

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

12 14 19 43 47

Meganumber: 19

Jackpot: \$7 Million

FANTASY 5

9 12 13 21 23

DAILY 3

Daytime: 2 7 4

Evening: 4 4 8

DAILY DERBY

1st: 02 Lucky Star

2nd: 08 Gorgeous George

3rd: 07 Eureka

RACE TIME: 1:45.75

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ The Transportation Security Administration removed a screener from Newark Liberty International Airport in February, and scheduled retraining, after a passenger reported that she had inadvertently been allowed to pass a checkpoint with a butcher knife in her purse. The passenger, Katrina Bell, 27, was not charged with a crime because she had merely forgotten about the knife, having put it there earlier in the week before heading out on a "blind date."

■ In a suburb of Houston in February, a 16-year-old boy was charged with shooting his father, Jacob Hughes, 43, because he mistakenly believed Dad was beating up Mom. However (according to KPRC-TV), sheriff's deputies, after investigating the alleged domestic abuse, said that the couple were merely having robust sex, during which the mother apparently got really loud, which awakened and frightened the boy and his younger brother.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 130th day of 2005.
There are 235 days left in the year.

On May 10, 1869, a golden spike was driven at Promontory, Utah, marking the completion of the first transcontinental railroad in the United States.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

"The art of being wise is the art of knowing what to overlook."

WILLIAM JAMES

AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGIST AND PHILOSOPHER

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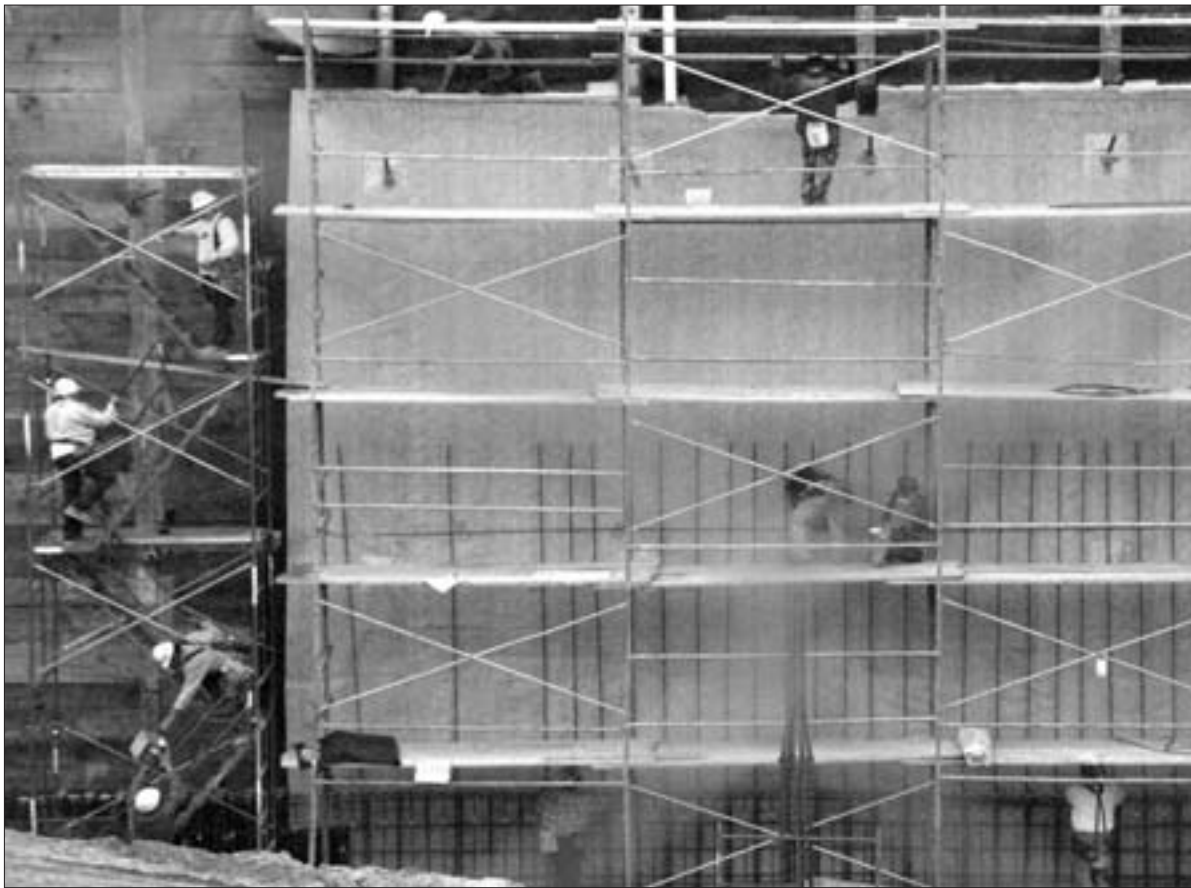
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Works on a lot of levels



Fabian Lewkowicz/Special to the Daily Press

Construction workers lay the foundation for new luxury apartments on Main Street, site of the former Pioneer Boulangerie Bakery.

Council meets to discuss land buys

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN — City Hall may be interested in purchasing millions of dollars worth of real estate in the downtown area — properties which could be used to help alleviate the parking crunch.

Santa Monica City Council members recently met behind closed doors to discuss the status of 13 properties in the downtown area that may potentially be used to expand parking space, sources said. If so, the acquisitions could help City Hall achieve its goal of adding 2,000 more spaces downtown within the next decade.

The sites are mostly located on the 1300 block of Fourth Street between Santa Monica Boulevard and Arizona Avenue, and the 1300 and 1400 blocks of Fifth Street between Broadway and Arizona Avenue. They include the temporary site of the Santa Monica Library, a parking structure site, and several smaller properties currently being used for retail and offices. Also of note, City Hall is looking into purchasing the old Toys 'R' Us building on the southeast corner of Fourth Street and Santa Monica Boulevard.

Officials who attended the April 26 closed session said securing properties for City Hall's parking plan was a major component driving the real estate search.

The downtown parking plan was signed off by the City Council in 2002 after nearly a year of research and discussion by a task force specifically created to address the shortage of downtown parking. A consultant was hired for \$150,000 to help the task force find potential parking places and figure out how to finance them.

See PARKING, page 4

City expected to dish out \$10M tonight

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

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — Nearly \$10 million is expected to be spent tonight on everything from a new park to parking garage improvements to teaching kids how to surf.

The biggest ticket item on the City Council's expenditure agenda is more than \$8 million to secure contracts to construct the new Santa Monica Airport Park, which will be located on eight acres of land on the southeast corner of the airport.

The City Council is being asked to approve a construction contract with Los Angeles Engineering Inc. for nearly \$6.8 million, plus a contingency of \$678,210. Black & Veatch Corp.

See CONSENT, page 5

Hillary's Hollywood gala in spotlight

One of organizers accused of stealing from Santa Monica school in separate scandal

BY PAUL CHAVEZ

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — A lavish politics-goes-Hollywood fundraiser that helped propel Hillary Clinton into the U.S. Senate is the main

event at the pending federal trial of the New York Democrat's former campaign finance director.

Though Clinton hasn't been linked to charges that the gala's cost was vastly underreported, she is a top target of Republicans who are

scouring for ammunition against one of their top targets in next year's elections — and perhaps the 2008 run for the White House.

