

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues



NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

Budhia Singh, 4, of Bhubaneswar, India, has been a runner for two years, and on May 2 (under the watchful eye of his coach) ran 40 miles in about seven hours (but doctors quoted in a Reuters dispatch severely criticized the coach for setting Singh up for cartilage damage and other ailments). And Terry Durham of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., has been preaching since he was 4, and now at age 8, in his suit and alligator shoes, holds forth at the True Gospel Deliverance Ministry church and elsewhere in the state. Durham, described in a South Florida Sun-Sentinel profile, kicks his leg in the air and wails, "The Lord makes you feel good. He says, 'Who am I?' I am Doctor Feelgood." Yeah!"

TODAY IN HISTORY
Today is the 150th day of 2006.
There are 215 days left in the year.

On May 30, 1431, Joan of Arc, condemned as a heretic, was burned at the stake in Rouen, France.
In 1539, Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto landed in Florida.
In 1854, the territories of Nebraska and Kansas were established.
In 1883, 12 people were trampled to death when a rumor that the recently opened Brooklyn Bridge was in imminent danger of collapsing triggered a stampede.
In 1911, Indianapolis saw its first long-distance auto race; Ray Harroun was the winner.
In 1922, the Lincoln Memorial was dedicated in Washington by Chief Justice William Howard Taft.
In 1943, American forces secured the Aleutian island of Attu from the Japanese during World War II.

QUOTE OF THE DAY
"Only the man who finds everything wrong and expects it to get worse is thought to have a clear brain."
JOHN KENNETH GALBRAITH
AMERICAN ECONOMIST (1908-2006)

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STATE
Hollywood sequel is place to be, not flee
BY CHRISTINA ALMEIDA
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Hollywood's best days were behind her. The glamour of the '20s had long ago been replaced by crime and grime. Teenage runaways mingled with prostitutes at the city's most storied intersection, Hollywood and Vine. Yet something curious happened. Hollywood refused to fade away. The first signs of life surfaced a decade ago with new nightclubs and restaurants. Now, people are flocking to Hollywood to live in thousands of luxury condos and apartments. More than \$1 billion in residential development is slated for a few blocks surrounding Hollywood Boulevard and Vine Street — an unprecedented buildup designed to bring the "It" factor back to a place that once was the epicenter of cool. "Five years ago we were desperate for any development. Now we can pick and choose," said City Council President Eric Garcetti, whose district includes Hollywood. The turnaround began in the mid-1980s when the city created a redevelopment area in Hollywood. Subway stops were later added, and a group of merchants banded together a decade ago to form a business improvement district and step up security patrols. All this prompted developers to invest hundreds of millions of dollars to revitalize the area's entertainment core, anchored by the Hollywood & Highland Center, home of the Kodak Theatre and the Academy Awards. Now Hollywood is a place to be rather than flee, with more than 3,500 residential units in the works. "Everywhere we looked we saw an opportunity," said Shaul Kuba, principal and founder of CIM Group, owner of Hollywood & Highland and developer of several pending residential-retail projects.

See **HOLLYWOOD**, page 6

Right on the money

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the second installment in a series of articles examining the proposed 2006-07 Santa Monica city budget.
BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — As the City Council considers spending priorities for the next fiscal year, much attention has been paid to the city's diverse, but balanced sources of revenue. From property and sales taxes to licenses and permit fees, it is estimated the city will generate more than \$451 million in the next fiscal year, a little more than half of which will help support the general fund,

which pays for core services such as street repair, police and fire protection, libraries and the salaries of city staff. The other half, around \$219 million, is dedicated to specific projects or programs, such as Big Blue Bus operations, redevelopment, and trash collection and disposal. If approved by the council, the proposed budget will represent the largest spending package in the city's history, showing that even in times of mild economic growth across the state and the nation, Santa Monica's

finances remain strong. A key contributor, but one often overlooked, according to city officials, is City Hall's investment portfolio. While not the most significant of all sources of revenue, the collection of federal securities, corporate bonds and funds held in restricted trusts offer a safe and reliable cash flow. City Hall is prohibited from taking significant risks with the public's

See **PORTFOLIO**, page 5

Long-term memory



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Ben Kennedy, 95, visits the grave site of his late wife Myrtle during Santa Monica's 68th Memorial Day Celebration at Woodlawn Cemetery on Monday. Kennedy and his wife were married for 53 years.

Day laborers wearing out welcome

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

11th STREET — Police say they will beef up patrols here as a result of loitering day laborers, but some business leaders are still waiting to see an increased presence. Santa Monica Police Chief James T. Butts Jr. recently announced that

the SMPD's patrol and narcotics units will be in the area to suppress illegal drug activity. "We don't want to stop people from making a living, but at the same time, whenever you have a situation where people congregate there can be illicit activity," Butts said, adding his officers will work undercover and in uniform, using

different strategies. He declined to cite specifics of deployment. The move was prompted by complaints by business owners and residents in the 11th Street and Colorado Avenue area, who say day laborers are using and dealing drugs. They also are frequently seen drink-

See **DAY LABORERS**, page 5



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Horoscopes

2

TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2006

Santa Monica Daily Press
A newspaper with issues



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New vistas, 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)
★★★★ Good intentions mean a lot, but actions count too. What might be critical at this point is determining the authentic you and what you want. Open up to your inner core in order to truly achieve the success you want. Tonight: Easy does it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ You have a way with words, though now you are unusually direct and your words are poignant. You encourage others to go in new directions. Be the innovator. Tonight: Happy as a cat, hanging out.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You might indulge yourself or take the lead in a different direction. Honor who you are and what you most deserve. Stay on top of a problem, especially if it is financial, as you will be able to get past hassles with ease. Tonight: Your treat.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Your personality comes through. However, at this point, you might need to tame your assertiveness. You might want to rethink your words or actions with an eye to effectiveness rather than catharsis. Tonight: In the middle of the action.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Know when to back off. You might want to understand more of what is happening around a personal matter. Could you be irritated beyond the norm? Take your time getting to the bottom of an issue. Rome wasn't built in a day. Tonight: Listen rather than dictate.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Others seek you out en masse. You might want to rethink your decisions with care. You'll see life from a different perspective if you walk in a friend's shoes. You easily could be delighted. Tonight: Where your friends are.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Others look to you for leadership and an example. You have a lot going for you. Right now, you are into strutting your stuff. Others notice. Keep smiling, and all will turn out well. Tonight: No early bedtime for you!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Take an overview and study a situation with new light. Be imaginative and direct. Understand that others don't have to agree with you. Evaluate a change more directly. Take in new insights. You might not have the only answer. Tonight: New vistas.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ You might want to reach out for one special person. Read between the lines when a partner or associate gets a touch difficult or angry. Your understanding can soothe and mellow out a hard moment. Tonight: Togetherness.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Others clearly dominate happenings, whether you like it or not. Instead of fighting the inevitable, go with the flow. You might be delighted by the end results — and much less frayed. Learn to trust others with projects. Tonight: Sort through your invitations.

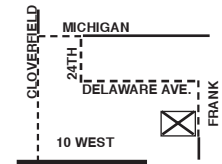
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Easy does it. You might want to revise your thinking, especially if it involves your daily life. A new exercise program is just what the doctor ordered. You will feel empowered and better. Think positively. Tonight: Easy does it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ You might be forced to get to the bottom of a hassle, which you do easily. You need to push to get the end result. Listen to others. You have answers. You have solutions. Pitch in when asked. Tonight: Act on a potential case of Spring Fever.



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Bloom gets nod for Westside Cities Council

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica City Councilmember Richard Bloom has been elected Chair of the Westside Cities Council of Governments for a one-year term ending July 2007.

The Westside Cities Council of Governments is a joint powers authority of five cities — Santa Monica, Beverly Hills, Culver City, West Hollywood and the western portions of Los Angeles, Council Districts 5 and 11 — partnered in a voluntary cooperative endeavor to forge consensus on policies and programs of regional significance.

“Perhaps more than any other issues I’ve been involved with, either as an elected official or in my professional life, the complicated issues of homelessness and transportation have convinced me of the necessity and power of regional action,” said Bloom. “I believe the COG will advance important issues for the Westside in ways we have not seen in the past, to the benefit of individual cities and the whole, and I’m pleased to have an opportunity to serve in this way.”

Bloom, who has been a member of the Santa Monica City Council since 1999, including one term as mayor, is also the newly elected Vice-Chair of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission, an L.A.-based state organization that monitors implementation of efforts to ensure the long-term health of the bay and its watersheds, and was Santa Monica’s representative on the countywide Bring L.A. Home blue ribbon panel that recently unveiled its 10-year plan to end homelessness in the region.

The Westside Cities COG’s combined population represents over 710,000 individuals and 50,000 businesses. The Westside Cities’ priority issues are: economic health, transportation and improved mobility, homelessness, environmental issues/sustainability and land use.

For more information about the COG, visit <http://westsidocities.org/>.

It’s all about compost this season

By Daily Press staff

Maybe the grass could be greener on your side.

The City of Santa Monica Solid Waste Management Division and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works is offering a free composting workshop on Saturday, June 3, at the Patio in Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Avenue.

Those who attend will be schooled in techniques such as improving their yard and garden, recycling yard waste and kitchen scraps, reducing waste going to landfills, creating water wise-landscapes and purchasing compost bin.

The rich nutrients from composted yard trimmings and kitchen scraps add to a garden’s health by reducing waste, water consumption and chemical use. Composting reduces costs associated with fertilizers, conditioners and mulch. Composting also helps residents avoid higher costs for trash disposal and helps the city reduce the burden of recycling the material, further saving money for the community. The City of Santa Monica will distribute compost bins for the discounted price of \$25 to residents (\$35 for non-residents).

How we design, plant and maintain our gardens impacts our local environment.

Fact: More pesticides are applied in urban areas than in agricultural areas. The pesticides show up in our waters and impact public health.

Fact: Typical urban gardens create more carbon dioxide than oxygen due to the motorized garden tools widely used, tools that are many times more polluting than modern automobiles.

Fact: The green waste generated from landscaped areas is costly to handle and makes up approximately one fifth of all municipal waste generated.

Gardens can be managed to reduce or eliminate all of these impacts and composting is an important first step. Let this workshop be your guide to creating a healthier landscape and environment.

For more information or to RSVP, call (310) 458-8546 or e-mail wes.thompson@smgov.net.

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SNOW AND SURF REPORTS

SNOW CONDITIONS

DATA PROVIDED BY ONTHESNOW.COM

BEAR MOUNTAIN

CLOSED

JUNE MOUNTAIN

CLOSED

MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 3"	BASE DEPTH 120" - 144"	LIFT HOURS 7:30 AM - 3:00 PM	RUNS OPEN 50	LIFTS OPEN 7/28
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CONDITIONS: MACHINE GROOMED, SPRING, CORN

MOUNTAIN HIGH

CLOSED

MT. BALDY

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 12" - 18"	LIFT HOURS 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM	RUNS OPEN 20	LIFTS OPEN 3/4
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CONDITIONS: MACHINE GROOMED, SPRING

SNOW SUMMIT

CLOSED

SNOW VALLEY

CLOSED

SURF CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 63°

SWELL FORECAST (3-4 FT)
 TODAY INTO WEDNESDAY A SMALL BURST OF SOUTHERN HEMI SW SWELL IS DUE. THIS SHOULD HELP MOST SOUTH FACING BREAKS SEE SOME WAIST HIGH + SURF TODAY.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS
 SIGNIFICANT SOUTHERLY SWELL DUE FRIDAY...

