. Be willing to pitch in and work through a problem. Your extra effort makes a difference. Let someone share with you how very important you are to him or her. Share more often. Tonight: Easy does it.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Follow your instincts, and you'll land on your feet. Be sensitive to the moment and what someone is offering. You might find out how important you are to a partner or new associate. Know that the feelings are mutual. Tonight: Follow your imagination.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Stay centered when your ire gets raised. Know when to cut out and handle a matter in a more diplomatic way. You might want to get to the bottom of a problem. Use your sixth sense. You land well. Tonight: Happy at home.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Visualize and discuss what is on your mind. Sometimes talking doesn't help and only hinders a situation. Know when to allow others to pitch in. Ideas will flourish if you let go of a need to control. Be more precise with money today. Tonight: Out and about.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Visualize more of what you want. Understand that someone might not be getting your message. Focus on your assets as you make a presentation. Recognize that you have a natural gift or talent. Tonight: Follow another's suggestion.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ You are King or Queen Bee right now, getting much more of what you want. Others will go out of their way, believing that anything is possible. Your instincts are correct about a money matter. Tonight: Speak your mind.



AUDIT PENDING

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SM Elks looking to give and get

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica Elks are prioritizing their gift giving for the year.

The Santa Monica Elks Veterans Committee, the Santa Monica Elks Americanism Committee, the Jack Showers Foundation and the Santa Monica Emblem Club members are reviewing the "wish list" of the Veteran's Hospital. They will use this list to determine their priorities for the year.

Last year, they donated a golf cart, two sets of golf clubs, \$2,070 for the Disabled Olympics, 22 boxes of mensa and women's clothing, and 40 sets of mensa underwear. They held two barbecues — serving about 400 each time — as well as a Christmas party and a dinner outing for the hospitalized veterans.

Ken Miller, president of the Santa Monica Emblem Club, said his group will continue to participate in many of the programs, including Memorial Day ceremonies at Woodlawn cemetery, barbecues, visitations and clothing drives.

If you have any of the luxury items listed, the Santa Monica Elks are asking that you donate them to the veterans at the hospital:

- TV sets for patients
- New computers for patients
- Sports and community event tickets
- Stationery and stamps

Many of the patients are indigent, so money is always welcome for transportation and bereavement donations.

For more information, call (310) 645-8989.



BLASE BONPANE

SM residents to be honored

By Daily Press staff

Longtime Santa Monica residents Blase and Theresa Bonpane of the Office of the Americas will receive the "Hope Through Empowerment Award" at the 2005 St. Joseph Center Dinner Dance and Auctions at the Beverly Hills Hotel on Saturday, May 7, from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. The Bonpanes have been giving support to the center for homeless and low-income men, women and children for the past 29 years.

Recognized by the Los Angeles Weekly as "the most underrated Humanist of the past decade," Blase Bonpane has dedicated his life to peace and justice in this hemisphere and beyond. A Maryknoll priest in Guatemala in the 1960s, Blase Bonpane became inspired to become an active educator and tireless advocate for human rights.

Theresa Killeen Bonpane was a Maryknoll sister in Southern Chile in the 1960s, where she served as principal of a high school and became involved in social activism on behalf of the local farm workers. Together, in 1983, the Bonpanes founded the Office of the Americas, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting social awareness through broad-based educational outreach, citizen action and nonviolence.

Funds collected from the Dinner Dance will help support St. Joseph Center's 10 programs that serve more than 7,000 homeless and low-income individuals and families on the Westside each year by providing emergency services, food distributions, child care, mentoring, job training and senior services. For more information call (310) 396-6468, ext. 328.



THERESA BONPANE



Chris Sorrells, who identified this photo as being taken in Parking Structure No. 9, is this week's mystery photo winner. Sorrells has won a gift certificate to Izzy's Deli. Check Monday's edition for the next mystery photo contest.



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SURF REPORT

Tuesday the SWer is expected to completely fill in, bringing some chest-high+ sets to most south-facing breaks with a decent angle of 210+. West-facing breaks can expect continued wind swell from the NW. Note that although Tuesday is forecast to be the warmest day of the week, onshore winds could pick up well before noon, so early AM sessions are looking best.

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

Today the
water is:

59°

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	10:02	-0.4	9:27	3.1	1:48	5.1	5:43	3.5
SUNDAY	11:10	-0.4	11:20	2.6	3:24	4.7	6:23	4.0
MONDAY	N/A	N/A	12:05	-0.3	4:57	4.6	6:55	4.4
TUESDAY	12:32	1.8	12:49	-0.1	6:14	4.6	7:25	4.9
WEDNESDAY	1:28	1.1	1:28	0.1	7:17	4.5	7:54	5.4
THURSDAY	2:15	0.4	2:02	0.5	8:12	4.4	8:22	5.8
FRIDAY	2:40	0.6	2:32	0.8	8:40	4.7	8:42	5.4

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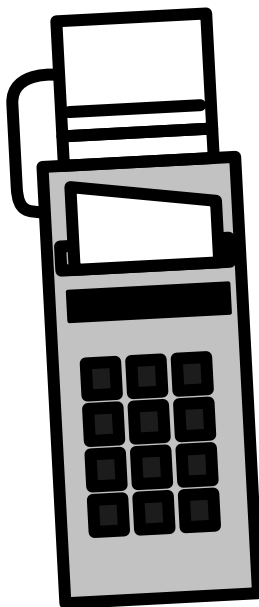
The Q Line

A national survey conducted last week asked Americans what they would discuss with President George W. Bush if they had 15 minutes to talk to him. The top issue was Iraq, followed by Social Security and health care.

This week, Q-Line asks, "If you had 15 minutes with President Bush, what

would you ask him, say to him and discuss with him?"

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



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LOCAL

Yahoo offers a variety
of Internet services

YAHOO, from page 1

Matthew Miller, a broker for CRESNA Partners who closely tracks the area, said architecture is one of the biggest factors drawing entertainment and creative-type businesses to the Colorado Center. The open-air campus features outside walkways and a plaza with a fountain amid green landscaping. Also on site is valet parking, a health and fitness center, lap pool, specialty retail shops, professional childcare facility, coffee shop, food court and general food services. There is a 3.5-acre park with basketball, tennis and racquetball courts, playground and pond.

Yahoo already has three smaller offices in Santa Monica with a total of 200 employees. However, the company's new center is intended for the growth of its media division, which handles Yahoo's news, finances, sports and online entertainment services. As many as 700 employees may be added to the payroll in the next few years.

"We're on a pace of hiring people that is just unbelievable," Van Overbeek said.

The concentration of media companies within Colorado Center has increased in recent years. While Yahoo is the latest, HBO, CBS and Rubin Postaer all moved there within the last three years.

Colorado Center is surrounded by other media companies that have been moving and expanding for more than a decade. MTV, Universal Music, Sony Music, Revolution Studios, Lucas Productions and Bruckheimer Films are some of the bigger companies within a half mile.

Yahoo will make the shift into its site over a three-year period, beginning by moving into 64,671 square feet in August, before the school year starts. Many of the employee transfers, who are parents, will be moving their families from Sunnyvale, Calif.

Created in 1994 and now grossing \$3.6 billion in annual revenues — with other major offices in Oregon, Northern California, New York and India — Yahoo's free news Web site is viewed by more than 26 million worldwide each month. Van Overbeek said the majority of Yahoo's revenue is driven by display advertising paid for on the company's Web sites. In addition, Yahoo also obtains revenue from the premium services it provides to consumers, such as up-to-date stock information and money conversion

capabilities. Yahoo is also ranked No. 1 in the music downloading services it provides.

When determining the location for its new hub, Yahoo wanted to be located in an area that could draw the best and brightest talent. Yahoo also wanted to be close to their contact partners in the media industry. In terms of an office site, Van Overbeek said Yahoo wanted to be in a large building that would allow for partial occupancy at first, with a high-identity space to support the company's brand.

Santa Monica was chosen over Century City, Playa Vista, Westwood and West Los Angeles. WEC representative Libby Williams helped Yahoo narrow its search by providing taxing, demographic and permitting information for Santa Monica and surrounding communities.

Van Overbeek didn't comment on the costs, but other sources close to the project have said several tens of millions of dollars may be involved with the relocation project.

Van Overbeek said Yahoo made no tax incentive agreement to help close the deal.

"We understand that cities run on taxes," he said.

Once they had decided where they wanted to be, Williams arranged a meeting between Yahoo representatives and Santa Monica city staff.

"We've been on a tight schedule, to make sure our parents are down here before school starts," Van Overbeek said. "Every day is important. The (WEC) has helped us expedite the permitting process."

Gwen Pentecost, who works in City Hall's economic development department, said Yahoo's presence will bolster the economy, since its employees will be working and spending money in the city. She said when offices are filled, local retail and restaurant operations also fare better.

