

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

15 16 40 24 43
Meganumber: 16
Jackpot: \$12 Million

FANTASY 5

12 18 24 37 38

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Evening: 0 5 5

DAILY DERBY

1st: 12 Lucky Charms
2nd: 03 Hot Shot
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RACE TIME: 1:43.77

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ In January, the Consumer Product Safety Commission turned down a petition from corporal punishment opponent Susan Lawrence to ban "The Rod," a 22-inch-long nylon stick marketed by an Oklahoma couple as an aid to Bible-based child-rearing ("spare the rod, spoil the child"). Vying for the same market are the 9-inch-long, polyurethane spanking paddles of a Bakersfield, Calif., man and wooden spanking paddles of a New Kingston, Pa., man, both sold with an explicit Christian message. (Lawrence, who said she is a devout Lutheran, said corporal punishment of children is inconsistent with Jesus' teachings.)

■ Six years ago, during a brief affair in Chicago, Dr. Sharon Irons manually inseminated herself with sperm from Dr. Richard O. Phillips, following oral sex. The result was a daughter, now aged 5, for whom Phillips has reluctantly been paying \$800 a month to support while his lawsuit against Irons for deception travels through Illinois courts. A trial judge had dismissed all of his claims, but in February, the Illinois Appeals Court granted a partial reversal, ordering a trial on whether she inflicted "emotional distress" by a legally "outrageous" act. However, the court dismissed Phillips' claim that Irons had "stolen" his sperm, stating that "it was a gift, an absolute and irrevocable transfer of title to property from a donor to a donee" and that, without a specific agreement to return it, it was hers to do with as she pleased.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"We are drawn to our television sets each April the way we are drawn to the scene of an accident."

VINCENT CANBY

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Driving Miss Dizzy



Crill Hansen/Special to the Daily Press

A mock victim awaits attention at the intersection of 14th Street and Alta Avenue on Monday, as Boy Scouts Troop 2 participated in their annual "Bloody Monday" emergency preparedness drills. Members of the Santa Monica Fire Department were on hand to evaluate the responding troops, who are based out of Lincoln Middle School.

Wet appetite: City may construct water reservoir under Fisher site

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — The site of the former Fisher Lumber store may become part of an entire block of recreational facilities and home to a new underground water reservoir.

The Santa Monica City Council approved a staff recommendation earlier this month to use the 1601 14th St. site — located adjacent to Memorial Park — as a place for some city operations until it can be expanded into additional park space. Another possible use for the parcel could be an underground water reservoir that would be used as an emergency supply. Staff has been authorized to investigate creating a 25- to 30-million gallon subterranean reservoir.

Craig Perkins, director of the

"There is a strong feeling in the community that this is the right thing to do."

NEIL CARREY

Recreation and Parks Commission

city's environmental and public works management division, said city staff will consider the feasibility of using the land to help the city shore up water supplies for emergency purposes. Perkins said the city has about 45 million gallons of water stored at four sites in Santa Monica, while an additional 25 to 30 million gallons could bring the city up to its desired level of water supply.

"The above-ground level could be used for parking and basketball

courts," Perkins said. "At the same time, we might get double duty, because right now we have about four days water usage in Santa Monica, and we want to try to get as close to seven days as much as possible.

"The underground water reservoir could help us do that."

The City Council voted unanimously in October to pay \$18.5 million for the three acres, a site

See MEMORIAL PARK, page 4

Friends admit to Ashland killing

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

LAX COURTHOUSE — Two young Santa Monica men pleaded guilty last week to manslaughter for killing a man whose criminal history spans two decades.

Luke David Yeron, 20, and Anthony Gregory Alfaro, 19, were charged with murdering Gabriel Becerrada, 38, who was shot multiple times at 1:20 a.m. on March 7, 2004, on the third floor of a public housing apartment on the 800 block of Ashland Avenue.

Both men pleaded guilty last Wednesday to voluntary manslaughter as part of a plea agreement at the Los Angeles Superior Court Airport Courthouse. Attorneys involved in the case said that by accepting the plea agreement, Alfaro, the shooter, avoided a capital murder charge. He faces a minimum of 10 years in prison and the possibility of 11 more for using the firearm.

Yeron will face a three- to 11-year prison term. Los Angeles Superior Court Judge James Brandlin is scheduled to sentence both men on June 23.

Becerrada had been released from state prison shortly before his death and was on parole when police found his body outside an apartment door. He had been in and out of jail for drugs, guns, burglary and robbery since 1986, according to the California Department of Corrections. In addition, Alfaro and Yeron's attorneys allege Becerrada was tied to several murders and was a prominent member of the street gang called the Jokers. However, the victim had never been convicted of any murder charges, according to Department of Corrections

See MANSLAUGHTER, page 4

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Brainstorm with a buddy, Libra

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)
★★★ Concentrate on each situation one at a time. You will gain by not becoming distracted. Suppressed anger could bubble up out of the blue. Don't let it cause permanent damages. Deal with your feelings. Tonight: Slow down.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ You could get caught between personal desires and a community commitment. Knowing your priorities will make your decision easier. Find and use shortcuts. Your resourcefulness comes to the forefront, especially when dealing with the unexpected. Tonight: Indulge a child or loved one.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Deal with a family member directly. You cannot put off a decision. Your appeal and charm peak. A relationship will benefit from your attention and caring. Let your imagination rock and roll. The unpredictable can work with you. Tonight: Where you are, the fun is.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Say what you need to in order to make others understand where you are coming from. Your instincts add an element of security and well-being. You know what works — follow through. You don't need to steal the scene. Tonight: Visit during dinner.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Take your time with financial dealings. In fact, postpone anything you can. Speak your mind more often. Make inquiries and find an expert if need be. Use caution, and you will be happier in the long run. Tonight: Check out how much "fun" income you have.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ You are the cat's meow. Don't force anything. You could encounter someone's bad side and suddenly feel as if you need to vanish. Know that this person needs to let off steam, and you just happen to be there. Tonight: As you like.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Much that goes on needs to be behind the scenes. You have reason to be ear-to-ear smiles. Detach and don't get triggered. Your caring comes through in your acceptance and understanding. Express your feelings. Tonight: Brainstorm with a buddy.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Your need for friendship emerges. If you get into a hot conversation with a loved one, do something more physical. Take him or her out dancing or get into a favorite sport. Help him or her let off steam. Follow your instincts. Tonight: Where the gang is.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Take charge, and others will be relieved. You have a way of handling difficult situations. You have a very personable manner that draws a lot of attention. Work with the unexpected. One special person goes out of his or her way for you. Tonight: In the limelight.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Others are prone to controversy. Realize that differences of opinion don't need to be taken personally. You are getting a lot of different points of view. Use them to gain the most information possible. Tonight: Take the high road.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Money might be at the core of an issue. You and an associate see the situation very differently. Understanding others helps you grow and work better for the same end results. Look for the unusual solution. Tonight: Let another take the lead.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You might be a lot stronger and more willful than you realize. Pushing someone to agree with you won't work. Honoring different points of view will help. You'll come up with unusual answers if you let others say more. Tonight: Go along with plans.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Buckle up for your life