TIDE FORECAST FOR SANTA MONICA

	LOW TIDE	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
SATURDAY					
LOW TIDE	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
HIGH TIDE	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
SUNDAY					
LOW TIDE	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
HIGH TIDE	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
MONDAY					
LOW TIDE	12:25AM	1:43FT	12:12PM	0:48FT	
HIGH TIDE	6:05AM	4:06FT	6:48PM	5:40FT	
TUESDAY					
LOW TIDE	1:23AM	0:56FT	12:54PM	0:83FT	
HIGH TIDE	7:16AM	3:97FT	7:20PM	5:91FT	
WEDNESDAY					
LOW TIDE	2:13AM	-0.22FT	1:32PM	1.19FT	
HIGH TIDE	8:19AM	3.90FT	7:57PM	6.32FT	
THURSDAY					
LOW TIDE	3:00AM	-0.82FT	2:11PM	1.54FT	
HIGH TIDE	9:17AM	3.83FT	8:32PM	6.55FT	
FRIDAY					
LOW TIDE	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
HIGH TIDE	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	

The Q Line

PROUDLY BROUGHT TO YOU BY

Santa Monica Police Chief James T. Butts Jr. announced that he is stepping down from his post this summer, having accepted a position to head up security for four Los Angeles County airports. While reports continue to show a decline in crime rates during his tenure, no city is without its problems. Pico violence. Petty theft. Street hustles. Recurring homelessness. Drug use.

The city is expected to launch a national search next month in the hopes of having a timely replacement to spell Butts.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know:
What advice would you give the city's new chief of police? What areas or issues would you like the new chief to focus on initially?

Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your responses in the weekend edition.



Kate Bransfield

Estates Director

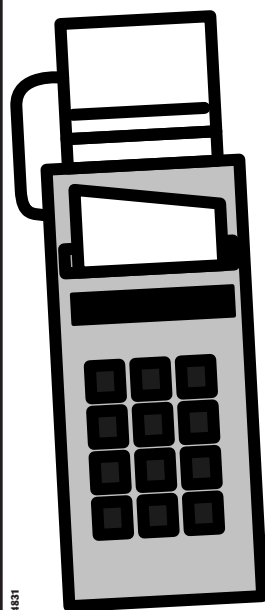
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Virginia Avenue Park needs some love

Editor:

I am a local Pico neighborhood resident and my 2-year-old grandson and I were so excited at the opening of the new Virginia Park. We go every Saturday and Sunday to play in the toddler park and run on the grass. Although the play equipment for both toddlers and older children is severely lacking in its design and enthusiasm, it is beautiful to have, firstly, a park we can walk to and, secondly, so much green open space.

Speaking of playground equipment: I was extremely embarrassed for the city of Santa Monica when we stopped at Mar Vista Park to play in their newly renovated playground. The playground equipment is amazing — like Disneyland, with three plastic structures with slides and hiding places and bridges. My little grandson was ecstatic as were the 15 or 20 other children playing there. What happened, Santa Monica? Did you run out of money for playground equipment or is it just because it is the Pico neighborhood and we will do with what we get?

Three requests for Virginia Park:

1. Could we get a trash container in the toddler area so that we don't have to leave the little ones unattended to throw away the trash?
2. Could you please clean the sand once in a while? It is getting really yucky now.
3. The ground under the swings is made of soft plastic so that kids won't fall and hurt themselves, but last Saturday under hazy skies, the surface had heated to scalding level. I cannot imagine what it will be like in the summer.

Thank you from the Pico neighborhood.

Charlene Gowers
Santa Monica

City not a protector of cable consumers

Editor:

The city's perspective on cable television is extremely duplicitous (SMDP, May 18, page 1).

While they trumpet the cause of the consumer, they have done virtually nothing over the years to rein in the increase in cable fees — both explicit and hidden — in a monopolized market.

While cable fees have risen as much as 300 percent over the past decade, the city's oversight has been microscopic. When Adelphia touted several years ago that there would be no fee increase to consumers, they changed the programming lineup, instead, moving formerly standard channels to digital. The result was that though consumers were paying the same they were getting less. And to restore the channels they used to get for a basic rate, they had to upgrade to digital at a higher cost.

When I contacted the city, their response was, essentially, "Gee, really? You should write to them." When I asked whether this hidden rate increase wasn't within the city's power to overrule, the answer was "no."

So though Santa Monica claims that it's looking out for its citizens' best interests, it's more likely trying to protect its multi-million dollar licensing income.

Peter Altschuler
Santa Monica

Ugliness all around

Editor:

I love this city. I want buildings to be built that will withstand the test of time. Office buildings and apartment buildings that have some style. Look at Santa Barbara or Santa Fe, building codes administered by people who care about aesthetics. Buildings to be proud of. Building facades are available for reasonable costs that should be mandated by our city, for the developers and architects to adhere to. What is wrong? Look at the Promenade. Check out the flower boxes. Plastic. We should be ashamed. Not in Beverly Hills or Westwood. Antique repros that look great. All the architects in our city, and look what we have. I fear for the Santa Monica Civic Center, what will happen. Another lousy building. Please help us.

Jim Stern
Santa Monica

A candidate's value is worth uncovering



WHAT'S
THE POINT?
BY DAVID PISARRA

Values. It's a simple word packed with meaning. Much of that meaning has been hijacked by marketers trying to sell "new and Improved" soap and the far-right Christian conservatives who think "family values" are restricted to the mythical ideal paradigm of mom, dad and two kids living in suburbia with lawns manicured by their Mexican gardener and their house cleaned by a Honduran.

The dictionary defines value as "a person's principles in life or standards of behavior."

That seems a good way to evaluate the candidates for the 41st Assembly. In one week, we will go to the polls to choose our district representatives for the State Assembly in November.

The candidates themselves are an eclectic mix of individuals, each with strong credentials. There is the standard "Former D.A." Barry Groveman (www.barrygroveman.com) who runs on a "law and order" platform, but who himself was the subject of a cease-and-desist letter from the Sierra Club for violating his candidate's pledge not to use their logo in his campaign materials unless he was endorsed, which he wasn't. Only Kelly Hayes-Raitt achieved the Sierra Club's seal of approval.

Jonathan Levey (www.levey2006.com) is the Cal State professor who wants to feather his environmental credentials nest by trying to take credit for the amount of land that was set aside by Cattelus Development, the company he worked for as vice president reporting directly to the CEO. He's the "idea" candidate. He has ideas for everything, but those are like noses — everyone has one.

There is the Democratic machine politician, Julia Brownley (www.juliabrownley.com), who as President of the Santa Monica School Board, has a strong record of toeing the party line.

Shawn Casey O'Brien (www.citizen-shawn.net) is the "lone wolf" — the fringe Democrat who stands up for what he believes in — social justice and "plenty for all." The self-styled F.D.R. Democrat is an anachronistic social activist whose in-your-face politics are simultaneously engaging and off-putting.

The Republicans are putting two immigrant candidates in the race — Tony Dolz (www.tonydolz.com), an immigrant who hates immigration, and Dr. Adriana Van Hemert, (www.adriana4assembly.com), an off-the-shelf, vanilla candidate who parrots the party line without vision or fervor.

Libertarian candidate Conrad Frankowski is an absolute unknown, as in, I couldn't find any information on him on the Internet. Literally, none.

Which leaves me with the only viable candidate who is living her values — Kelly Hayes-Raitt (www.kellyforassembly.com).

When it comes to education, Hayes-Raitt is the one candidate who is suing President Bush to provide for our schools and has taken action to get the Santa Monica-Malibu School District the hundreds of thousands of dollars it is due, but has not received.

Where was the school board president who wants to look like a leader and be elected on an education platform? I guess she was too busy glad-handing with City Councilman Bill Rosendahl.

It is that type of "in the trenches", action-oriented behavior which makes Hayes-Raitt not just a good candidate, but one that is living her values. Putting a stop to unfunded mandates is the single best way the local government has of getting control back from the fat cat, out of touch East Coast elitists who think they can run our schools from 3,000 miles away in D.C.

We need representation that is concerned with doing the right thing, here, today. I am tired of the resume-building do-nothings who see each political office as merely a stepping stone to the next office. I want a candidate who is willing to state unequivocally what they believe, and then sign their name to it.

I want a candidate who doesn't use deceptive language to make you think they are qualified environmentalists, when they are really in the pocket of the big developers. Levey's latest piece of mail uses the phrase "heal the bay" and "healing and restoring the bay" with the obvious goal of appearing to have been endorsed by Heal The Bay.

Compare that with Hayes-Raitt, who actually helped found the organization that was named in her living room.

No one is endorsed, however, by Heal The Bay, as they are a non-profit and cannot make endorsements.

Republican candidate Dr. Van Hemert is a law and order mouthpiece who is more interested in punishing guilty sex offenders than helping the innocent. At least it appears that way on her off-the-shelf stock Republican website. Seriously, you could substitute any other California Republican name on this website, and there would be almost no other changes needed to the content.

Hayes-Raitt has actually been a standout leader on women's issues, creating the Women's Health Campaign, and she took on the drug companies to make sure that "life-saving" medicines actually save lives.

Grassroots elegance. That's how I describe Hayes-Raitt. She sees that legislators have real jobs to do, and that it is not all about raising money like Levey and Brownley (both of whom brag about their fundraising on their respective websites), or breaking campaign pledges like Groveman did with the Sierra Club.

If values are to mean anything in this next election, we should be looking at what the candidates do to determine their values. How have they acted in their campaign and what they say in their campaign literature are demonstrations of what they will be like in office. Is getting elected more important than being brutally honest about who endorses you? Is looking like a leader more important than being a leader? For some of these candidates, that is excruciatingly clearly the case.

For Hayes-Raitt, who has been on the front lines in the environmental wars, displaying honesty and being true to her self; getting elected is just the next step in her continuing to be true to the woman, leader and social architect her mother raised her to be.

Now those are real values.

(David Pizarra welcomes your questions and comments at dpizarra@pizarra.com or 310/664-9969.)

Bitch!
Whine!
Complain!

Check out our Q-Line™ question on Page 3.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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It's a balancing act for city's investors

PORTFOLIO, from page 1

money, meaning much, if not all, of the investments offer a lower yield than what one might find playing the odds on the stock market.

Nevertheless, as interest rates continue to rise — the Federal Reserve has increased interest rates 15 consecutive times over the last three years, from 1 percent to 4.75 percent — so does the return.

From January to February of this year, City Hall's pooled portfolio, which includes cash-on-hand and investments, increased by \$2 million. Interest earnings from the pooled portfolio for the month of February were \$847,009, lifting year to date earnings to just over \$6.6 million, an increase of 34 percent compared to the same period last year, said Steve Stark, City Hall's chief financial officer.

In short, the market has been good for Santa Monica and City Hall, which is sitting on more than \$25,000 in petty cash, according to a financial report released in late February, which contained the most recent data.

"The economy has driven interest rates up on our allowable investments, and with that, we have been able to shift some things around to maximize our return," Stark said. "So far, it's been a great year for us."

All that means is more money to help pay for services, he explained. As investments improve, so does cash flow — allowing for more projects to be funded.

According to Stark, the pooled portfolio's yield, meaning the rate of return, has increased by seven points to 3.99 percent, due

in large part to the continued re-balancing of investments, whereby securities with low-interest rates are being sold, with the proceeds reinvested in those with higher interest rates.

Since City Hall realizes a loss on such sales, the sales only occur if any loss will be offset by additional income resulting from the higher yield of the bonds purchased. In February, the latest month in which investment data was available, one investment with a value of \$7 million was sold for a net loss of \$161,910. However, the city stands to recoup that sum, plus an additional \$43,837 over the life of new bonds purchased due to rising interest rates.

