

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

5 19 35 38 46
Meganumber: 13
Jackpot: \$32 Million

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ In March, accused U.S. fugitive securities-swindler Frederick Gilliland, living on the lam in Canada, was tricked into coming back across the border, just for a free meal. A vengeful private investigator offered to buy Gilliland lunch at Brewster's in Point Roberts, Wash., and then alerted authorities, who intercepted the super-hungry Gilliland as he approached the restaurant.

■ The police report column in the March 16 Newton (Mass.) Tab newspaper listed a "hate crime" committed by someone who apparently left the familiar Nazi symbol on the dirty window of an SUV. The police report read: "On the rear hatch someone with their finger traced out 'wash me' and below that was a swastika symbol." (The officer is not the only one unclear on Nazi history. In 1994, News of the Weird reported that a murder defendant in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., had asked a judge for permission to wear a Ku Klux Klan robe in court and to be addressed by the "honorable and respected name of Hi Hitler.")

■ Apparently important to actor Robert Blake's acquittal on a murder charge in March was the lack of credibility of the prosecution's witnesses, including an alleged methamphetamine abuser who once thought his house was surrounded by large, horned animals and "people dressed like sagebrush or Joshua trees." To testify that drug users are unreliable witnesses, the defense presented a UCLA psychopharmacologist who revealed that in the course of his own drug use 25 years ago, he had once crawled into a cage of monkeys that were smoking crack cocaine.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 151st day of 2005.
There are 214 days left in the year.

On May 31, 1889, more than 2,000 people perished when a dam break sent water rushing through Johnstown, Pa.

In 1962, World War II Gestapo official Adolf Eichmann was hanged in Israel for his role in the Nazi Holocaust.

In 1977, the trans-Alaska oil pipeline, three years in the making, was completed.

In 1913, the 17th amendment to the Constitution, providing for the popular election of U.S. senators, was declared in effect.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Nothing exceeds like excess."
— UNKNOWN

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A day to remember



Nicky Five Aces/Five Aces Photo

F. Wayne Parish (far left) of the American Legion during Memorial Day ceremonies on Monday delivers an oratory before a symbolic lone grave at Woodlawn Cemetery in tribute to all soldiers killed in action.

World's mayors seek to fight global warming

BY TERENCE CHEA

Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Mayors from some of the world's biggest cities are gathering here this week to forge a set of international guidelines for sustainable urban living — billed as a municipal version of the Kyoto Protocol on global warming that the United States never ratified.

Mayor Pam O'Connor will attend, as well as some city staff members to discuss what Santa Monica is doing to be more sustainable.

The Urban Environmental Accords, to be signed at the United Nations World Environment Day Conference, is the latest example of cities seeking to tackle climate change despite reluctance from their national governments.

"We cannot afford to wait for the state or federal government to do the job. There are too many excuses going around, particularly

in this country," said San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom. "Increasingly, the world will look at mayors to become the stewards of the environment since the vast majority of the pollution comes from cities."

More than 230 community activities for World Environment Day are scheduled around the San Francisco Bay area.

At least 70 mayors from cities such as London, Rio de Janeiro, Tehran, Capetown, Sydney and Shanghai are scheduled to attend

See FIGHT THE HEAT, page 7

'Sensibility' sought for SM City Hall

Businesses, residents form coalition to prioritize city issues

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

Frustrated Santa Monicans may know all too well the saying, "You can't fight City Hall" but if enough fed-up residents unite their voices, local government may have no choice but to listen.

That's the hope of Santa Monicans for Sensible Priorities, a newly-formed coalition that is recruiting a broad-based network of citizens who can force the city's leadership to address long-standing issues that have been met with minimal solutions over the past several years, organizers say.

With hundreds of members, the coalition is backed by big money from local business interests — including the hospitality industry — as well as residents. Santa Monicans For Sensible Priorities' primary focus right now is to establish the community's key issues. The next task will be to find potential candidates who will run a campaign based on those issues. The coalition will then help get them elected in 2006 when three City Council seats will be open.

"The idea here is, what do people care about and why it's not being addressed," said Seth Jacobson, the coalition's spokesman and whose public relations firm has been hired by the group. "By this time next year, we want a credible coalition of people who are willing to join together and impact the election."

In the past few months, the coalition has spent more than \$20,000 on phone surveys and mailers in an effort to find out what's important to Santa Monicans and what's frustrating them.

The results from the phone survey conducted this past spring found that homelessness was the top concern among the 300 residents polled. That came as no surprise to the group's organizers since it's been the top concern among residents in City Hall's phone survey for the past five years. But what's being done about it is one of the coalition's primary concerns.

That's why the group is planning to host a forum in July on the issue, with representatives participating from other cities, who have been able

See CENTS & SENSIBILITY, page 5

And the survey says: Homelessness is the same old problem

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

Santa Monicans are primarily concerned about traffic and homelessness — and they are willing to pay for solutions, according to results of a recently-conducted phone survey.

Santa Monicans for Sensible Priorities, a coalition of hundreds of residents and business interests, hired Moore Information, a research firm based in Portland, to conduct the survey in March. The firm polled 300 residents throughout the city, of all ethnic backgrounds, 50 percent of whom were male and 50 percent whom were female, said Bob Moore, owner of the research firm.

The firm, which has done other surveys in Santa Monica, used a sample survey based off of voting records. Based on the coalition's objectives, Moore Information drafted 49 questions to ask respondents that ranged from quality of life issues to how city government should be run.

It was similar to City Hall's annual survey in that the results show that the community's top priorities are solving the issues

See SURVEY, page 6

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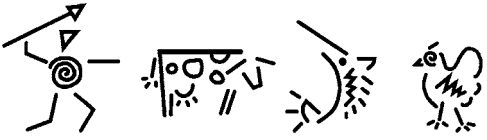
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Santa Monica Daily Press

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)
★★★ Having a course of action will help you make a difference in whatever projects you take on. Sometimes you could be overwhelmed by what is dropped on your plate. You'll find a shortcut. Use it. Tonight: Nap and then decide.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Use the daylight hours to the max, when you can get as much done as possible. Laugh and relax with others, but still focus on the job at hand. You could be overwhelmed by how much others depend on you. Tonight: Make it an early night.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Take charge, and make sure you can handle all the requests that come in from so many directions. Schedule social time for later in the day, when you might be ready to catch up on news. Tonight: Lose the idea of an early bedtime.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Return calls and get the scoop on some information or gossip that keeps floating through your door. You want facts and only facts. Know when to say enough. Refuse to work on hearsay. Make sure others understand your limits. Tonight: Out late.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Others want control, and there is no reason not to give it to them. You and/or they might have to deal with a surprising situation. Let it be someone other than you, if possible. Detach from the immediate uproar. Tonight: Brainstorm with an expert.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Sometimes you cannot change what is going on. Today is a prime example of such a situation. Realize what needs to be done; you might need to take care of some matters on your own. Complain less. Tonight: Go along with another's plans.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Concentrate on what must be done, and refuse to be distracted. You can only get yourself in trouble by not following your initial plans. Someone does care more than you think — and does his or her share to distract you. Tonight: Now, socialize.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Your imagination cannot be suppressed, even if you want to. Let yourself go, and use your unique mental abilities. You know there are answers. You will find them. Loosen up and let ideas flow. Tonight: Count on slowing down.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Pressure builds, and your initial reaction might be to cocoon. What you are learning is that you cannot control everyone all the time, or even some of the time. Relax with a situation, and the unusual will occur. Tonight: What would please you?



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Take action in the morning. In fact, you might find yourself busy all day trying to return calls, clear your desk and catch up on news. You might be a bit jolted by news or a change in plans. Adjust; flex. Tonight: Stay close to home.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Expenses soar out of control, but it could be bad or good, depending on how lucky you are. Avoid risk-taking, and work with the existing situation. Creativity could open up many new doors, turning a negative into a positive. Tonight: Go with a second wind.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ You are in your element, no matter what you do. When a boomerang heads down your path, you skip right over it. You know where you are coming from and where you are heading. That knowledge makes decisions easy. Tonight: Don't count on being out late.



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LOCAL



Muscle beach



Fabian Lewkowicz/Special to the Daily Press

72-year-old bodybuilders Jackie Lee from Mar Vista, and Jim Arrington of Culver City, compete in the Memorial Day bodybuilding competition in Venice beach. Lee won second place in the women's master class. Arrington won first place in the grand masters class (over 60).