By Daily Press staff

Police are on the lookout for seat belt violators. Santa Monica Police Chief James T. Butts, Jr., is warning vehicle drivers and passengers that officers will be issuing tickets to persons not wearing seat belts from May 16 through June 5, including the upcoming Memorial Day weekend. The special enforcement is a part of the national “Click It or Ticket” campaign. While officers will be writing tickets in compliance with the law, saving lives and preventing injuries are the goals. The 1,343 vehicle occupants killed in California crashes in 2002 all were not wearing their seat belts, Butts said. “What does it take to convince people to buckle up?” Butts asks. “Taking the few seconds to buckle a seat belt is the most effective thing a person can do to save their life.” Butts noted that the maximum fine for seat belt violations for people 16 and older is \$89 for a first offense and \$191 for a second offense. However, the consequences are more serious in California courts when children under 16 are not properly secured in a vehicle. If cited, drivers may receive one point on their driving record, with a maximum fine for a first offense of \$340, which increases to \$871 for a second offense. “These amounts pale in comparison to the costs to society for each death or injury that could be prevented by wearing a seat belt,” Butts said. A 2004 survey revealed that 90.4 percent of vehicle occupants wear their seat belts. That leaves 3 million people who do not buckle up on California roadways.

Beach concessions reconsidered

By Daily Press staff

City Hall is ready to change up how beach concessions are offered in Santa Monica. Officials are asking for food service operators to submit proposals by May 31 on how they would operate one or more of the following:

- Four beach concession stands (food/beverage and limited retail items including skate/bike rentals).
- One 2,000-square-foot beach café/restaurant.
- Civic Auditorium concession and catering service for special events.

For more information or to request a proposal package, contact the city’s consultant, Manask and Associates, before May 31 at Catherine@manask.com.

Signs of science show up in Palisades Park

By Daily Press staff

Walking through Palisades Park can now be a botanical educational experience. Thanks to the contribution of long-time Santa Monica resident and Palisades Park advo-

See BRIEFS, page 5



Veronica Padilla is this week’s mystery photo winner. Padilla accurately described that this photo was taken above Skinny Minny, a retail store on the Third Street Promenade. Padilla has won a gift certificate to Izzy’s Deli. Check out Monday’s edition for the next mystery photo winner.

CORRECTION — In the Friday, May 13, 2005 article regarding the city’s lawsuit against itself, Carmen Balber, an advocate who works for the Foundation for Taxpayer and Consumer Rights, was misquoted. She said Santa Monica politicians had a problem enacting voter-passed initiative Proposition LL. Santa Monica was not the only city to refuse to enforce the initiative; a similar measure was disputed in Pasadena as well.



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SURF REPORT

On Tuesday, the SW swell should be filled into most all south-facing breaks, kicking up chest-, to at times, head-high sets. The periods should remain long, and sets having a fair amount of time in-between with the best set waves being infrequent. Not a whole lot of oomph is expected from these sets however, and the better set waves (that would reach head high) are expected to be infrequent.

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Today the
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59°

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	9:17	0.4	8:14	3.3	12:45	4.5	6:04	4.0
SUNDAY	10:20	0.6	10:41	3.1	1:56	4.1	6:17	3.6
MONDAY	11:11	0.6	11:57	2.6	3:31	3.8	6:33	3.9
TUESDAY	11:51	0.7	12:46	2.0	4:57	3.7	6:50	4.3
WEDNESDAY	12:46	2.0	12:25	0.8	6:06	3.7	7:07	4.6
THURSDAY	1:25	1.4	12:55	1.0	7:04	3.7	7:27	5.1
FRIDAY	1:45	0.9	12:26	1.2	8:02	3.4	7:47	4.9

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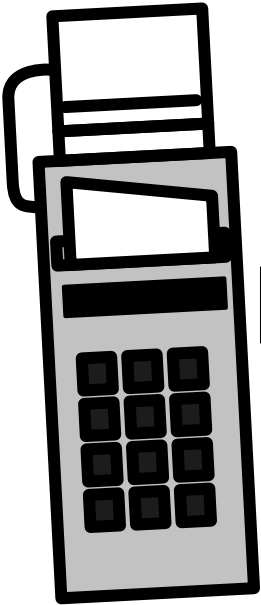
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The Q Line

City Hall is eyeing more than a dozen properties in downtown Santa Monica that could potentially be used for more parking. Tens, if not hundreds of millions of dollars could be spent over the next decade expanding parking opportunities throughout Santa Monica. How to pay for it is the big question. So this week, Q-Line wants to know, “Are

you willing to pay more for hourly parking to fund more spaces?” 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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Homicide victim had long criminal rap sheet

MANSLAUGHTER, from page 1

documents.

Alfaro's attorney, Carlo Spiga, said although his client could face a total of 21 years in prison, he hopes the 10-year minimum agreed to with the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office will satisfy Judge Brandlin.

"The bottom line is Becerrada is probably the nastiest gangster in the westside of Los Angeles," Spiga said.

Spiga said when Becerrada was released from prison he took up residence at the Ashland Avenue apartment where Alfaro's mother, Sandra Alfaro, lived. The two had been dating prior to Becerrada going away to prison. Attorneys allege Becerrada used PCP and may have intended to sell drugs out of the apartment.

"Becerrada was a PCP addict, acting psychotic, and everyone was scared of him," Spiga said. "He was playing psychological games with Sandra, saying stuff like, 'If you give me any problems, I'll just cut you up in little pieces and they won't find ya until they smell ya.'"

Los Angeles County Department of the Coroner found Becerrada had PCP in his blood and a bag of cocaine in his rectum when he was murdered, according to autopsy results.