Stark said there may be more opportunities for re-balancing the portfolio in the future, but increases in spending for capital improvement projects and a leveling off of interest rates may begin to limit those opportunities.

Either way, Stark said the future looks bright for Santa Monica, which is expected to earn an estimated \$1.7 million more on investments this coming fiscal year than last year, and an estimated \$1.3 million more in 2007-08.

"The investments do represent a smaller portion of revenues, but they are crucial for helping us finance some pretty important projects (such as the new Main Library or the Civic Center Parking Structure)," Stark said. "Sometimes folks will criticize the investments we make because they don't yield as high as a return ... but we are investing the people's money, and with that, we have to be cautious with what risks we take."

"That said, I believe we have made some good choices, have maintained a stellar bond rating, and that will only help us provide more services for the public."

Laborers cause a stir

DAY LABORERS, from page 1

ing beer at night along 11th Street, from Colorado Avenue to Olympic Boulevard.

The growing number of day laborers who stand along the one-block stretch have been the source of much controversy in recent years, as residents and business owners have grown tired of trash strewn along the street, and feces and urine left in the alleys. Earlier this year, City Hall attempted to deal with that issue by placing porta-potties on 11th Street.

However, the drug and alcohol use reportedly continues. Those who work in the area at the Salvation Army Thrift Store and at Bourget Brothers Building Materials — where laborers stand in front hoping to secure construction jobs — say the problems remain. Beer cans are thrown in bushes and pot smoking occurs among clusters of men at 11th Street and Colorado, where the Lexus car dealership will soon have a service operation.

An employee at the thrift store, who didn't want to be identified because of safety concerns, said his life has been threatened by some of the laborers. Employees are fearful of walking to their cars at night when the thrift store closes at 9 p.m. because many of the laborers are still on hand.

"It gets really bad when they've been here all day drinking, when they are done with work or didn't get any work," the employee said.

The thrift store employee said shoplifting occurs frequently, with clothing tags being

tossed onto the sidewalk directly in front of the store. Recently, someone broke into the thrift store and stole a 1,000-pound safe containing \$650.

Among the dozens of laborers who look for work in the area, the employee reasons, 40 percent are decent guys — the other 60 percent are trouble.

"I would like to see more bike or foot patrols (from police)," the employee said.

John Bourget, who owns Bourget Brothers Building Materials, agrees that many of the laborers are good men just looking to make some money, but there are a few problem people.

"There are a lot of nice guys out there, but it's the other guys who don't want to work and are looking for trouble," Bourget said. "It's a party atmosphere."

"They could patrol it more because there is a lot of drinking."

Bourget and some of his employees say drug usage is easy to spot because the smell of marijuana permeates the air and some of the dealers aren't conspicuous in their deals. A few months ago, Bourget decided to trim the ivy that grows on the fence in front of his store. When he started cutting from the bottom, he found four bags of marijuana that had been stuffed in the greenery.

Bourget suggests that City Hall enforce the area so that laborers are allowed to be in the area from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. After that, the chances of finding work for the day are slim.

"They've got to put a limit to the time they are here," he said. "If you are not picked up by 1 p.m., you are not going to get a job."

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How Hollywood got its groove back

HOLLYWOOD, from page 1

The renaissance is reshaping Hollywood and Vine, where two major developments are leading the residential makeover.

The KOR Group is renovating the old Broadway department store for a project that includes 96 luxury lofts and cinematic views of the Hollywood sign and the landmark Capitol Records building.

The Broadway Hollywood is nearly sold out after just two weekend sales events, with prices from the high \$500,000 range to \$3 million.

"What you have is people that maybe two years ago would never have thought about buying in Hollywood are now literally fighting amongst themselves for units," said Kate Bartolo, vice president of development for The KOR Group.

For Peter Varano, a 48-year-old New York

transplant, it was an easy decision to buy a loft.

"I like the city feel and the city vibe," said Varano, a voice-over agent who recently sold his Hollywood Hills home. "It's kind of like now I'm creating my own little New York, because of the revitalization that's happening in Hollywood."

Celebrities are also taking another look at Hollywood. Actress Charlize Theron has reportedly purchased a penthouse, and starlet Lindsay Lohan is looking. Bartolo declined to comment, citing buyer privacy.

Hollywood's hip factor will also be boosted by the arrival of a W Hotel at Hollywood and Vine as part of a \$500 million retail-residential project with more than 300 apartments and 150 condos.

Not everyone is happy with the plan. About 30 local businesses are being forced to vacate after the city invoked eminent domain.

Bob Blue, who owns a luggage shop opened by his father in 1946, has twice sued to stop the project. He lost the first lawsuit but feels confident he can win on the eminent domain issue.

"Hollywood is reviving without any government help or eminent domain," Blue said. "It does seem wrong that things are going good, and you're getting kicked out."

Other critics had feared the famed Capitol Records building might be bought and converted to condos. But city leaders said the landmark is off-limits.

Developers are seeing astonishing returns on their investment in Hollywood, spending about \$150 a square foot to convert office space into residential units, then selling 1,000-square-foot condos for somewhere between \$400,000 and \$1 million-plus, according to Steven Tronson, vice president of Ramsey-Shilling Commercial Real Estate

Services Inc.

Rents now run as much as \$2,400 a month for an 800-square-foot apartment, compared to about \$800 a decade ago.

Despite concerns about residential saturation and lost office space, the pending projects will bring lasting changes.

"There is no going back," Tronson said. "There is too much political will, too many serious investors and too much money being spent for this not to succeed."

Challenges remain, however. Crime has dropped, but teenage runaways and prostitutes can still be seen off Hollywood Boulevard.

"It's really still a work in progress," said Kerry Morrison, executive director of the Hollywood Entertainment District, the merchant group. "Hollywood took many decades to fall into a state of decline so it's not going to be rebuilt in a decade's time."

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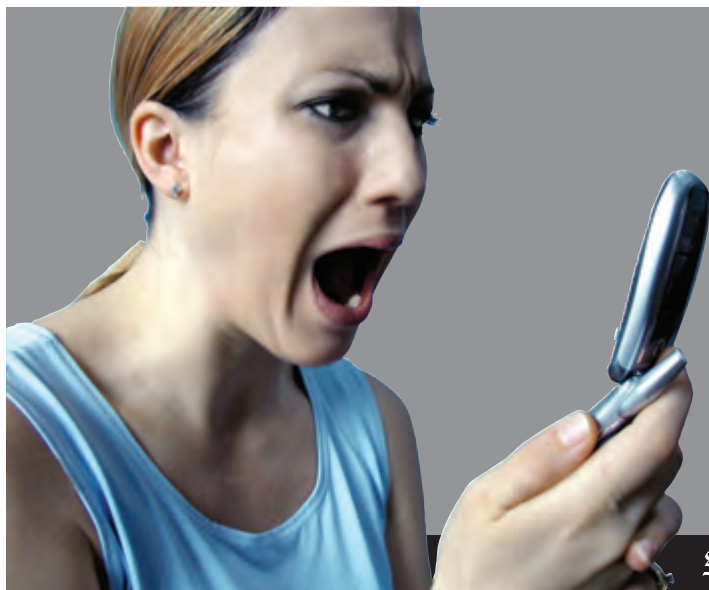
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Honored Marine unit facing allegations of civilian murders

BY THOMAS WATKINS

Associated Press Writer

OCEANSIDE, Calif. — The Marine unit known as the “Thundering Third” earned a reputation for heroism on battlefields that include Guadalcanal and Okinawa during World War II, Vietnam and Iraq. The unit’s honorable background now is sullied as military investigators probe the possibility that some members murdered two dozen Iraqi civilians.

People who live and work in Oceanside, a city bordering the unit’s home at the Camp Pendleton Marine Corps base, expressed dismay Friday at the allegations.

“I don’t want people to get the interpretation that is what Marines are like. There’s a lot of variables in each situation. But this is a severe black eye for the Marine Corps,” said Juan Duff, a retired Marine sergeant major.

A criminal investigation into the Nov. 26 civilian deaths in the Iraqi town of Haditha points toward a conclusion that Marines committed unprovoked murders, a senior defense official said Friday. A separate investigation is under way to determine whether Marines lied to cover up the killings.

The 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment returned to Camp Pendleton this spring following their third Iraq deployment since 2003.

The unit’s last deployment lasted from September 2005 until March, officials said. During their second deployment in 2004 the Thundering Third took part in the battle to clear Iraqi militants from the stronghold of Fallujah.

Chris Wright, a colonel in the Marine

Reserves, noted that Marines have been under tremendous stress from repeated deployments and often confusing combat situations.

“Some of those guys have been over there several times already. It’s a very different war from ‘03. It’s an insurgency, it’s very frustrating,” said Wright, the executive director of the 1st Marine Division Association in Oceanside, which provides support to active and retired Marines.

In April, three officers with the battalion were relieved of command for a “lack of confidence in their leadership abilities” due to a series of incidents over their entire six-month deployment in Iraq, said Lt. Col. Sean Gibson, a Marine spokesman.

Relieved of command last month were Lt. Col. Jeffrey R. Chessani, the battalion’s commanding officer; Capt. James S. Kimber, commanding officer of the Battalion’s India Company; and Capt. Lucas M. McConnell, commanding officer of the Battalion’s Kilo Company. They have not been charged with any wrongdoing.

Several members of a second Pendleton battalion — the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, known as the Darkhorse — were sent back from Iraq as the military probes the alleged killing of an Iraqi civilian on April 26 in Hamandiyah, west of Baghdad. Some are being held in pre-trial confinement, while others were restricted to base, said Pendleton spokesman Lt. Lawton King. No charges have been filed.

Oceanside resident Rochelle Hoyt said questioned whether the Marines had lowered their recruitment standards.

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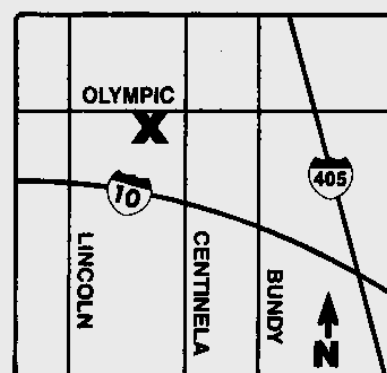
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Bonfires on the beach flaming out

BY LISA LEFF

Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — A dozen bonfires kiss the black expanse of sand like faint stars in the night sky. Small groups stand around the dancing flames, their laughter blending with the sighs of the waves, the rattle of ice chests and a guitar's occasional hum.

Where the uninitiated eye sees a sublime California experience, National Park Service ranger Robert Mitsuyasu sees a nightly act of sacrilege taking place here on San Francisco's Ocean Beach.

Directing his flashlight beam toward 10 men and women gathered around an open blaze, he spots strike one — a stash of beer. The pallets they're using for fuel — a double no-no

because of the nails and treated wood — earn the stunned revelers strikes two and three.

"The night's over," Mitsuyasu announces as he excavates the bonfire's ashes with the toe of his boot. "You guys are going to pack up and take all this trash with you. Look at all these nails. It's ridiculous."

For as long as anyone can remember, building a fire on the beach has been one of the simple pleasures of life by the sea. But if the Park Service has its way, the tradition will soon be extinguished at Ocean Beach, the last stretch in San Francisco and one of the few beaches statewide where bonfires still burn legally.

The federal agency, which manages the beach as part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, says it doesn't have enough rangers to handle the environmental and safe-

ty problems presented by the innocent-looking pastime.

"It's very disheartening to see the public treating their beaches this way," Mitsuyasu said.

Critics of the proposed ban say other agencies have found ways to strike a balance between the interests of fire builders and the natural landscape, with metal fire rings and strict rules about what can be burned.