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SM City Council to review Euclid Park concept design

By Daily Press staff

Plans for Santa Monica's newest park are in the works. The concept design for the neighborhood park planned on the 1500 block of Euclid Street between Colorado Avenue and Broadway will be presented for approval at the June 14 City Council meeting. Part of a combined parks and housing development, the park will be located next to Hacienda del Mar, a 13-unit residence for people with disabilities. The development of Euclid Park is part of the city's Parks and Recreation Master Plan, a 20-year plan with more than \$142 million in improvements to Santa Monica's parks, open spaces and community facilities. Designed by the team of Rios Clementi Hale Studios and artist Abbie Baron, the concept design represents the culmination of an extensive community design process that included several community meetings, two recreation and parks commission meetings, and a joint meeting of the arts commission and public art committee. Community input received at public workshops held in October and December 2004, and a survey gauging park user preferences for amenities such as shade, seating, children's playground equipment, gardening, security features, and landscape planning were incorporated into the final concept design, which evolved from several early schemes, city officials said. The final concept design that will be presented to City Council and other project information is available for viewing at <http://www.smgov.net/ccs>. The staff report for the project will be available at that Web site after June 9. The June 14 City Council meeting will be held at City Hall in the council chambers, 1685 Main St., and begins at 5:45 p.m. City Hall is served by Big Blue Bus Lines 2, 3, 4 and 8, and is wheelchair accessible. Call (310) 458-8310 for more information.



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SURF REPORT

Today, the SW'er should peak with slightly bigger conditions, and more consistency. Size is expected around waist-high or slightly better, possibly chest-high on the better set waves. Also starting today, it looks like we're in for some increasing NW wind swell. This wind swell should build each day through Thursday by the looks of things, with today starting off with waist-high NW, but peaky with only 8-second periods. Note that the weather should be improving by Wednesday, more so on Thursday, providing some clearing conditions along the coast, and with lighter winds as well.

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

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61°

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	8:19	-0.8	7:42	2.9	12:30	5.8	3:36	3.8
SUNDAY	9:22	-0.5	9:33	2.7	1:41	5.2	4:35	4.1
MONDAY	10:20	-0.2	11:10	2.1	3:06	4.6	5:23	4.6
TUESDAY	11:13	0.2	12:24	1.4	11:13	0.2	12:24	1.4
WEDNESDAY	12:24	1.4	11:59	0.7	6:00	3.9	6:39	5.5
THURSDAY	1:22	0.6	12:41	1.1	7:13	3.8	7:13	5.9
FRIDAY	2:18	0.9	1:17	0.9	8:09	3.4	7:45	5.2

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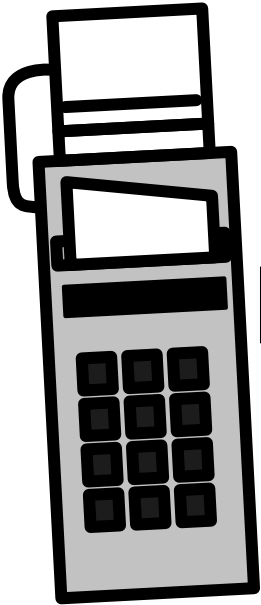
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The QLine

Staffers within City Hall are proposing significant utility rate increases for Santa Monicans because they say the money is running out. However, as they analyze the city budget prior to its adoption in June, City Council members are questioning why and if the rate increases are necessary. Staff says solid-waste, water, wastewater and stormwater fund balances have been decreasing to varying degrees over the last four years. So, the costs are most likely going to be passed to the

users. So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "Do you support rate increases on your utility bills to restore the fund balances to healthy levels? How much are you willing to pay?" Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your responses in the weekend edition. Please try to limit your comments to a minute or less. It might help to think first about the wording of your response.



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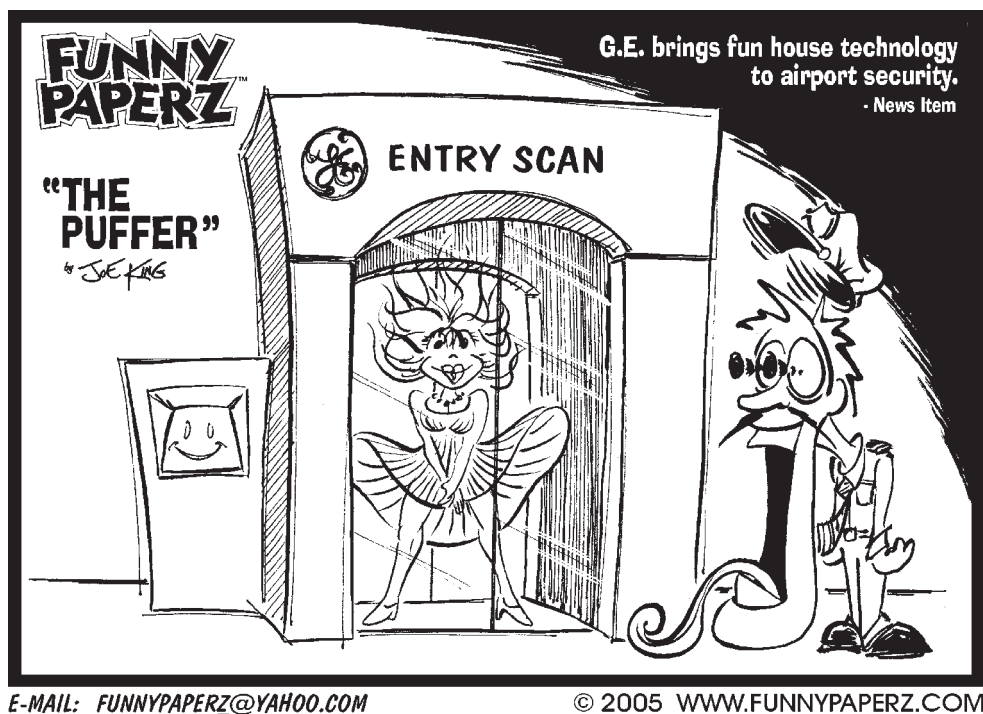
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OPINION



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Officer Crocker will be missed

Editor:

As a past president of the Santa Monica Police Activities League, I had the pleasure of working with Rick Crocker and getting to know him well. It would be difficult to find a more caring and wonderful human being. He became a role model for so many of the young people at PAL, as well as an inspiration to all of us on the board, the staff and our many volunteers. He will be a major loss to the many kids who worked with Rick and who he mentored. Knowing he will not be coming back to PAL creates a void that will be hard to fill. However, the legacy and guidance he leaves behind will make PAL and all of us better people. I feel blessed to be among those who knew Rick and who was touched by him. Rick will be a constant reminder to all of us of the tragedy and evil of war. Hopefully, his loss will just make us all work so much harder to eliminate violence, to do good and to make this a better and safer world. This is the least we can do for Rick and all the other brave men and women who so needlessly lost their lives in Iraq.

Neil Carrey
Santa Monica

Officer's untimely death a time to reflect

Editor:

I had the opportunity to meet Ricardo Crocker and I am saddened by his untimely death. He visited the Pico Youth & Family Center to extend an invitation to our youth for SAT preparation services that were being offered at PAL. Rick was a true professional who exemplified the professionalism of police officers that understand the importance of public service and working with the community to accomplish common goals.

Through working with Rick I learned that he was kind hearted and respectful to all. I hope that his life and death helps us reflect on the need for non-violence and mutual respect in our community and in the world. My heart goes out to his family and friends. He was a true public servant.

Oscar de la Torre
Founder/director, Pico Youth & Family Center

Screening the incoming neighbors takes wit, guts



ANY DAY IN LA

BY HEIDI MANTEUFFEL

The sheets weren't even cold before hopeful tenants started peering into the next-door apartment. Couples flocked by the thousands, well tens, to take a gander at the overpriced phenomenon we know as the Santa Monica rental market.

But it makes sense if you think about it. May and June mark the peak time of year when people are moving out of LA after school, failing at non-profitable jobs (profitable if LA rent didn't swallow half your paycheck), and heading back to where they came from.

Everyone knows that your neighbors are extremely important in choosing a location, but I think even more so in Santa Monica. For not only do you not want them to be irritating and throwing wild parties, but you don't want to have to pay \$800 a month to put up with it.

That is why I carefully scrutinized each couple coming in and out of the next-door apartment, and their little dogs too. It may sound kind of witchy, but no spell can stop mystic chant music at 11 p.m. And no, you can't make up stuff like mystic chant music, either.

I've already dealt with enough bad guitar-playing, cat-yelling, bass-blasting neighbors to know you can only be too careful about who you keep in your company.

So, for the four-day interim it took the owner to find a renter, I saw many a smiling face come and go, trying to befriend me as they obviously wanted the apartment. I know this because one man went out of the way to say "Ooh, cereal," when I came back from Pavillons. Yes, cereal often stops traffic at many an intersection.

Most of the people looking were couples with small dogs. Sure, they seemed pretty nice, but pretty nice doesn't cut it when shared walls are involved.

The only really odd perspective renter was a woman who literally accosted me when leaving my apartment. "Oh great, can you show us around," she said as she blocked off my escape route down the stairs. "Um, I just live here," I said lock-

ing the door behind me, "but I think the owner is somewhere nearby." She acted dejected, uninterested in finding the actual tour guide.