Anthony Alfaro and Yeron went to Sandra Alfaro's apartment to confront Becerrada, according to Spiga. He added that Anthony Alfaro was fearful for his mother's life and stole Becerrada's 9-millimeter handgun, at which point

Becerrada threatened Sandra and Anthony Alfaro's lives. A confrontation ensued and Becerrada was shot three times in the head.

"Anthony Alfaro surfed and snowboarded," Spiga said. "He never joined a gang. Technically, the DA's office had a case, but emotionally and common sense-wise we had a case as well, when you look at Alfaro's lack of a criminal history and the extraordinary circumstances."

Larry Droeger, the deputy district attorney prosecuting the case, confirmed there were mitigating factors in the case that contributed to the DA's office accepting a plea agreement.

Sandra Alfaro, 35, was arrested by Santa Monica police within days of the killing, along with Anthony Alfaro and Yeron, his friend.

Sandra Alfaro was charged as an accessory to the killing. She has since been credited for an 11-month prison stay and was released on Jan. 31, after pleading no contest to the accessory charge.

Yeron is not known to have a criminal record as an adult within Los Angeles County or in the California Department of Corrections. It is not known if Anthony Alfaro had a prior criminal record up to time of the shooting.

Sandra Alfaro has a criminal history that goes back to 1991, when she was convicted of petty theft. In 1996, she was convicted of welfare fraud. In 1999, she was convicted of petty theft, according to court documents. In 2001, she was convicted of reckless driving.

City staff, Big Blue will utilize Fisher site, for now

MEMORIAL PARK, from page 1

that contains an 18,525-square-foot building and two more which are less than 6,000 square feet in size. Previously owned by K.C. Riverstone Ltd., but long operated by Fisher Lumber, the site has been eyed for years by City Hall, which missed out on a chance to buy it in 2002.

Neil Carrey, vice chair with the city's Recreation and Parks Commission, is thrilled the site will be used for expanded park amenities.

"It's one of the most logical things to do and something I have been advocating for years," Carrey said. "It's a natural extension of Memorial Park and we desperately need more playing fields. There is a strong feeling in the community that this is the right thing to do."

As for immediate plans for the site, the Big Blue Bus will store up to 30 buses there until July. On a temporary basis, city staff will relocate their public landscape, community forest and park operations from Santa Monica Airport to the site.

Those operations are being displaced by the pending construction of the new Airport Park.

To prepare the Fisher Lumber site for temporary city use, one of the buildings will be retrofitted with large doors and used for the storage of plant material and custodial supplies.

A modular trailer will be placed on the site to provide offices, showers and restrooms. Exterior site work will provide surface parking for 106 city staff and employee vehicles. One time costs for those improvements are estimated between \$300,000 to \$350,000. Rental costs for the modular trailer, estimated at \$76,000 for three years, and ongoing utility services to the site, estimated at \$26,400 annually, would be approximate to the rent the city's open management division pays at the airport.

Perkins emphasized that ideas for the Fisher Lumber site are still in the early stages and that much work is needed before any final plans are authorized by the City Council.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 3

cate Gerald Condon, the city of Santa Monica has installed more than 100 plant and tree identification signs along Ocean Avenue. The signs are interspersed between Wilshire Boulevard and Adelaide Drive, and identify 42 different tree species and 52 plant and shrub species. The signs include both the common and the botanical name of each species.

Condon, a retired tax lawyer, considers Palisades Park “one of the most beautiful parks in the world.” An avid walker and promoter of healthy living through walking, Condon believes that the plant identification signs will be of interest to the park’s regular users, tourists and school children, city officials said.

Cycle for research

By Daily Press staff

Cycling now has a new benefit — and it’s more than physical.

The American Diabetes Association’s Tour de Cure, an annual cycling event, will be held on the Santa Monica Pier Saturday, May 21, along a scenic route, according to association officials. The event raises funds for diabetes research, programs, and advocacy. The event has three levels — targeted to beginner, intermediate and advanced cyclists. The 50-mile event begins at 7 a.m. The 25-mile ride begins at 8:30 a.m. and the five-mile family ride starts at 9:30 a.m. With each scenic ride, participants can expect fully-loaded rest stops and support vehicles, and a free lunch along with music and entertainment at the completion of the event. To register, visit www.diabetes.org/santamonica-tour or for information, call 1-888-DIABETES, ext. 7447.

Vets need books

By Daily Press staff

Instead of blood, donate books.

Robbie Robinson, chairman of the Santa Monica Elks Veterans Committee, is asking for the donation of books for the Veterans Hospital. Donations can include hard cover books, pocket books, current magazines, audio tapes and video tapes. The books will be used to stock the lending libraries. Material suitable for men is preferred as there are more men than women in the hospital.

Anyone wishing to donate may drop off the books at the Santa Monica Elks Lodge at 1040 Pico Blvd. between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, or noon to 6 p.m. on Thursday. If you have a large amount, call Curt Curtiss (310) 645-8989 for pick up.

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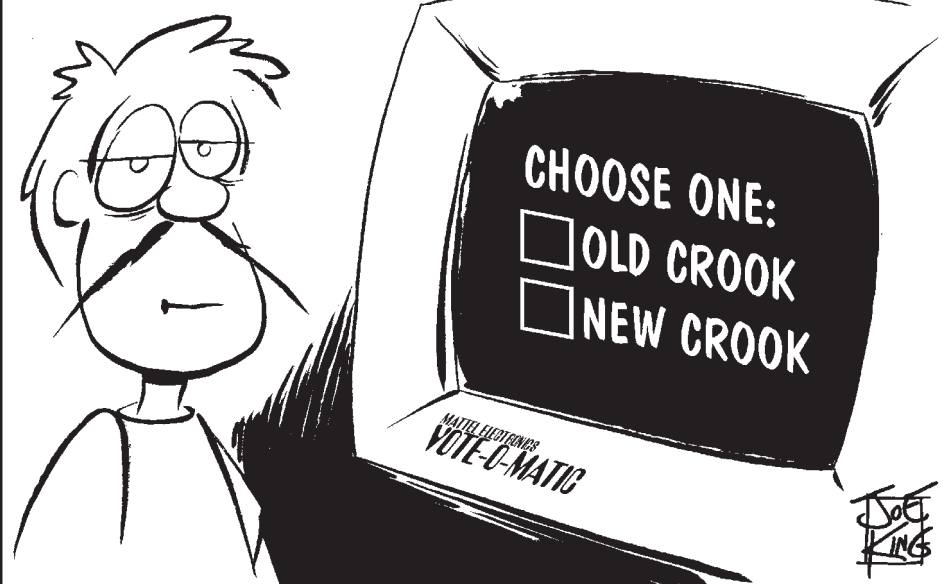
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OPINION

FUNNY PAPERZ

"THE LOS ANGELES MAYORAL RACE"



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Liberals versus conservatives

Editor:

It's really quite simple: We liberals do what we want and allow others to do what they want. We conservatives do what we want and demand others do what we want, too.