The state Department of Parks and Recreation, which manages the majority of California's public beaches, banned bonfires on most of them in 1986, but there are still about 30 with concrete or metal fire pits for that purpose.

In Huntington Beach, aka "Surf City USA," the two main beaches have 600 fire rings between them, which cut down on debris and make it easier to clean the beach in the morning. During the summer the demand exceeds the supply, said Lon Graham, a lifeguard supervisor.

"There is something about standing around a campfire that is instinctively enjoyable, so to permit it is a good idea, but with some regulations involved," he said.

Sector Superintendent Kirk Lingenfelter, who oversees state park beaches on the Santa Cruz County coast, considered banning bonfires a few years ago for the same reasons the National Park Service is thinking about doing it now. But the negative reaction was so strong that he decided to keep the existing fire rings.

"There was a fairly large groundswell in the community that holds fire rings very near and dear to its heart," said Lingenfelter.

On some nights, up to 100 bonfires blaze along San Francisco's four-mile Ocean Beach.

As Mitsuyasu and two colleagues prepared to patrol it one recent night, the rangers predicted what they'd find before setting foot on the sand.

Besides booze and pallets, they were on the lookout for the other air-fouling items bonfire builders sometimes ignite — mattresses, painted fences, telephone poles, old furniture layered in varnish.

"If they think they might be able to burn it, people have tried to burn it," said Ranger Matthew Harris. "You should see this place in the morning — it's gross."

One of Mitsuyasu's pet peeves is when people extinguish the flames by covering them with sand instead of dousing them with water. The leftover embers can burn barefoot beachcombers the next day.

By the end of the night, the rangers found just one fire that met their safety standards.

Steve Comkow, part of a group ejected by Mitsuyasu and company, said he and his friends didn't know there was a problem with burning pallets, or they wouldn't have gone to the trouble of dragging a stack of them onto the beach.

"We are just trying to have a good time, that's all," said Comkow, 30. "Before they kick you out, they should have a public notice that gives you all the rules of the beach."



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Former basketball player convicted of murdering teenager

BY JULIANA BARBASSA
Associated Press Writer

FRESNO, Calif. — Former Fresno State basketball player Terry Pettis was convicted Friday of murdering a teenage woman in a botched drug robbery.

The 21-year-old faced a mandatory sentence of life in prison for first-degree murder and armed robbery in the death of Rene Shannon Abbott, a Fresno City College student who was behind the wheel of a car while her boyfriend sold marijuana in the seat next to her.

Pettis shoved a handgun through the open driver's window and demanded the drugs, witnesses said. The gun fired when Abbott, 18, tried to drive away.

Pettis showed no emotion as the verdict was read in Fresno County Superior Court and sentencing was set for July 11. Some of his relatives sobbed.

Defense lawyer Michael Castro claimed the case was one of mistaken identity and that Pettis didn't pull the trigger.

But witnesses and fingerprints put Pettis at the scene and a prosecutor said he should be held accountable for a crime so grisly that the judge decided jurors couldn't see an autopsy photo showing the bullet's impact on Abbott's head.

"This has been rough for everyone," prosecutor John Skiles said outside court. "Tragic for anyone remotely touched."

The April 2004 killing capped a series of run-ins Pettis had with the law that ended his basketball career.

Pettis, who led his Minnesota high school basketball team to three straight state championships, was one of the top Western Athletic Conference players his freshman year at Fresno.

But his exploits off the court soon started drawing more attention.

In 2003, Pettis was sentenced to three years' probation for vandalism and battery, and he spent a month in a substance abuse program.

He emerged to lead the Bulldogs on a seven-game winning spree. But in February 2004 he was suspended from the team and behind bars for violating probation by not completing a batterer's treatment program.

Burley boondoggle

Blue mold's early arrival is threatening tobacco production

BY BRUCE SCHREINER
Associated Press Writer

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — A fungus that attacks tobacco plants was found in eastern Kentucky and has already spread, the first reported U.S. outbreak this year, a tobacco specialist said.

Blue mold was found on young tobacco plants being raised at two locations in anticipation of spring planting in Magoffin County, about 170 miles east of Louisville, said University of Kentucky tobacco pathologist Kenny Seebold. It destroyed two farmers' plants and spread to neighboring Morgan County, he said.

Seebold said Friday the outbreak occurred about a month earlier than usual in Kentucky, the nation's top producer of burley, an ingredient in cigarettes. It marked the second straight year the nation's first tobacco blue mold report came from Kentucky.

"With us almost out of the tobacco business, that was really shocking," said Russell Sparks, Magoffin County agricultural extension agent.

Burley production in the Appalachian county once covered about 800 acres but has dwindled below 100 acres, Sparks said. The two affected farmers are hoping to still get a tobacco crop planted, he said.

"They're out hustling now trying to find ready-to-set transplants because they were ready to set next week," he said.

Seebold said blue mold was reported in Morgan County at three locations where tobacco seedlings also were being raised for eventual planting. The disease caused a total loss at those locations, he said.

Officials aren't sure what caused the outbreak. It could have come in on tobacco plants shipped from the South or could have originated locally, Seebold said.

With planting under way across Kentucky, he urged growers to apply chemicals to tobacco still in greenhouses or outdoor float beds. Eastern Kentucky farmers should consider the same for tobacco that's already been planted, he said. Blue mold can reduce yields if unchecked.

"We're alarmed but we're urging people to be rational," Seebold said. "Don't panic — just scout the plants and go ahead and begin protective fungicide application and just assume there's a level of risk."

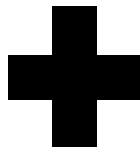
A blue mold outbreak in 1996 cost Kentucky growers an estimated \$200 million.

Last year, it caused minimal loss. The state produced 143.5 million pounds of burley then, its smallest crop since 1927 as many farmers quit growing it after a tobacco buyout that ended a Depression-era program that set price and production controls.

University of Kentucky tobacco production specialist Gary Palmer has predicted a slight increase in burley acreage this year. Most of the production is in central and western Kentucky.

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While the research is mixed on use of sunscreen under six months of age (some say it clogs the pores and prevents natural body cooling), at 6 months of age you are free and clear to choose the product of your choice. I prefer the pump spray products with color tinting. These allow me to see which areas I have covered without gumming up my hands or jewelry. There are also a number of homeopathic products available that are worth trying. Watch for skin reactions and sunburn and then stick with application daily.

During warm weather, cover your kids' entire bodies after they have taken off their pajamas but before they're dressed. It's part of the morning ritual and they don't even fuss. With a 6-month-old you could even incorporate some infant massage techniques during application just for fun.

The official instructions of the American Academy of Pediatrics are: "For older children, test the sunscreen on the baby's back for a reaction before applying it all over."

Dorie

(Submit your questions to "Dear Dorie" at meek@smmusd.org)

A debate with legs

By Daily Press staff

CITYWIDE — Cloth or disposable? A question for children, but hardly a childish question. New parents the world over inevitably find themselves pondering it as they prepare for their baby's homecoming.

Back in the day, cloth diapers were the only option. In the early 1970s, however, new technology made disposable diapers affordable and available to all. Since that time, parents have been arguing over the convenience, cost and comfort of both types of diaper with all the intensity of a Presidential debate.

For guidance on the issue, we turned to the pediatricians at Saint John's Health Center.

CONVENIENCE

For whichever parent is the primary caregiver, disposable diapers offer the incentive of convenience. Disposable diapers can be purchased in any supermarket or convenience store. They are often available in airport gift shops and highway rest stops. Disposable diapers can be discarded with minimal effort and even less lingering odor. Finally, with stretchable leg openings and Velcro-style tab closures, disposable diapers are easy to put on and take off of even the fussiest babies.

Cloth diapers come with benefits as well. They are delivered directly to your door by the diaper service. And cloth diapers now have convenient Velcro fastenings. Still, they do have to be rinsed and laundered.

COST

Over the length of the two to three years your child will be wearing diapers, the cost of purchasing disposable diapers and the cost of using a cloth diaper service even out. The initial cost is higher for disposables, but cloth diapers require that you purchase more laundry detergent and use more energy

running the washing machine. Also, disposable diapers remain dry for longer periods of time. When your baby is an infant, cloth diapers need to be changed more frequently.

COMFORT

Disposable diapers are now made with a super-absorbent powder that traps moisture and converts it to a gel. Even a very full diaper can feel dry next to baby's skin. In addition, the flexible leg openings allow babies easy range of motion and a diaper that stays with them when they are on the go.

Some babies, however, find the plastic materials in disposable diapers irritating. For them, the soft, natural cotton of cloth diapers is preferable. And once parents become adept at diapering their baby, a cloth diaper will stay in place as securely as a disposable one.

ENVIRONMENT

If the environment is a hot button in your household, chances are you'll prefer using cloth diapers. Disposable diapers take up to 500 years to break down in a landfill. Throughout the world, there are hundreds of thousands of landfills packed with disposable diapers.

Cloth diapers, on the other hand, can be reused until they deteriorate. However, don't forget that cloth diapers have to be rinsed and washed — using energy and water.

Regardless of whether you choose to use disposable or cloth diapers, the most important thing is keeping your baby safe and comfortable. With a little common sense and the advice of a good pediatrician, most parents do just fine.

Remember, the best source of information about caring for your baby is a qualified pediatrician. Dr. Jeffrey Penso, a pediatrician with Saint John's Health Center in Santa Monica, advised this article. To find a pediatrician like him (or any type of physician), log onto the Saint John's website at www.stjohns.org.

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Santa Monica Parenting

FOR SANTA MONICA PARENTS AND PARENTS TO BE

PARENTING CALENDAR FOR MAY 30

WED., MAY 31 – INFANT CPR – 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Taught by Richard Pass, RN, BS, Program Director for Save a Little Life. Parents and caregivers welcome. Call for reservations and price. Homemade Baby, 10335 W. Jefferson Blvd., 559-2300.

SAT., JUNE 3 – KID'S NATURE FESTIVAL

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. – The Children's Nature Institute presents an afternoon of music from Dan Crow, live animals and activity booths. This festival is always a big hit! Ages 2 – 8 ; \$9 adults, \$8 children 12 and younger, free for babies. 860-9484, [HYPERLINK "http://www.childrensnatureinstitute.org"](http://www.childrensnatureinstitute.org) www.childrensnatureinstitute.org. At Temescal Canyon, 15601 Sunset Blvd, Pacific Palisades.

SUN., JUNE 4

RHYTHM CHILD ACOUSTIC BAND at the SM FARMER'S MARKET 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Play instruments and rock out with this popular family friendly band. Ocean Park and Main St.

FIRST SUNDAYS are for FAMILIES - 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Fun for kids at MOCA – make sculptures with artist George Herms, discuss current exhibitions with expert kids and enjoy music. FREE! Ages 5 and up, 213-621-1712. 250 S. Grand Ave., LA

TUESDAY

Movies for Moms! 11:00 a.m., Loews Cineplex Broadway Theatre, 1441 3rd St. Promenade – for Moms and babies newborn – 1 year old. Doors open early for socializing and getting comfortable. Visit [HYPERLINK "http://www.enjoytheshow.com/reel-moms"](http://www.enjoytheshow.com/reel-moms) www.enjoytheshow.com/reel-moms for details.