It's rare for alleged federal campaign finance violations to go to trial. But that is what's scheduled to happen Tuesday in federal court here, with witnesses includ-

See CLINTON, page 10

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Dinner for two, Scorpio

Santa Monica Daily Press

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



ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ You zero in on what is important. You have a way of saying things that makes others listen and want to pitch in. Your grace and charm mark your life and decisions. You find inspiration where your friends are. Tonight: Out and about.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Your possessive streak emerges. Stop. Lose this attitude. The more you learn and grow, the more you have to offer. Refuse to let a bout of insecurity plague the happy Bull. Know that you've got what it takes — no matter what. Tonight: Your treat.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ You are a sure-fire winner. You get what you want and find new solutions to old problems. Investigate what you want in a class or a trip. Clearly, you want affirmation, but you also want your mind to open up. Tonight: As you like it.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★ Slow down and make the right decisions for yourself. Sometimes you undermine yourself more than you realize. Loosen up and understand how you might be sabotaging yourself. Go for what is important to you. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Certainly, there are days when the sun smiles on the happy Lion. Say "yes," as good will and friendship bless your actions and activities. You smile, and the world smiles with you. Someone puts you on a pedestal. Careful — you don't want to trip do you? Tonight: Where and what you want.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Others assume that you know what you are doing. They are right-on. You combine inspiration with practicality, making an unbeatable combination. Lighten up and allow more fun and joy into what you do. Tonight: Pace yourself. You can only do so much.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Think before you leap. Your perspective helps others. Express your natural caring. Others appreciate your willingness to see them clearly. Reach out for a loved one at a distance. You find answers that others seek. Tonight: Reach out to a new person.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Work as a team. One particular person demonstrates his or her caring. Let this person make a difference in your life. Add imagination and thoughtfulness. You find that an investment made now, though expensive, could be rewarding. Tonight: Dinner for two.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Realize what your limits are. Others are personality-plus. Your best bet is to defer and not push too hard to have things tumble the way you want. In fact, if you lie back, you will learn a lot about the people in your life. Tonight: Just go along with others' plans.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Investigate and understand what makes others tick. You might not agree with others. Let more fun into your life. Don't always be staid and routine. Knowing when to let go could make a big difference in your life. Tonight: Get some exercise.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ You might be taken aback by someone's feelings. Be gentle with this person, even if you don't want more of a relationship than you have. Allow your creativity to help you say "no." Tonight: Let go of routine.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Deal with family and those close to you. You need to add to your security and well-being. Reveal more of your essential personality. You will be greeted well. Others revel in the real you. Be open and authentic. Tonight: Happily head home.



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1427 Third Street Promenade, Ste. #202 • Santa Monica, CA 90401 • www.smdp.com

PUBLISHER Ross Furukawa ross@smdp.com EDITOR Carolyn Sackariason editor@smdp.com STAFF WRITER Ryan Hyatt ryanh@smdp.com SANTA MONICA PARENTING Nina Furukawa nina@smdp.com ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER Robbie P. Piubeni rob@smdp.com	ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE Rob Schwenker schwenker@smdp.com ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE Stewart O'Dell stewarto@smdp.com TRAFFIC MANAGER Connie Sommerville connies@smdp.com PRODUCTION MANAGER Alejandro Cesar Cantarero II alex@smdp.com CLASSIFIEDS SALES MANAGER Annie Kotok anniek@smdp.com	NIGHT EDITOR Lori Luechtefeld lori@smdp.com NIGHT EDITOR Michael Tittinger ...somechum@smdp.com CIRCULATION Keith Wyatt CIRCULATION Glenn Bolan SPECIAL PROJECTS Dave Danforth dave@smdp.com MASCOT Maya Furukawa maya@smdp.com
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LOCAL



Huffing and puffing



Photo courtesy of Debra Young Krizman

Peter Yarrow of the folk trio Peter, Paul & Mary made an appearance at Franklin Elementary School last week to introduce his new program “Operation Respect: Don’t Laugh At Me.” As well as performing his hits like “Puff, The Magic Dragon,” Yarrow previewed several new songs from his program to promote compassionate and respectful behavior. Yarrow invited several Franklin students to join him on stage to act out typical schoolyard conflicts like teasing and bullying, and showed alternative ways of dealing with the situations.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

A family affair to support disaster relief

By Daily Press staff

Disaster response officials are hoping families will come to support their efforts during a night of fun at the pier. The American Red Cross of Santa Monica will host its Second Annual Family Fun Night at Pacific Park on the Santa Monica Pier, Thursday, May 19, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Only Family Fun Night ticket holders will have unlimited and exclusive access to all Pacific Park rides, be able to test their skills at the park’s game booths and receive a voucher for a free meal, including a soft drink plus free cotton candy or popcorn. Advance tickets are available for the reduced price of \$15 per person. A second ticket can be purchased at the same time for half price. Tickets purchased at the door will cost \$17.50. “A full evening at Pacific Park including snacks, rides and games costs about \$30, so this is a great opportunity for the entire family to enjoy a spring evening on the pier, save money and have a lot of fun all while supporting a very worthwhile cause — the Santa Monica chapter of the American Red Cross,” said John M.

See BRIEFS, page 4



Sam Jooma accurately described that this photo was taken in front of Caspian Grill on Broadway, between Second and Third streets. Jooma, who works at Giorgio Vasari on the Promenade, has won a gift certificate to Izzy’s Deli. Check out Monday’s edition for the next mystery photo contest.



SURF REPORT

Tuesday is looking to be a very breezy day with onshores reaching 20 miles per hour in the afternoon. Early morning sessions would be of course lighter, but with Monday’s rain, there could also be the risk of contamination due to runoff (for a period of 72 hours once the rain stops). Today is expected to be partly cloudy, highs in the mid 60s to lower 70s. West winds 15 to 20 miles per hour.

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

Today the water is:
60°

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	3:40	-0.6	3:03	1.3	9:52	4.0	9:18	6.1
SUNDAY	4:19	-0.8	3:30	1.7	10:39	3.8	9:46	6.1
MONDAY	4:59	-0.8	3:57	2.1	11:28	3.5	10:15	5.9
TUESDAY	5:39	-0.6	4:22	2.4	12:21	3.3	10:45	5.6
WEDNESDAY	6:23	-0.4	4:46	2.7	1:25	3.1	11:18	5.3
THURSDAY	7:13	-0.1	5:07	2.9	2:56	3.0	11:56	4.9
FRIDAY	7:40	0.0	5:35	3.1	3:17	2.8	12:31	4.4

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The QLine

In outlining broad themes to be used to shape Santa Monica’s land use and transit policies in the coming decades, city officials said future decisions should consider the need for the city to maintain a small-town feel. Some residents have said this goal fails to look at the city from a regional perspective and ignores the outside pressures of the Los Angeles area. So this week, Q-Line wants to know,

“Should Santa Monica strive to maintain a small-town atmosphere and, if so, how can this be accomplished?” 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.

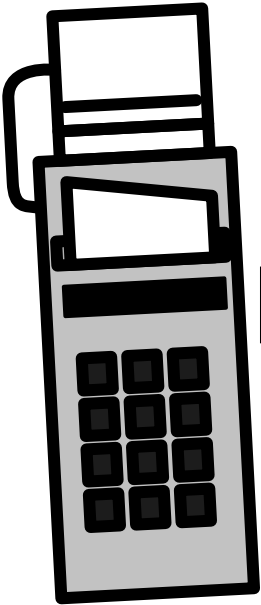
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LOCAL

City is keeping an eye on available properties

PARKING, from page 1

The plan would add 1,712 new parking spaces between Fifth Street and the Third Street Promenade. City Hall has already embarked on the rebuilding and retrofitting of some existing parking garages, which will create a total of 2,931 spaces. The new spaces will come from rebuilding and adding to three garages — which will produce 712 slots — and another 1,000 by constructing two new structures near Fifth Street. Those structures will have street-level retail and be used by monthly parkers so short-term visitors can park closer to the Promenade.

It's estimated that the additions will cost about \$92.5 million, which would be self-financed through revenue bonds paid for by increasing parking fees and downtown property assessments. The costs will most likely be passed on to drivers, as well as developers and business owners who operate in the downtown area.

Monthly parking rates in the garages are expected to be increased from \$75 a month to \$105, and short-term rates would increase to \$1.25 every 20 minutes after the first two free hours, with a maximum of \$10 for the day. The current maximum is \$7.

The task force reasoned that property owners would benefit from the additional spaces and, therefore, should help finance them. New commercial development downtown already pays into a shared parking fund and is not required to provide separate parking. The downtown area has seen about 50,000 square feet of growth per year over the past eight years.

As far as the assessments are concerned, the task force considered tacking

on an extra 50 cents per square foot to existing properties and expanding the assessment district to include an additional 1.9 million square feet in commercial space. That district would include north of Wilshire Boulevard, the east side of Sixth Street, the north side of Colorado Avenue and the east side of Ocean Avenue.