Flo Ginsburg
Santa Monica

Don't look to Culver City for help with homeless

Editor:

Having moved from Santa Monica to Culver City because of all the homeless, Culver City residents do not want Santa Monica's problem residents. This problem really escalated when Robert Meyers, the city attorney at the time, insisted on feeding the homeless in the parks and on the lawn at City Hall. Now the government can't get rid of them. Downtown Santa Monica has deteriorated and the Promenade smells like a latrine. I drive through Santa Monica everyday and I see what the parks have become — a big hotel. I don't think Brotman Hospital wants the homeless there. So, Santa Monica you are stuck with your self-created problem. Just don't think you can slough it off on Culver City. We don't want or need them.

Jacqueline Kestler
Culver City

Is the economy on the right track?

Editor:

Is Santa Monica due for a big real estate bust or is this for now, largely a big fiction? I don't know how many of you have read John Steinbeck's classic novel the "Grapes of Wrath" and you might recall the poor Joad family. Or you might have seen the motion picture version? For me all this talk of a California real estate "bust" and the associative imagery that gets conjured up can weigh hard on the mind, especially if you've got any kind of historic awareness of the economics involved. When I hear about how some economists predict a coming real estate crash my thoughts return to the Joads and the dust bowl days. Well, I'm not ready to jump on the back of a flat bed truck and head off for better pastures with the devastated Joad family, but that's just about how you feel after reading some of today's doomsday proclamations making the rounds in all the business editorials.

You hear from the "irrational exuberance" shouting economists that the situation is dire in home ownership real estate here in California and on the East Coast from Boston to South Florida, and they say that prices may come crashing down with a big loud thud. These forecasters of glum like to point to the stock market retreat beginning in March of 2000 and say that if it can happen with that "bust" it can happen in real estate. But where was the big thud in the supposedly 2000 crash? I didn't hear it. Seems like we are on our way back to a recovery fairly soon after that supposed crash. Well, it might be going a little too slow over the last several days and weeks for some folks, but this is not the second Great Depression that so many economists thought might follow on the turn-of-the-century stock market downturn.

Overall productivity remains at historic high levels. The stock market is always on the move and we might be entering a period of caution due to high energy costs, but that is no reason to grab everything you can in five minutes and then head out the door. A Great Depression happening again here in America would put up to 30 percent of the workers out on the streets and even that did not happen in Japan's real estate crash of more than a decade ago. And our real estate prices would probably have to increase by a factor of seven to match the great Japanese price heights.

See LETTERS, page 7

Invest in a nice suit when looking to fit in a condo



WHAT'S THE POINT?

BY DAVID PISARRA

About every two months I get a call, or a client comes in to ask me about condominiums.

It usually starts off with, "I bought this adorable little condo ... and then the upstairs neighbor had a flood ... And then the homeowners association refused ..."

A glorious tale of woe ensues wherein a first-time home buyer has purchased a condominium and now is finding out the reality of communal living. Aside from the basics of living in close quarters with other human beings, there comes with a condominium the joys of shared responsibilities.

Each owner is a member of the association, and the association is run by a document called the "Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions," also known as the "CCRs." They are the rules that all homeowners must abide by. Typically, they cover issues such as parking assignments, renting out your unit, maximum weight of dogs, to name a few. They address the petty details of communal living that make life pleasant for all.

Except they don't. Once there is a set of rules for a group of people to follow, there is always someone who wants to enforce the rules down to the last "shall not" and there is always someone who wants to bend it a little.

This is the playground for the showboat, the doodiehead with no life purpose other than to cause strife and angst in others. They frequently aspire to be the president of the association, and frequently they achieve such lofty goals through the apathy and ennui of their neighbors, all of whom have much better things to do with their lives than worry about the weight of Mrs. Scherff's Maltese who eats too many treats.

In general, the condominium association will spend huge amounts of time arguing over extremely minor items. Favorite topics of discussion are this season's flowers and why the gardener is doing a terrible job; the color that the tile should be and enforcement of some picayune rule that no one cares about but the three people arguing over it. Sounds a lot like the Santa Monica City Council doesn't it?

Where this all becomes an issue for the new homeowner is when their new unit suddenly has a major leak and there is raw sewage all over his new home. The stage is set for a showdown of Titanic proportions.

The likely causes of this most common scenario are that the upstairs neighbor has either ignored a problem long enough; that it has now rotted through the floorboards, the studs in between the units and the drywall of the new homeowner's unit; or worse, the plumbing in between the units has sprung a leak.

In the first case, where the upstairs neighbor has ignored a situation, the new homeowner has two main options. One is to put in a claim with his own insurer, and let them sue the upstairs neighbor, who will put in a claim with his insurer. The other is to sue the upstairs neighbor directly and let him put in the claim with

his insurer.

Both of these are terrible options. In the first, your premiums are going to go up, and in the second you have now made an enemy for life. It's a case of pick your poison.

If the problem is that the plumbing has sprung a leak in between the walls, you now have a whole new situation, and frankly it is a level of hell for which Dante forgot to write about. The first thing that will happen is that everyone will blame everyone else. The association will blame the upstairs neighbor and until the truth comes out, he is the target of everyone's rage and frustration.

Then the truth comes out and the association will say that it is not its problem to repair your unit and clean the carpets, replace the drywall, and reimburse you for your antique 1970's bell bottoms and disco shirt collection.

The president of the association, who should rightly be called the "Head Tormentor," will quickly disclaim any responsibility beyond that of hiring a plumber to come out, rip through your drywall, put a piece of plumber's tape on the leak, and then leave your home with a hole in the drywall exposing the plumbing, the insulation and the mold.

At this point the new homeowner has the following swell options: Hire a plumber and file a claim with his own insurer; repair it himself or sue the association to make it repair the leak and the damage to his unit.