While running errands, I saw the owner in passing and asked him how the search was going.

"I'm interviewing a lot of people," he said, "and trying to ask the subtle questions that will give me an idea of what kind of neighbors they will be like. I just want to find the absolute right person for the apartment, you know?"

Ah, they always seem to know what to say when rent is due in five days.

In coming back up the stairs with the laundry, a current interview was in the mix. The owner pulled me aside saying, "Heidi, why don't you interview your new neighbors?"

Thinking it was a tongue-in-cheek, what-if-you-were-my-neighbor scenario, I tried to come up with some generic, yet to-the-point questions.

"Are you guys clean?"

"Well, just look," the man said as he gestured at the empty apartment.

"You going to throw any raging parties?" I asked sharply.

"No," the girl courteously responded.

"Is your dog very yippy? Does he bark a lot when gets scared?"

"No, he's very well mannered," she assured. No one was taking it as a joke. Was I missing something?

"Wow, I wasn't even that hard on them," the owner admitted.

"I'll let you take it from here," I mumbled, awkwardly smiling, and shuffled my into my apartment.

Too bad I didn't realize it wasn't the hypothetical "Your responsibilities would be this," sort of thing you say when interviewing for a new job. They were actually going to be my neighbors. Even worse, the next time I saw the girl she was talking renter's contract with the owner. She shot me a cold, perfunctory hello, not nearly as friendly as she was before.

I think she would have liked to ask me a few questions herself. Like do you always accost complete strangers while bringing up the laundry?

No, only when the sanctity of my apartment is at stake.

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

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

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Coalition looks for grassroots formation

CENTS & SENSIBILITY, from page 1

to successfully address homelessness, and as a result, reduce crime and improve the quality of life for residents.

"We want to take the top solutions and look at successful programs elsewhere and have them tell us what works and what doesn't," Jacobson said, adding he hopes the coalition can propose a policy to the City Council in August. "There needs to be a sensible solution that everyone can get around."

The group spent \$12,500 in March to send out a mailer to 40,000 residents, asking them to e-mail their war stories when they have had to deal with City Hall in the past. The mailer also detailed a few positions the group stands for, including the perceived problem of public drunkenness and the public costs of a recently-approved living wage for city employees. The mailer also questions whether or not the current leadership represents a force of change.

"We want to get city leadership to focus on the community's priorities," Jacobson said.

The coalition and a related group spent close to \$300,000 campaigning for its candidates and issues for the 2004 election with some results. Now, the group's members hope to show that it's not just the self-interests of the business community that has concerns, but the citizenry at large.

"The more divisive route has been tried but it wasn't issue based ... something that they stand for and to show that they have the same priorities that everybody else has," Jacobson said.

He added that the movement is similar to what Santa Monicans For Renter's Rights (SMRR) did 20 years ago — it formed a broad base of community members to protect affordable rents. Today, SMRR still holds a political majority at City Hall, continuing to promote a social and liberal agenda.

"There has been one organized voice in Santa Monica and I think there are a lot of people who have a different point of view," said Tim Dubois, president and CEO of the Edward Thomas Management Co., which owns Casa Del Mar and Shutters on the Beach, two local luxury hotels. Dubois is involved in the coalition and his company has financially backed the group's past and current efforts because some of the key issues like the

vagrant population and traffic congestion have negatively affected his business.

"The more points of view, the better off we will be but we have to be organized and I think we can be even more organized," he said. "Let's take a new look at these same old problems that have been around for a number of years and help the elected leaders think outside of the box."

Both Dubois and Jacobson said they would rather see the coalition take a grassroots approach than a political one.

"I think it's well intended and without a political emphasis," Dubois said. "Certainly the goal is to have Santa Monica be a better place. It's a goal nothing other than that."

In the past several years, SMRR's progressive agenda has been more rigorously challenged, partly by residents and partly by business interests.

"The population has shifted tremendously," Jacobson said, adding Santa Monica has gotten more affluent and economically powerful in recent years.

Geoff Parcels, an 18-year resident who has four children, three of whom are in Santa Monica public schools, is frustrated by the lack of response he's gotten by his city government when he complains about vagrants sleeping in his carport outside of his home north of Wilshire Boulevard.

"Why after 10 or 15 years have you not been able to solve this problem," he said of city government. "They keep trying to solve this regionally. They need to solve it for Santa Monica, for the people who elected them."

Parcels — who is not formally part of the coalition but supportive of it — said if enough people make the homeless issue a priority, they may force City Hall to adequately respond.

"I think before, you couldn't fight City Hall but I think it's a big enough issue now and if enough people organize, it can work," he said. "Look, you know the squeaky wheel gets the oil."

Whether or not the coalition can rally the community into an organized effort remains to be seen but if it can, politics will surely follow. With three open seats on the council in 2006 — two of which are held by SMRR supporters — the coalition might be able to unseat the city's most powerful political group for the majority of the past two decades.

"Maybe we'll change things," Jacobson said. "We have a year."

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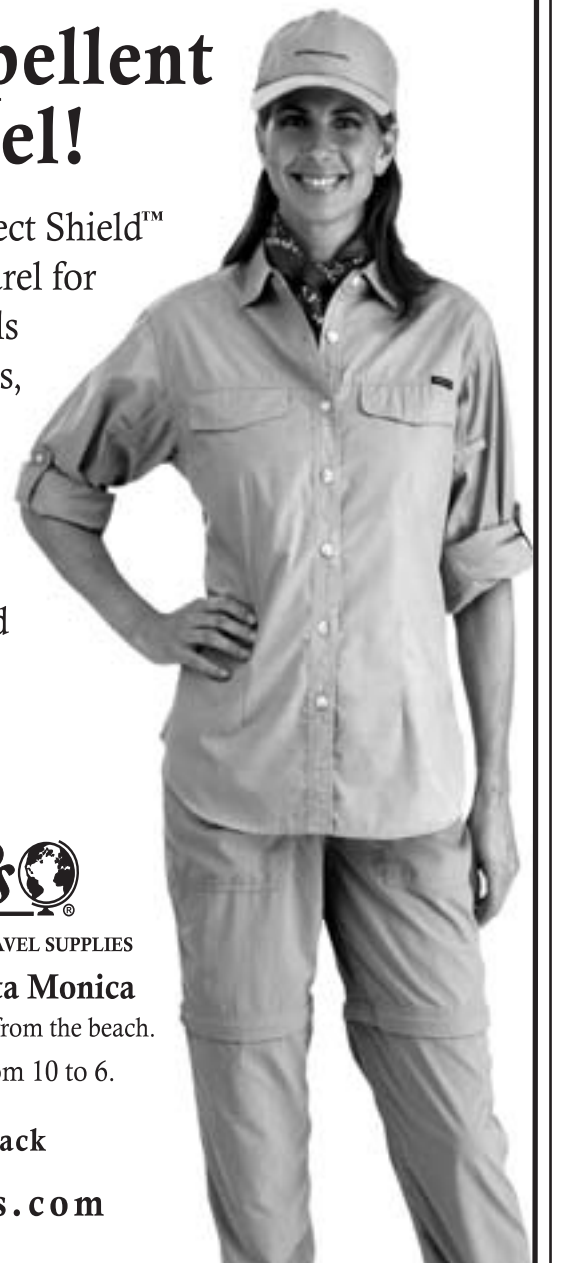
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Phone survey dials in on people's opinions

SURVEY, from page 1

surrounding homelessness in Santa Monica, reducing traffic congestion and eliminating bureaucracy in city government. Those have been the priorities at the top of the list for the majority of locals for years, according to City Hall's survey, which polls 400 residents at random but represents a cross section of the citizenry.

Santa Monicans for Sensible Priorities' goal is to either force the current city leaders to find solutions or elect people who will.

In the most recent survey, homelessness was once again the most important problem, just as it has been for the past five years in City Hall's survey.

"The voters are willing to spend money," said coalition spokesman Seth Jacobson of the survey results. "If we come up with some reasonable solutions that deliver results, they'll pay."

When asked what City Hall's funding priorities should be, the majority of respondents said improving public schools was the priority. The second funding priority was addressing the homeless problem, according to survey results.

Seventy-one percent of residents polled said they would support a regional homeless center in Los Angeles that is supported by area cities. Another 58 percent of the respondents said they would support building several new homeless centers in selected areas throughout the city that offer shelter, as well as drug and alcohol treatment programs and education.

LOOKING FOR POLITICAL BACKING

On the political front, Jacobson said a highlight of the survey showed that residents would support more candidates like newly-elected City Councilman Bobby Shriver, who is viewed as a moderate.