Jeff Mathieu, director of City Hall's resource management department, said in addition to securing possible parking sites, the city also frequently looks at real estate in order to help improve easements, infrastructure and affordable housing.

Mathieu said people in the real estate community frequently contact him to let him know sites are available for purchase. If it seems City Hall may have some use for the sites, they are discussed in closed session. If the City Council discloses it is interested in acquiring one of the sites, city staff will then look further into the properties.

"There's always a trade-off for which properties are going to be superior, and we're not going to purchase a whole swap with an unintended purpose," Mathieu said. "We don't buy a site unless we have some use already intended for it."

Mathieu said there was no particular real estate purchasing budget City Hall operates on, but that purchases were driven by need. He said one way to secure funds for real estate investment, if the funds were not immediately available, was by raising bonds.

Mathieu did not say which of the 13 sites City Hall may pursue buying. He said the properties were listed on the agenda because the law requires the city provide some public disclosure whenever a property is on the table for discussion.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 3

Pacheco, executive director of the American Red Cross.

A silent auction will be held when guests can bid on a wide range of donated items including American Red Cross first aid kits. In addition, prizes will be raffled off hourly. Prizes include a private air flight for two with Dr. Bernard Harris on his private airplane. The winner can choose from an air tour of Los Angeles or a round trip flight to Santa Barbara with breakfast.

The American Red Cross of Santa Monica is a non-profit, publicly supported corporation that provides health and safety education, youth services, CPR and first-aid training and a variety other services. Proceeds of the Family Fun Night will be used to fund those services, as well as the chapter's local disaster awareness and disaster relief efforts.

The event's sponsor is First Federal Bank of California. Numerous other local businesses organizations and individuals also are underwriting the costs of producing the event. Additional sponsors include Abraxis Oncology, Hallo Construction, Southern California Disposal, Spitfire Grill/Ventures, the Santa Monica Elks Lodge # 906, White & Company Insurance and friends of the American Red Cross.

For Family Fun Night information and advance tickets, contact the Santa Monica chapter at (310) 394-3773, or online at www.redcrossofsantamonica.org <<http://www.redcrossofsantamonica.org>>.

Novelist running strong at SMC

By Daily Press staff



KHALED HOSSEINI

It's time to run with the Kite Runner.

Khaled Hosseini, the Afghan-American author whose best-selling novel "The Kite Runner" has captivated and deeply moved readers internationally, will be speaking at 4 p.m. Saturday, May 21 in the SMC Pavilion. The event is free.

The college is expecting a large audience, particularly because "The Kite Runner" is the selection for the 2005 Santa Monica Citywide Reads program.

See BRIEFS, page 11



Surf's up: City Hall to fund summer camps

CONSENT, from page 1

is expected to be paid up to \$500,000, plus a \$50,000 contingency, to manage the construction.

The park was conceptually approved by the City Council more than seven years ago, following a comprehensive community process, according to city staff. The proposed design includes two lighted youth soccer fields; a one-acre off-leash dog area; a park restroom and storage buildings; an open green space; picnic areas; two parking lots with a total of 116 parking spaces and a children's playground. The project also includes streetscape improvements on Airport Avenue from Centinela Avenue to Donald Douglas Loop South.

Through a \$1.5 million state grant, the park's athletic fields will be lined with synthetic turf, city staff said.

When City Hall hired an architect in 2000 to design the park, the project's cost was estimated at \$6.7 million. Through a competitive bidding process, LA Engineering came in at \$6.7 million. However, because contaminated soil at the site must be removed prior to construction, the total project will cost \$8.3 million, city staff said.

Funding for the park has been budgeted in City Hall's capital improvement program over the past several years. But as a result of a general rise in construction costs, soils remediation and contracted construction management, another \$1.8 million must be appropriated for the project, city staff said.

The project also will result in ongoing operating costs, which will amount to \$300,000 annually.

A \$731K RETROFIT

The City Council and the city's Redevelopment Agency will be asked to spend \$731,500 to seismically retrofit parking structure No. 4. Black & Veatch Corp. is expected to be awarded the contract — coming in with the lowest bid, which is not to exceed \$655,000, plus a \$66,500 contingency. The company has worked on many other city projects, including the retrofitting of at least three other parking garages in Santa Monica, according to city staff.

The design work is expected to begin in May and finish in September. The seismic construction will begin in early 2006 and be completed by the fall.

The City Council in 2002 conceptually approved a city-commissioned task force's recommendation to retrofit parking garages No. 2, 4 and 5; and to rebuild structures No. 1, 3 and 6; as well as adding more parking downtown.

Parking structure No. 4, located on the eastside of Second Street between Santa Monica Boulevard and Arizona Avenue, was built in 1967 and expanded in 1973. It's nine levels above ground and has about 660 spaces.

The Redevelopment Agency, which operates under the auspices of City Hall, is required to bear the full cost of the project because all of the FEMA funds issued as a result of the Northridge Earthquake have been spent for crack repair, city staff said.

WHAT GOES UP MUST COME DOWN

It will cost \$614,000 to demolish the old Santa Monica Police Department headquar-

ters behind City Hall. The City Council is being asked to amend a construction contract with Action Environmental Enterprises Inc. for hazardous materials abatement for the building and authorize a guaranteed maximum price of \$559,035 with a \$55,904 contingency.

Costs and construction implications of either re-using or demolishing the building, which was built in 1958, were evaluated in 2003. The City Council at the time approved demolishing the building and replacing it with an interim landscape until a permanent courtyard is designed, city staff said.

Earlier this year, City Hall terminated its contract with SKS Construction Inc. after it notified officials that it couldn't honor its proposed guaranteed maximum price. All of the subcontractors hired for the job will continue their work on independent agreements with City Hall, according to city staff.

As a subcontractor of SKS Construction Inc., Action Environmental Enterprises already has abated asbestos and lead hazardous materials from the building. During the design development, Action Environmental Enterprises served as the demolition contractor, making it qualified to perform the work at the guaranteed maximum price — instead of SKS Construction, city staff said.

RIDING THE WAVE

The City Council is expected to approve a \$180,000 agreement with Surf Academy, a limited liability corporation, to offer surf camps this summer through the city's community classes program.

City Hall first contracted with the academy in 2002, with participants paying a fee to the city to participate, 70 percent of which was paid to the academy to conduct the program. The program was expanded in 2003, adding a body boarding camp for young children and surf lessons for adults.

The program has seen significant growth and, therefore, City Hall's contribution has increased because of the program's popularity and expansion.

THE COST OF ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING

Heal the Bay, a nonprofit organization dedicated to cleaning up Santa Monica Bay, is expected to get \$130,000 for a three-year contract with City Hall to offer educational consulting services for public and private schools in Santa Monica.

As part of City Hall's sustainability city plan, public outreach and education play a critical role in achieving the plan's goals, city staff said. One of the goals is to provide environmentally focused programs and curriculum to school-aged children.

For several years, City Hall has offered educational programs to K-12 schools designed to raise awareness of the coastal geography, ocean environment and to teach science, conservation, pollution prevention and personal responsibility through stewardship.

Heal the Bay will provide services such as in-class curriculum for elementary students, as well as structured field trips to the Santa Monica Pier Aquarium. In addition, the services include sponsorship to Santa Monica's Coastal Cleanup Day and its associated public outreach, city staff said.

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OPINION

GUEST COMMENTARY BY MARK GOLD AND JOEL REYNOLDS

Don't allow beach, bay to go to the dogs

Santa Monica is considering a proposal to allow dogs to run off-leash on the beach, day or night, near Arizona Avenue. Because dogs are a source of fecal bacteria and pathogens, this proposal will undermine years of effort to clean up our beaches, protect our coastal water quality, and protect the health of beachgoers, including young children.