Obviously No. 1 has the same problem of increased premiums, and the added bonus of the unit now has a history of claims being established, plus the homeowner is now taking on the liability if the repair is done in a faulty or imperfect manner. No. 2 is a good option if you are handy, except that you are now personally liable for the quality of the repair and any future problems will, rest assured, be blamed on your shoddy workmanship, even if the problem is an electrical problem and unrelated to the repair you did.

No. 3 is why the Davis-Stirling Common Interest Development Act should properly be called the "full employment for lawyers act." When the above situation appears to the homeowner, the best answer usually is to sue the association. Sue hard. Sue fast. Sue them all.

The hard reality is that the association will do everything in its power to avoid its responsibilities to the individual unit owners. Sometimes, out of an honest belief, it is not responsible. Sometimes it is a misguided belief that it's doing its fiduciary duty to the other owners, but most often, out of pride. The president will take a posture of indignation and arrogance, and this is the key to the fact that they are not going to help you.

I realize that my making a pronouncement like this is scary, and it certainly isn't true in all cases. But my experience has been that more often than not, this is the best answer. There are some good associations and each case should be evaluated on its merits, but in general, when dealing with the association, it is a good practice to get its attention with a good strong lawsuit, and then negotiate new carpet that was ruined by raw sewage.

(David Pizarra can be reached at (310)664-9969 or dpizarra@pizarra.com.)

OPINION



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LETTERS, from page 6

Outside of our becoming a victim to some catastrophic terrorist attack on some vital element of our economy or the core of our government, we are far off from ever having to go through that kind of economic situation here in America again. If any thing, people are getting a little war weary and sick and tired of hearing about terrorists. The question is if we cannot capture Bin Laden in the years since 9-11 what makes us think that we can protect the nation from another devastating attack? This is always lingering in the back of the American psyche. America desperately needs to put the era of Bin Laden behind us. If you really want to place the nation and the economy back on course toward greatness this achievable goal must be met. Just cutting taxes and flooding the demand side of the economic equation with dollars is not the way to improve the emotional outlook of the average American. We must have a complete moral victory over Bin Laden and his cronies and the doom and gloom they spread around the world. A continuing healthy economy and a robust transition to the new century will follow on this success. This will be a America's greatest age — one where we will develop new forms of energy and our scientists will enlarge and expand existing technologies along all benevolent frontiers. Society and the world will flourish along with the expansion of humanitarian capitalism all around the globe under America's guiding light.

The principals and symbolic meanings represented by the Statue of Liberty will be brought into the cities and villages houses and huts of every nation big or small, rich and poor on Earth. Most of the world citizens are not far off from the torment and poor living conditions of John Steinbeck's Joad family. Let the new century be one where we end this sad and brutal lifestyle.

Ken C. Arnold
Santa Monica

Gardeners can have their plots and the house, too

Editor:

I know a couple of people who rent those garden plots and they love them and the gardening/social experience combo, (SMDP, May 7-8, page 1).

My suggestion is to have both the Shotgun House, which is significantly important, and the garden plots. Move the Shotgun House to that area and have the garden plots as part of the landscaping.

Ask the gardeners who'd like to be involved in that or have a lottery to decide whose plot would become part of the landscaping.

Another possibility is: Those who chose to have their garden plots part of the landscaping could get a discount on their rental fees or have no rental fees at all. Whatever the city of Santa Monica decides.

The city of Santa Monica could save the additional cost of employing gardeners for the Shotgun House because the gardeners' plots are part of the landscaping. This would save the city a lot of money year after year.

For the gardeners whose plots are part of the landscaping for the Shotgun House, the city could teach them any special care required for their part of the landscaping.

I think there might be a lot of interest, as well as pride in having garden plots become part of the landscaping of a historic house. I think that when practicality hits, rather than lose garden plots the gardeners would probably be willing to include their plots in the landscaping of the Shotgun House. Visitors to the house would have a personal contact with gardeners whose plots are part of the landscaping.

Cheryl Erb
Santa Monica

City staff ignoring residents over new park

Editor:

This is in reference to neighborhood input being disregarded in the Euclid Park design/approval process. With this park adjacent to United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) — Hacienda del Mar's disabled residents, and residents of the neighboring apartments, safety and minimizing public nuisance is the No. 1 priority.

The residents of the 1500 and 1400 blocks of Euclid Street did not truly have any say in the design of Euclid Park — nor were we even asked if we wanted a park. Our experience is that the city staff has totally ignored our input. The community design process run by the community and cultural services (CCS) staff is not really a process to include input from the residents of the neighborhood. It is just a way for CCS staff to give the appearance of doing community outreach while in reality ignoring what the community wants. After a survey, community meetings, and recreation and parks commission meetings where the neighborhood has repeatedly voiced its concerns, staff has kept with their predetermined plans and ignored the public's request for safety features to help enforce operating hours and illegal activities.

Instead, staff has merely gone through the motions of holding meetings and collecting surveys — while submitting a plan which is unsafe for residents but which will only serve to add a small (150' x 150') park under CCS purview.

The final design is on the agenda for approval by the City Council at tonight's meeting, May 17. We have gone through this process faithfully and dutifully and hope that the council members will be more understanding when listening to our requests for common sense public safety features.

Justin L.B. Gagnon
Euclid Street Oversight Committee

Attempting to live life in high society is raw deal



ANY DAY IN LA

BY HEIDI MANTEUFFEL

I try to keep under wraps the fact that I'm young and inexperienced at gestures of high society. But I don't think I was fooling anyone when the waitress handed me a large wad of raw beef last Thursday and called it my dinner.

You see, I was graciously invited to the Polo Lounge at the Beverly Hills Hotel by the man I had interned for at the Red Cross. I had a feeling this place was going to be a little chi-chi, and my instincts were confirmed as I learned that a strict jacket rule was enforced after 7 p.m. How embarrassing, I thought. I hoped they didn't have a house dress waiting for me in the coatroom if my black work pants weren't up to par.

Traffic was maddening as three events were going on simultaneously at the hotel. "Which event are you here for, madam?" the valet courteously asked as he took my car key. "Eating," I said shortly, and lumbered up the stairs to search for my dinner date.

After a minute of scoping in curiosity, my friend brought to my attention the fact that he was standing right in front of me.

As you may guess from earlier interaction, I'm not used to going to places of fine dining. Sure, I know all the dipping sauces at KFC. I will occasionally even use my fork and knife for cutting up pizza at Domino's. But for some reason, my earlier training did not sufficiently prepare for the night ahead.