Storytelling

Main Library – 601 Santa Monica Blvd. – 458-8621
Current session May 2 – June 6 for:
Baby Time – 10:15 & 10:45 a.m., babies up to 2 years.
Spanish and Bilingual Stories – 11:20 a.m. Ages 2 – 5
Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 450-0443.
Toddler Story Time in Spanish – 10:00 a.m., ages 2-3.
Baby Time – 11:00 a.m., babies to age 2.
Twilight Story Time -7pm – an ongoing program for 3-5 year olds.
Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 829-7081.
Family Story Time – 7:00 p.m., all ages.
Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St. – 392-8304
Story Time for Twos – 10:00 and 10:30 a.m., register now for May 30 – July 11.
Tiny Tuesday Storytime at Storyopolis For ages infant to 3. 11:00 a.m. 116 North Robertson, Plaza A, LA. 310-358-2500, [HYPERLINK "http://www.storyopolis.com"](http://www.storyopolis.com) www.storyopolis.com
Barnes and Noble at the Grove
Storytime for ages 2 – 6. 10:00 a.m. 189 Grove Drive, LA, 323-525-0270

Classes
YWCA – A Place for Parents –Toddler & Me Class - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. – 12 to 36 months; Infant & Me Class – 10:45 –

11:45 a.m. and 1:30 – 2:30 p.m., 0 – 12 months; 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.
BREAKTHROUGH PARENTING CLASS-ES – 7:00 – 9:30 p.m.
An advanced 10-week parent education course. Continuous enrollment. For info call Jayne A. Major, Ph.D., Breakthrough Parenting Services, Inc., 310-823-7846, jm@BPinAction.org.

Yoga & Exercise
Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:30 – 1:55 p.m., \$15. Mommy and Me – 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.
Mommy Care – at the Dance Factory, 11606 San Vicente Blvd., Brentwood, 310-394-6711. Combined Pregnancy/Recovery Exercise Group – 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.. (babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)
Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit [HYPERLINK "http://www.strollerstrides.com"](http://www.strollerstrides.com) www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

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

WEDNESDAY
MOMS Club of SM South Playgroups – Newborn group - call for time.
4:30 p.m., separate groups for children born in 2000 and 2001. Call or email Alison at [HYPERLINK "mailto:450-0209"](mailto:HYPERLINKmailto:450-0209) or riversalison@hotmail.com 450-0209 or riversalison@hotmail.com for more info. All moms welcome!

Storytelling
The Talking Stick Coffee Lounge – 1630 Ocean Park Blvd., 450-6052
10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4 at this neighborhood

coffee shop.
Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.
Story Time for Twos – 9:30 a.m.
Preschool Story Time – 10:30 a.m.; ages 3-5.
Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.
Baby Time – 10:15 & 11:15 a.m., ages 0-2. May 31 – July 5.
Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St. –392-3804.
Preschool Twilight Story Time – 7:00 p.m. Parents/children ages 3-5.
Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion – 2 pm – ages 2-5 – 310-475-4144
Border's, Westwood – 11a.m. – 310-475-3444.

Classes
YWCA – A Place for Parents –Toddler & Me Class - 10:30 – 11:30 a.m., 5 to 36 months; 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.
Enchanted Lunchtime Theatre at Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th St., 394-9779
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. For ages 3 – 5 with parents. This theatrical adventure includes story time, theatre games, crafts, play building and lunch. Reservations required 24 hours in advance, \$19.50 includes lunch for child and lunch.

Yoga & Exercise
Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal – 12:30 – 2:00 p.m., \$15
Fitness for Moms – Babies Welcome! Step Aerobics, 10:30 a.m. at the YMCA, 393-2721, ext. 117 for more info. Free for members, non-members pay \$90 for 10 classes.
Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit [HYPERLINK "http://www.strollerstrides.com"](http://www.strollerstrides.com) www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

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

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

THURSDAY
MOMS Club of SM South Playgroup – 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. for children born 1/02 – 2/03; 3:30 p.m., for children born 3/03 – 12/03, Call or email Alison at 450-0209 or [HYPERLINK "mailto:393-4481"](mailto:HYPERLINKmailto:393-4481) riversalison@hotmail.com riversalison@hotmail.com for more info. All moms welcome!

Storytelling
Main Library – 601 Santa Monica Blvd. – 458-8621
Current session May 4 – June 8 for: Story Time for Twos – 10:15 & 10:45 a.m.
Preschool Story Time – 11:20 a.m. Ages 3 – 5.
Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean

Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.
La Hora Del Cuento – 7:00 p.m. Spanish stories, songs and rhymes for all ages.
Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.
Story Time for Twos – 10:15 a.m., June 1 – July 6.
Preschool Story Time – 11:15 a.m.; ages 3-5. Ongoing.
Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St. – 310-392-3804.
Baby Time – 9:20 & 10:20 a.m. Babies to 2 years, May 18 – June 22.
Babystyle, 1324 Montana Avenue, 434-9590
10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4.

Classes
YWCA – A Place for Parents –Toddler & Me Class - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m and 10:45 – 11:45 a.m., 12 to 36 months; Parent Support Group – 3:30 – 4:30 p.m., age 3 – 5 years; 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.
BREAKTHROUGH PARENTING CLASS-ES – 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.
An advanced 10-week parent education course. Continuous enrollment. For info call Jayne A. Major, Ph.D., Breakthrough Parenting Services, Inc., 310-823-7846, jm@BPinAction.org.

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

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

FRIDAY
MOMS Club of SM South Playgroups 11:00 a.m. - playgroup for children born 10/04 – 5/05. Call or e-mail Alison at 450-0209 or riversalison@hotmail.com for more info.
Parent's Night Out at Child's Play, 2299 Westwood Blvd., 6:00 – 11:00 p.m. Kids get a night of supervised fun with pizza, games and more while parents go out. Ages 3-10, \$9 per hour, \$7 siblings, 3 hour minimum. Reservations required, 470-4997. [ww.childsplayonline.net](http://www.childsplayonline.net)

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

Yoga & Exercise
Kid's Yoga Circle Class at Exhale Spa – 3:30 p.m., for ages 5 – 11, 1422 2nd St., 260-2736 or yogaforkids@hotmail.com.
Fitness for Moms – Babies Welcome! Indoor Cycling, 10:30 a.m. at the YMCA, 393-2721, ext. 117 for more info. Free for members, non-members pay \$90 for 10 classes.
Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:30 – 1:55 p.m., \$15.
Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit [HYPERLINK "http://www.strollerstrides.com"](http://www.strollerstrides.com) www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

SATURDAY
Storytelling
Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade – Kid's Story Time – 10am, 310-260-9110
Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion – 10:30am – ages 2-5, 310-475-4144.
Children's Book World, 10580 1/2 Pico Blvd, LA - 10:30 a.m., every other Sat., 310-559-BOOK.
Village Books, 1049 SwarthmoreAve, Pacific Palisades – 10:30 a.m., 454-4063.
826LA, 685 Venice Blvd, 2nd Floor, Venice – 10:30 – 11:30 a.m., ages 3-6, RSVP to info @825LA.com or 310-314-8418. (826LA is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting students with their creative and expository writing skills, and to helping teachers inspire their students to write).

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

Yoga & Exercise
Santa Monica Yoga – Pre- & Post-Natal Yoga, Saturdays – 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. 1640 Ocean Park Blvd, 396-4040, www.santamonicaayoga.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 [HYPERLINK "http://www.strollerstrides.com"](http://www.strollerstrides.com) www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

Other
All the World's a Stage at The Santa Monica Playhouse
Family Theatre; Saturdays & Sundays thru June 11; also July 15 – Sept. 23; 12:30 & 3:00 p.m., \$12.50 adults, \$10.50 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 2 for reservations, [HYPERLINK "http://www.santamonicaplayhouse.com"](http://www.santamonicaplayhouse.com) www.santamonicaplayhouse.com
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 [HYPERLINK "http://www.preciousprintsstudios.com"](http://www.preciousprintsstudios.com) www.preciousprintsstudios.com for more info.
Lakeshore Learning Stores "Free Crafts for Kids" – Saturdays, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., 8888 Venice Blvd., 559-9630.
"A Faery Hunt" – 10:30 a.m., every Saturday at Franklin Canyon Park. An interactive children's show, searching for fairies and other enchanted creatures in the magical canyon and finding them! \$10, call for reservations – 818-324-6802. [HYPERLINK "http://www.faeryhunt.com"](http://www.faeryhunt.com) www.faeryhunt.com. Meet in the parking lot of the Sooky Goldman Nature Center, 2600 Franklin Canyon Dr., Beverly Hills.
Princess Bean's Messy World – 2:00 p.m., Sat. and Sun. May 27, 28.
A musical about real princess spirit featuring Cinderella, Snow White, Sleeping Beauty and Princess Bean. Rock and roll dance party after performance. Ages 3 – 9. Electric Lodge Theatre, 1416 Electric Ave., Venice, 823-0710. \$10 admission.

SUNDAY
Main Street Farmer's Market – 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., corner of Main St. and Ocean Park Blvd. Pony rides, live music, lots of vendors and great family socializing. Puppetolio – 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested
Magicopolis – 2 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$15. Call 310-451-2241 for info.
Prenatal Aqua Aerobics at the Santa Monica YMCA
9:30 – 10:30 a.m; Free for members, non-members \$90 for 10 classes. 393-2721for more info.
Princess Bean's Messy World – 2:00 p.m., Sat. and Sun. May 27, 28.
A musical about real princess spirit featuring Cinderella, Snow White, Sleeping Beauty and Princess Bean. Rock and roll dance party after performance. Ages 3 – 9. Electric Lodge Theatre, 1416 Electric Ave., Venice, 823-0710. \$10 admission.
All the World's a Stage at The Santa Monica Playhouse
Family Theatre; Saturdays & Sundays thru June 11; also July 15 – Sept. 23; 12:30 & 3:00 p.m., \$12.50 adults, \$10.50 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 2 for reservations, [HYPERLINK "http://www.santamonicaplayhouse.com"](http://www.santamonicaplayhouse.com) www.santamonicaplayhouse.com



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Great Salt Lake is living lab for students

BY DEBBIE HUMMEL
Associated Press Writer

SALT LAKE CITY — The pink, brackish water of the north arm of Great Salt Lake is teaming with millions of microscopic organisms that could hold the key to better protection against ultraviolet rays or aid in environmental cleanup.

They're extremophiles — organisms that live in extreme environments, in this case, a saturated saline solution — and have gone largely unexamined until now. A new generation of college professors and their undergraduate students are unlocking their mysteries.

Bonnie Baxter, an assistant biology professor at Westminster College in Salt Lake City, set out with her students to find organisms that were highly resistant to UV radiation. The initial assumption was the pigments found in the creatures might have something to do with a greater protection from the sun.

"We had no real goal of isolating organisms," Baxter said. "But when we found very little work had been done on the microbiology of Great Salt Lake we realized all of them are novel. They haven't been isolated before."

What excites Baxter the most is that the work is being done by undergraduate students.

"These students have these incredibly cool experiments because they are working on organisms that have never been studied before," she said.

One of those students is Ashlee Allred. Under Baxter's supervision, Allred came

upon just such a unique creature, one that is much more resistant to UV light damage than E. coli and other bacteria. She said the organism is able to use light, but without experiencing damage to its DNA. The "photoprotective" characteristics appear to come from carotenoid pigments, like those found in carrots or sweet potatoes. Further study could lead to advancements in sunscreen technology, Baxter said.

Allred's sun- and salt-loving find was included in Canadian author Elin Kelsey's book, "Strange New Species: Astonishing Discoveries of Life on Earth." Baxter said she is proposing Halorubrum salsosis as the organism's scientific name.

Baxter said she and her students have found genetic evidence for about 45 different organisms and have isolated about 25 of them. It will take some time to figure out how many others could be unique species.

Baxter and her colleagues hope to coordinate their research with that being done by two of Utah's other universities, Weber State in Ogden and Brigham Young in Provo. The three schools have plans to present a combined paper — a rarity in the academic world where the pressure to publish snuffs out such collaboration, they say.