Pentecost said companies like Yahoo have an influence on the amount of services the city can give residents by adding to the city's tax base.

Richard Solomon, WEC's chair, said he is delighted to have been part of an organization that helped land a major business player in the community.

"There are lots of competing business interests between westside cities, but it's good when we can come together and help businesses find what they need," he said.

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LOCAL



Local officials say global warming will hurt SM tourism

FEDERAL SUIT, from page 1

ment’s theory of its defense.”

The suit asserts that OPIC and Ex-Im breached the law when they financed more than \$32 billion in projects without assessing their contribution to global warming or impact on the environment as required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Key provisions of NEPA require all federal agencies to conduct an assessment of programs and project-specific decisions that have a significant effect on the human environment.

The projects, which were approved during the past 10 years, include oil fields, pipelines and coal-fired power plants and account for 32 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, or 8 percent of worldwide GHG emissions annually. Projects include many of the largest new oil field developments in South America, Mexico, the Caspian region and Southeast Asia. Companies that have benefited from Ex-Im and OPIC funding include Exxon, Halliburton and Enron.

That output contributes to global warming, officials argue, which threatens to erode Santa Monica’s beaches and bluffs, batter the pier and overwhelm its state-of-the-

art drainage system. In the lawsuit, they demand the fossil fuel projects be studied.

“The claim by the Bush administration lawyers that pollution from these projects is not having an impact is reminiscent of an era when tobacco scientists stated that smoking didn’t cause cancer and got away with it,” said Kert Davies, research director of Greenpeace.

The case was originally filed in 2002, and Santa Monica joined it in January of 2004.

Local officials said the stakes are high in Santa Monica. The health of a \$788 million tourist industry that employs more than 11,000 workers and pumps nearly \$24 million a year into city coffers is at stake, they argued, adding increased storm activity will not only lead to erosion but require more upkeep, and, in the case of the Palisades Bluffs, endanger motorists and pedestrians.

In 2002, the Environmental Protection Agency released a report on the growing domestic impacts of global warming. According to the report, changes over the next few decades are expected to put southeastern coastal communities at greater risk of storm surges, prompt more severe heat waves, and reduce snowpack and water supplies in the West.

Themes will set tone for change in SM

THEMES, from page 1

which they will continue to analyze information received from the public, and begin drafting new development and transit policies starting in October. The last time the policies were overhauled was in 1984.

City staff said it was important for the City Council and community to look at the emerging themes because some might prove contradictory to each other as the project unfolds. Staff suggested that City Hall must prioritize its efforts in order to create new policies. Both the Shape the Future and Motion by the Ocean projects are expected to be complete in the fall of 2006.

Some residents said the themes city staff presented went far to address Santa Monica’s needs for sustainability, while neglecting to emphasize the importance of the economy and quality-of-life issues such as arts, health and the environment.

and supported by the City Council to be incorporated into the emerging themes included issues pertaining to the Santa Monica Airport, meeting health and child care service demands, maintaining existing affordable housing levels, preserving open space, and ensuring universal access and mobility within Santa Monica.

Roger Genser, chair of the city’s landmark commission, said he wanted incentives to be available that would allow historic buildings in the city to be preserved. Councilman Herb Katz liked the idea and asked staff to keep it in mind during the policy-making process.

Some residents of Sunset Park voiced concern that the emerging themes didn’t address what will be done in 10 years after the lease expires at the Santa Monica Airport. City staff responded that the airport was not mentioned as an emerging theme because City Hall will conduct an extensive, independent study to address what will be done with the airport in the future.

Kathy Dodson, executive director of the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce, said the themes didn’t address commercial factors that will be the driving force behind Santa Monica’s future. The themes lacked language indicating how Santa Monica will secure tax revenues for its services, provide broad job creation and address expansion in the tourism, arts and the entertainment industries.

John Warfel, a vice chair of the board for the Bayside Business District — a nonprofit organization that manages downtown with City Hall — said in addition to failing to address local economic interests, a crucial regional context also was missing from the emerging themes. He cited traffic gridlock on Lincoln Boulevard and how Santa Monica would keep to a small-town scale when there are outside pressures from the Los Angeles area affecting the city of Santa Monica.

“We’re talking about being a small town next to a metropolis,” Warfel said. “What we need to remember is that what happens to them, happens to us.”

Other residents — some of whom said they were associated with the chamber of commerce — wanted there to be stronger language supporting the arts in Santa Monica.

Katz was concerned with the strong language of one theme — that no buildings in Santa Monica shall exceed current heights — because he said it was a policy and not a theme.

Interim city planning director Andy Angle agreed the themes would be City Hall’s focus in coming months, but that that the language was thematic and not policies set in stone.

Katz pushed for a motion to amend the theme regarding building heights so that the language was more flexible.

“If we don’t mess with it now, we’ll never get to mess with it,” Katz said.

The City Council voted against the motion.

Councilman Kevin McKeown voted against amending the height theme, partially because he felt doing so would go against another emerging theme, the need for sustainability.

“Height may equate to growth for a tree, but height doesn’t necessarily mean growth for a community,” he said.

City Councilman Bob Holbrook said he also believed the economic aspect needed to be addressed in the emerging themes, as well as language indicating how City Hall would secure the resources to run its own programs.

“The public didn’t mention city services, but we need to think of that because the public expects that of us,” Holbrook said. “A good strong economic vitality is important, and these are all things we need to consider.”

Other ideas brought forth by the community

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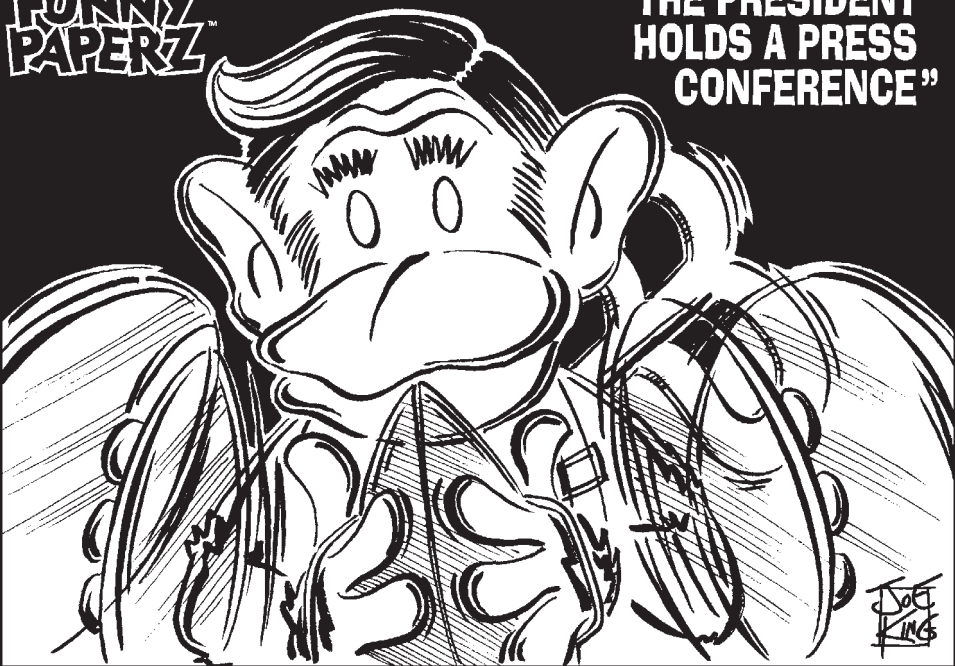
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Circling the dogs

Editor:

Recent letters in the Daily Press have suggested that a proposed dog beach might pose problems for Santa Monica. We couldn't more vigorously disagree.

There is tremendous support among Santa Monica's dog owners for such a project. In gathering signatures several months ago for the project, we talked to many dog owners excited about the project and willing to keep a dog beach clean as well as to monitor and raise money for it. Face it: Dog owners are nuts for their dogs. We'll do whatever it takes.

Barbara Osborn, Johnnie Drimmer
Our dogs, Milo and Simon
Santa Monica

Don't make another anti-smoking law

Editor:

I read about the no smoking in outside dining areas in Santa Monica (SMDP, April 29, page 1). I am not opposed to that, but to make it a law is outrageous. As it is, now we have too many laws in Santa Monica that are never enforced.

Since Christine Reed Park has been closed for whatever reason, the homeless population has moved to the parkway there. It is so nice to look out at the park and not see piles of rubbish all over the place. On Sunday mornings the people are fed — against the city ordinance. Who is enforcing that law? They are also fed in the beautiful Palisades Park. They leave so much trash that attracts flies that the people of Santa Monica can't enjoy a stroll through the park.

If they are going to be fed, whoever is feeding them should provide and enforce trash pick-up and portable potties. Wherever you go in Santa Monica there is evidence of people defecating and urinating all over town. Our city smells like a dirty toilet.