The man kindly told me to order anything I want, but I had a hard time administering to this. Most items were \$36 a plate. Thankfully, I finally came across something of interest in the moderate price bracket.

"I'll have the steak tartare," I confidently told the waitress. I couldn't pronounce it, but I figured I could at least eat it.

She brought out a huge wad of ground beef and a serving plate with oil, mustard

and various dressings decorating the perimeter. How sweet, I thought. It felt like she was my first grader and wanted to show off the deformed mom mug she had me — only it was a huge mound of uncooked beef. "Oh honey, that's great," I would say, before she stuck the beef in the oven to cook. And I would have to say it again when she brought it back for dinner, and coo as if she had made the best dinner ever.

Only, the waitress harshly dropped the mixed raw mound on my plate, decorating it with a garnish as if that made everything OK.

Outside I tried to keep a poker face, smiling and looking impressed by the mound of salmonella staring back at me. Inside I was thinking, "Listen, lady. Just 'cause you give the raw beef a pickle Mohawk does not mean I'm eating it."

But I did eat it. I might have made a more of a fuss if I was with my boyfriend, and vied for the soup instead. But when you see someone once every two years, it's best to just smile and ignore the visions of sugar plum mad cow dancing in your head.

I think the waitress got a kick out me staring at the beef, then the cut up triangles of bread and back at the beef. After some consideration, I started making sandwiches with the less-than-rare tenderloin. She came over and gently told me to leave the sandwiches open.

I'm so glad there's etiquette to food-borne viruses.

Surprisingly, the meal ended up being something I really enjoyed. The waitress even congratulated me after the meal. She said most people freak out when they find out the meat is uncooked, and was impressed that I handled it so well. I said "thank you," happy that my haphazard attempt at high society had gone so swimmingly.

But as she lifted my plate, the overboard sprinkling of two small beef particles peaked out. One thing was clear. As many stickers as my mom had given me for the good manners club, high society and Heidi just don't mix.

(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

The naked truth about your kids

Dear Dorie,

My husband refuses to take a bath with our 2-year-old daughter unless he's wearing a bathing suit. When is it appropriate to be naked around children?

— Nervous Nude

Dear Nervous,

In general, decisions about nudity are entirely subjective. I know parents with elementary school children that walk around naked between getting dressed in the morning. Conversely, I know parents with young children that don't leave the bedroom without a robe and slippers. If your husband is not comfortable taking a shared tub without clothing, he needs to be supported in his decision to wear a bathing suit. It is more than likely that he will choose to supervise the bath rather than participate.

The other issue here is consistency and clarity with the message you are communicating to your daughter about her body. There is no set time to "teach" modesty or discretion with nudity. Each individual decides when and where they are comfortable. My oldest daughter shared a tub with her weekly playdate (a boy) until almost 4 years old. Then one day she said, "I'd like to keep my bathing suit on." That was it, the beginning of a new ritual.

If adults act within their own comfort zone, the end result is a little person that feels safe in their own body.

— Dorie

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

A sunburned baby doesn't make for much summer fun

By Daily Press staff

Summer has arrived in Southern California.

In areas like Santa Monica, that means lazy days spent at the beach or on the boardwalk. Before you relax and soak in the warm weather, however, be sure you and every member of your family is protected from the potentially harmful rays of the sun. In particular, if you have a new baby, there are some important facts you should know about protecting your infant from sun damage.

While there will be 1 million new cases of skin cancer this year, few of those cases occur in children and almost none in babies. This is because skin cancer is caused by the cumulative effects of sun damage and exposure. The sunburn your baby or toddler gets today may well develop into skin cancer tomorrow.

Babies' skin is delicate and tender. It burns more easily than mature skin and needs special protection. You may be tempted to slather your baby with the highest SPF sunblock available, but it is not recommended for babies. Instead follow these tips:

■ Limit your infant's exposure to direct sunlight, especially between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. when the sun is at its strongest.

■ Cover your baby up with a sun-blocking umbrella and loose fitting clothes, or move your child into the shade.

■ Choose baby clothes and coverings with a tight weave to block the sun, or look for clothes advertised as sun blocking.

■ Install a sunshade in your car and tint your rear passenger windows to limit direct sunlight on your child while driving.

■ Do not use sunblock on your baby until they are at least 6 months old — zinc oxide and other ingredients

found in sunscreen can irritate your child's skin.

■ Remember that sunlight reflects upward off of the water, giving swimmers double the exposure.

■ Remember that sunburns do not appear immediately — they keep on developing even after the sun goes down.

■ Don't forget that the sun can burn you and your baby even on cloudy days.

■ If you do use sunscreen on your infant or toddler, be sure to choose one labeled as hypoallergenic and PABA free.

If worst comes to worst and your baby is under 1 year old and develops a sunburn, call your pediatrician immediately — a severe sunburn is an emergency. Follow your doctor's advice and remember:

■ If your baby is sunburned, give him juice or water to replace lost fluids.

■ A washcloth soaked in cool water can reduce your infant's temperature and help make his skin feel better.

■ Do not use any medicated lotions on your baby's skin unless your pediatrician recommends it.

■ Keep your baby completely out of the sun until the sunburn is totally healed.

Summer is all about having fun. To avoid painful sunburns and the possibility of skin cancer, teach your children early to limit their exposure to the sun and use sunblock.

This article was written with the advice of Jeffrey Penso, M.D., a pediatrician with Saint John's Health Center in Santa Monica. To find a pediatrician like Dr. Penso, or any type of 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.

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SANTA MONICA PARENTING

FOR SANTA MONICA PARENTS AND PARENTS TO BE

SPECIAL EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18
CHOOSING the BEST FIT PRESCHOOL. 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Discussion presented by Christy Bergin of Best Fit Preschools. Held at Birth & Beyond, 1750 Ocean Park Blvd, #206. RSVP to workshops@BestFitSchools.com or call 434-9706. www.BestFitSchools.com. **ALSO THURSDAY, JUNE 2,** 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

MEGAN'S LAW / SAFETY WORKSHOP for PARENTS & CAREGIVERS

10:00 a.m. – noon. Presented by child safety specialist Pattie Fitzgerald and Safely Ever After, Inc. Understand the subtleties of Megan's Law in California and learn vital prevention skills to keep our kids from predators. Held at Child's Play Activity Center, 2299 Westwood Blvd, West LA. \$25 per adult includes materials, \$8.00 for supervised play for children ages 2 and up. Reservations recommended. 310-203-1330.