"We must have between 400 and 500 different DNA isolates," said Alan Harker, a biology professor at Brigham Young. He estimated less than 10 percent of those matched sequences already in national databases.

Each of the schools have similar findings and are working to classify them, he said. All the professors agree that the unique micro-

biology of Great Salt Lake gives their students a leg up when it comes to getting into graduate and professional schools.

Until recent years very little research has been done on the microbiology of Great Salt Lake, and Baxter attributes the lack of interest to a "historical disgust" of the salty, smelly landlocked sea. It's easy to understand why early settlers were disappointed to find a lake saltier than the ocean that contained no visible marine life.

"When I moved here to Utah it just seemed natural that someone ought to be studying the lake because it's such a unique environment," said Harker.

For years the lake was viewed as a cesspool, he said.

A railroad causeway cuts through Great Salt Lake. Most tributaries flow into the south end of the lake, but with no outlet. It's a dead sea and the southern waters have a salt content of between 14 percent and 18 percent. Ocean water is about 3 percent. Thanks to the causeway, the north section of the lake's salt content hovers in the high 20s.

Not only are the microbes living in the north section of the lake fascinating for their ability to live in such a high saline environment, they also live among oil seeps and years of pollution that have left traces of phosphorus and heavy metals, such as mercury and selenium, in the water.

"All of that feeds into the microbial community and it's fairly important to know what those transformations are," said Harker.

On an overcast spring day, Harker and

honors student Eric Barker, a junior, spent part of the morning capturing samples of water and soil from the lake bed near the decaying pilings of an old oil operation.

"We know there's a lot of oil, and we know what the oil content is in the sand," Harker said while screwing the lids on jelly jars filled with cloudy pink water and sand.

Barker will use the samples for research toward his honors thesis. With the help of his professor, he hopes to demonstrate that the microbes in that part of the lake are using the oil as a source of carbon.

Harker says it's research that could ultimately lead to advancements in how to clean the waste water from petroleum production, which also has a high salt content.

Further north along the shoreline, closer to artist Robert Smithson's piece of Earth art, "Spiral Jetty," Weber State professor Craig Oberg and assistant professor Michele Zwolinski monitor four students as they get samples for their planned studies of how microorganisms in the lake use phosphorous.

"Phosphates are a big problem," Oberg said. "These would have a unique (application) if we can find a protein that scavenges phosphates efficiently."

Another colleague of Oberg's is working on what the organisms do with some of the lake's other contaminants.

"It's really not sterile at all," said Oberg looking out on the lake which is tinted pink, in part, by the newly named bacteria the Westminster group researched. "It has this huge biomass in it. But the biomass is microscopic."

Which of These Costly Mistakes Will You Make When You Sell Your Santa Monica Home This Summer

BY JAMES COSTELLO AND
JOHN MCCORMACK

SANTA MONICA — A new report has just been released which reveals 7 costly mistakes that most homeowners make when selling their home, and a 9 Step System that can help you sell your home fast and for the most amount of money.

This industry report shows clearly how the traditional ways of selling homes have become

increasingly less and less effective in today's market. The fact of the matter is that fully three quarters of home sellers don't get what they want for their home and become disillusioned and — worse — financially disadvantaged when they put their home on the market.

As this report uncovers, most home sellers make 7 deadly mistakes that cost them literally thousands of dollars. The good news is that each and every one of these mistakes is entirely preventable.

In answer to this issue, industry insiders have prepared a free special report entitled "*The 9 step System to Get Your Home Sold Fast and For Top Dollar.*"

To hear a brief recorded message about how to order your free copy of this report, call 1-800-455-9195 and enter ID #1000. You can call anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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Mammoth tusks make impression

BY JEANNETTE J. LEE

Associated Press Writer

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — In the downtown ivory shops, alongside whale baleen baskets and walrus tusk statuettes, tourists finger curios made from the fossils of shaggy Ice Age beasts that died on the tundra thousands of years ago.

Woolly mammoth fossils, abundant on rivers and beaches in Alaska's Interior, are shaped into jewelry or etched with scrimshaw, then sold to collectors and retail shops.

Alaska's borders contain the largest caches of mammoth remains in the United States, and a consistently cold climate has kept much of it in carveable condition.

"In the rest of the country, it isn't in very good shape and it's rather rare. The permafrost and the muck helped preserve it better here," said Dale Guthrie, professor emeritus at the Institute of Arctic Biology in Fairbanks.

As the warmer temperatures and round-the-clock daylight of summer draw tourists to the state, ivory shop owners anticipate the inevitable questions visitors have about mammoth ivory.

"Most people don't even know about it until they come up here, and see it in the store and go, 'Hmmm, mammoth ivory?'" said Barbara Lynd, owner of Alaska Arts and Ivory.

Many don't know that mammoth ivory is legal to carve and, unlike hundreds of other wildlife products, can be taken across nearly any border in the world. A few have asked where they can go to see a live mammoth.

"They're not really clued in to the fact that they're extinct," Lynd said.

Delicate lines of scrimshaw depict a herd of the elephant-like beasts on a slab of a tusk in front of her cash register. The piece will sell for about \$4,500, Lynd said. Necklaces of polished beads cost between \$100 and \$400.

Mammoth fossils, which look like large pieces of driftwood, are unearthed by shifting rivers and eroding coasts in a swath that stretches from Fairbanks to Bethel, up the western coast and through the great oil fields of the North Slope.

For the past 15 years, Charles Foster of Kotzebue has searched for mammoth tusks and bones every summer at a secret location along a river. He sells the ivory to buyers in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau. Leftover bones and tusk fragments he keeps in a bulging cardboard box under a table in his small living room. A dark closet next to the front door is filled with several dusty tusks.

Using a shovel and pick, Foster collects about 15 pieces a summer near Kotzebue, just above the Arctic Circle on Alaska's western coast. A school maintenance worker known for his fossil-finding skills, he sells the teeth for \$500 each, while the tusks sell for a higher price he wouldn't disclose.

"I can get a four-wheeler with four of these teeth," Foster said as he picked through the box of mammoth tusks, teeth and leg bones.

The remains are somewhat protected by laws that ban their removal from state or federal land. But with an uncountable number of mammoth fossils spread over hundreds of thousands of square miles of sparsely populated land, law enforcement can't keep tabs on them all.

Lynd said most of her inventory comes from people she's known for two decades.

"I trust they are getting it from the right places," she said. Scrimshaw artist George Vukson, who sells pieces to Lynd and other shops and collectors, said most of his ivory supply comes from Alaska Natives who find it while hunting.

Vukson, of Knik, pays \$35 to \$70 a pound for fossilized mammoth ivory, depending on quality.

The ivory is sometimes easier to sell to international tourists than carvings and crafts from living species, shop owners said, because laws to prevent wildlife trafficking between countries are less strict for mammoth remains.

Since mammoths are extinct, all the animals' parts, from tusk to bones to teeth, are legal to buy and bring through customs, without fees or permits, in almost every country, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

"People from Europe come and they can't take the whale bone or baleen, and there's a lot of that up here," Lynd said. "The thing about mammoth ivory is it can be taken across many borders."

She said international tourists are generally safe buying mammoth ivory, soapstone and usually antler from moose and caribou, while whale, walrus and certain furs are either banned or require permits and fees. Even travelers cutting through Canada to the U.S. by car or cruise ship must forfeit animal parts that are banned or lack the required paperwork at Canadian customs.

"Legally, you can sell these to someone from, say, Germany, but ethically you should warn him he needs a permit," said Chris Andrews, wildlife inspector for the Fish and Wildlife Service in Anchorage.

To the untrained eye, mammoth ivory looks like ivory from its relative, the elephant.

But cross-hatch markings on the tusks are distinct from elephants, and the ivory is creamier than elephant ivory, which is stark white. Unlike elephant tusks, mammoth is fossilized and tends to be brownish or blueish from centuries of absorbing minerals in the ground. Lighter shades are found in Siberia, where tusks are preserved in ground that thaws

less frequently than Alaska.

The ivory is valuable to researchers, who use the tusks to track mammoth growth rates, seasonal eating and drinking patterns and migration trends based on the types of plants the animal was eating.

Scientists vary in their opinions about the excavation and sale of mammoth ivory by private, largely untrained individuals, said Guthrie whose study on mammoth extinction appeared recently in the journal Nature.

"But most scientists would agree that there's a risk it could lead to people grabbing rarer fossils and we could lose the story of our past," he said.

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What to do if you meet a wolf

BY KEITH RIDLER

Associated Press Writer

BOISE, Idaho — Thousands of vacationers in the West will likely see a wolf in the wild for the first time this summer, often from the road but sometimes while camping or hiking.

The federal government and state agencies that manage wolves have concise rules on what is legal in these encounters, and experts who study wolf behavior offer advice on how to handle what is likely to be an unforgettable experience.

“Wolves don’t turn and run away immediately like we’re used to with other animals,” said Carolyn Sime, gray wolf program coordinator with the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Department. “The other thing that kind of makes it unnerving is the intensity of their eyes. It’s partly the color, and partly the intensity of the way they’re looking at you.”

Wolves nearly always blink first, experts say, but yelling will drive off a wolf as will pepper spray.

About 1,000 wolves in 140 packs live in Montana, Idaho and Wyoming, steadily increasing since being reintroduced in Yellowstone National Park and central Idaho in 1995 and 1996.

“Even though they’re fairly rare in nature, wolves are relatively visible compared to a lot

of animals,” said Ed Bangs, wolf recovery coordinator with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. “There are never many of them because these are big, large carnivores. But they seem abundant because they travel the same areas people do.”

Bangs said one study found that more than 100,000 people see a wolf in Yellowstone National Park each year. For comparison, few people ever see one of the 31,000 cougars that inhabit the Western U.S.

Gray wolves have also been reintroduced along the Arizona-New Mexico border, beginning in 1998, but that population had fewer than 50 individuals at the end of 2005.

About 3,000 gray wolves inhabit northern Minnesota, and another 500 in Michigan and 500 in Wisconsin.

Male wolves average about 100 pounds and females slightly less. They often travel on roads, trails, creek bottoms and ridge tops. When resting, wolves like the same types of areas that draw humans.

“Because meadows are attractive to campers, you’re likely to run into wolf activity,” said Steve Nadeau, statewide large carnivore coordinator with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. “Particularly if the meadow has game nearby — elk and deer.”

Wolf experts say that centuries of mythology taints present day wolf-human meetings, and that wolves tend to avoid humans.

“If you’re walking on a dark trail at mid-

night and you turn a corner and come across a pack of 20 wolves, enjoy them,” said Bangs. “Because they’ll be gone in a few seconds.”

But wolves might not vanish so quickly if a hiker has a dog along. Northern Rockies gray wolves have killed at least 83 dogs since 1987, and last year killed 30 of their own number in territorial disputes.

“Wolves consider dogs as strange wolves,” said Bangs. “A dog may think that a wolf barking or howling is a dog that wants to play. Trust me, that is not the case.”

Other instances where wolves might act aggressively is near a den or a kill site.

“If you come into an area where you see a kill, particularly if it’s kind of fresh, back out of there and go someplace else,” said Sime.

Meeting wolves can have legal ramifications. Under the Endangered Species Act, wolves in Minnesota are listed as threatened, while wolves in Michigan, Wisconsin, northern Idaho, and northwest Montana are endangered.

Wolf populations that resulted from reintroductions are listed as “experimental, nonessential.” They include wolves south of Interstate 90 in Idaho, Montana outside the northwest corner, Wyoming, Arizona and New Mexico.

“Our regulations allow anyone at anytime to scare a wolf away,” said Bangs. “Just run at it and yell at it and it will run off. That’s legal to do. Just don’t hurt it.”