An endorsement by Shriver on a particular issue or political candidate would be viewed positively by 39 percent and negatively by 14 percent of those asked, survey results show. The remaining 46 percent said an endorsement by Shriver wouldn't impact their voting decisions.

Tim Dubois, president and CEO of the Thomas Edwards Management Co., which owns Casa Del Mar and Shutters on the Beach — two hotels that helped pay for the survey — said more politicians like Shriver should be elected to the council.

"I look at Bobby Shriver as a breath of fresh air," Dubois said. "No one would describe him as a pro-business candidate but he has brought into the discussion long-term solutions to the problems."

Jacobson said perhaps the most significant highlight of the poll shows that the majority of residents believe City Hall runs inefficiently when it comes to governing and responding to citizens.

"It's this bubbling, fermenting problem rising to the surface," Jacobson said. "The community does in fact know that the city is not working properly."

Survey results show that voters favor changing the city charter to allow the mayor to hold city department heads accountable for their performance (77 percent in favor); make City Council meetings shorter and more efficient (71 percent in favor); and set the agendas for budget discussions for each fiscal year (54 percent in favor).

When asked if they would support a new city government position — a city ombudsman who is responsible for helping businesses and residents navigate through government bureaucracy — 49 percent said they would, even if it meant a tax increase. Thirty-eight percent said

they would oppose such a position and 12 percent they didn't know.

FINANCING PUBLIC EDUCATION WITH LOCAL DOLLARS

The survey found that funding issues lead the concerns among residents regarding public schools in Santa Monica. Seventy-six percent of those polled said they support the use of city tax dollars to create and operate after-school programs for students in kindergarten through 12th grade.

A majority of supporters — 55 percent — also support the use of city tax dollars to help fund local schools, in addition to funds already collected from taxpayers by schools. City Hall currently gives to the local school district about \$6 million annually from its general fund, as well as millions of dollars in programming and facilities.

TAKING A BITE OUT OF CRIME

Three crime prevention proposals offered to respondents generated support, survey results show. A majority — 63 percent — favor increased crime prevention activities in city schools and 58 percent favor more police patrolling downtown Santa Monica on foot; 54 percent are in favor of more officers patrolling in cars.

OPEN SPACE A WORTHY INVESTMENT

Homelessness is the leading concern in city parks and natural areas, survey results show. About 63 percent believe there are enough parks and natural areas in Santa Monica. However, 53 percent are in favor of using city tax dollars to purchase vacant land and buildings to create more parks.

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STATE



SF mayor hopes accord will be more than a piece of paper

FIGHT THE HEAT, from page 1

the five-day conference in San Francisco — the first U.S. city to host the annual event. World Environment Day, celebrated each June 5, was established in 1974, with annual conferences held since 1987.

At this year's gathering, themed "Green Cities" and running June 1-5, the mayors will trade ideas on sustainable urban living in areas such as renewable energy, recycling, public transportation, city parks and clean air and water. More than 230 community activities for World Environment Day are scheduled around the San Francisco Bay area.

On Wednesday, when the conference opens, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger will unveil California's plan to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and other "greenhouse gases" blamed for trapping heat in the earth's atmosphere and raising temperatures worldwide.

San Francisco, where the United Nations was founded 60 years ago, is known as an environmental trendsetter, and city officials plan to showcase its green successes. The city now recycles two-thirds of its garbage, claims the largest fleet of alternative fuel vehicles and boasts the country's largest city-owned solar power installation at the Moscone Convention Center.

"There's so much we can share, but there's also an enormous amount we can learn from other cities," Newsom said.

Until recently, international treaties have been the main forum for addressing global environmental problems such as climate change, which scientists say is causing increasingly violent storms, shrinking wildlife habitats and rising sea levels that threaten coastal cities.

The Kyoto Protocol, adopted in the Japanese city in 1997, requires industrialized nations to cut greenhouse gas emissions by an average of five percent below 1990 levels. The treaty was ratified by at least 140 countries and went into effect in February.

But the United States, the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases, did not sign because Bush administration officials believed the treaty would result in the loss of five million U.S. jobs and raise energy prices, said Michele St. Martin, a spokeswoman for the White House Council on Environmental Quality.

"President Bush favors an aggressive approach on climate change — one that fosters economic growth that will lead to new technology and innovation," St. Martin said, pointing to the administration's \$2 billion climate change initiative that promotes clean-coal technology, hydrogen-powered vehicles, nuclear power and renewable energy.

Environmentalists and government officials are questioning whether Kyoto and other global treaties between national governments are the solution.

"We have all these laws on the books, but none of them are being implemented," said Jared Blumenfeld, director of San Francisco's Department of the Environment. "They have to teeth. Nothing happens if

you don't implement them. No one's going to hold them accountable."

Frustrated by the U.S. government's stance on global warming, many Americans states, cities and corporations are taking steps to reduce emissions of heat-trapping gases from factories, automobiles and power plants.

Last year, San Francisco was perhaps the first U.S. city to adopt its own "climate action plan" that seeks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions — to 20 percent lower than 1990 levels by 2012 — by increasing public transportation use, recycling rates, renewable power and energy efficiency.

In May, Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels, worried about dry winters in his famously wet city, announced that more than 130 U.S. mayors have signed an agreement to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by meeting or beating the Kyoto targets.

"The mayors, the corporations and even the governor of California are starting to show global leadership in the face of a vacuum," said Kathleen Rogers, president of Earth Day Network. "It's the new trend, and it's out of pure desperation."

Now, mayors from around the world are joining America's city leaders to fight global warming and other environmental problems. By signing the Urban Environmental Accords, the mayors will pledge their commitment to eco-friendly urban development in seven areas: energy, environmental health, transportation, urban design, urban nature, waste reduction and water.

Organizers say global environmental problems must be addressed on the municipal level because half the world's population now live in cities — a proportion that's projected to rise dramatically this century. And cities consume about three-quarters of the world's resources while producing three-quarters of the world's pollution.

"Unlike the federal governments that seem to find a lot of wiggle room in treaties, mayors are much more responsible to their constituents," Rogers said. "Mayors are much more in tune with what people want."

The accords spell out 21 specific actions mayors can take to make their cities greener, and signers promise to annually adopt at least three new policies, many of which involve economic incentives or legislation. In the energy arena, for instance, cities can adopt policies to increase use of renewable power, boost energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions — actions that can help cities save money and clean up the environment.

"It's a real roll-up-your-sleeves approach," said Susan Ode, outreach coordinator for Local Governments for Sustainability. "They're actions that truly will help and can be implemented by local governments and communities."

While the accords are not legally binding, organizers hope that community activists will hold the mayors to their promises once they return home.

"I hope that at the end of the day we're not just signing a piece of paper," Newsom said, "but making real commitments to take real action."

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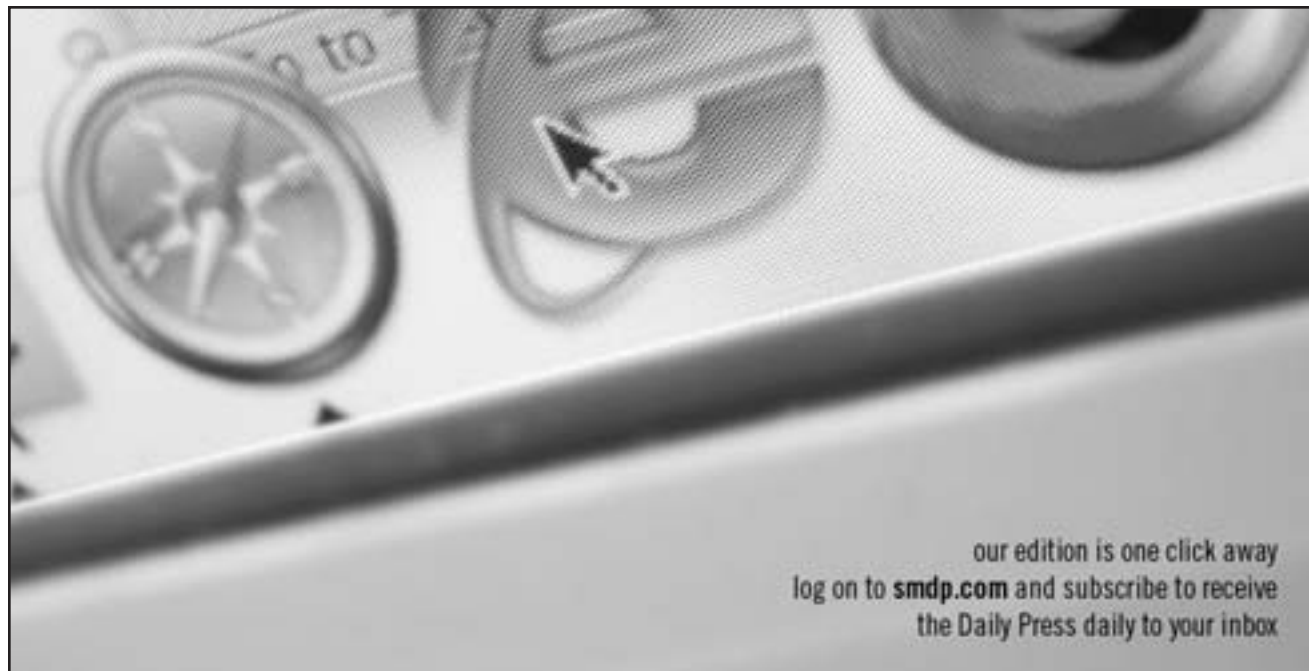
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DEAR DORIE

Preschool can keep you sane

Dear Dorie,

Can you explain the benefits of preschool versus staying at home with a parent? Thanks.