Pat Robles
Santa Monica

City Hall has a candidate

Editor:

Two comments regarding the April 29 edition:

First, concerning the position of homeless liaison announced on page 1: I will apply for the position as soon as it becomes available. My qualifications include several years of managerial (retail, wholesale and manufacturing) experience; the fact that I am retired and single and thus able to devote the time (24/7) necessary, and that I spent four years homeless on the streets of Santa Monica before "aging up" into housing. As a former business manager and as a resident of Santa Monica, I do understand both the concerns of our housed residents and those of our homeless citizens.

Best of all, I'll work cheap — \$1 a year, leaving the remaining \$199,999 available to apply toward solving the problem. I stand ready to begin work immediately, and could be resolving issues while the City Council debates who should award the job to some "qualified expert."

If appointed, my first move will be to obtain the blessings of the county commissioners — after all, obtaining cooperation from the several cities involved will require more than just begging on bended knee — a "stick and carrot" approach will be required to bring them all on board. "Bring LA Home" will be of some help, but they are geared to produce results in 10 years, not right now.

Next I'd visit each of the cities in the region to both introduce myself and to find out exactly what their policies concerning the homeless are — or if they even have any beyond "ship them to Santa Monica."

Given the job and the authority to perform it, I'd quit debating the issues and start kicking some ...

Next, in regard to Mr. Sanderson's rebuttal to Randy Walburger's letter on page 4: Everyone out there willing to offer a job to a homeless person (at a livable

See LETTERS, page 7



OPINION

Homeless need to play by same rules



WHAT'S THE POINT?

BY DAVID PISARRA

The homeless. A source of social fire greater than raising taxes. Everyone has an opinion on them. They live in our parks, soil our alleys, terrorize our tourists, annoyingly pest our residents and get our City Council elected.

I have previously written on the Constitutional rights of the homeless. In short, they have just as much right to be in the parks as a tax-paying, clean-shaven, sweet-smelling resident of the city. That does not, however, mean that they can't be asked to abide by the same laws and social standards as the rest of us.

Our Constitution provides all citizens, natural born or naturalized, the same rights — those of life, liberty and pursuit of happiness. Under the Constitution we have the following freedoms: Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Association and Freedom to Express ourselves religiously, among others. These rights are not absolute, however.

Many social engineers in our community would like the homeless to have an absolute right to live in Santa Monica. But that would be an inaccurate assessment of one's Constitutional rights. We have the right to live some place, so long as we adhere to the laws of that location. There is nothing in the U.S. Constitution that provides me or anyone else with the Constitutional right to live in Santa Monica free of responsibilities like rent and homeownership.

Anyone has the right to live in Santa Monica so long as they pay the rent on time. In much the same way the homeless have the right to occupy public spaces, so long as they pay their rent, which in their case is complying with the laws against littering, defecating in public, being drunk in public, not assaulting others for money and not trespassing on private property.

I'm sick and tired of having the homeless assault me for money in their drunken/crazed/"pitiful me" stupor, yell at me for not giving them money, assault our tourists, invade our parks and destroy the tranquil life that some of us would like to have while living here.

I was recently driving by Virginia Avenue Park, which is slated to open in November. The passenger I was driving with asked me how quickly I thought the homeless would ruin the park. I said that hopefully with the police substation, the

park would not become a homeless encampment — the way that other parks such as Palisades Park, Douglas Park, Christine Emerson Reed Park and others have become.

Hopefully, the police department will recognize that an increase in their surveillance at this substation is necessary. It is wanted by the residents, and will have a prophylactic effect and will reduce the criminal behavior, drug use, open consumption of alcohol and terrorism of the neighborhood.

I understand the City Council feels its hands are tied. Given the multiple lawsuits that the city has suffered, and prosecuted pointlessly, I certainly understand why they are gun shy to take any action that would actually benefit the residents. But perhaps the chief of police can see his way through to create a more visible presence, one that helps the neighborhood and prevents the calcification of criminals in a new facility.

The heated arguments between homeless activists and law-and-order activists frequently confuse the meaning of "rights" with "entitlements." The homeless activists would have the general public believe that the homeless population is entitled by birth in America, to occupy, in whatever way they choose, public lands. The law-and-order activists would have the general public believe that the homeless have no right to be on public land because they are assaulting people and causing disturbances.

Neither side is correct. The homeless have the right to be on public property so long as they comply with the local laws. Just like the rest of us.

I just want to see the chief of police make sure that the homeless comply with local laws, as effectively as he makes sure I put change in my parking meter, move my car on street-cleaning day and wear my seat belt.

It would warm my heart if the fire department was as vigilant in making sure that the homeless were sleeping under well-protected roofs as they are about making sure that the fire extinguisher in my office is refilled on annual basis, at a cost of \$75.

I don't hate the homeless, I just want them to play by the same rules as the rest of us. Or, at least have the City Council act like they have to play by the same rules as the rest of us.

(David Pizarra is a business development lawyer and partner in the Santa Monica law firm of Pizarra & Grist. He can be reached at 310-664-9969 or by e-mail at dpizarra@pizarra.com.)



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LETTERS, from page 6

income), please raise your hand.

Actually, there are many homeless able and willing to work, even at low-paying jobs, but most don't speak Spanish, the language of most supervisors of minimum-wage workers. Those few that can find minimum-wage work cannot afford to live in even the sleaziest local motels or apartments. I ask you to try finding work with no address or phone number to put down on your application, while forced to carry your meager possessions with you from place to place as you look.

One point Mr. Sanderson made that is valid: Education is crucial to improving one's condition. The organization with which I am now working, S.H.E.L.T.E.R., is attempting to remedy the lack of job training available to the homeless. We are actively exploring the establishment of a locally based internship program, which will provide practical job training and experience to qualified homeless, as well as providing job-placement assistance when they have completed training. In other words, we're actually doing something to solve the problem.

I invite all of you, including Mr. Sanderson, who want to take action to end homelessness in Santa Monica to join us.

Kenneth McCrae
Santa Monica

Give the dogs a chance
Editor:

Unleash The Beach has hundreds of responsible dog owners who are willing to keep the beach clean, to monitor and to raise funds in order to help establish a pilot program. Mike Gordon said, "Dog owners deserve an opportunity to show they can responsibly enjoy off-leash recreational activities." As Al Donner of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has said, "We're in the business of building partnerships with people."

One of the main concerns about a dog beach in Santa Monica early on was the fear that it would be wildly popular and thus overrun, since there are no other dog beaches in northern Los Angeles County.

Dockweiler Beach in El Segundo has recently been promoted as a pilot dog beach in the state legislature. Ron Schafer, also the district superintendent for that area, raises all the same objections to that beach, but he is being overruled. Dockweiler already has been unanimously approved by the Assembly Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife and the Appropriations Committee. It has passed with a huge majority in the Assembly and is on its way to the Senate. This will be a mile-long beach that will accommodate Los Angelenos and their dogs.

By comparison, the Santa Monica Dog Beach that we have proposed would be a smaller, boutique beach. It will only be one-tenth the size of Dockweiler, and as we propose it, it will require a special beach license. In order to get the license, one must prove one's dog is vaccinated and registered, and one must sign a waiver of liability. One must also pay a fee. We propose to have consistent water-quality testing, which will be useful not only for our beach, which is not now monitored in that area, but may help out with other studies of the water in that area as well. We also propose to partner with the Marine Mammal Rescue by sharing our signage with educational notices about what to do if one encounters a beached marine mammal. The license fees will aid in the implementing of beach monitors.

We know the dog beach will be a great asset and amenity to the Santa Monica Beach. A pilot program will test this for all to see.

Georja Umano Jones
President, Unleash The Beach

The dogs are barking
Editor:

Mr. Ron Scott Smith, "barking dogs" like William F.Buckley, Noam Chomsky, Gore Vidal, Norman Mailer and Howard Zinn have been replaced by the likes of Nwt Gingrich, Pat Buchanan, Rush Limbaugh, Paul Wolfowitz to name a few (SMDP, April 28, page 6).

Colin Powell wished he had said what President Fillmore wrote: "An honorable defeat (Viet Nam) is better than a dishonorable victory (Iraq)."

Maybe that's why Mr. Powell resigned. Who knew better after Desert Storm that complex people with complex values cannot overcome by force the despair of simple people with simple values?

"Lofty ideals cannot mature when the only purpose is transference of power." Compare the peace maker that President Clinton was: a) Liberated Yugoslavia with neigh an American or ally troop killed. b) Brokered peace with Tony Blair between England and Northern Ireland in 2000, a 37-year-old conflict that was not lost on Israel who at about the same time 37 years ago sent troops to the Gaza Strip and West Bank. c) Following his success with the IRA (all bombings in London and Dublin stopped), Bill Clinton tried the same strategy with Baruck and Arafat by constant Camp David talks, and he almost made it, in spite of the jealous tormenting over the Lewinsky matter by the GOP.