Pepper spray — often carried by hikers in grizzly bear country — can be used on wolves. It’s legal to kill a wolf in self-defense.

“Expect an investigation because that is almost nonexistent,” said Bangs. “The physical evidence better back up your story.”

The penalty for illegally killing a listed wolf can range up to \$100,000 and a year in jail. Bangs said that about 10 percent of Northern Rockies wolf deaths are the result of illegal kills.

Gray wolves in the Northern Rockies met the criteria for delisting in 2002. The Fish and Wildlife Service has approved plans by Idaho and Montana to manage wolves, but federal officials rejected Wyoming’s plan saying it would eliminate wolves outside Yellowstone National Park. That has stopped delisting so far.

If delisted, wolves would be treated as big game animals, possibly with hunting seasons, something Bangs said and other federal and state wolf managers favor.

Hunting would not be allowed in Yellowstone National Park, where most wolf sightings occur. But sightings are becoming more common elsewhere.

“Of all the things you have to worry about in life, wolves are probably on the bottom of the list,” said Bangs. “People who don’t know any better are nervous about wolves, but most people are like, ‘Wow, was that cool or what.’”

Scientists unearth whopper of a worm near extinction

BY JOHN K. WILEY

Associated Press Writer

PALOUSE, Wash. — Pity the poor robin that latches onto one of these worms.

A yard long and as big around as a man’s pinkie finger, the giant Palouse earthworm is albino-pale, can burrow 15 feet deep and smells like a lily.

The recent discovery of one of the scarce giants has energized entomologists and soil scientists, who fear it may be near extinction.

“It was very exciting. Just to find something we thought, perhaps, was gone is a great thing,” University of Idaho soils scientist Jodi Johnson-Maynard said.

The native giant earthworms have been found by scientists only four times since the 1970s. None had been seen since the 1980s until Idaho graduate student Yaniria Sanchez-de Leon dug one up while studying other earthworm species in May 2005.

It wasn’t until last January that worm experts confirmed she had found *Driloleirus americanus*, the giant Palouse earthworm.

“I wasn’t looking specifically for it. I was hoping it was around,” Sanchez de-Leon said.

Little is known about the giant worms: how many there are, where they live, how they behave, or why they are so scarce.

Scientists aren’t even sure how big they get. Reports of 3-foot-long earthworms

come from before the Palouse region of Eastern Washington was carpeted by wheat and other crops more than a century ago, Johnson-Maynard said.

Specimens found in modern times have been 18 inches or less. A giant worm in Australia, by comparison, can reach 10 feet.

Sanchez-de Leon thinks the 6-inch-long version she found — a little longer and fatter than a common nightcrawler earthworm — might be a young adult.

One reason so little is known about the giant earthworms is, well, they’re worms.

Unlike the celebration touched off by last year’s sighting in Arkansas of the ivory-billed woodpecker — a bird not seen in 60 years and thought to be extinct — the giant earthworm Sanchez-de Leon found last year already has been consigned to a jar of formaldehyde.

“Realistically, the giant Palouse earthworm is a lot less charismatic than a giant woodpecker,” said James “Ding” Johnson, head of the University of Idaho’s Department of Plant, Soil and Entomology Sciences. Johnson, himself, found several of the giant earthworms during graduate studies in the late 1980s.

There is urgency to find more Palouse giants because earthworms play an important part in the health of soil and plants, the scientists said.

“Earthworms are considered nature’s tillers. They’re extremely important for soil quality and from the standpoint of managing to grow plants better,” said Ann Kennedy, a Washington State University soil scientist and veteran of several unsuccessful giant Palouse earthworm expeditions.

“It’s one of a whole group of macrofauna that burrow and move organic matter from the surface down to deeper depths,” Kennedy said. “It’s amazing how far down you can find matter.”

Sanchez-de Leon spent two years digging in WSU’s Smoot Hill Ecological Reserve north of Pullman, about 65 miles south of Spokane — where the giant earthworm had been found previously.

The 800-acre reserve is thought to be one of the last remaining segments of the 2 million-square-acre Palouse shrub-steppe prairie of north-central Idaho and southeastern Washington.

The Palouse region was formed from ash-falls from Cascade Mountain volcanic eruptions. The wind-blown loess is hundreds of feet deep in places and supports a carpet of wheat on rolling hillsides.

The Palouse-area scientists think the earthworm’s length and feeding habits might contribute to its scarcity.

These earthworms don’t regenerate when cut by plows and tillage disturbs the layer of

surface vegetation where they eat, the scientists think.

Other factors could be changes to their native habitat, or competition from other species of earthworms brought West by settlers, the Idaho and WSU scientists said.

Because the giant worms may “hibernate” deep underground until surface conditions are just right, it is not known how many there are, Kennedy said.

“The historic records lack enough precision for us to know how common they were before the Palouse was tilled. There are early oral reports of seeing these giant worms,” Johnson said.

Unlike the giant sand worms of “Dune,” the science-fiction work made into a movie in 1984, or the man-eating underground dwellers of 1990s movie “Tremors,” the giant Palouse worms appear to eat only vegetation and an occasional insect.

That lily scent the worms are reported to give off is thought to be a defense mechanism, Johnson and others said.

European worms, which were brought West by settlers, may have crowded out the native worms, Johnson said.

“We’re not exactly sure why they’re going extinct,” Johnson said. “Apparently, the natives did not evolve with tillage, with the plants we’ve introduced. We’ve changed their ecosystem and introduced a competitor.”



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Pitt, Jolie spread the wealth

By The Associated Press

WINDHOEK, Namibia — Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt celebrated their daughter's birth in Namibia by donating \$300,000 to help other babies in the impoverished southern Africa nation.

Jolie gave birth to Shiloh Nouvel Jolie-Pitt at the Welwitschia Clinic in Walvis Bay on Saturday. Mother and baby were both healthy and doing very well Monday, said Samuel Nuuyoma, governor of the Namibian region of Erongo.

"They are just fine, they are enjoying their lives," said Nuuyoma.

The couple also gave \$15,000 for a school and a community center in Swakopmund.

"We want to contribute to Namibia and the people who have been so gracious to us at this time," a government statement released Monday quoted the couple as saying.

Jolie and Pitt had come to Namibia before the birth to avoid the media, and the government went to extraordinary lengths to accommodate their desire for privacy.

Shiloh could be eligible for automatic Namibian citizenship, government officials added. The issue would be discussed with the couple later, officials said.

Jolie, 30, is a frequent visitor to Africa and serves as goodwill ambassador for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees. She has two adopted children: toddler Zahara, from Ethiopia, and 4-year-old Maddox, from Cambodia. Both had their surnames legally changed to Jolie-Pitt after Pitt announced his intentions to adopt the children as well.

Pitt, 42, and actress Jennifer Aniston divorced

last year.

HONG KONG — Paris Hilton says her upcoming album will be a mix of reggae, pop and hip-hop, with the first single being a reggae song called "Stars Are Blind."

Hilton also will remake Rod Stewart's "Do You Think I'm Sexy," she said in an interview in the June issue of Hong Kong magazine Prestige.

"The whole album has so much different music on it. I like all music. It's not like I only like pop or only rock. I want to have something for everybody," Hilton was quoted as saying.

Hilton said she wrote the lyrics to seven of her songs. The magazine didn't say how many songs are on the album.

She said she had to overcome shyness to become a singer.

"I have always had a voice and always known I could sing, but I was too shy to let it come out," Hilton was quoted as saying. "When I finally let go and did it, I realized it is what I am most talented at and what I love to do the most."

Prestige said the single, "Stars Are Blind," will be released this month by Warner Records and her own label Heiress Records, followed by a full album later this year.

HONG KONG — Nicolas Cage will star in the Hollywood remake of the 1999 Hong Kong gangster thriller "Bangkok Dangerous," according to a published report.

Twin brothers Oxide and Danny Pang will direct the remake of their movie and start shooting in Bangkok in August, The South China Morning Post reported Sunday.

The brothers will inject new elements into the

remake and may also cast Thai, South Korean and Hong Kong actors, Oxide Pang was quoted as saying at the Cannes Film Festival.

The Post quoted Danny Pang as saying Cage's character will speak, unlike the mute assassin in the original version.

Although born in Hong Kong, the Pang brothers enjoyed early success in Thailand. Among their other credits is the horror film "The Eye," which tells the story of a young woman who sees the visions of the dead woman whose corneas she inherited in a transplant.

CINCINNATI — Bronson Arroyo was an immediate hit as a Cincinnati Reds pitcher. Now he will show off his musical abilities.

Arroyo and Raquel Aurilia, the wife of Reds infielder Rich Aurilia, and the local band Screaming Mimes will play June 15 in the Madison Theatre in Covington, Ky. Proceeds go to the Reds Community Fund, which supports local youths.

Arroyo, who began playing guitar while in the minor leagues in 1999, released his first CD, "Covering the Bases," last July. The 12 songs were all covers of hits. Arroyo also played at music spots in Boston when he played for the Red Sox. He was traded to Cincinnati this spring.

For his Cincinnati-area musical debut, Arroyo plans to stick mainly to covers, of songs from Pearl Jam, Stone Temple Pilots and Alice in Chains, among others.

"I don't enjoy playing songs I write or really enjoy writing them," Arroyo said. "The biggest I ever wanted to get in music was sitting at a bar playing for 50 people. And when I'm at a bar listening to music, I want to hear songs that I know."

Santa Monica Daily Press
MOVIEGUIDE
SHOWTIMES: MAY 30, 2006

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

United 93 (R)
11:00am, 1:45, 4:15, 7:15, 10:00
X-Men: The Last Stand (PG-13)
10:30am, 11:30am, 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30, 5:30, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 9:45, 10:30, 11:15

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

See No Evil (R)
12:50, 3:00, 5:30, 7:40, 10:10
Twelve and Holding (R)
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
Poseidon (PG-13)
11:30am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
Mission: Impossible III (PG-13)
12:30, 1:00, 3:20, 4:10, 6:10, 7:20, 9:00, 10:20
The Proposition (R)
11:40am, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40

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

Akeelah and the Bee (PG)
11:00am, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50
The Da Vinci Code (PG-13)
10:30am, 11:30am, 12:35, 1:45, 3:00, 4:00, 5:15, 6:30, 7:30, 8:45, 10:00, 11:00, 11:40
Keeping Up With the Steins (PG-13)
10:45am, 1:05, 3:15, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10
Over the Hedge (PG)
10:40am, 12:10, 1:00, 2:30, 3:20, 4:50, 5:40, 7:20, 8:00, 9:30, 10:20
Over the Hedge (PG)
12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:20, 9:30

Nuwilshire Theatre
1314 Wilshire Blvd
(310)281-8228

Art School Confidential (R)
11:30am, 2:00, 4:35, 7:10, 9:50
Thank You for Smoking (R)
11:40am, 2:15, 4:45, 7:30, 10:00

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

An Inconvenient Truth (PG)
12:15, 1:30, 2:45, 4:00, 5:15, 7:00, 7:45, 9:30, 10:15
Friends With Money (R)
3:00, 7:30, 9:45
Sketches of Frank Gehry (PG-13)
12:45, 5:25
Water (PG-13)
1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 9:55

Information: calendar@smdp.com

MORE TODAY IN HISTORY

In 1958, unidentified soldiers killed in World War II and the Korean conflict were buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

In 1971, the American space probe Mariner 9 blasted off from Cape Kennedy, Fla., on a journey to Mars.

In 1981, the president of Bangladesh, Ziaur Rahman, was assassinated in a failed military coup.