— Concerned parent

Dear Concerned:

These days we hear a lot about the benefits of preschool and quality early childhood programs — and for good reason. According to First 5 LA, the agency behind the Universal Preschool program, “From the time of conception to the beginning of kindergarten, when the brain is developing at lightning speed, children acquire the fundamental skills they need to succeed in school and in life.” These skills include social and emotional developmental milestones (e.g. learning to sit and participate in circle time); physical abilities (e.g. mastering the scissors); and intellectual stimulation (e.g. exposure to letters and numbers). A quality, licensed and preferably accredited early education program will provide this for your child — emphasis on quality intentional.

Most parents that stay at home with their children simply do not have the resources, training or energy to provide this kind of atmosphere at home and that’s where preschool comes in. Bear in mind that preschool is certainly not required by law — kindergarten isn’t either. But early childhood professionals know that both benefit the children. If you’re the kind of parent that is willing to home school, you may be the kind of parent that can do without preschool. The assumption is that you will provide age-appropriate experiences and opportunities for socialization in order to facilitate your child’s development. This does not translate to a few hours of PBS Kids every morning.

Speaking as a former stay-at-home parent, deep down you know whether you can do without preschool or not. You know whether you have the support group, the materials, the creativity, the humility and the empathy — all those traits of a quality teacher as well as the child who can develop into a healthy adult without traditional preschool exposure. You also know if you desperately need three or four hours a day away from your young child to stay sane. Ultimately, you do what is right for both you and your child. Good luck.

— Dorie

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

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The facts about gestational diabetes and pregnancy

By Daily Press staff

Eating right and watching your weight throughout pregnancy are important for your health and your baby’s health, doctors at Saint John’s Health Care say.

For the small percentage of women who develop gestational diabetes during pregnancy, however, stricter diets, blood sugar level testing and frequent doctor visits are recommended.

Gestational diabetes occurs when hormonal changes interfere with the body’s ability to use insulin, resulting in high blood sugar levels, explains Jon Matsunaga, M.D., an Ob/Gyn specialist and chair of the Ob/Gyn department at Saint John’s Health Center.

Symptoms of gestational diabetes are similar to those of normal pregnancy, including extreme hunger, thirst or fatigue, and frequent urination. Therefore, all women are screened for diabetes when their pregnancy reaches between 24 and 28 weeks.

Pregnant women suffering from the disease are usually able to control their blood sugar levels without medication by making simple dietary changes, such as reducing fat and sugar intake, and by exercising regularly, doctors say.

Women at increased risk of developing gestational diabetes include those who:

- Are older than age 30 when they became pregnant.
- Are overweight.
- Have a family history of diabetes.
- Had the disease during a previous pregnancy.

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- Had a previous abnormal glucose tolerance test.
- Are members of ethnic groups with a high risk of developing diabetes, including Latinos, Asians and African Americans.

“Once a pregnant woman has been diagnosed with gestational diabetes, they will have to have their blood sugar checked frequently,” Dr. Matsunaga said. “Since a pregnant woman’s blood sugar travels through the placenta to the fetus, it’s important that blood sugar levels remain within a safe range. If blood sugar levels rise above normal, the fetus will convert some of that extra glucose into fat, causing the fetus to grow larger than expected. In some cases, the fetus may become so large that it will have to be delivered by surgery (a C-section).

“If diet and exercise fails to stabilize a pregnant woman’s blood sugar, they will probably have to self-administer daily injections of insulin throughout the remainder of their pregnancy and monitor their blood sugar levels at home,” he added. “As long as the baby remains healthy and of a normal size, expectant moms with gestational diabetes should be able to deliver vaginally.”

Gestational diabetes usually resolves itself after delivery, and blood sugar levels typically return to normal within two to three days. However, to determine if diabetes was the result of a pre-existing condition, Dr. Matsunaga recommends that women diagnosed with gestational diabetes be tested approximately six weeks after their baby is born.

It is also important to realize that women who developed gestational diabetes during pregnancy are at an increased risk of developing diabetes afterward. To reduce their risk of developing insulin resistance after pregnancy, Dr. Matsunaga recommends that they continue to eat properly and exercise regularly, as well as have their fasting blood glucose levels checked every year to make sure they remain within normal levels.

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

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Open House Informational Meeting – 7:00 – 8:15 p.m. Learn how their Therapeutic Listening Program is a drug-free answer to treating many learning and developmental delays. Call 827-5059 to register. 1728 Abbot Kinney Blvd., Venice.

THURSDAY, JUNE 2 – YOGA PRACTICE AND PICNIC

3:30 – 5:30 p.m. Kid's Yoga Circle presents this event to explore the connection between Yoga postures and the natural world. Ages 7 – 11, \$22, reserve space by calling 260-2736. Meet at KYC, 1814 14th St., and walk to park.

SATURDAY, JUNE 4 – KID'S NATURE FESTIVAL

15TH Annual Event by the Children's Nature Institute
10:00a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Temescal Gateway Park, 15601 Sunset Blvd, Pacific Palisades
A day to play and learn about nature for babies to 8-year-olds and their families. Over 30 Activity Booths, Silent Auction, Nature Store, Costumes and more!
Visit www.childrensnatureinstitute.org or call 998-1151 for more info.

SUNDAY, JUNE 5 – BUZZ ALDRIN at EVERY PICTURE TELLS a STORY

1:00 p.m. - Apollo 11 astronaut and moonwalker Buzz Aldrin lands to sign him beautiful new autobiographical picture book, "Reaching for the Moon." Afterwards he will introduce a screening of the 1950's sci-fi classic, "Destination Moon" at the Aero Theatre across the street. 1311-C Montana Ave., 451-2700.

SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS thru JUNE 26 BARNYARD MADNESS with the THREE LITTLE PIGS

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

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

SUMMER CAMPS, SWIM and COMMUNITY CLASSES offered by the City of Santa Monica. The city provides children of all ages with a variety of recreation enrichment activities including camps, sports, dancing, crafts and yoga. For details pick-up a copy of Seascape at Joslyn or Reed Park (also other locations around town), or call 458-2239.

TUESDAY

Movies for Moms! May 31 –Sahara – starring Matthew McConaughey, Steve Zahn and Penelope Cruz. Adventure/Action, Rated "PG-13."
11:00 a.m., Loews Broadway, 1441 3rd St. Promenade – for Moms and babies newborn – 1 year old. Doors open early for socializing and getting comfortable.
Visit www.enjoytheshow.com/reelmoms for details.

Storytelling

Main Library – held at Reed Park, corner of 7th and Wilshire.
Toddler Storytime; 10:00 a.m. For 2 year olds with adult. 7 & 14.
Preschool Story Time; 10:30 a.m.; for ages 3-5. June 7 & 14.

Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.
Cuentos Para Pequeños – 10:00 a.m., six-week series in Spanish for 24 – 36 month olds with adult.
Lap Time – 11:00 a.m, six-week series for

babies 0-24 months, co-sponsored by the SMMUSD Infant & Family Support Program. Next session June 21 – Aug. 9 for both.
Twilight Story Time -7pm – an ongoing program for 3-5 year olds.

Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.
Family Story Time – 7:00 p.m., all ages.
TERRIFIC TUESDAYS – 3:30 p.m., stories and crafts for ages 5 – 9.
(Every other Tuesday - May 24).

Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St. – 310-392-3804.
Toddler Storytime, 10:00 and 10:30. Music, rhymes and stories for 2 to 3 year olds.
Next session June 7 – July 12.