President Clinton was successful because he realized as a Rhodes Scholar at tradition-steeped Oxford University that the dignity of simple people with simple values who have nothing more to lose is linked with their dependence on the "nobless oblige" of their elite private and capitalistic complex peoples with complex values who exploit them, rather than nurture them.

Like Gore Vidal, etc., we must intellectualize history, lest we are doomed to repeat it.

Frank Muller
Santa Monica

A Los Angeles-style marriage proposal



ANY DAY
IN LA
BY HEIDI MANTEUFFEL

A man proposed to me last night on the beach. You would think it was romantic, but I don't even know his name.

I was walking off a long day of work on the sidewalk near the Santa Monica Pier. One step in front of the other, my thoughts about art work transmittals were dissolving into the skyline — the very same skyline under which a man in a soccer-mom van wanted me to share the rest of his life.

As he pulled up in the parking lot beside me, he popped his smiling, baseball-capped, T-shirted self out the window. Little did I know he would pop the question as well.

"I'm looking for a wife," he told me. A tourist I figured, from my dad's generation, thinking of a clever way to say he can't find his wife. There are other phrases in this vein like "Mr. Robinson is my dad" and "Call me Jim but don't call me late for supper."

Still the question was sort of odd, as I don't remember being told where she ran off to.

"You're looking for your wife?" I asked. How was I supposed to help him?

"No," he smiled. "I'm looking for a wife."

He continued to tell me, "I have an engagement present in my car. I wanted to know if you wanted to get married."

Without consulting my brain first, I responded with, "Oh no, I'm good, thanks," as if he was trying to offer me a cupcake. I kept walking.

And with that, he drove the green chariot/van off into the sunset.

No one has made it that easy for me before. A proposal also has never been so bizarre. Maybe I was supposed to be lured like a kid with the lollipop-in-the-van scam. Hmmm, engagement present. Maybe he honestly had visions of true love. Or maybe he just bought a really good gift he wanted to share with someone ... for the rest of her life.

I think this encounter gives me the leverage to say there are some screwed up people here in LA. I can't say that his intentions were bad — it never hurts to be flattered. But usually you at least date for a bit, meet the parents, or, I don't know, learn her first name. It always helps when you stare into another's eyes to have something to call them by. Judy, Beatrice, anything.

As I headed back towards my car at the end of my walk, another man yelled at me, "Hey this is the sixth time you passed by here!" I had two other strangers earlier start up a conversation with me, and so I started to wonder if someone stuck a sign to me that said "Talk to me — please, please talk to me." Wearily I responded, "Try second."

He also had a gift for me. "Do you want a K-Mart gift certificate?" he asked. I thought he was perhaps making fun of my clothes since I don't know of a K-Mart anywhere in LA. So I responded wryly, "Why, do you have one in your pocket?" He searched himself vigorously and got visibly frustrated. "I did ..."

With that I walked away. I had no energy left to figure out the motives of gift giving from these LA beachgoers. It's nice to be offered presents, but even nicer when you have a friendship longer than two minutes with which to put your wedding gift and potential K-Mart garden tools into context.

(Heidi can be reached at anydayin-la@gmail.com.)

OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to editor@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite 202, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.





DEAR DORIE

Don't park him, let him roam

Dear Dorie,

Now that my toddler is walking, it seems like all he wants to do is play at the park. I'm all for park outings, but it does get boring. What's going on with him and is there anything else I should be doing?

— Park Impatient

Dear Park,

When you make physical activity a part of your daily routine — as in a trip to the park — you promote your son's physical strength and health. You also help him build self-confidence and exploration skills such as communication and decision-making. The missing link here is how to do it so it's not so boring.

First and foremost, watch what he's doing. This will help you understand what he's discovering and lead to some discoveries of your own. Let him explore alone. Stay nearby for safety but hold your hands behind your back and enjoy the beginnings of independence.

Finally, change parks. A new adventure for him is a new adventure for you. Southern California has year-round accessibility to some of the best playgrounds in the country. Talk to your fellow parents and try new territory. Familiar surroundings make toddlers comfortable but not if the monotony makes mommy cranky.

(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. Submit your questions at meek@smmusd.org, or call 310-452-6132 or fax 310-452-6392.)

If it's a problem now, it might be a problem later



How Much Is Enough?

By Connie Dawson

Sometimes lessons can be learned by working backward. When we see adult behavior that is annoying, hurtful or inept, we say, "I wouldn't want our children to grow up to be like that. I'd like to spare them the pain."

Here's a case study on Melissa: She is 50-something and was divorced last year. She finds herself in a cloud of confusion, asking, "What on earth happened?" Not so much about her marriage, but about her credit card balance. Melissa has managed to accrue a debt that has finally gotten her attention. And now she's worried.

Let me tell you a few things about Melissa. Her house is a pleasure to the eye. She says she only feels special in an outfit the first time she wears it. She lives alone now and every closet, even the one in the front hall, is crowded with her clothes.

Melissa reminisces about the special time spent with her mother as a little girl. "Almost every Saturday, we'd go shopping. She loved to get clothes for me. Everything matched, from hair ribbons to shoes. She loved to put a new outfit on me and then my father would take me for walks in the neighborhood, stopping to talk with anyone we saw. They all paid attention to me. 'Isn't she just darling!' 'You are so cute!' My father would be all smiles."

Now grown up, Melissa says, "When I see something I like, I want to buy it. How do you decide whether or not to buy something? I really want to know. I really want to know. I can't continue to buy what I can't pay for."

I thought for a minute. Hmmm. How do I decide to buy something? For starters, I ask myself these questions:

- Is this a want or a need?
- If it's a want, can I return to buy it if it turns out I need it?
- Can I afford it? I pay off my credit card balance each month. If I can't pay for what I want to buy at the end of the month, I don't buy it.

"How did you learn that?" Melissa asked.

Another challenging question: "Unlike your family, my family didn't have the option of spending money for things we didn't absolutely need. I watched my parents worry about how to spend the money they had. They hated debt. How much to spend on what is probably based on what I learned from my parents. I hate the stress I have when I'm in debt."

"Well," Melissa said, "my parents were proud of how good I looked and proud of my good taste. My husband would fuss about how much I spent, but he never said 'no.' We only had one really big fight about my spending when I bought a coat he considered outrageously expensive. But now, I'm on my own. No one is bailing me out, and I'm in trouble."

Check it out

Test your understanding of overindulgence by putting Melissa's situation as a child to the "Test of Four:" A "yes" to any of the four questions is a red flag the situation is probably one of overindulgence.

Did her parents' behavior:

- Hinder Melissa's development?
- Require a disproportionate share of family resources?
- Benefit the parents more than Melissa?
- Harm others, the planet, (or in this case, Melissa as an adult)?

Yes, Melissa was overindulged as a child. As an adult, she has needed good reason to learn the skills she didn't learn in childhood.

Melissa's parents did not intend to cause their much-loved daughter pain in her adult life. Nonetheless, that's what happened. All parents can learn to avoid the long-term hazards of overindulging out of love for their children. The earlier children learn the lessons that will help them be successful, the better for them and us.

(Connie Dawson, Jean Illsley Clarke and David Bredehoft are co-authors of "How Much Is Enough? Everything You Need to Know to Steer Clear of Overindulgence and Raise Likeable, Responsible and Respectful Children." Dawson can be reached at cdawson@whidbey.com. To read more about overindulgence, go to www.overindulgence.info.)

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HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4
DYNAMIC LEARNING & LISTENING CENTER – Open House and Informational Meeting at 7:00 p.m. Come learn how their Therapeutic Listening Program is a drug-free answer to treating many learning and developmental delays. Refreshments served, register by calling 310-827-5059, 1728 Abbot Kinney Blvd.

FRIDAY – SUNDAY, MAY 6 – 8
SESAME STREET LIVE: ELMO'S COLORING BOOK
May 6 at 7:00 p.m.; May 7 at 10:00 a.m., 2:00 and 5:30 p.m., May 8 at 1:00 and 5:30 p.m. The Sesame Street gang follows Elmo as he travels the world searching for colors in this original musical production. \$20 – \$40, Kodak Theatre, 6801 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood. 213-480-3232

FRIDAY, MAY 6 – MOTHER'S DAY TEA in the ROSE GARDEN
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Exposition Park Rose Garden, LA. Celebrate Mother's Day in an elegant way with a delicious luncheon and entertainment. \$18, reservations required, 213-763-0144.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, MAY 7 & 8 – MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCHES
10:00 and 11:30 a.m., 1:00 and 2:30 p.m. Descanso Gardens, 1418 Descano Dr., La Canada Flintridge. Surround Mom with flowers, music and food at these annual brunches. Catered by Patina, \$42 adults, \$25 children ages 4 – 12, free under 3. 818-790-3663.