Even with the best of intentions, cleaning up all dog waste and urine is impossible. Inevitably, dog waste below the high tide line will pollute the local beach, putting children and swimmers at an unnecessary risk of illness. Today, Santa Monica Bay beaches often do not meet state water quality standards for recreational water contact. In fact, as a result of litigation from Heal the Bay, the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), and the Santa Monica Baykeeper, the state requires that all Santa Monica Bay beaches meet water quality standards from April to October

for fecal bacteria by 2006. Public health standards must be met year round for the dry season by 2009. Already, the proposed dog beach at Arizona Avenue is among the many Santa Monica beaches that must dramatically improve water quality to comply with water quality standards to protect public health.

In 1995, USC, Heal the Bay, the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Project, the city of Los Angeles and Orange County completed a groundbreaking epidemiology study demonstrating that people who swim at bay beaches with high fecal bacteria densities are far more likely to come down with stomach flu and upper respiratory illness. Sources of fecal bacteria include polluted runoff, human sewage, cats, birds and dogs. As numerous recent studies and outbreaks have demonstrated (cryptosporidium in Milwaukee, the fecal bacteria — E. coli in numerous cases, SARS, etc.) cross species infectivity is becoming a growing

cause of concern. As an example, dog waste can be a source of reoviruses, a frequent cause of stomach flu, and dog urine can harbor pathogenic microbes at low densities.

The State Department of Parks and Recreation, the Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors, and the LA County Lifeguards are already on record in opposition to opening the beach up to unleashed dogs, and we agree. Heal the Bay and NRDC have spent years seeking to strengthen and enforce sewage and stormwater requirements, as well as promote public access to our beaches. The introduction of hundreds or thousands of dogs to our beaches would run directly counter to the progress that has been made.

Santa Monica has no greater economic or environmental resource than its coastal beaches, and they must be protected. Adding a known source of fecal bacteria and pathogens to beaches that

already fail to meet minimum state water quality standards is unwise, counter-productive and almost certainly illegal. Our city has an obligation to protect the health of the countless swimmers that utilize that stretch of Santa Monica beach each year.

Construction of the Santa Monica Urban Runoff Reuse Facility, authoring the toughest stormwater ordinance in California, and most recently, completing a new and progressive urban watershed management plan that maximizes runoff retention and reuse — each of these initiatives has improved the quality of our coastal waters. To continue its leadership in cleaning up Santa Monica Bay, we strongly urge the City Council to maintain the prohibition against dogs on our beaches.

(Mark Gold is the executive director of Heal the Bay and the owner of two dogs. Joel Reynolds is a senior attorney at the Natural Resources Defense Council.)

Separation of church and state is crucial to democracy



WHAT'S THE POINT?

BY DAVID PISARRA

America is under attack. Again. This time though, the terrorists are not the Muslims, the Japanese or the Godless Communists. In fact it is the God-fearing, Bible-waving, pontificating pupils of totalitarianism. Our most dangerous enemy is not North Korea — even though they scare the heck out of me — nor is it a man in a cave. It's those nicely dressed, overly polite people who always seem to be carrying a casserole dish.

Our republic is under attack from the church lady. Well, really it's her husband, who as the head of their biblically-run household, is the one to fear. He is the man who, in his abdication of his duty as a rational thinking man, has let others do his thinking for him. He just blindly follows, and brings his dutiful wife and their two tow-headed children along for the ride down bigotry boulevard.

The Republicans have figured this out and are using it to their advantage to reconfigure our republic. With the federal government and most of the state governments firmly in the hands of the Republicans, they are quickly, and not quietly, turning our country into a theocracy.

President Bush is the head of the Republican party, and as such, his FaithBased Initiatives; his position on the

death penalty and abortion debate; his force feeding of Jesus Christ by way of programs that the federal government is supporting; his miserable AIDS policies and contraception policies; his outright intolerance for people whose lives don't precisely mirror his own amoral, soulless life and his pontifications of being "needed by his country and chosen by God," are all direct corollaries to the totalitarianism that we put away 60 years ago in Germany, and that our forefathers fled from in 1620.

The dangers of totalitarianism are well known in this world. One quick trip through a history book and one can see that any society that has let religion become enshrined in its laws leads quickly to terror, torture, abuse of the minority by the religious majority, and the wholesale destruction of the fabric of that society.

Religion does not create a fabric of society. Religion creates a communal touchstone for arrogance, bigotry, intolerance, hatred, and creating "otherness." Religion creates a mechanism for people who are all abdicating their thought-life to others, to feel commonality, one-ness, and "part of."

Religious teaching blinds people to the wonders of the true fabric of our society: The warp and weave of the people who comprise our America. The differences that make us a strong country. There is a reason why inbreeding is bad for a species and the same rule applies to society. When we all think, act, and dress the same, breakdown is near.

There are people who think I am

wrong. They believe that the Republicans are only doing the "right" thing and that they are bringing America back to morality. I can only surmise that they lost no member of their family, extended or otherwise in the Holocaust, or possibly, they don't believe the Holocaust happened. There are such people in this world who refuse to believe that such a thing happened.

There are still others who believe that it couldn't happen again. They don't read much.

It takes but a cursory examination of the first section of any large metropolitan newspaper to see that the atrocities continue, on the African continent, Central America, Asia, Europe and the Middle East.

If you feel that in America we do not have atrocities, and we never will, I would like to point out to you the fact that in the '30s, '40s, '50s and '60s, we used black men in Tuskegee, Ala., to study the long term effects of syphilis on the human body, without their knowing it and without their consent.

Some will say that, "it was a different time," and "we've learned from then, not to do that." They would be wrong. This past week, the Associated Press reported that children in foster care have been used by our government as guinea pigs for drug tests.

These would be the same children who are trotted out when the religious Republicans want to spout off about the value of life, and the importance of two heterosexual parents in a household.

The Republicans like to talk about their

culture of life and their "Traditional Family Values." President Bush may state unequivocally his understanding of the separation of church and state, but his actions do not support it. He took an oath of office to protect and defend the Constitution. But his actions show clearly that he is a man who is willing to blur the lines between the Constitution and the rhetoric of religion to achieve his goals. And once the lines become blurry, all bets are off.

America has a history of being a place of tolerance on the one hand, and deep seated bigotry and hatred on the other. Usually the bigots and haters cloak themselves, (sometimes literally a'la the KKK) as people of Christ, and hide behind the Bible as justification for the "rightness" of their position.

The founding fathers knew what they were doing when they instituted a separation of church and state — they just didn't go far enough. There needs to be a Great Wall between the religious zealots on the one hand, and the leaders of our country on the other.

I believe there should be a religious test of faith for anyone who wants to be a leader. It should be that anyone who is a regular church member is barred from a position of leadership.

I'll take a Godless heathen over a religious zealot judging me any day.

(David Pizarra is a 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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OPINION



GUEST COMMENTARY BY CLIFF NICHOLS

Redefine the borders rather than close them

Much ado is being made about Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's statement that we need to close our borders. OK, so that's what he said, now let's get past it. He's admitted he doesn't know the English language well enough and didn't really mean what many thought he should have meant. But he didn't, so cut him some slack. We need to start learning how to show some courtesy to the immigrants amongst us who are doing their level best to come up to speed in a new job. And, after all, The Arnold is only a governor of a state and a mistake like that is only likely to matter if he were something like, say, the president and misspoke a term like "nuke 'em."

Since that would never happen, let's move on to something more interesting, like the fact that he retracted the remark at all, leaving us with the notion that we would be doing something wrong if we were to close our borders. This raises interesting issues like, if we have borders, what are they for? Surely, they are not to keep people out who won't comply with our laws — like crossing the border illegally, for example — are they? If they were, wouldn't that be really exclusionary, and so, really ... like ... intolerant? And that's not who we are, is it? For sure, man, are we not a people who refuses to exclude anybody or anything they may want to do? Sure we are.

So maybe this is what The Arnold was getting at by his "close the border" retraction. Wasn't he really saying that if Americans stand for anything, it is inclu-

sivity and tolerance of everybody and everything, and so, in fact, we are proud to be a people who insists upon standing for ... nothing?