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

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

Classes

YWCA – A Place for Parents – Infant/Toddler & Me Classes -
9:15 - 10:15 a.m. – Walkers to 3 years; 10:45 – 11:45 a.m. & 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. – ages 0 to 1 year; classes in partnership with the Infant and Family Support Program. 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881 for details and prices.
YMCA – Attachment Parenting Classes - 2:00 – 3:30 p.m., 1332 Sixth St., 393-2721 (ask for Shelana Philip-Guide or Audrey Meyer). This new class for mothers/dads and babies up to 12 months is presented by Karol Darsa, PsyD, a licensed psychologist with extensive experience working with children and families. Fees: Members – 1 class - \$40, 5 class pass - \$180; Non-members - \$50, 5 class pass - \$200.
BREAKTHROUGH PARENTING CLASSES – 7:00 – 9:30 p.m.
An advanced 10-week parent education course. Culver City/Westchester, \$30 per class/\$40 materials. Also Thursdays, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m., West LA, \$40 per class/\$40 materials. Continuous enrollment. For info call Jayne A. Major, Ph.D., Breakthrough Parenting Services, Inc., 310-823-7846, jm@BPinAction.org.

Yoga & Exercise

Prenatal Aqua Aerobics at the Santa Monica YMCA
10:00 – 11:00 a.m and 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.; Free for members, non-members \$90 for 10 classes. (also Thursday nights 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.) 393-2721, ext. 117 for more info.
Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:40 p.m., \$15. Mommy and Me – 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.
Mommy Care – at the Dance Factory, 11606 San Vicente Blvd., Brentwood, 310-394-6711. Combined Pregnancy/Recovery Exercise Group – 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.. (babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)
Itsy Bitsy Yoga – Tots (crawling to 24 months) – 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Baby (6 weeks to pre-crawling) – 11:00 – noon. With Khefri Riley at Ocean Oasis, 1333 Ocean Ave. Register at www.khefri.net or call 323-549-5383.
Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.
Kids' Yoga Circle – Yoga for ages 4 -7, 4:00 – 5:15 p.m. (Students may be dropped off at 3:30 for indoor play, song and snacks). \$18 drop-in, discounted multiple week passes available, reservations required. 1814 14th St., #208, 260-2736

Breastfeeding Group

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

WEDNESDAY

Storytelling

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

Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.
Toddler Story Time – 9:30 a.m., for two year olds.
Preschool Story Time – 10:30 a.m.; six-week series for 3-5 year olds with adult.
Next session June 22 – Aug. 10 for both.

Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.
Lap Time - 10:15 & 11:15 a.m., ages 0-2.
Next session June 1 – July 6.

Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St. –392-3804.
Preschool Twilight Story Time – 7:00 – 7:30 p.m. Parents/children ages 3-5.

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

Border's, Westwood – 11am – 310-475-3444.

Classes

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

Yoga & Exercise

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

Breastfeeding Group

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

Other

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

THURSDAY

Babystyle, 1324 Montana Avenue, 434-9590 10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4.

Main Library – held at Reed Park, corner of 7th and Wilshire.
Toddler Storytime; 10:00 a.m.; for 2 year olds with adult. June 2 – 16
Preschool Story Time; 10:30 a.m.; for ages 3-5. June 2 – 16.

Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.
La Hora Del Cuento – 7:00 p.m. Spanish stories, songs and rhymes for all ages.

Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.
Toddler Story Time – 10:15 a.m., for 2 year olds.
Preschool Story Time – 11:15 a.m.; for 3-5 year olds.
Next session June 2 – July 7 for both.

Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St. – 310-392-3804.
Lap Time, 9:20 and 10:20. Ages 0 – 2. Next session June 23 – Aug 11.

Classes

YWCA – A Place for Parents – Toddler & Me Classes, Walkers to 3 years – 9:15 – 10:15 a.m. and 10:45 – 11:45 a.m.; classes in partnership with the Infant and Family Support Program. Parent Support (3 – 5 years) – 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.
BREAKTHROUGH PARENTING CLASSES – 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.
An advanced 10-week parent education course. West LA, \$40 per class/\$40 materials. Also Tuesdays, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., Culver City/Westchester, \$30 per class/\$40 materials; Continuous enrollment. For info call Jayne A. Major, Ph.D., Breakthrough Parenting Services, Inc., 310-823-7846, jm@BPinAction.org.

Yoga & Exercise

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

Breastfeeding Group

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

FRIDAY

MOMS Club of Santa Monica – New Mother Group – for new moms with babies ages 0-6 months. Meet for conversation, support and playtime. All new Moms welcome!
Call Cassandra at 451-1827 for time, location and more info.

Parent's Night Out at Child's Play, 2299 Westwood Blvd., 6:00 – 11:00 p.m.
Kids get a night of supervised fun with pizza, games and more while parents go out. Ages 3-10, \$9 per hour, \$7 siblings, 3 hour minimum. Reservations required, 470-4997. www.child-splayonline.net
La Leche League of LA/Mar Vista – meets the 2nd Friday of each month at 10:00 a.m. Call 310-390-2529 for info.
Planetarium Show at SMC's John Dresher Planetarium, 7:00 p.m. - Night Sky Show, 8:00 p.m. – featured program. \$5 adults, \$4 children. Pico and 17th St., 434-3000.

Classes

YWCA – A Place for Parents – Toddler & Me (1-3 years) – 9:20 – 10:20 a.m.; Parent Support (1-3 years) – 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.(childcare pro-

vided). 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.
Mommy and Me Dance– celebrate the wonderful world of imagination Fridays at the Electric Lodge, 9:45 – 10:45 a.m. ages 14 - 24 months; 10:45 – 11:45 a.m. ages 2 – 4. 6 classes for \$75 or \$14 per class. First class free! 1416 Electric Ave, Venice, 306-1854.

Yoga & Exercise

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

Other

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

SATURDAY

Storytelling
Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade – Kid's Story Time – 10am, 310-260-9110
Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion – 10:30am – ages 2-5, 310-475-4144.
Children's Book World, 10580 1/2 Pico Blvd, LA - 10:30 a.m., 310-559-B00K.
Village Books, 1049 SwarthmoreAve, Pacific Palisades – 10:30 a.m., 454-4063.
826LA, 685 Venice Blvd, 2nd Floor, Venice – 10:30 – 11:30 a.m., ages 3-6, RSVP to info @825LA.com or 310-314-8418. (826LA is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting students with their creative and expository writing skills, and to helping teachers inspire their students to write).

Yoga & Exercise

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

Other

Lakeshore Learning Stores "Free Crafts for Kids" – Saturdays, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.,

8888 Venice Blvd., 559-9630.

Barnyard Madness with the Three Little Pigs at the Santa Monica Playhouse
Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m, thru June 26; \$12 adults, \$10.50 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 2 for reservations, www.santamonica playhouse.com, 1211 4th St.
Puppetolio – 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested
Magicopolis – 2 and 8 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$20 for evening, \$15 for matinee. Call 310-451-2241 for info.
Precious Prints – Ceramic Heirlooms for a Lifetime
Second Saturday every month at The Pump Station, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Contact Kristan Ritchie at 310-802-8013 or visit www.preciousprintsstudios.com for more info.

SUNDAY

Main Street Farmer's Market – 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., corner of Main St. and Ocean Park Blvd. Pony rides, live music, lots of vendors and great family socializing.
Puppetolio – 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested
Magicopolis – 2 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$15. Call 310-451-2241 for info.
Barnyard Madness with the Three Little Pigs at the Santa Monica Playhouse
Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m, thru June 26; \$12 adults, \$10.50 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 2 for reservations, www.santamonica playhouse.com. 1211 4th St.

Breastfeeding

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

MONDAY

Storytelling

Main Library – Lap Time at Joslyn Park, Craft Room, 9:30 a.m. A series for babies up to two years old, June 6 – July 25. ("Family Connections" is on summer break.)
Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main Street, 310-392-3804.
"Spanish for Little Ones", 11:15 a.m. Current session thru June 20th.
Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade – Toddler Story Time – 10am – 310-260-9110

Classes

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

Breastfeeding Group

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

Yoga & Exercise

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

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Some West Nile survivors spread the word

BY ALICIA CHANG

AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES — Soon after Jack Raney recovered from a West Nile infection that left him comatose for several days, he began his campaign against a disease that stole everything from his job to games of catch with his three kids.

He has lobbied Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger for more West Nile funding and helped public health officials promote a speedy new way to test infected birds, which can transmit the virus to mosquitoes that infect people.

As summer ushers in another West Nile season, Raney has joined a small but growing rank of victims who are dedicating themselves to grassroots projects that put a public face on the disease and pressure health officials to do more to prevent its spread.

Disease advocacy isn't a new phenomenon — when AIDS swept the nation in the 1980s, survivors doubled as activists, forming support groups to counsel victims and raise research money. By comparison, West Nile advocacy remains a scattered effort of individuals, partly because it's

relatively new and hasn't killed victims in epidemic numbers.

"I'm all for talking about it because it's a lonely disease," said Raney, 47, an Upland resident who had to quit his job as a bricklayer after suffering from depression and memory loss.

West Nile has marched steadily westward since first attacking New York in 1999, killing 684 people and infecting more than 16,000. California bore the brunt last year with more than 800 infections and 28 deaths.