SATURDAY, MAY 7
KIDS' NIGHT OUT at KIDS' YOGA CIRCLE
6:00 – 10:00 p.m. Drop off the kids and head out to celebrate Mother's Day. Children will enjoy an evening of musical yoga, a Drum Circle, Kids' Karaoke, Indoor Play, refreshments and more! \$48, ages 7 -11, reservations required, 260-2736.

RHYTHM CHILD FAMILY JAM - 4:30 p.m., Santa Monica Studios, 3025 W. Olympic Blvd. Bring the whole family for a percussion jam. All ages, \$15 per child, \$10 sibling, adults free. 204-5466.

CHILDREN'S CINCO de MAYO FESTIVAL – 10:00 am. – 4:00 p.m.
Star Eco Station, 10101 W. Jefferson Blvd., Culver City. Celebrate Mexican culture with traditional dances and enjoy games, crafts, music and gourmet cuisine. Free festival admission, tours of the center are \$7 adults, \$5 children. 842-8060.

SUNDAY, MAY 8 - HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!
MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH in NATURE – 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Audubon Center at Debs Park, 4700 N. Griffith Ave., LA. Enjoy an outdoor brunch and then make Mom a craft at 2:00 p.m. \$15 adults, \$5 children 2 – 10 years. Reservations required – 323-221-2255, ext. 11

SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS thru JUNE 26
BARNYARD MADNESS with the THREE LITTLE PIGS
12:30 & 3:00 p.m. All singing! All dancing! This zany Country and Western Romp is fun family theatre for kids ages 2 – 102. \$12 adults, \$10.50 ages 12 and under. Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th St., 394-9779, ext. 2, www.santamonicaplayhouse.com.

TUESDAY

Movies for Moms! May 3 – Robots – starring Ewan McGregor, Halle Berry and Robin Williams. Comedy/Science Fiction/Fantasy, Rated "PG."
11:00 a.m., Loews Broadway, 1441 3rd St. Promenade – for Moms and babies newborn – 1 year old. Doors open early for socializing and getting comfortable.
Visit www.enjoytheshow.com/reelmoms for details.

Storytelling

Main Library – held at Reed Park, corner of 7th and Wilshire.
Toddler Storytime; 10:00 a.m. For 2 year olds with adult.
Preschool Story Time; 10:30 a.m.; for ages 3-5.

Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.
Cuentos Para Pequenos – 10:00 a.m., six-week series in Spanish for 24 – 36 month olds with adult. Current session April 26 – May 31.
Lap Time – 11:00 a.m, six-week series for babies 0-24 months, co-sponsored by the SMMUSD Infant & Family Support Program. Current session April 26 – May 31.
Twilight Story Time -7pm – an ongoing program for 3-5 year olds.
Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.
Family Story Time – 7:00 p.m., all ages.
TERRIFIC TUESDAYS – 3:30 p.m., stories and crafts for ages 5 – 9. (Every other Tuesday May 10 & 24).
Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St. – 310-392-3804.
Toddler Storytime, 10:00 and 10:30. Music, rhymes and stories for 2 to 3 year olds. Current session April 19 – May 24.
Tiny Tuesday Storytime at Storyopolis For ages infant to 3. 11:00 a.m. 116 North Robertson, Plaza A, LA. 310-358-2500, www.storyopolis.com
Barnes and Noble at the Grove Storytime for ages 2 – 6. 10:00 a.m. 189 Grove Drive, LA, 323-525-0270

Classes

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

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

Yoga & Exercise

Prenatal Aqua Aerobics at the Santa Monica YMCA
10:00 – 11:00 a.m and 7:30 – 8:30 p.m; Free for members, non-members \$90 for 10 classes. (also Thursday nights 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.) 393-2721. ext. 117 for more info.
Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:40 p.m., \$15. Mommy and Me – 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.
Mommy Care – at the Dance Factory, 11606 San Vicente Blvd., Brentwood, 310-394-6711. Combined Pregnancy/Recovery Exercise Group

– 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.. (babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)
Itsy Bitsy Yoga – Tots (crawling to 24 months) – 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Baby (6 weeks to pre-crawling) – 11:00 – noon. With Khefri Riley at Ocean Oasis, 1333 Ocean Ave. Register at www.khefri.net or call 323-549-5383.
Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.
Kids' Yoga Circle – Yoga for ages 4 -7, 4:00 – 5:15 p.m. (Students may be dropped off at 3:30 for indoor play, song and snacks). \$18 drop-in, discounted multiple week passes available, reservations required. 1814 14th St., #208, 260-2736

Breastfeeding Group

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

WEDNESDAY

Storytelling

The Talking Stick Coffee Lounge – 1630 Ocean Park Blvd., 450-6052
10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4 at this neighborhood coffee shop.
Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.
Toddler Story Time – 9:30 a.m., for two year olds.

Preschool Story Time – 10:30 a.m.; six-week series for 3-5 year olds with adult. Current session April 27 – June 1 for both..
Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.
Lap Time - 10:15 & 11:15 a.m., ages 0-2.
Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St. –392-3804.
Preschool Twilight Story Time – 7:00 – 7:30 p.m. Parents/children ages 3-5.
Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion – 2 pm – ages 2-5 – 310-475-4144
Border's, Westwood – 11am – 310-475-3444.

Classes

Rhythm Child Parent & Me Rhythms, Santa Monica Studios, 3025 Olympic Blvd., 9:30 – 10:15 a.m. Children explore rhythms through drum play. Ages 6 mos. – 3.5 years; \$100 for 8 weeks. Call 204-5466 or visit www.rhythm-child.net for more info and session dates.
YWCA – A Place for Parents –Infant /Toddler and Me (0-12 mos.) – 10:30 – 11:00 a.m.; 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45pm, \$15
Fitness for Moms – Babies Welcome! Step Aerobics, 10:30 a.m. at the YMCA, 393-2721, ext. 117 for more info. Free for members, non-members pay \$90 for 10 classes.
Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.
Kids' Yoga Circle – Mommy and Me Yoga (ages 4- 6), 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. and 2:00 – 3:00 p.m Includes 15 minutes of indoor play and song. \$165 for an 8 week session, \$75 for additional sibling.

Breastfeeding Group

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

Other

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

THURSDAY – CINCO de MAYO!

Babystyle, 1324 Montana Avenue, 434-9590 10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4.
Main Library – held at Reed Park, corner of 7th and Wilshire.
Toddler Storytime; 10:00 a.m.; for 2 year olds with adult.
Preschool Story Time; 10:30 a.m.; for ages 3-5.

Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.
La Hora Del Cuento – 7:00 p.m. Spanish stories, songs and rhymes for all ages.
Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.
Toddler Story Time – 10:15 a.m., for 2 year olds. Current session thru May 19.
Preschool Story Time – 11:15 a.m.; for 3-5 year olds.

Classes

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

Yoga & Exercise

Prenatal Aqua Aerobics at the Santa Monica YMCA
7:30 – 8:30 p.m; Free for members, non-members \$90 for 10 classes. (also Tuesdays at 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.) 393-2721. ext. 117 for more info.
Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:40 p.m., \$15. Mommy and Me – 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.
Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.
Kids' Yoga Circle – Yoga for ages 6 - 10, 4:00 – 5:15 p.m. (students may be dropped off at 3:30 for indoor play, song and snacks). \$18 drop-in, discounted multiple week passes available, reservations required.
Family Yoga, 5:15 – 6:30 p.m., includes 15 minutes of indoor play and song. 8-week series for parents and 1 child, \$250, \$100 each additional child.
1814 14th St., #208, 260-2736

Breastfeeding Group

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

FRIDAY

Parent's Night Out at Child's Play, 2299 Westwood Blvd., 6:00 – 11:00 p.m.
Kids get a night of supervised fun with pizza, games and more while parents go out. Ages 3-10, \$9 per hour, \$7 siblings, 3 hour minimum. Reservations required, 470-4997. www.child-splayonline.net

La Leche League of LA/Mar Vista – meets the 2nd Friday of each month at 10:00 a.m. Call 310-390-2529 for info.
Planetarium Show at SMC's John Drescher Planetarium, 7:00 p.m. - Night Sky Show, 8:00 p.m. – featured program. \$5 adults, \$4 children. Pico and 17th St., 434-3000.

Classes

YWCA – A Place for Parents – Toddler & Me (1-3 years) – 9:20 – 10:20 a.m.; Parent Support (1-3 years) – 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.(childcare provided). 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.
Mommy and Me Dance– celebrate the wonderful world of imagination Fridays at the Electric Lodge. 9:45 – 10:45 a.m. ages 14 - 24 months; 10:45 – 11:45 a.m. ages 2 – 4. 6 classes for \$75 or \$14 per class. First class free! 1416 Electric Ave, Venice, 306-1854.