In 1986, 21 elderly passengers were killed when a tour bus went out of control on a mountain road and plunged into the Walker River near the California-Nevada border.

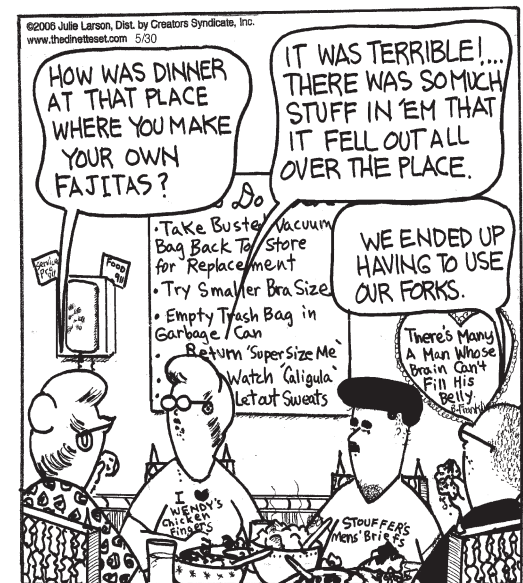
Ten years ago: The House called off a contempt-of-Congress vote after President Clinton's aides turned over 1,000 pages of papers and a long-sought list of documents in the travel office firings. Britain's Prince Andrew and the former Sarah Ferguson were granted an uncontested decree ending their 10-year marriage.



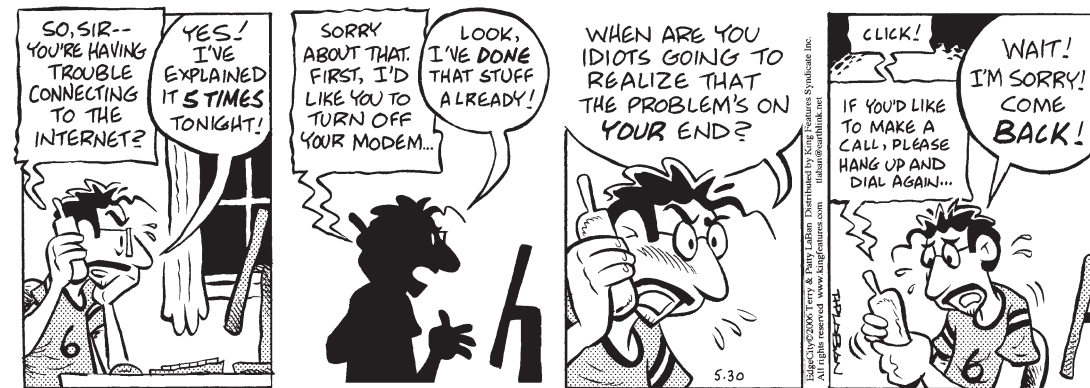
This Is No Bull

"If you're gonna play the game you're gonna need the energy"

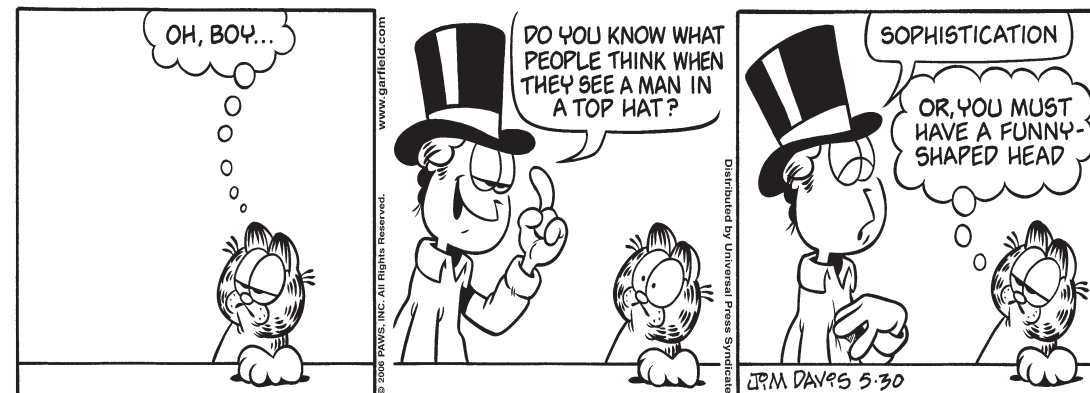
The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



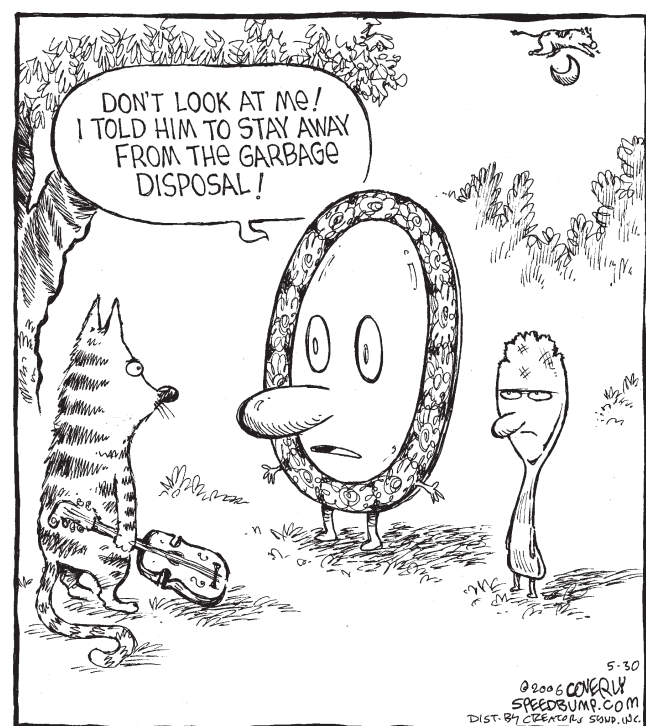
edge city by TERRY & PATTY LABAN



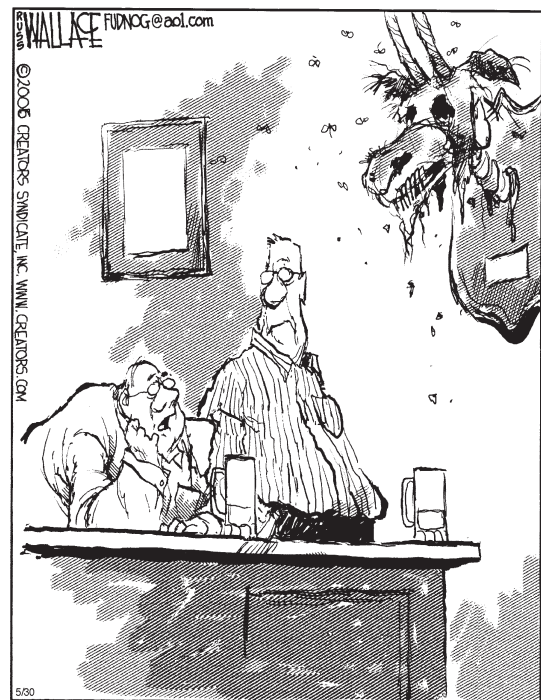
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ACROSS

- 1 Room design
- 6 Fragrant wood
- 11 Blue hue
- 12 Tea-party guest
- 13 Samuel L. Jackson film
- 15 Wee bit
- 16 Holster's place
- 17 Last letter, in London
- 18 Magnet ends
- 20 — four (small cake)
- 23 "Bolero" composer
- 27 TV's Trebek
- 28 Singer Marvin
- 29 Make broader
- 31 Leigh of "Psycho"
- 32 Water lily
- 34 Coffee, in slang
- 37 Corral
- 38 Fine, to NASA
- 41 Samuel L. Jackson film
- 44 Up
- 45 Game host
- 46 They may be counted
- 47 Boxer Mike

DOWN

- 1 Ludicrous
- 2 Poet Pound
- 3 Prompted
- 4 Prospector's find
- 5 Scorching
- 6 RV's kin
- 7 Building add-on
- 8 Cameron of cinema
- 9 Skin woe
- 10 Funny Foxx
- 14 Well output
- 18 Screen dot
- 19 Long tales
- 20 Fido's foot

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Yesterday's answer

- 21 Quarterback
- 22 Mogul Manning
- 24 Moving vehicle
- 25 Iris setting
- 26 Allow
- 30 Motel sign
- 31 Political trip
- 33 Pekoe or oolong
- 34 Slugger Gonzalez
- 35 Aware of
- 36 Goes out
- 38 Rudiments
- 39 Toast topper
- 40 Enthusiastic
- 42 "Norma —"
- 43 One of Jo's sisters

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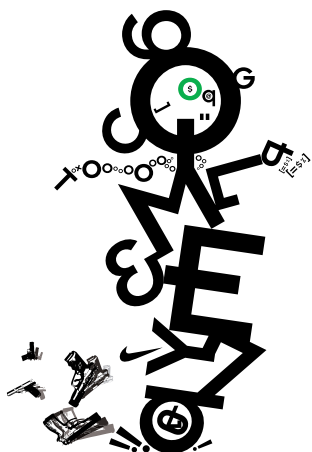
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3 YEAR/1 ARM	5.5%***
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 ** As of January 11, 2006
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Notices

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO AD-
 MINISTER ESTATE OF FRED
 KAUFMAN**

Case No. SP006837
 To all heirs, beneficiar-
 ies, creditors, contingent creditors,
 and persons who may otherwise be
 interested in the will or estate, or
 both, of FRED KAUFMAN

A PETITION FOR PRO-
 BATE has been filed by Helma
 Kaufman in the Superior Court of
 California, County of LOS ANGE-
 LES.

THE PETITION FOR
 PRO-BATE requests that Helma
 Kaufman be appointed as personal
 representative to administer the es-
 tate of the decedent.

THE PETITION re-
 quests the decedent's will and codi-
 cils, if any, be admitted to probate.
 The will and any codicils are avail-
 able for examination in the file kept
 by the court.

THE PETITION re-
 quests authority to administer the
 estate under the Independent Ad-
 ministra-tion of Estates Act. (This
 authority will allow the personal re-
 presenta-tive to take many actions
 without obtaining court approval.
 Before taking certain very important
 ac-tions, however, the personal re-
 pre-sentative will be required to give
 notice to interested persons unless
 they have waived notice or con-
 sented to the proposed action.) The
 independent administration authority
 will be granted unless an interested
 person files an objection to the pe-
 tition and shows good cause why the
 court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the pe-
 tition will be held on July 21, 2006 at
 9:15 AM in Dept. No. F located at
 1725 Main St., Santa Monica, CA
 90401.

IF YOU OBJECT to the
 grant-ing of the petition, you should
 ap-pear at the hearing and state
 your objections or file written objec-
 tions with the court before the hear-
 ing. Your appearance may be in
 person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDI-
 TOR or a contingent creditor of the
 deceased, you must file your claim
 with the court and mail a copy to the
 personal representative appointed
 by the court within four months from
 the date of first issuance of letters
 as provided in Probate Code section
 9100. The time for filing claims will
 not expire before four months from
 the hearing date noticed above.

YOU MAY EXAMINE
 the file kept by the court. If you are
 a per-son interested in the estate,
 you may file with the court a Re-
 quest for Special Notice (form
 DE-154) of the filing of an inventory
 and ap-praisal of estate assets or of
 any petition or account as provided
 in Probate Code section 1250. A
 Request for Special Notice form is
 available from the court clerk.

Attorney for petitioner:
JAMES E BIAVA ESQ
 22526 PACIFIC COAST HWY
 MALIBU CA 90265
 Santa Monica Daily Press
 CN755289 KAUFMAN May 30,31, Jun 6,
 2006

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