So why the uproar? The solution is easy. We only need to redefine the term "border." Surely not a difficult task for a society that can define the new Pope as "anti-family" because he is intolerant of both gay marriages and the taking of human lives that even Sen. Kerry has declared start at conception. I mean really ... can you imagine such intolerance? Yet, we digress.

The point here is, if we are a people with the character, integrity and, can we not take pride in claiming it, the moral rectitude necessary to redefine terms like "marriage" and "life" — which prior to our present state of secular enlightenment were claimed by some to have been held fast for thousands of years in the bondage of traditions some would say emanated originally from ... again, can you even imagine? ... a God — certainly to redefine the term "border" cannot possibly be a task that lies beyond our society's amply evidenced abilities.

The only question is, should the definition be kept simple or should it be inclusive of those things about which we have come to be tolerant? You know ... simple things ... like the joy experienced by California, Texas and Arizona taxpayers by having the opportunity to shoulder an estimated \$14 million annually to host a population of guests heretofore referred to as "illegals." That doesn't even

include the pleasures that emanate from the hidden costs we embrace derived from such things as their income tax fraud, Social Security fraud and worker's comp fraud they bless us with. After all, what's a little fraud among amigos? And, even beyond that, should we include in the definition the dozens of emergency room closures and the bankruptcy of counties across the land?

Additionally, lest we forget the fact that they're here without first getting their papers ... should the definition of border reference our duty to give 'em driver's licenses? Oh ... why not? At least then we will have photos of the uninsured motorists who cream us on our roads and then sue those of us who are insured, not to mention photos of those who murder some of us before fleeing back across the "border" to obtain asylum in Mexico from extradition back here to stand trial for murder. Oh ... you say such protection from extradition for murders already exists in Mexico? Well ... never mind ... details like these should not be allowed to distract us. But, wait a minute ... wouldn't such a protective sanctuary for killers actually give them an actual incentive to murder anyone unfortunate enough to witness the crimes they commit here? Yes ... but we're tolerant and surely the benefits derived from our tolerance outweigh such minor inconveniences, and as an added bonus at least we'll have a copy of their license photos here to keep as mementos of our tolerance.

So here we go. Let's try.

Border, bor-der, noun.: A porous, yet when appearing on maps decorative, margin surrounding what historically used to be an affluent sovereign nation prior to its enlightenment that makes it possible for money and murderers to be sucked in a southerly direction never to return, while simultaneously allowing a massive population of people to be sucked to the north for purposes of maintaining some semblance of a harmonious balance reflective of our compassionate inclusivity and tolerance.

OK. I'll admit it. It could use some refinement. But while we're at it, don't we also need to start reworking the definitions of terms like "sovereignty," "rule of law," "citizenship" and "United States of America"? Oh, heck ... this is getting out of hand. Why doesn't The Arnold just propose making Mexico our 51st state and get it over with? Wouldn't that be easier and, who knows, it just might make him popular enough to run for president some day.

Let's just hope that by then he has a better handle on using our nation's language, which may cause him a bigger problem than it is now due to the fact that at some time in the foreseeably near future that language may no longer be the English he is working so hard now to learn.

(Cliff Nichols is an attorney practicing criminal defense/entertainment law in Santa Monica. He may be contacted at either (310) 917-1083, www.cliffnicholslaw.com or www.cliffnicholsradio.com.)

A lack of goodwill while hunting for a table



ANY DAY IN LA

BY HEIDI MANTEUFFEL

It's one thing that Ben Affleck and Jennifer Garner get their mugs photographed nearly every week of the year, but quite another that they stole my table this past Saturday at Café Montana.

I thought it was ridiculous they got tickets to see the World Series just by showing up. But as I watched them enjoying the meal at the table that was supposed to be mine, the jilt got all-too personal.

My roommate and I decided to grab lunch at Café Montana, and luckily the quoted wait was 10 minutes. We shopped a little at some nearby stores, but came back shortly after as I was getting slightly nervous. Being a hostess in college, I know they take your name off the list if you wander off too far.

"Heidi?" the hostess called. We rushed up quickly. "Oh, I was just checking to see if you were still here." Deflated and stomachs churning, we walked back outside and looked at the menu.

"Heidi?" she called again 20 minutes later. We approached the hostess station with great vigor, as it was already 1 p.m. "We're clearing your table. It will be ready in five minutes." We shuffled back outside to wait.

Then, a total stranger rested her hand all too comfortably on our backs. "Don't look now," she said, "but Ben and Jennifer are walking into the restaurant."

I tried as stealthily as I could to look while being discrete. There it was, only two tables away — Bennifer. It was kind of exhilarating. I always see paparazzi pictures of famous people in LA, with captions like "They eat too!" but hardly ever do I encounter one face to face. Here in my own neighborhood, I got to see Bennifer-2 ordering a meal at the same restaurant I frequent.

It was exactly at that moment my starry-eyed staring turned to scowling. When no one came to escort us to our table, it finally hit me — they were ordering lunch at the table that was supposed to be mine.

We had to wait another 30 minutes for a couple to leave, all the while Ben and Jennifer enjoyed our table. Some girl came over to the table and gave Jennifer a hug. I wanted to go over too, but my interaction would have gone something like this:

"Are you enjoying your salad? How's that soda? You like the table? Good, 'cause it's mine!"

You may think it's mean, but I have no patience for celebrity table-stealers, especially when lunch is on the line.

As the woman called "Heidi?" for the third time, she gave me an I'm-sorry look and directed my friend and I to a window table.

Sure, now I watched them, but more in frustration than fascination. Ben in a blue hooded sweatshirt was a sloppy eater, over-gesturing annoyingly as he talked between bites. Jen in a conservative, collared shirt and sweater was all cute and smiley during the meal. Of course she was happy. She didn't have to wait for her table.

While you can tell my friend and I were fairly pissed, we realized there was no reason to bring out the fisticuffs. Ben being in Daredevil, and Jennifer the multi-action movie star, would probably be the absolute worst couple to start a fight with. They could kung fu our butts to oblivion, or effortlessly hold us back as we ran into their out-pushed palms.

When Ben and Jen exited the restaurant, they walked directly passed the window we were seated at. But no, not even a thanks for the table. Instead they shielded

their eyes from the paparazzi taking pictures with a large-lens camera. I thought it was overdramatic as it was midday, no flashes involved, and there was only one man out there. Well, there was someone who parked her car, took a picture, and drove away, but hardly the mob they had prepared for.

I think what frustrates me is their sense of entitlement. I don't suppose Ben and Jennifer were purposefully being rude, but they obviously didn't think about the fact that everyone else had to wait 30 to 40 minutes for a table. Movie stars complain about how they wish to lead a normal life. You want a normal life? Wait for a table. Don't shield your eyes from cameras that aren't there.

I heard from my friend that they also frequent the TCBY on Montana, the very same TCBY I often go to. That was the final straw. While they may gotten away with cutting in line, there will be a fierce scene if they try to get in the way of me and my fro yo. You may be trained in martial arts, Jennifer, but I have no shame when it comes to defending my chocolate malt and oreo yogurt, and will use force if necessary.

(Heidi can be reached at anydayinla@gmail.com.)

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DEAR DORIE

First thing's first: Stay out of it

Dear Dorie,

My kids (ages 4 and 2) have been fighting incessantly over everything. Both want to be first out of bed, first to the table, first in the tub, first to the car, first to the door — first in everything. Inevitably, the one who is second gets upset and starts crying or screaming. I've tried not to react, but I am losing it. Any suggestions?

— Fighting Fatigue

Dear Fighting,

My mother used to say: "If there's no blood or broken glass, don't get involved in a fight between children." This may seem harsh, but unless there's physical harm, children are allowed to fight. When parents get involved, it usually heightens emotions. If you stay out of the fight, you allow your children to solve conflicts by themselves, learn to compromise and, ultimately, share. You are doing the right thing by staying on the sidelines.

That said, your children are not allowed to drive you to the brink of insanity. If you feel you must get involved in these races, try jumping the gun. That is, as you're pulling your car into the driveway, designate which child will be first to the door. As you're putting dinner on the table, do both plates at the same time. As you're preparing the bath, step into the tub and say, "Mommy was first." Be creative, have fun with this and above all, remember the other quote my mother said: "This too shall pass."