FRIDAY, MAY 20 – KID POWER PARTY! Children's Safety Workshop

4:30 – 5:30 p.m., 5:30 – 7:30 Pizza and Play Party. This workshop for ages 5-8 is designed to teach important safety skills in an educational, entertaining and non-fearful way. Presented by child safety specialist Pattie Fitzgerald and Safely Ever After, Inc. Held at Child's Play Activity Center, 2299 Westwood Blvd, West LA. \$20 workshop only, \$10 discount for siblings, \$30.00 for workshop and Pizza/Play Party. Reservations recommended. 310-203-1330.

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.

MONDAY, MAY 23 – STORYTELLING with MICHAEL MCCARTY

4:00 – 5:00 p.m. Stories from around the world for ages 7 and up. Fairview Branch Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd, 450-0443

COMING UP - MAY 31 – Registration begins for the YMCA's summer session of Parent/Me Gym & Swim Classes, Tumbling Toddler Time, Baby Massage, Tiny Tumblers and more. Session dates are June 25 – Sept. 2. Call 393-2721, ext. 107 for more info. 1332 6th St.

TUESDAY

Movies for Moms! May 17 –Monster-In-Law – starring Jennifer Lopez, Jane Fonda and Michael Vartan. Romance/Comedy, Rated "PG-13." 11:00 a.m., Loews Broadway, 1441 3rd St. Promenade – for Moms and babies newborn – 1 year old. Doors open early for socializing and getting comfortable. Visit www.enjoytheshow.com/reelmoms for details.

Storytelling

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

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

Preschool Story Time; 10:30 a.m.; for ages 3-5. Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.

Cuentos Para Pequenos – 10:00 a.m., six-week series in Spanish for 24 – 36 month olds

with adult. 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 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 452-3881 for 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. **BREAKTHROUGH PARENTING CLASSES** – 7:00 – 9:30 p.m. An advanced 10-week parent education course. Culver City/Westchester, \$30 per class/\$40 materials. Also 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.

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 Khefiri Riley at Ocean Oasis, 1333 Ocean Ave. Register at www.khefiri.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.

BREAKTHROUGH PARENTING CLASSES – 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

An advanced 10-week parent education course. West LA, \$40 per class/\$40 materials.

Also Tuesdays, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., Culver City/Westchester, \$30 per class/\$40 materials; Continuous enrollment. For info call Jayne A.

Major, Ph.D., Breakthrough Parenting Services, Inc., 310-823-7846, jm@BPinAction.org.

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.

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

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

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.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

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

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Nida Samona, chairwoman of the Michigan Liquor Control Commission, called the decision a setback for state efforts to battle underage drinking. She said her commission will urge lawmakers to bar direct shipments for both local and out-of-state wineries.

Frozen man's daughter waits for a court date

He said the festival should become a scientific conference on cryonics and life extension.

INTERNATIONAL



'Star Wars' premiere raises U.S. foreign policy questions

BY DAVID GERMAIN
AP Movie Writer

CANNES, France — Without Michael Moore and "Fahrenheit 9/11" at the Cannes Film Festival this time, it was left to George Lucas and "Star Wars" to pique European ire over the state of world relations and the United States' role in it.

Lucas' themes of democracy on the skids and a ruler preaching war to preserve the peace predate "Star Wars: Episode III — Revenge of the Sith" by almost 30 years. Yet viewers Sunday — and Lucas himself — noted similarities between the final chapter of his sci-fi saga and our own troubled times.

Cannes audiences made blunt comparisons between "Revenge of the Sith" — the story of Anakin Skywalker's fall to the dark side and the rise of an emperor through warmongering — to President Bush's war on terrorism and the invasion of Iraq.

Two lines from the movie especially resonated: "This is how liberty dies. With thunderous applause," bemoans Padme Amidala (Natalie Portman) as the galactic Senate cheers dictator-in-waiting Palpatine (Ian McDiarmid) while he announces a crusade against the Jedi.

"If you're not with me, then you're my enemy," Hayden Christensen's Anakin — soon to become villain Darth Vader — tells former mentor Obi-Wan Kenobi (Ewan McGregor). The line echoes Bush's international ultimatum after the Sept. 11 attacks, "Either you are with us, or you are with the terrorists."

"That quote is almost a perfect citation of Bush," said Liam Engle, a 23-year-old French-American aspiring filmmaker. "Plus, you've got a politician trying to increase his power to wage a phony war."

Though the plot was written years ago, "the anti-Bush diatribe is clearly there," Engle said.

The film opens Wednesday in parts of Europe and Thursday in the United States and many other countries. At the Cannes premiere Sunday night, actors in white stormtrooper costumes paraded up and down the red carpet as guests strolled in, while an orchestra played the "Star Wars" theme.

Lucas said he patterned his story after historical transformations from freedom to fascism, never figuring

when he started his prequel trilogy in the late 1990s that current events might parallel his space fantasy.

"As you go through history, I didn't think it was going to get quite this close. So it's just one of those recurring things," Lucas said at a Cannes news conference. "I hope this doesn't come true in our country."

"Maybe the film will waken people to the situation," Lucas joked.

That comment echoes Moore's rhetoric at Cannes last year, when his anti-Bush documentary "Fahrenheit 9/11" won the festival's top honor.

Unlike Moore, whose Cannes visit came off like an anybody-but-Bush campaign stop, Lucas never mentioned the president by name but was eager to speak his mind on U.S. policy in Iraq, careful again to note that he created the story long before the Bush-led occupation there.

"When I wrote it, Iraq didn't exist," Lucas said, laughing.

"We were just funding Saddam Hussein and giving him weapons of mass destruction. We didn't think of him as an enemy at that time. We were going after Iran and using him as our surrogate, just as we were doing in Vietnam. ... The parallels between what we did in Vietnam and what we're doing in Iraq now are unbelievable."

The prequel trilogy is based on a back-story outline Lucas created in the mid-1970s for the original three "Star Wars" movies, so the themes percolated out of the Vietnam War and the Nixon-Watergate era, he said.

Lucas began researching how democracies can turn into dictatorships with full consent of the electorate.

In ancient Rome, "why did the senate after killing Caesar turn around and give the government to his nephew?" Lucas said. "Why did France after they got rid of the king and that whole system turn around and give it to Napoleon? It's the same thing with Germany and Hitler."