While it's difficult to predict how severe this season might be, some public health officials fear that an unusually wet winter in parts of the West could cause a bloom of mosquitoes, potentially fueling another outbreak. Most West Nile infections are mild, but severe cases can cause paralysis and swelling of the brain.

Mitch Coffman, of Lafayette, La., was a black belt in tae kwon do and motorcycle enthusiast when he contracted West Nile in 2002. He can't do either anymore, but has started a nonprofit called the West Nile Virus Survivors Foundation, creating a Web site with information about the illness, the latest newspaper clippings and

stories about other survivors.

Coffman, 40, was a month shy of finishing graduate school when he fell ill. During his recovery, he was struck that not all survivors receive the kind of family support he did.

"I don't want to be anybody's hero," he said. "I just want to let people know that there's a way to survive West Nile."

Shelley Bailey, a 39-year-old single mother from Boulder, Colo., decided to lend her face last year to a county public awareness campaign urging people to take simple preventive steps, such as wearing insect repellent, long sleeves and pants. Four other survivors in Colorado, where the disease killed 61 people in 2003, also took part.

Bailey, who became infected in 2003, took six months off from her job to recover while her mother helped care for her two young children. She continues to battle blurry vision, migraine headaches and muscle weakness.

"I can't imagine somebody going through what I went through," Bailey said. "That's why, whatever I can do to bring awareness, I'll do it."

Raney, the man from east of Los

Angeles who contracted West Nile last summer, does not consider himself politically active, but he went to Sacramento in March to ask for \$300 million in West Nile funding. Schwarzenegger has proposed spending \$12 million in the coming fiscal year for mosquito control projects; local agencies already spend about \$90 million annually to combat the disease.

In April, Raney appeared with health officials from a mosquito control agency to promote an instant test for analyzing infected birds. Raney also agreed to let a Taiwanese television crew follow his daily routine in a documentary that will be aired in June. In the film, Raney chronicles the trials of coping with the aftermath of West Nile.

Recently, Raney decided help the hospital that treated him, telling doctors that he would like to counsel West Nile patients and their families through their ordeal. The hospital has not seen any West Nile cases yet this year, but a spokeswoman said it will take up Raney up on his offer for interested patients.

"I'm willing do whatever I have to do, go wherever I have to go, to get the message out," Raney said.

California justices weigh lesbian's country club membership

BY DAVID KRAVETS

AP Legal Affairs Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — The California Supreme Court heard opposing arguments last week on whether private country clubs can refuse spousal discounts to lesbians whom by law cannot marry.

During an hour of arguments, the seven justices did not show their hands on how they might rule in a case that is expected to factor into the state's ongoing courtroom battle for same-sex marriage.

"It's a difficult case," Justice Joyce Kennard said of the suit brought by a San Diego lesbian couple.

The dispute centers on Birgit Koebke, 48, who pays the Bernardo Heights Country Club in San Diego about \$500 a month in membership fees. Married members can have their children, grandchildren and spouses play golf for free.

Under club rules, Koebke must pay as much as \$70 for her partner, Kendall

French, 43, to play a round of golf, and French can only be Koebke's "guest" six times a year.

"Why should a business be able to treat these people differently?" the couple's attorney, Jon Davidson, asked the court.

Club attorney Jeremy Rosen told the justices that, despite California's 2005 domestic partner law nearly guaranteeing same-sex couples the same legal footing as married couples, the country club is not unlawfully discriminating against the pair.

The law allows for businesses to distinguish between the married and unmarried in certain circumstances, Rosen said, adding that the club is making the distinction to limit how many people will use its "scarce resources."

If the high court agrees with the couple, Rosen said, "no business could make any distinction between any married person and any unmarried person."

Even the state's domestic partner law allows marriage discrimination because it

precludes gays and lesbians from filing state income taxes as married couples, Rosen noted.

"The state tax code intentionally discriminates," he said.

Marital discrimination, he said, is when a landlord refuses to rent to an unmarried couple, or an employer refuses to hire a single mother.

The justices' decision, expected in 90 days, will become lodged in the ongoing legal battle for same-sex marriage in California. That dispute is headed to the appellate courts, and concerns a trial judge's decision declaring unconstitutional California's ban on gay and lesbian marriage.

In that case, Attorney General Bill Lockyer argues that the 2005 domestic partner law provides so many martial benefits to gay and lesbian couples that banning same-sex marriage does not discriminate against gays and lesbians.

If the Supreme Court sides against

Koebke and French, proponents of same-sex marriage will invoke the decision as another reason why same-sex marriage should be legal, Davidson said.

During a light moment Thursday, Justice Marvin Baxter asked whether it would be discriminatory for a club to allow women members, but to exclude the male members' wives.

"They'll let all of the other women in, just not the wives," he said. The gallery of 120 court watchers erupted in laughter, even as Rosen responded: "I have never considered that. I must confess."

Outside court, French lashed out at the club, claiming the managers simply want to keep out gays and lesbians.

"We're not trying to be troublemakers," Koebke added.

Justice Janice Rogers Brown, whose nomination to a federal appeals court is expected to be heard in the U.S. Senate next week, was the only justice to remain silent during the hearing.

Anti-illegal immigration conference opens in Nevada amid protests

BY CHRISTINA ALMEIDA

Associated Press Writer

LAS VEGAS — Several anti-illegal immigration groups convened this past weekend in Las Vegas to discuss efforts to tighten U.S. borders and to praise recent action by the Minuteman Project, as a large group of Hispanic protesters denounced the conference as racist.

The summit was hosted by the Las Vegas-based Wake Up America Foundation, whose motto is "It's your country, take it back." Between 500 and 1,000 people were expected to attend the two-day meeting held at the Cashman Center in downtown Las Vegas.

Speakers from various groups addressed the crowd regarding problems with illegal immigration.

"It's not just about poor immigrants coming to work," said Chris Simcox, president of Minuteman Civil Defense and a co-organizer of the recent

Minuteman Project in Arizona. "It's about the world knowledge that our government can't stop drug dealers. It doesn't give me a whole lot of confidence that they can stop resourceful terrorists."

Simcox told the crowd that his group of 15,000 members is committed to securing the nation's borders and will continue to plan actions in California and in states along the Canadian border until the federal government begins military patrols.

"We want the border secured. Nothing less will be accepted," Simcox said. "There is no compromise."

Barbara Coe with the California Coalition for Immigration Reform called the border situation a "very real threat to our sovereignty and our lives."

Coe mentioned several law enforcement officers, including Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy David March, who were killed by Mexican nationals who later fled to their country to avoid prosecution.

She blamed President Bush for refus-

ing "to protect us from these foreign invaders."

"He encourages more illegal immigrants to come here and take over, take our money and our jobs," Coe said, drawing huge applause when she derided him as "Senor Bush."

Outside, about 200 Hispanic protesters chanted "racists go home" and waved American and Mexican flags. A small child carried a sign that read "Racism is a deadly plague."

"They're just trying to take a certain group, a certain ethnicity, and make them the scapegoat," said Chelsie Campbell, a 25-year-old recent law school graduate from Las Vegas. "Let's work together and find a solution."

Martha Moreno, 38, of Las Vegas, carried a sign saying "Proud to be Mexican-American." She said she braved the nearly 100-degree heat because she feels everyone has a right to make life better for their families.

"We all came to this country from other places in the world," Moreno said. "We're all immigrants."

Robert Gallegos, president of a Hispanic political action group called RAZ/Pac, drove from Salt Lake City to participate in the protest. He said claims on the Web site of Wake Up America Foundation that illegal immigrants are to blame for rising unemployment, hospital closures and troubles in the public school system are disingenuous.

"All that is is a cover for racism," he said. "All Americans need to stand up and make sure this racism stops here."

Simcox dismissed claims his group was racist, saying the border issue is one of national security and public safety and that those caught at the border represent dozens of nationalities.

"I don't care what color your skin is, what language you speak or where you're from, if you are breaking into my country illegally, that's unacceptable," Simcox said.

INTERNATIONAL



China revokes increase in textile export tariffs

BY JOE MCDONALD

Associated Press Writer

BEIJING — China on Monday scrapped concessions meant to avert a trade war with the United States and Europe, withdrawing a plan to sharply increase export duties on Chinese-made textiles that are flooding foreign markets.

The turnaround followed new import controls imposed by Washington and the European Union, which China's commerce minister on Monday called a violation of World Trade Organization rules.

He said Beijing would "firmly protect" its legal rights, though he didn't say what steps his government would take.

The announcement of plans to scrap the tariffs cited the U.S. and European steps to restrict imports of Chinese clothing and textiles.

Chinese producers shouldn't face "double pressure," Commerce Minister Bo Xilai said at a news conference.

The European Union said Monday it

was "surprised" by China's decision to cancel its export taxes but appealed to Beijing to continue talks.