Yoga & Exercise

Fitness for Moms – Babies Welcome! Indoor Cycling, 10:30 a.m. at the YMCA, 393-2721, ext. 117 for more info. Free for members, non-members pay \$90 for 10 classes.
Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45 p.m., \$15.
Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.
Kids' Yoga Circle – Yoga for ages 8 - 11, 4:30 – 5:45 p.m., includes 15 minutes of indoor play and song. \$18 drop-in, discounted multiple week passes available, reservations required. 1814 14th St., #208, 260-2736

Other

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

SATURDAY

Storytelling

Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade – Kid's Story Time – 10am – 310-260-9110
Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion – 10:30am – ages 2-5 – 310-475-4144.
Children's Book World – 10580 1/2 Pico Blvd, LA - 10:30 a.m., 310-559-800K.
Village Books, 1049 SwarthmoreAve, Pacific Palisades – 10:30 a.m. – 454-4063.

Yoga & Exercise

Santa Monica Yoga – Pre- & Post-Natal Yoga, Saturdays – 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.
1640 Ocean Park Blvd, 396-4040, www.santamonicayoga.com
Mommy Care – at the Dance Factory, 11606 San Vicente Blvd., Brentwood, 310-394-6711. Combined Pregnancy/Recovery Exercise Group – 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.(babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)
Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:00 a.m., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.
Kids' Yoga Circle – Yoga for ages 6 -10, 9:45 – 10:55 a.m., includes 15 minutes of indoor play and song; Yoga Girls (ages 12 and up), 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. \$18 drop-in, discounted multiple week passes available, reservations required. 1814 14th St., #208, 260-2736

Other

Lakeshore Learning Stores “Free Crafts for Kids” – Saturdays, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., 8888 Venice Blvd., 559-9630.
Barnyard Madness with the Three Little Pigs at the Santa Monica Playhouse
Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m, thru June 26; \$12 adults, \$10.50 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 2 for reservations,

www.santamonicaplayhouse.com, 1211 4th St.
Puppetolio – 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested
Magicipolis – 2 and 8 p.m., 1418 4th St. Admission is \$20 for evening, \$15 for matinee. Call 310-451-2241 for info.
Precious Prints – Ceramic Heirlooms for a Lifetime
Second Saturday every month at The Pump Station, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Contact Kristan Ritchie at 310-802-8013 or visit www.preciousprintsstudios.com for more info.

SUNDAY-HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

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
Magicipolis – 2 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$15. Call 310-451-2241 for info.
Barnyard Madness with the Three Little Pigs at the Santa Monica Playhouse
Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m, thru June 26; \$12 adults, \$10.50 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 2 for reservations, www.santamonicaplayhouse.com. 1211 4th St.

Breastfeeding

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

MONDAY

Storytelling

Main Library – Lap Time at Joslyn Park, Craft Room, 9:30 a.m. A series for babies up to two years old.
“Family Connections” – 10:00 a.m., immediately following Lap Time - a series of discussions related to early childhood development and growth. Children welcome, free.
Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main Street, 310-392-3804.
“Spanish for Little Ones”, 11:15 a.m.
Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade – Toddler Story Time – 10am – 310-260-9110

MOMS Club of Santa Monica – New Mother Group – for new moms with babies ages 0-6 months. Meet for conversation, support and playtime. All new Moms welcome! Call Clare at 395-7422 for time, location and more info.

Classes

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

Breastfeeding Group

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

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45pm, \$15
Yoga Garden, - Restorative yoga for pre/postnatal – 6:30 p.m., 310-450-0133. www.yoga-gardenstudios.com
Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

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STATE

RESEARCH STUDY

The UCLA Neuropsychiatric Institute is looking for healthy volunteers to participate in a study of neurocognition and emotion. If you are between 25 and 40 and have no more than 2 full years college education, please contact Jeff Nishi at (310) 825-0817. Participants will receive \$15/hour for 15-17 hours.

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Administrator to get pay hike

By The Associated Press

VENTURA, Calif. — A year after a \$36 million budget shortfall forced the county to lay off 125 workers and cut programs, the Board of Supervisors appears ready to give its top administrator a 10.5 percent pay hike — to \$213,745 a year.

“As far as I’m concerned, he’s more than earned his keep,” Supervisor Judy Mikels said.

County Executive Officer Johnny Johnston, 62, who still has another year left on his five-year contract, will likely get a three-year extension taking him to March 2009. Supervisors meet Tuesday to consider the extension and pay raise.

“He’s probably worth more than what we’re paying him, but he’s willing to stay for that,” Mikels said.

County government is entering the next fiscal year without a crisis and no layoffs. Last year, some 125 workers were laid off and programs were cut to head off a \$36 million shortfall.

Johnston, who oversees about 7,000 employees and a \$1.1 billion annual budget, said he was grateful for the board’s support.

“It’s gratifying to be recognized for what you do,” he said.

Johnston’s new salary would put him on par with Orange County’s top administrator, who earns \$215,000 a year. San Bernardino County pays \$220,000, while Santa Barbara County pays \$180,674.

Fuel costs to boost Metrolink fares

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Soaring fuel and insurance costs will likely boost fares on Metrolink commuter trains linking five Southern California counties.

Metrolink officials said the cost of riding the rails could rise 4.5 percent to 9.25 percent because of the 30 percent rise in ultra-low-sulfur diesel fuel and the tripling of insurance costs, Metrolink spokeswoman Denise Tyrrell said.

“It’s a big blow financially,” Tyrrell said. “We did not foresee fuel and insurance prices going up to this degree.”

The regional rail system serving Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura counties expects the additional costs to add up to \$1.7 million over the next year.

Metrolink ridership grew 7 percent during the first three months of 2005 and a March survey of new pas-

sengers showed rising gas prices were the main reason people were abandoning their cars for public transportation, Tyrrell said.

The Metrolink board of directors had approved a plan to restructure its fare policy beginning July 1. Under the new plan, fares would be based on the driving distance between stations. Currently, they are derived from a zone-based system.

Metrolink officials said only one person showed up last week for a public hearing to gauge reaction to the proposed fare hike. Two more public hearings are planned this week: Wednesday evening at Ontario City Hall and Thursday evening at the Fullerton Senior Center.

State to pit bug against bug

By The Associated Press

RIVERSIDE, Calif. — State officials are counting on a tiny Minnesota wasp to eradicate the glassy-winged sharpshooter, a voracious bug threatening California’s \$45 billion wine grape industry.

The state Department of Agriculture is expected this week to approve release of the wasp in Riverside, Kern and Ventura counties. The wasp, known as Anagrus epos, is only 1/32 of an inch long but it is deadly to the sharpshooter.

The glassy-winged sharpshooter transmits Pierce’s disease, which destroys grapes as well as almond and citrus trees and oleanders. Half of Temecula’s 3,000 acres of grapevines were destroyed by Pierce’s disease in 1999 and 2000.

Fourteen counties, primarily Riverside, Kern, Ventura and Tulare, are currently infested.

The introduction of the wasp is the latest in a series of pest-control efforts that use one insect to kill another.

“This particular wasp has never been used to target the sharpshooter before,” department environmental research scientist David Morgan said.

The sharpshooter, native to the southeastern U.S. and northeastern Mexico, arrived in California in 1989. The half-inch sharpshooter extracts fluid from host plants with its needlelike mouth, depositing a lethal bacterium that causes Pierce’s disease.

The Pierce’s disease task force has spent about \$166 million in state and federal funds over the past five years for research and eradication efforts. Grape growers have also contributed to the effort with a self-imposed annual assessment of up to \$3 per \$1,000 of crop value, which has generated about \$5 million a year for the last four years.

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NATIONAL



Norton won't cut river water releases from Lake Powell

BY KEN RITTER
Associated Press Writer

LAS VEGAS — In an apparent victory for California, Arizona and Nevada, Interior Secretary Gale Norton on Monday rejected a plea by four other states to cut releases of Colorado River water from drought-depleted Lake Powell.

In letters to governors and water officials in the seven Colorado River basin states, Norton said melting snow is projected to be slightly above average for the rest of the year and more water is stored in reservoirs now than had been projected last year.

"We have concluded that an adjustment to the release amount from Lake Powell during the next five months is not warranted," she said.

However, Norton also declared her authority over managing water flow on the river; said she wants another review next April to see if adjustments should be made; and instructed the states to start meeting this month on a long-range plan to share river water during drought.

Questions about how much water should be released through the Glen Canyon Dam in Page, Ariz., have split the states that rely on the river for drinking water and power.

Upper-basin states Colorado, Utah, Wyoming and New Mexico argue that heavy winter rains raised Lake Mead downstream enough to justify an unprecedented reduction in water released from Lake Powell, now at 34 percent capacity.