"You sort of see these recurring themes where a democracy turns itself into a dictatorship, and it always seems to happen kind of in the same way, with the same kinds of issues, and threats from the outside, needing more control. A democratic body, a senate, not being able to function properly because everybody's squabbling, there's corruption."

Gunfire continues in Uzbekistan; government appears in jeopardy

BY ALEXANDER MERKUSHEV
Associated Press Writer

ANDIJAN, Uzbekistan — Gunfire persisted Monday in the eastern city where Uzbek security forces fired on protesters last week and new accounts emerged that violence in nearby towns killed hundreds more, further threatening the stability of the government in this key U.S. ally in Central Asia. Andijan residents said government troops were fighting militants in an outlying district, but that claim could not be confirmed.

Alexei Volosevich, an Andijan correspondent for the Fergana.ru Web site, said witnesses told him that militants fired at police from apartment buildings near the prison and that police eventually killed the assailants. There was no word about police casualties.

Troops and armored personnel carriers formed a tight circle around the city center, where the local administration building was on fire late Sunday.

Saidjahon Zaynabitdinov, head of the local Appeal human rights advocacy group, said Monday that government troops killed about 200 demonstrators Saturday in Pakhtabad, about 20 miles northeast of Andijan. There was no independent confirmation of his claim.

Men were digging graves at a local cemetery under the watch of Uzbek security service agents.

"The people now are more afraid of government troops than of any so-called militants," Zaynabitdinov told Associated Press Television News.

The violence in Pakhtabad would have come a day

after some 500 people reportedly were killed in Andijan when government troops put down a prison uprising by alleged Islamic militants and citizens protesting dire economic conditions.

The clashes in the region bordering Kyrgyzstan were the worst since Uzbekistan gained independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. If the reports of hundreds of deaths since Friday hold true and if Uzbek forces were behind the killing it would be some of the worst state-inspired bloodshed since the massacre of protesters in China's Tiananmen Square in 1989.

President Islam Karimov's government has denied opening fire on demonstrators, instead blaming Islamic extremists for the violence. The authoritarian government has restricted access for reporters in the affected areas.

A respected local doctor in Andijan told The Associated Press on Sunday that about 500 bodies had been laid out at a school for collection by relatives. There was no independent confirmation of that claim by the doctor, who spoke on condition of anonymity out of fears for her safety, but other witnesses have said hundreds were killed when troops put down the uprising Friday.

The doctor also said by telephone that about 2,000 people were wounded, but she did not say how she arrived at her estimate.

Inera Safargaliyeva, whose Committee for Freedom of Speech and Expression helped organize Friday's demonstration in Andijan, also said about 500 people were killed. She did not elaborate on the source of her information.

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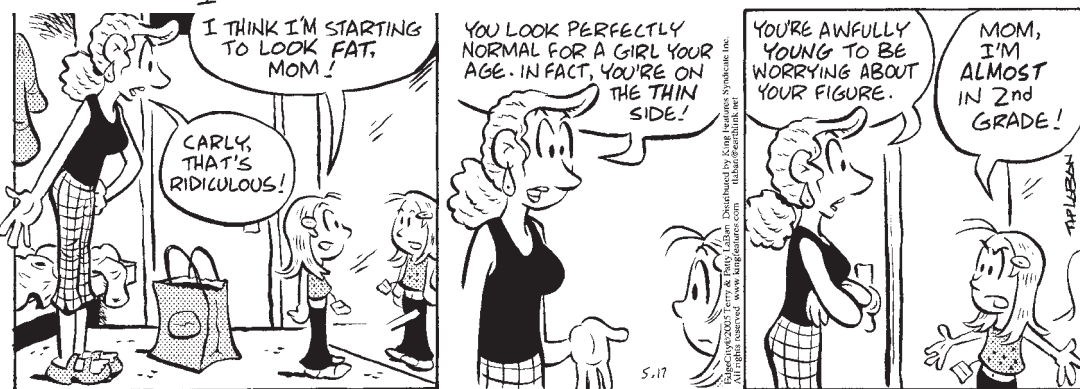
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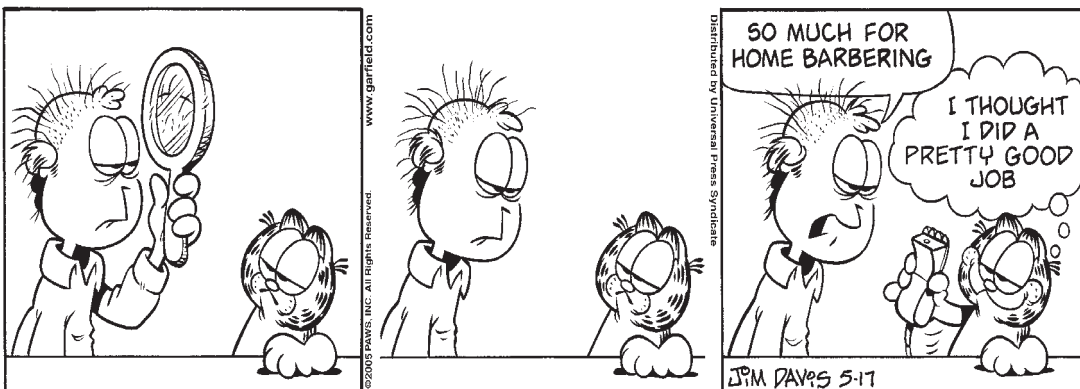
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- 15 Screw up
- 16 — Vegas
- 17 Scot's cap
- 18 Detects
- 20 Traffic marker
- 21 Sweet-heart
- 22 Goofy person
- 23 Recurrent course
- 25 Door feature
- 28 Flip call
- 31 Historic times
- 32 Heart part
- 34 Suffer
- 35 Third word of "America"
- 36 In the style of
- 37 Bucks
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- 2 Found charming
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- 4 Flow out
- 5 Weeps
- 6 Yale student
- 7 To a high degree
- 8 La Scala setting
- 9 Toadies

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Yesterday's answer

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- 14 Comfy seat
- 19 Bags
- 20 Plain
- 24 Doesn't bother
- 25 Boss
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- 27 Al Green album
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 email: kboyd12345@aol.com

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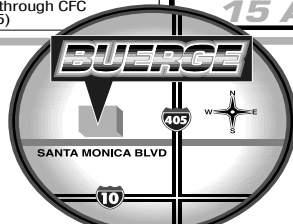


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