— Dorie

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

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Taking care of your baby begins prior to pregnancy

By Daily Press staff

Most women know the importance of prenatal care but many don't realize that even before they become pregnant, they can make wise choices that will benefit both their own health and the future health of their baby.

If you are planning on becoming pregnant, it is a good idea to make an appointment with your Ob/Gyn or primary health care provider to arrange a physical exam and discuss preconceptual care, which includes medical, lifestyle and family history assessments.

"When a woman is preparing for pregnancy, there may be special medical concerns to consider, including diabetes, high blood pressure or cardiovascular problems, all of which can increase pregnancy risks for the mother or the baby," said Jon Matsunaga, M.D., an Ob/Gyn specialist and chair of the Ob/Gyn department at Saint John's Health Center in Santa Monica. "Current treatments and possible adjustments to treatment need to be considered."

Other medical topics that should be discussed are infections and vaccinations. Infections can harm both the mother and fetus. Vaccinations can prevent some infections such as measles, mumps and rubella. If you have not been vaccinated for those diseases, your doctor needs to know as he or she may recommend immunization. Because certain health conditions occur more often in families, a full family health history should also be taken during the exam, Matsunaga said.

He also stresses that women should discuss lifestyle issues such as family life, work and lifestyle with their doctor before trying to conceive. Diet and nutrition

should also be reviewed, and changes may be suggested in areas such as:

- Your weight and whether it would be beneficial to gain or lose some before becoming pregnant.
- Your use of vitamins and other food supplements.
- Your eating habits, such as being a vegetarian.
- Any eating disorders you may have.

Most doctors agree that it is advisable to take folic acid supplements prior to conception to reduce neural tube birth defects — deformities in which the spinal cord is exposed in a developing fetus.

Certain fish contain high levels of mercury and should be avoided for health reasons: swordfish, shark, tilefish and mackerel.

Alcohol and illegal drug use can harm both you and your fetus. No amount of those substances has been proven safe to use during pregnancy.

Cigarette smoking can cause premature birth, low birth weight, premature rupture of membranes and problems with the placenta. The risk of the baby dying from sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) also is increased. If you do smoke, your doctor can give you resources and provide options for quitting before pregnancy.

(To find an Ob/Gyn or any type physician), log onto the Saint John's Web site at www.stjohns.org. Select "Find a Physician" and respond to the computer prompts. Browsers can choose from a wide range of specialists, which are then sorted by location, gender and language. The service instantly refers patients to one of Saint John's experienced and caring physicians.)

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CALIFORNIA STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL (also May 15)

A tasty tribute to the fruit that wears its seeds on the outside. Live music, children's activities, contests, arts & crafts and a variety of delicious strawberry foods. Strawberry Meadows of College Park, 3250 S. Rose Ave., Oxnard, 888-288-9242.

SUNDAY, MAY 15

TOPANGA FIDDLE CONTEST and FOLK FESTIVAL

9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Southern California's premier Old Time, Bluegrass, Folk Song, Folk Dancing and Crafts Festival. Tickets available at the gate: \$10 ages 18-64, \$5 ages 10-17, free for kids under 10. Paramount Movie Ranch, 818-382-4819, www.topangabanjofiddle.org.

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.

TUESDAYS and THURSDAYS – BREAKTHROUGH PARENTING CLASSES

An advanced 10-week parent education course. Tuesdays, 7:00 – 9:30 p.m., Culver City/Westchester, \$30 per class/\$40 materials; Thursdays, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m., West LA, \$40 per class/\$40 materials. Continuous enrollment. For info call Jayne A. Major, Ph.D., Breakthrough Parenting Services, Inc., 310-823-7846, jm@BPinAction.org.

COMING UP

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. and THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CHOOSING the BEST FIT PRESCHOOL – Discussion presented by Christy Bergin of Best Fit Preschools. RSVP to workshops@BestFitSchools.com or call 434-9706. www.BestFitSchools.com.

TUESDAY

Movies for Moms! May 10 –Kingdom of Heaven – starring Orlando Bloom, Eva Green and Jeremy Irons. Historical Drama Adventure, Rated "R." 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

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

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 Cassandra at 451-1827 for time, location and more info.

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

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

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.santamonica yoga.com

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

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

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

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

Other

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.santamonicaaplayhouse.com, 1211 4th St. **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.preciousprintsstudios.com for more info.

SUNDAY

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

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

Magicopolis – 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.santamonicaaplayhouse.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

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.yogagardenstudios.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.

E WORLD!

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Santa Monica Daily Press is now running birth announcements every Tuesday. Call at 310-458-PRESS (7737) x 101 for details.



SM school at the center of fundraiser flap

CLINTON, from page 1

ing Sen. Edward Kennedy's brother-in-law, who wore a wire for the government.

Based on that conversation and allegedly false federal filings, prosecutors charged finance director David Rosen with deliberately lowballing the cost of the August 2000 gala. An FBI agent has speculated that Rosen was trying to duck federal financing rules so the campaign would have more money to spend on the race.

One fact is indisputable: the fundraiser, cast as a "Hollywood Gala Salute to President William Jefferson Clinton," was expensive.

The party's A-list included Muhammad Ali, Brad Pitt, Jennifer Aniston and Diana Ross. Some performers and celebrities received expensive gifts, airline tickets and even cash — an echo of the gift baskets at events such as the Academy Awards. Those who came received a tribute book, CDs of the performers and a souvenir director's chair.

One of the event's organizers, the man who corralled the celebrities, said Rosen was a "decent person" who faced a devil's choice: risk getting fired by exposing the gala's skyrocketing tab or cover up its true cost.

"David I don't think deserves to go to jail," co-organizer Aaron Tonken said in a recent interview from prison, where he is serving 63 months for unrelated charges of defrauding charities of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Tonken also faces separate civil law-

suits, one of which was levied by the State of California Attorney General's Office on behalf of the Westside Waldorf School on Fourth Street in Santa Monica. The local, 170-student private school was forced into an economic crisis four years ago after Tonken arranged for a major donation from the Cynthia Gershman Foundation that never fully came through, officials said.

Tonken allegedly brought two donors to the school in January of 2001 — Cynthia Gershman, a trustee of the Cynthia Gershman Foundation, who signed a pledge to Waldorf for \$650,000, and Loren Arbus, who agreed to put on four annual fundraisers.

After paying Tonken for arranging the donation and putting forward a good-faith deposit, the school was left hanging. Waldorf ended up having to foot the bill for vendors at one of the fundraisers that was meant to be donated by Arbus, officials said.

Tonken believes Rosen shouldn't be singled out — and the Federal Election Commission should fine Clinton's campaign. "The whole thing stinks," he said.

About 1,200 people attend the \$1,000-per-ticket concert. Tickets for both the concert and a dinner cost \$25,000 per couple, an invitation about 350 people accepted.

Organizers reported raising nearly \$1.1 million for a joint committee benefiting Hillary Clinton's senate campaign, as well as the national and state-level Democratic Party.

Rosen, 40, isn't alone in his legal troubles. Two other of the event's main orga-

nizers have since been convicted in unrelated fraud cases.

Another of the event's organizers — Peter F. Paul, a three-time convicted felon who pleaded guilty in March to securities fraud charges — has told the FBI he gave hundreds of thousands of dollars that Clinton's campaign didn't report. He told prosecutors he spent \$1.1 million — an "in-kind" contribution that Rosen reported at just over \$400,000.

Paul recently helped launch a Web site called the "Hillary Clinton Accountability Project" to publicize his lawsuit claiming he bankrolled the gala on a promise that Bill Clinton would become a "goodwill ambassador" for his Internet media company. He is "ready, willing and able" to testify against Rosen, according to his attorney, Joseph Conway.

The prosecution by the Justice Department's public integrity section is unusual: most federal election cases are handled administratively with fines.

Clinton has not been accused of doing anything wrong. An interview request was referred to her lawyer, David Kendall, who declined comment. Last year, Kendall told The Associated Press that Clinton's campaign properly reported all donations in 2000. Will the trial tarnish Clinton's political future?