"I'm disappointed, no question about it," said Don Ament, Colorado agriculture commissioner and member of the state water conservation board. "It's always been my feeling that you store water as high as you can because you can always release it later."

Although the snowpack has increased, Ament said warm, windy weather could reduce the amount of runoff making into the waterways.

"It's just like counting your chickens before they're hatched or counting your wheat harvest before it's in the bin. All kinds of things can happen," Ament said.

Lower-basin states California, Arizona and Nevada maintain that holding water back at Lake Powell would threaten their ability to draw water and power from Lake Mead, now at 62 percent capacity.

"This is a good thing for us. This is exactly what we would have wanted," said Bob Barrett, spokesman for the Central Arizona Project, which runs the canal system pumping Colorado River water to central and southern Arizona.

The two lakes are the largest of the more than 40 reservoirs that let the federal government and Western states store Colorado River basin water in wet years. A 1922 agreement allocating Colorado River water does not specify how the water should be divvied up during dry periods. Last fall, Norton asked the states to find a way to handle water shortages.

Briefing reporters by conference call from Washington, D.C., Tom Weimer,

acting assistant Interior secretary for water and science, called Norton's decision "fairly balanced."

"The severity of the drought and length of the drought has forced people to look at everybody's self-interest," he said, adding that lower-basin states lost a bid to get Norton to say she had no authority to change water allocations.

In separate telephone interviews, Gerald Zimmerman, executive director of California's state Colorado River Board in Glendale, Calif., and Russell George, director of the Colorado state Department of Natural Resources in Denver welcomed Norton's call for continued talks.

"Hopefully, the states will ... determine a way to operate the reservoir system in a period of low-water conditions," Zimmerman said.

Don Whipple, an official with the Interstate Stream Commission in New Mexico, said New Mexico hoped Norton would keep more water in Lake Powell "as a hedge against continuation of the drought."

"One year of average runoff doesn't break the drought. It might slow it down but it doesn't break it," he said.

Lake Powell stretches into Utah and serves the upper Colorado River basin states of Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, Wyoming. Lake Mead, downstream, is on the Nevada-Arizona border about 30 miles east of Las Vegas.

The lower-basin states want the Bureau of Reclamation to keep water flowing at a minimum standard flow of 8.23 million acre-foot per year set in 1970, several years after the Glen Canyon Dam was completed. An acre-foot is about 326,000 gallons, or enough to serve one or two average urban households for one year.

Systemwide, Colorado River storage dropped to 50 percent of normal last summer, but is projected to increase to 57 percent this September.

Average and above-average snowpack in the Rocky Mountains has water flow into Lake Powell projected to be 106 percent of average this year.

That relieved some pressure for Norton to cut water flow, which Weimer, said would set a legal and policy precedent.

There also were concerns that withholding 500,000 acre-feet of water in Lake Powell would decrease power production by up to \$10 million at the Glen Canyon Dam and \$2.5 million at Hoover Dam.

The no-change scenario could leave Lake Powell at 48 percent and Lake Mead at 57.5 percent capacity by Sept. 30. The two reservoirs could approach equal capacity at the end of next year, with Lake Powell rising to 54.3 percent and Lake Mead dropping to 52.2 percent capacity by Dec. 30, 2006.

John Keys, Bureau of Reclamation commissioner, told reporters that if water flow projections hold "we will essentially equalize the reservoirs," which he said was a level that upper-basin states had sought.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is hosting a public meeting on the future use of excess land at the VA West Los Angeles Healthcare Center. The meeting will be held on May 6, 2005 from 8am-4:30pm at the Wadsworth Theater on the West Los Angeles Campus, located at 11301 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90073.

The purpose of the meeting is to provide information on the development of a business plan that will recommend future uses of the property to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. The need for a business plan addressing excess land was identified as part of the VA Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) study.

The meeting agenda will include presentations on CARES utilization data, objectives of the business plan project and timeframes for completion. The agenda will allow for public comment from 12:30pm to 3:30pm.

Written statements can be posted on the CARES Business Plan Studies website <http://www.va.gov/cares> or submitted to: West Los Angeles Study, VA CARES Studies, P.O. Box 1427, Washington Grove, MD 20880-1427.

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NATIONAL

Officials in Utah agree to wilderness deal

BY PAUL FOY
Associated Press Writer

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah — Republican Sen. Bob Bennett has agreed to draft legislation protecting some of Utah's sculptured canyons and soaring cliffs as wilderness, breaking a political stalemate to safeguard public lands around Zion National Park.

Bennett's involvement, confirmed Monday by The Associated Press, was solicited by Gov. Jon Huntsman's office and Washington County commissioners and signals a breakthrough in Utah, where no representative or senator has been willing to touch a comprehensive Utah wilderness bill for decades.

By tradition Congress defers to a state delegation in designating wilderness, but advocates have had to rely on an upstate New York congressman to carry a comprehensive Utah wilderness bill.

Rep. Maurice Hinchey's sponsorship of the failed Redrock Wilderness Act each year since 1993 is symbolic of the political stalemate in Utah dating to 1984 — the last year Utah allowed Congress to designate any wilderness. That year, the protection was given to the 460,000-acre High Uintas Wilderness, which contains the contiguous states' most expansive alpine highlands.

Now, with the encouragement of government officials and conservation groups, Bennett and U.S. Rep. Jim Matheson, D-Utah, have agreed to draft legislation protecting a corner of Utah's

redrock country.

Though still tentative, the wilderness proposal would protect high-elevation alpine meadows to the north of Zion and desert lowlands to the south, embracing a continuous ecosystem with permanent protection from logging, oil-and-gas drilling, mining, road-building and motor vehicles.

"We just want some resolution. We've been fighting about it for years and think it's time to get past the fighting," Washington County Commissioner Alan Gardner said Monday. "There's more to do than talk about wilderness. A lot of counties in Utah are watching us."

Washington County is home to the 229-square-mile Zion National Park and St. George, one of Utah's and the nation's fastest-growing metropolitan areas. Gardner said the wilderness proposal is part of a larger effort to identify areas of growth and future transportation corridors in Washington County, and follows an example set by Nevada's Clark and Lincoln counties.

Utah's leading conservation group, the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, kicked off a two-day tour Monday of its proposal for a Zion-Mohave Wilderness area for staff members for Bennett and Matheson.

"It's one of the more serious discussions that has taken place in wilderness history," said Peter Downing, SUWA's Washington-based legislative director, who was reached Monday at the Los Angeles airport en route to St. George,

A synopsis of the Utah wilderness deal

By The Associated Press

WILD MOVE: Led by U.S. Sen. Bob Bennett, Utah officials have agreed to propose legislation that would protect lands around Zion National Park, a breakthrough for a state where no congressional lawmaker has been willing to touch a comprehensive wilderness bill for decades.

PROTECTING NATURE: The proposal would protect alpine meadows north of the park and desert lowlands to the south, with permanent protection from logging, oil-and-gas drilling, mining, road-building and motor vehicles.

WHAT'S NEXT: Bennett is working on the legislation at the request of Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman and other state officials, but a Bennett spokeswoman says it's too early for details — such how much land would be protected.

Utah.

The Washington County effort was spearheaded by state Rural Affairs Coordinator Gayle McKeachnie, who was assigned by a former Utah governor to tackle Utah's wilderness standoff one county at a time. Former Gov. Olene Walker assembled a group of Washington County and state officials and representatives of the Sierra Club and The

Wilderness Society.

McKeachnie said he handed off final negotiations to Bennett's office for bill drafting. He called it a significant step toward consensus that wilderness advocates say county commissioners in southern Utah and the state's conservative political climate have long frustrated.

"It's a great idea, and I hope they succeed and it extends to the other parts of the state," said Gale Dick, the 78-year-old patriarch of Save Our Canyons, a group pushing for larger wilderness areas in the central Wasatch range near Salt Lake City.

Bennett spokeswoman Mary Jane Collipriest confirmed the senator's staff was working on wilderness legislation, but said it was too early to discuss such details as boundaries or acreage figures.

The area overlaps 11 wilderness study areas totaling 43,478 acres that have been set aside by the Bureau of Land Management as deserving of permanent protection, BLM wilderness coordinator Maggie Kelsey said.

The proposal calls for wilderness lands adjoining Zion park and other pockets of wilderness in Washington County, said others involved in the negotiations.

Downing said SUWA will wait to see the particulars of a finished bill before it lends its endorsement. The group will scrutinize proposed wilderness boundaries, management practices and any trading of BLM lands for development — something Gardner said he expects the bill to contain.

Study shows voluntary testing for mad cow would help beef industry

BY ROXANA HEGEMAN
Associated Press Writer

WICHITA, Kan. — The discovery of mad cow disease in the United States cost the beef industry between \$3.2 billion and \$4.7 billion in losses last year, according to an economic impact study.