Beijing had announced last week that it would quintuple export tariffs on 74 types of goods on June 1, trying to persuade its trading partners not to restrict textile imports that have soared since a global quota system expired on Jan. 1.

The government didn't give a reason for revoking the increases but cited U.S. and European steps to restrict imports of Chinese clothing and textiles.

The official Xinhua News Agency said the decision was made "in the wake of the European Union's decision to impose quotas on imports of Chinese textiles, as well as the United States' decision to re-impose restrictions on seven kinds of Chinese textile and clothing imports recently."

The United States and European Union cited terms of China's WTO membership agreement that let its trading partners restrict

imports that are disrupting their markets.

Bo accused Washington and the EU of violating WTO rules by failing to provide adequate evidence of market disruption. He said they used data from two short a period and made an "easy decision" to impose quotas.

"In our opinion, this move lacks legal grounding and therefore is incorrect," Bo said. "The United States and European Union have not provided adequate data. ... That is unreasonable and unscientific."

The United States says imports of Chinese clothing and other textile goods are 54 percent above last year's level. The EU says imports of Chinese-made T-shirts rose by 187 percent in the first four months of this year, while flax yarn imports rose by 56 percent.

The EU took the dispute to the WTO on Friday, giving China 15 days to react. It means the EU will be allowed to restrict the growth of imports of flax yarn and T-shirts to an annual rate of 7.5 percent.

Washington earlier imposed controls restricting growth of imports of Chinese-made cotton pants, underwear, synthetic fiber shirts and other goods to an annual rate of 7.5 percent.

Already on Friday, the Chinese government reacted to U.S. import quotas by saying the new export tariffs wouldn't apply to goods already affected by foreign controls.

Bo complained that the foreign quotas were damaging a Chinese industry that employs 19 million workers, many of them poor.

Bo said the United States and European Union were partly to blame for the jump in Chinese textile imports because they failed to carry out earlier promises to lower market barriers, leading to a shock when a global quota system expired on Jan. 1.

"The fundamental, true reason for this is that the United States and the European Union could not faithfully and honestly implement their obligations," he said.

Rejection of EU constitution throws France, bloc's future into disarray

BY ELAINE GANLEY

Associated Press Writer

PARIS — President Jacques Chirac began a widely expected government shakeup Monday to save face at home as European Union officials worked to control damage after French voters rejected the EU's first constitution, dealing a potentially fatal blow to the charter.

The results of Sunday's referendum were a humiliating blow to Chirac and a disavowal of his government, left reeling by the decisive victory of the constitution's opponents.

Aides to beleaguered Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin were seen packing up boxes as their boss met with Chirac. After the half-hour meeting, Raffarin, in office since 2002, confirmed "there will be developments today or tomorrow."

He refused to say whether he had offered his resignation, telling reporters only: "I'm going for a stroll around Paris. See you later."

The vote also threw the EU's future into disarray, giving momentum to the opposition in other countries that have yet to ratify the document. Plans to bind the 25 EU members more tightly together through a constitution threatened to be set back for years.

"The result raises profound questions

for all of us about the future direction of Europe," British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said.

European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso, while conceding the outcome was a "serious problem," insisted: "We cannot say that the treaty is dead."

Chirac chose to hold a referendum rather than take the EU constitution to parliament, where it would have passed with a wide majority.

Other key figures he called to the presidential palace included Nicolas Sarkozy, the ambitious head of the governing party, the Union for a Popular Movement, with his eye on the 2007 presidency. A chief rival of Chirac, he is among a handful of possible choices to replace Raffarin.

France's repudiation of the EU constitution came ahead of Wednesday's referendum in the Netherlands, where polls show even more resistance to the constitution. The document must be ratified by all 25 EU members, in referendums or by parliament, to take effect in November 2006. France was the first to reject it.

Nine nations already have ratified the constitution: Austria, Hungary, Italy, Germany, Greece, Lithuania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain.

Polls, analysts and voters confirmed that some French casting ballots were looking to punish a government they feel

has failed them.

About 55 percent of French voters opposed the constitution. A poll by the TNS-Sofres firm suggested that fear for jobs and a sense of being "fed up" were the main reasons to say no. France has a 10 percent unemployment rate and those in the "no" camp have claimed the constitution was too market oriented to protect citizens, growing vulnerable in an expanding EU.

The "no" victory symbolizes "a terrible feeling of fear and concern about the future" in France, said government spokesman Jean-Francois Cope.

With a nearly 70 percent turnout, the referendum results left Chirac little choice but change.

"It is your sovereign decision, and I take note," he told the nation Sunday night after results were announced.

He said, dryly, that he would inject "new and strong impetus" into the center-right government "within the very next days," coded language seen as reading that Raffarin would go.

However, many "no" supporters called for far more drastic action, some saying that Chirac himself should resign.

The spokesman for the opposition Socialist Party, which had officially joined forces with the government to push for a "yes" vote, called for Chirac to dis-

solve parliament.

"I think that when the people are angry, the first thing to do is give them their voice ... and therefore dissolve the National Assembly," the lower chamber, Julien Dray said on LCI television.

Cope brushed Dray's remark aside, saying the legislature "is not the subject today."

The Socialist Party, another victim of the voting, was effectively split with dissident members opposed to the document becoming major contributors to its rejection.

"The president heard all this and he'll take into account what the French have said," Foreign Minister Michel Barnier said on France-2 television.

Ministers at a regular Monday meeting with Raffarin refused to say what had happened.

Interior Minister Dominique de Villepin, along with Sarkozy and Defense Minister Michele Alliot-Marie, is considered a top choice to replace Raffarin. He left the prime minister's office with Philippe Douste-Blazy, minister of health, another potential choice.

Even the 12-nation euro currency was feeling the effects of the referendum. The euro slid to its lowest level this year against the dollar on Monday, dropping below \$1.25.

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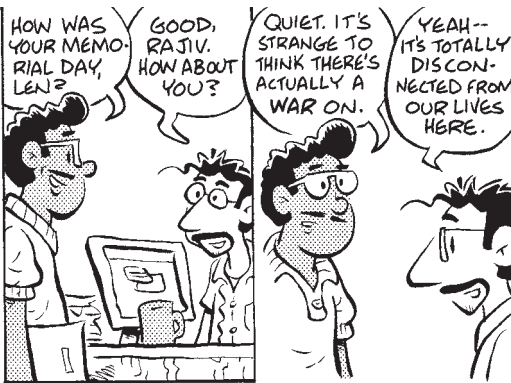
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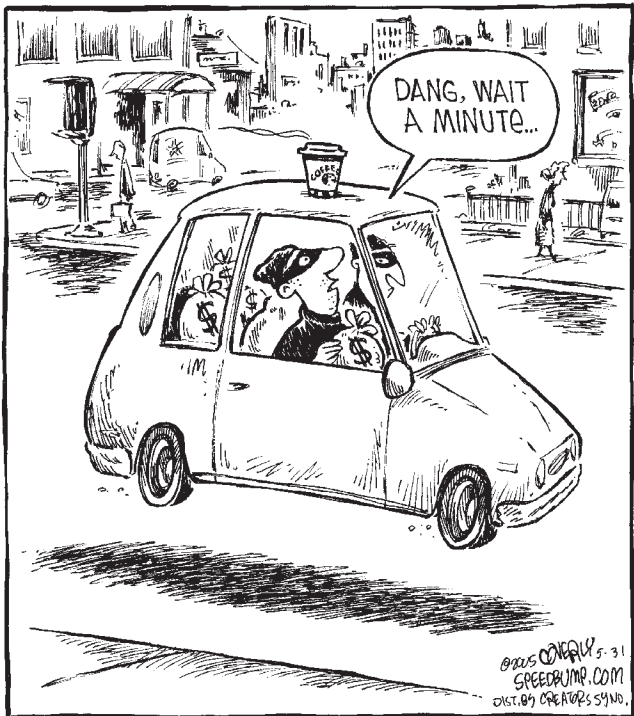
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- 1 Ball wear
- 6 "The Fifer" painter
- 11 Look forward to
- 12 Cherish
- 13 "Make Room for Daddy" star
- 15 Iris setting
- 16 Adjective for Abner
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- 18 Heredity components
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- 23 Indy entrant
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- 29 Calls to the phone
- 31 Available
- 32 Out of order
- 34 Inventor Whitney
- 37 Chiding sound
- 38 Flow out
- 41 "Lethal Weapon" co-star
- 44 Personal
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- 5 Modes
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- 7 Flurry
- 8 Alaska city
- 9 Historic times
- 10 Hardy heroine
- 14 Malleable metal
- 18 Athenian, e.g.
- 19 Pious sort
- 20 Vitality
- 21 Writer Tarbell

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- 30 Nymph chasers
- 31 Desperado
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- 34 Fix text
- 35 Highway part
- 36 Taverns
- 38 Flat
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