It is not the first time a Clinton's campaign has been under scrutiny for alleged fundraising violations — President Clinton's 1996 campaign was dogged by allegations of illegal fundraising from overseas donors.

"Things like this have occurred along the way in the Clinton national role and they have handled it," said Lee Miringoff, an independent pollster and director of the Poughkeepsie, N.Y.-based Marist Institute for Public Opinion.

The key, he said, is whether "fingerprints lead back to her."

Government lawyers aren't publicly saying why they believe Rosen might

have lowballed the cost.

One theory: under a since-revised formula, the lower the cost, the more cash Clinton's campaign could spend on essentials such as advertising.

Under arcane campaign finance rules of the time, reporting the event's actual cost would have forced the Senate campaign to forfeit coveted "hard money," according to Larry Noble, a former Federal Election Commission lawyer who now leads the campaign-finance watchdog Center for Responsive Politics.

The true cost of the event was deliberately understated, an FBI agent told a Los Angeles magistrate, "to increase the amount of funds available to New York Senate 2000 for federal campaign activities," according to an affidavit.

Justice Department spokesman Bryan Sierra said there's a "misconception" that Rosen would have to be driven by political advantage to break the law. Prosecutors don't have to prove a motive, he said, only that Rosen deliberately filed false reports.

Rosen pleaded not guilty during his January arraignment and the judge has since tossed one charge. Each of the remaining three counts of filing a false statement carries a penalty of up to five years in prison and \$250,000 in fines. Rosen's attorney, Paul Mark Sandler, declined comment.

To build its case, the government enlisted Raymond Reggie, a prominent political consultant whose sister is married to Sen. Kennedy. Prosecutors have not named Reggie, but two sources familiar with the case said he is the "cooperating witness" identified in court documents.

Reggie secretly recorded his September 2002 conversation with his friend Rosen at a Chicago restaurant. Prosecutors said in court that Rosen made incriminating statements they will introduce at trial. Reggie pleaded guilty last month in Louisiana to unrelated bank fraud charges.

Has Schwarzenegger turned a corner?

BY BETH FOUHY

AP Political Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — There's no question Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's campaign on behalf of his government reform proposals has cost him popularity and political capital.

But with initiative petitions being turned in and new campaign commercials beginning to air statewide, the ever-optimistic governor may have turned a corner in the fierce battle to place his reform agenda before voters.

Despite weeks of televised attacks by nurses, teachers and other Democrat-leaning interest groups, Schwarzenegger appears to have gathered enough signatures to force a special election on three initiatives aimed at changing the way government does business.

None of the three — changing the way legislative districts are drawn, raising standards for teacher tenure and setting in place an automatic budget-balancing tool — may sound urgent enough for a special election that could cost some \$70 million. But the governor has all summer and into the fall to convince voters the measures are a necessary step to shake up a calcified status quo.

The redistricting and budget-balancing proposals would be constitutional amend-

ments.

There's still a chance Schwarzenegger, a Republican, may decide against pulling the trigger on a special election. But he's gained leverage with the Democrat-controlled Legislature now that a special election has transformed from a mere concept to a bona fide threat. And it's particularly true now that he can begin directing campaign cash away from gathering signatures and toward promoting his message and polishing his battered image.

"We're moving into another phase," Schwarzenegger communications director Rob Stutzman said. "The signatures have been turned in ... it pushes the chips across the table to us."

Democrats and their allied interest groups, meanwhile, already have spent millions on a television ad campaign to discredit Schwarzenegger and his reform measures, only to face the prospect of spending significantly more between now and November to defeat them.

Complicating the matter further for Democrats is what many union activists are referring to as the "nuclear option," an initiative that would restrict the use of union dues for political purposes unless union members give their consent.

The measure is backed by Schwarzenegger supporters and likely to win the governor's public endorsement.

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MOVIE at the AMC
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The Third Street Promenade is wheelchair accessible. To volunteer or for disability-related accommodations, please call 310-458-8644 or TDD/TTY: 310-576-4754 at least three days prior to this event. Visitors can reach the event on the Big Blue Bus using lines 1 through 10.



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 4

Set in Afghanistan and California over a period of three decades, the novel tells the story of the relationship between two boys and the complicated father-son relationship. The first Afghan novel to be written in English, the book includes an examination of the turbulent, recent history of Afghanistan.

Citywide Reads encourages people who live or work in Santa Monica to read the same book, and the program also schedules forums for discussions. This year's Citywide Reads program began April 12 and ends May 21.

Hosseini was born in Kabul in 1965 and immigrated with his family to Northern California in 1980, where he has been a practicing physician since 1996. "The Kite Runner" is his first novel and was a San Francisco Chronicle "Best Book of the Year."

Hosseini's talk at SMC is part of the college's Literary Series and is cosponsored by the Santa Monica Public Library and the SMC Associates, a private organization that funds speakers and other special programs on campus.

A series of related events have been or will be held at libraries, bookstores and other locations throughout Santa Monica.

Sponsored by the Santa Monica Public Library, with support by the Friends of the Santa Monica Public Library, the Santa Monica College Associates, and community, educational, and business partners, Citywide Reads invites participation in the following moderator-led public book discussions:

- Wednesday, May 11 at 7 p.m. — Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf, 1426 Montana Ave.
- Sunday, May 15 at 2 p.m. — Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf, 3150 Ocean Park Blvd.
- Thursday May 19 at 7 p.m. — Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf, 200 Santa Monica Blvd.

Special Citywide Reads programs include:

The acclaimed Arohi Ensemble performs traditional music of southern Asia at the Santa Monica Festival on Saturday, May 14, from noon to 12:45 p.m. Children will have an opportunity to decorate their own kites in a craft workshop that runs continuously from 12:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the library booth. The festival runs from noon to 7 p.m. at Clover Park, 2600 Ocean Park Blvd.

Citywide Reads book discussions and events are free and open to the public. For more information, call the Santa Monica Public Library at (310) 458-8600, or visit www.smpl.org/cwr.

Walk in the sneakers of greatness

By Daily Press staff

Kids now have a chance to play like Michael Jordan — by going where he once went.

Final applications are now being evaluated for the Ten Star All Star Summer Basketball Camp. The camp is by invitation only. Boys and girls ages 10 to 19 are eligible to apply.

Past participants include Michael Jordan, Tim Duncan, Vince Carter, Jerry Stackhouse, Grant Hill and Antawn Jamison. Players from 50 states and 17 foreign countries attended the camp last year.

College basketball scholarships are possible for players selected to the All-American team.

Camps are located in California, Arizona, Colorado, Illinois, Kansas, North Carolina, New York, Ohio, Vermont, Wyoming, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Tennessee and Indiana.

For a free brochure, call (704) 373-0873.

Bush, Putin put sniping aside, at least for now

BY JENNIFER LOVEN

Associated Press Writer

MOSCOW — It was awkward theater for President Bush, given a seat of honor Monday in a reviewing stand next to Lenin's tomb to watch goose-stepping soldiers and flags adorned with the Soviet hammer-and-sickle that recalled days of communist might.

Russia's 60th anniversary celebration of its World War II victory with other Allied forces over Nazi Germany offered only a one-sided, rosy picture of the U.S.S.R.'s war legacy, and has been accompanied by increased nostalgia for the Soviet Union's wartime tyrant, Josef Stalin.

That poses some difficulty for a U.S. president who has made democracy's spread the singular foreign-policy cause of his second term. Nonetheless, as Russian President Vladimir Putin's grand World War II victory party went forward, Bush allowed him his day in the global spotlight. The two put aside their public sniping of recent days over postwar Soviet domination and present-day democratic backsliding in Russia.

White House counselor Dan Bartlett said Bush was totally comfortable amid the trappings of communist power. It demonstrates "how far we've come in the

world," Bartlett said. Ten years ago, then-President Clinton came to Moscow on the 50th anniversary of V-E Day but boycotted the military parade to protest Moscow's brutal military campaign in Chechnya.