The report, commissioned by the Kansas Department of Agriculture, also concluded that voluntary testing for the disease would have provided an economic gain to the beef industry despite the added testing costs.

"When we look at the slow progress in terms of (reopening trade) with Japan and South Korea, it may well be the end of 2005 until we see movement — and so those

numbers enlarge significantly," said Adrian Polansky, Kansas' agriculture secretary.

The 65-page report, released Thursday, looks at regulator costs, losses and consumer reactions after the December 2003 discovery of a mad cow case in Washington state. It concludes that profits from overseas markets would have more than paid for testing for mad cow disease, formally known as bovine spongiform encephalopathy.

People who eat beef tainted by the aberrant protein believed to cause mad cow can contract a rare but fatal disease, variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

The U.S. Agriculture Department has been adamantly opposed to voluntary BSE testing, saying such tests would not identify mad cow in younger cattle and

are not needed. The department has denied requests by some beef processors, including Arkansas City-based Creekstone Farms Premium Beef, to allow testing of all animals that come through their facilities.

USDA spokeswoman Suzan Holl said the agency could not comment Thursday because it had not yet had enough time to review the study, done by Kansas State University.

Kansas State researchers estimated it would have cost \$640 million to test all cattle slaughtered in the United States last year, not counting the investment needed to equip processing plants for the testing.

Days after the discovery of the United States' first mad cow case, 53 countries banned U.S. beef imports.

In 2003, U.S. beef exports were valued at \$3.95 billion — accounting for 9.6 percent of this nation's commercial beef production, according to the Kansas Department of Agriculture. About 90 percent of those exports went to five countries: Japan, Mexico, South Korea, Canada and Hong Kong.

While Mexico and Canada partially resumed beef imports last year, exports of U.S. beef in 2004 still ran 82 percent below 2003 levels.

Polansky was encouraged that Taiwan, Kansas' fifth largest export market, recently resumed beef trade with the U.S. But he said beef producers need access to the Japanese market, which accounted for 35 percent of the value of beef exports in 2003.

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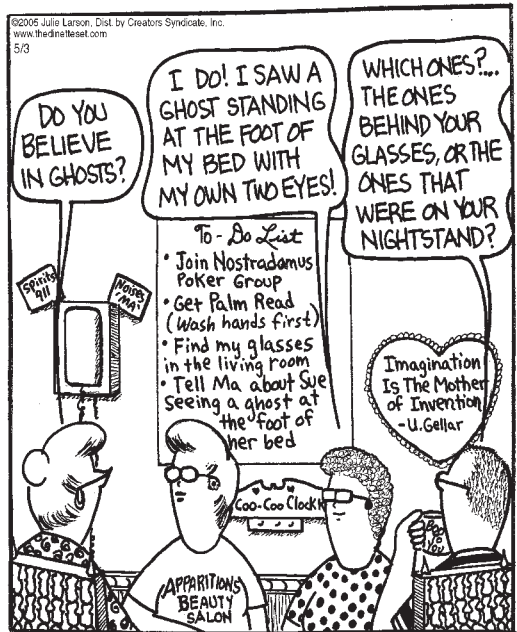


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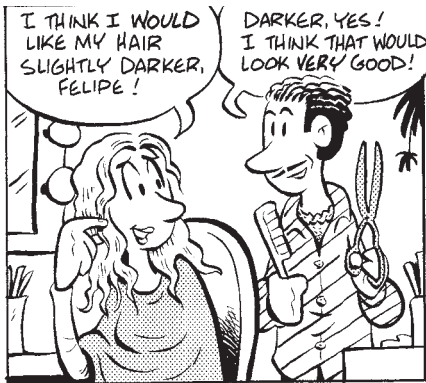
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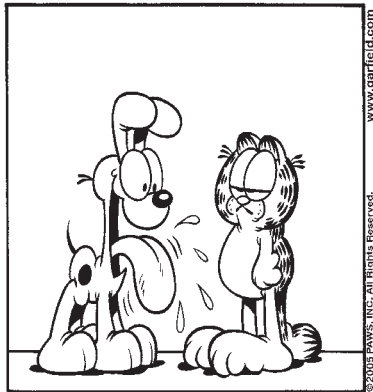


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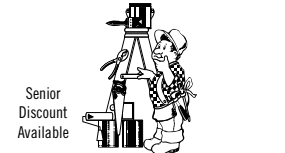
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Pitt, Jolie find trust in firearms

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — For Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt, happiness is a warm gun.

In an interview published in the upcoming issue of Vanity Fair, Jolie says she and Pitt came to trust each other while taking gun training for the upcoming "Mr. and Mrs. Smith." They play married assassins in the movie.

"You had to trust each other to cross under or over and only move when the other person moves, so the trust, when somebody's got a loaded gun at your back. ... It made us trust each other quickly," Jolie said in the magazine, on newsstands May 10.

Neither Pitt nor Jolie has confirmed reports that they are dating. Last week, photos were published showing them on a beach in Africa with Jolie's 3-year-old son Maddox.

Pitt, 41, and his wife, Jennifer Aniston, separated in January after 4 1/2 years of marriage. Aniston, 36, filed for divorce in March, citing irreconcilable differences.

In the Vanity Fair interview, Jolie denied that she had said she was a shoulder for Pitt to cry on.

"I knew nothing about their marriage. ... It's obviously been difficult with all this ... going on," the 29-year-old Jolie said. "I've been tied to everybody I ever worked with."

She also discussed her recent preference for having a lover, rather than a committed relationship. "I think women are much easier about having a lover than a man is, even," Jolie said.

Her marriages to Jonny Lee Miller and Billy Bob Thornton ended in divorce.

NEW YORK — The relationship between Justin Timberlake and Cameron Diaz is the stuff of fairy tales.

Timberlake will provide the voice for a new character in "Shrek 3," the latest sequel to the animated ogre franchise voiced by Diaz and Mike Myers, DreamWorks announced Sunday.

The former 'N Sync singer will play a young King Arthur, or "Artie," King Harold's rebellious nephew.

Diaz, Timberlake's girlfriend, voices Princess Fiona, Shrek's wife. It will be the job of Shrek (Myers) to teach Timberlake's character to act like royalty.

Timberlake, 24, appears in the upcoming "Edison," starring Kevin Spacey and Morgan Freeman, and "Alpha Dog," starring Bruce Willis.

"Shrek 3" is slated for release in May 2007.

LONDON — Victoria Beckham whisked her soccer star husband, David, to the Italian city of Venice to celebrate his 30th birthday.

The couple flew to Venice on a private jet Sunday to celebrate David's birthday Monday, according to a report in Britain's The Sun newspaper.

The Sun said the Beckhams, who recently celebrated Victoria's 31st birthday in Paris, were believed to be staying in the Venice apartment of Elton John.

Lawyers for the Beckhams, who are suing their former nanny Abbie Gibson for telling a British tabloid newspaper that their marriage was on the rocks, went to court Friday to prevent Gibson from publishing further allegations about their marriage.

Gibson was paid \$225,000 for the story, which was published in the News of the World newspaper April 24.

NEW YORK — "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire," the fourth installment of the film series based on the J.K. Rowling novels, will be released simultaneously to both conventional theaters and in the big-screen IMAX format on Nov. 18.

"We previously committed to releasing two of Warner Bros. Pictures' biggest ... films of 2005 in IMAX's format — 'Batman Begins' and 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' — and 'Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire' is a great addition to that list," Dan Fellman, president of Domestic Distribution at Warner Bros. Pictures, said in a statement Monday.

The latest "Harry Potter" film was directed by Mike Newell. Daniel Radcliffe returns as Harry, with Rupert Grint starring as Ron Weasley and Emma Watson as Hermione Granger.

LOS ANGELES — Belly dancers, a dancing elephant and a video montage of her lengthy career marked the end of Cher's three-year farewell tour.

Cher, 58, played to a sold-out crowd Saturday at the Hollywood Bowl and insisted this final concert on her 325-stop tour really was the end.

"I'm approaching 80," she joked to the crowd, "and if I did that thing everyone does, come back in five years, I'd be driving around in one of those carts you know, the ones with the joysticks you see in Costco."

"There are two reasons people come back. Because, like the Stones, they're broke. Again. Or they're old divas who can't wait to be out among their adoring fans. But this, this truly is it."

Video clips broadcast on four giant screens showed the Sonny Bono years, shots from her solo career and clips of Cher with Carol Burnett, Ray Charles, Elton John, David Bowie and the Muppets.

Her final show was vintage Cher, who made her entrance from above decked out in a silver coat and hood. She kicked off the evening with her standard opening song, a cover of U2's "I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For," and ditched the coat as she hit the stage to reveal a skimpy G-string outfit.

The show, which included about a dozen costume changes, ended with fireworks.