Continuing the chummy exchanges that marked their discussions and dinner the evening before, the two smiled broadly when Bush arrived for the parade. As Bush lowered his umbrella, despite the rain, for a snapshot, Putin laughingly did the same. Putin reserved the seat next to him for Bush — whom he called his guest of "special importance" above all others. Later, Bush remained glued to the Russian leader's side as they strolled, red carnations in hand, to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The public niceties might not last long.

On Tuesday, Bush delivers an ode to democracy in an ex-Soviet republic on Putin's doorstep. Right after the Moscow ceremonies, Bush travels to Georgia, which is trying to turn away from the Kremlin and toward the West.

It's not often that Bush goes anywhere without being the top attraction. But in Moscow, Bush was merely seen alongside dozens of other world leaders who were treated to columns of soldiers in WWII-era uniforms, fighter jets screaming over Red Square, and troops belting out patriotic wartime songs.

There was to be no public word from Bush all day.

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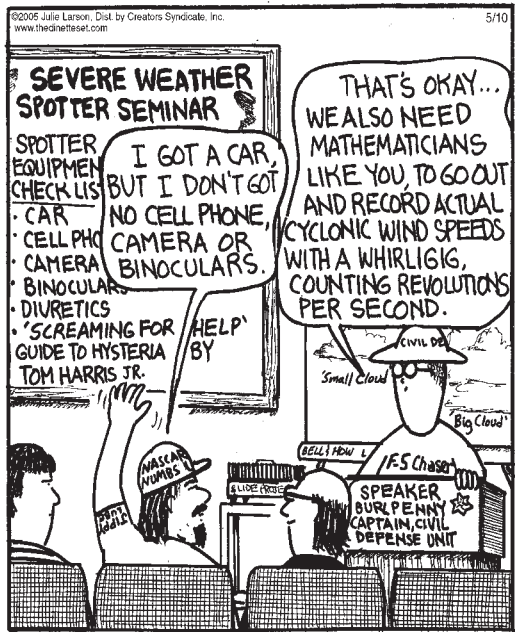
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Santa Monica (310) 829-6786



COMICS

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



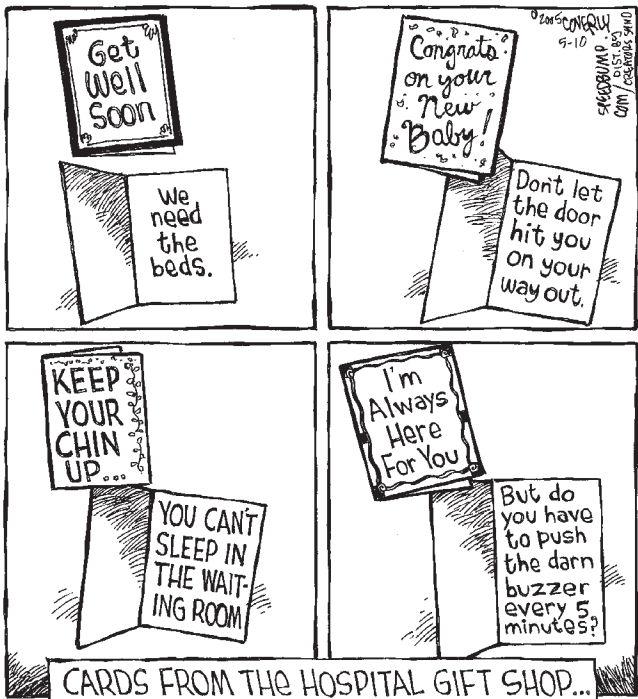
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- 11 Cancel a mission
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- 13 1960s outfit
- 15 Go astray
- 16 Pop's wife
- 17 Fitting
- 18 Chapel topper
- 20 Buck's mate
- 21 Course start
- 22 See the sights
- 23 Cast member
- 26 Shopping aids
- 27 Quarter, for one
- 28 Old calamity
- 29 Massage
- 30 Experienced anew
- 34 Metal source
- 35 Numero
- 36 Beer's cousin
- 37 Beach outfit
- 40 Once more

- 41 "The Prince of Tides" star
- 42 Makeshift abodes
- 43 Come in

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- 9 Go to war
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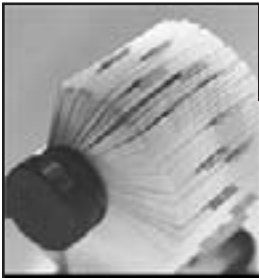
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Lewis feels recharged and, finally, pain-free

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Making a career out of pratfalls eventually took a toll on Jerry Lewis.

The entertainer said Sunday on ABC's "This Week" that he spent 37 years in constant pain as a result of his trademark physical comedy, which led to an addiction to pills.

"In 1965, they gave me one Percodan that took me through the day. And by '78, I was taking 13 a day, 15 a day. The addiction is devastating, because you're not even clear anymore why you're taking it. I had already discussed a variety of options, one of which was to kill myself," he said.

"Chronic pain is not like any other malady. It is consistent. It is laborious. It is constant. It doesn't leave you alone. It is the number one reason that we have suicides in this country today," he said.

Relief came in 2002 with neurostimulation, which delivers precisely controlled, low-voltage electrical stimulation to the spinal cord. The stimulation blocks pain messages from reaching the brain. Instead of pain, Lewis feels a "tingling" sensation.

"I have a battery under my skin," Lewis, 79, demonstrated. "This is the programmer. So, I pressed this on button here, as I do now. Did you hear that? A little ping. And I'm stimulating, and I don't have any pain. It also opens my garage door."

AUBURN, Ind. — The only car Pope John Paul II was believed to have owned is up for auction again, and this time the seller expects it to fetch \$1.5 million to \$5 mil-

lion.

The light blue 1975 Ford Escort GL was bought at auction in Auburn in 1996 for \$102,000 by Illinois businessman Jim Rich, who is selling the vehicle.

Dean Kruse, president and owner of auction firm Kruse International in Auburn, 20 miles north of Fort Wayne, said the car could bring a much higher price when it is put on the block June 3 and 4 at the Mandalay Bay hotel in Las Vegas.

Rich said he remembers the day in 1998 when he took possession of the car.

In the company of a translator, Rich handed Pope John Paul II a check for \$102,000, and the pope handed Rich the car keys.

Not much was said between the two, and Rich admits he was nervous.

"I handed him a check, and he handed me his keys, and I said, 'Can I take a picture of you with the keys?' and he laughed."

Rich said he wishes he didn't have to part with the car, but he needs to resolve serious financial problems involving his restaurant, bar and entertainment complex in Sugar Grove, Ill.

He said the car comes with its original 60,000 or so papal miles, plus a couple of miles he put on it. He's debating whether to include the rosary beads that came with the car.

CHESTERTOWN, Md. — Historian Ron Chernow received the inaugural \$50,000 George Washington Book Prize, the nation's largest literary prize for early American history.

Chernow was honored Saturday for his biography "Alexander Hamilton," a look at the co-author of The Federalist Papers and the nation's first Secretary of the Treasury.

The prize, sponsored by Washington College in Chestertown, Md., was awarded to Chernow at Washington's Mount Vernon Estate. It recognizes books about George Washington or the founding era.

Ted Widmer, director of the C.V. Starr Center for the Study of the American Experience at Washington College, said Chernow's book brings "new life to an often-overlooked founder."

VIENNA, W.Va. — Country music singer and actor Dwight Yoakum wore cowboy boots with his cap and gown when he got an honorary doctorate from Ohio Valley College.

Yoakum was invited to give the commencement address Saturday by the Rev. Keith Stotts, chancellor and former president of Ohio Valley College. Stotts baptized Yoakum when he was a boy attending the Cleveland Avenue (now Northland) Church of Christ in Columbus, Ohio.

Yoakum joked his way through most of his speech. "The future will be the past catching up to you," he said. "Avoid it. If you can't avoid it, deny, deny, deny."

Afterward he spoke with each graduate and gave them autographed pictures.

Vienna Mayor David Nohe gave Yoakum the key to the city.

"I'll use it wisely," Yoakum told the mayor who declared Saturday "Dwight Yoakum Day."

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