

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

FANTASY 5

38, 17, 15, 3, 21

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 9, 3, 5

Evening picks: 4, 6, 2

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 01, Gold Rush
2nd Place: 09, Winning Spirit
3rd Place: 11, Money Bags

Race Time: 1:42.44



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

■ A man escaped in February after robbing a Wienerschnitzel drive-thru in North Long Beach, Calif.; identifying him was difficult because he had smeared what appeared to be chocolate pudding over his face.

■ Edwin Lockhart, 48, had less success than that robbing a Sun Trust bank in Palatka, Fla., receiving a 10-year sentence in April; he was identified despite having stuck several sanitary napkins on his face.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"People who say you are just as old as you feel are all wrong, fortunately."

— Russell Baker

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'Building for the future'



Nicky Five Aces/Special to the Daily Press
Workers continue to build the Public Safety Building behind City Hall, which is scheduled to be done by the end of the summer.

Legislature shapes state with 469 bills in four days

BY JIM WASSERMAN
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — They bickered, they battled, they banged out 469 bills in four days.

In the colorful lawmaking spectacle that shapes California for better and worse, the California Legislature last week cracked down on rowdy sports fans and music moguls. It gave test-fearing high school seniors a reprieve and offered marriage-style rights to gay and lesbian domestic partners. It tried to get sales taxes from online shoppers, then made it criminal to jump long airport lines to escape security.

Through long nights of Capitol pomp and intrigue — what Assembly Clerk E. Dotson Williams calls "one of the busiest times" in the legislative session — 120 lawmakers cleared their first deadline for 2,801 bills they've introduced since arriving here last January.

The deadline is to get bills out

of one legislative house and headed to the other.

Meeting their June 7 target, lawmakers have passed 1,450 bills

See LEGISLATURE, page 6

Bills that passed first test, bills that didn't

By The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — Here are bills that have passed the Assembly last week and still require approval in the Senate and governor's signature to become law:

AB1690 — Lets cities and counties pass income taxes for local needs.

AB205 — Gives gay and lesbian domestic partners many of same rights and responsibilities of married couples.

AB513 — Requires water meters for 174,000 homes and businesses in Fresno and Sacramento.

AB1263 — Makes it a misdemeanor to

See BILLS, page 6

Saint John's settles lawsuit for \$500K

Patient alleges hospital used fake collection agency to get money

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

The charges were as pernicious as they were surprising. Saint John's Health Care Center stood accused of manufacturing a fake collection agency so that it could intimidate patients into paying their debts.

The class action lawsuit involving 11,000 patients at Saint John's leveled exactly those allegations. It was settled last week when Saint John's agreed to pay \$500,000 while admitting little.

Thousands of Saint John's patients received letters between

June 20, 2001 and Dec. 11, 2002 from Excel Credit Service demanding that the debt allegedly owed to the hospital be paid.

The class action suit was originally filed by patient David Marco Weber. He claimed Saint John's violated the law by allegedly concocting a fictitious collection agency name that falsely led patients to believe that a third party had been retained to collect the debt.

The letters also violated the federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act by failing to advise consumers of their rights to dispute the debt, the lawsuit alleged.

Saint John's isn't assuming liability in the case. Neither side would say whether Excel Credit

See SETTLEMENT, page 5

Rent control law weeds out part-time residents

Dozens of cases being filed by landlords

BY JOHN WOOD
Daily Press Staff Writer

Nearly 70 cases have been filed in City Hall by landlords looking to raise the rent on tenants who don't live in their rent control apartments full time.

Landlords were given that right in March, when a new law was passed that excludes part-time residents from enjoying the protection of rent control.

Since then, the board has been inundated with applications by landlords who say some tenants use the low-rent apartments as vacation homes or office space.

Of the 69 cases filed, 13 have been dismissed for lack of evidence. Landlords are responsible for establishing a case against their tenants before it is heard by a hearing officer.

The rest of the cases — except two involving tenants who admitted they weren't occupants and agreed to a rent hike — are pending with the Santa Monica Rent

"People who use the Shores as their second unit are abusing the law."

— JACK NEWORTH

Santa Monica Shores apartments, resident

Control Board.

Though no rulings have been handed down, the board has conducted seven hearings so far and is scheduled to hear several more cases this week, said Tracy Condon, a rent control board spokesperson.

Rent Control Board staffers say the new law has left them with a hefty workload of new assignments. An outside contract worker has been brought on to accompany the three full-time officers who hear the cases, which can sometimes last an entire day.

The added costs associated with enforcing the new law were not immediately available on Monday.

Under the law, tenants must first

See RENT CONTROL, page 5

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—Kim Nish, Real Goods customer

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Your treat tonight, Aquarius



JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

★★★★★-Dynamic ★★★★★-Positive ★★★★★-Average
★★-So-so ★-Difficult

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, June 10, 2003:

You are unusually directed and forthright this year — be it with a partner, travel or work. You make your expectations and where you're heading quite clear. You will consolidate your finances, though you might not get the end results you seek immediately. You will see returns, but perhaps not fast enough for you. Bosses and those in charge act erratically. Without knowing it, you could become a stabilizing force. If you are single, a romance could pop into your life anytime from now to the end summer. You will particularly enjoy this person. By fall, you might be living together. If you're attached, a relationship warms up considerably as your personality becomes unusually sunny. SCORPIO understands more than you think.

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ Take that next step, knowing full well where you're heading. Your happy ways draw a strong, positive response. You're unusually fiery and full of energy. Don't be surprised by another's attitude. Tonight: Work with someone directly.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ If you clear out your work first, you'll find that you get a lot done quickly. Unexpected actions on the part of your friends could toss you into murky waters. If someone else wants to run the show, please allow him or her to! Tonight: Say "yes."

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ If you use your energy well, you will gain a lot. Creativity bubbles forth through the morning and early afternoon. Apply your ideas later in the day, when you are able to focus and get the job done. A disruptive boss could make all the difference. Tonight: Pace yourself.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ You might mentally or physically have a difficult time getting to work. But once you get there, employ your ingenious streak to find solutions. You'll come up with answers that surprise you as well as others. Know when to find an expert. Tonight: Work hard; play hard.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ What others say comes off far more strongly than they realize. Play ostrich if you think it will help, but it probably won't. The sooner you decide to dig in and have a discussion, the happier you will be. An associate could be unpredictable. Tonight: Buy a lottery ticket on the way home.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Deal with finances as directly as possible. You might not always agree with associates, but right now what a co-worker says does make sense. Clear the air through a discussion later in the day. Others might be surprised by your forthrightness. Tonight: The only answer is "yes."

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ If you can, get a head start on your day. You accomplish a lot early on. Your well-known resourcefulness emerges. You are a troubleshooter with answers right now. Others come to you with a surprising request. Why not? Tonight: Your treat.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Lie back, but also know when the time is right to make a move. A child or loved one demonstrates tremendous caring if you open up. Discussions reveal much more than you originally thought. You see another's unpredictability. Tonight: As you like it.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Fortunately, your happy ways become contagious this morning. Others are inclined to work hard, but they smile a lot. Confusion happens where you least anticipate it: close to the home front. Listen well to an irate family member. Tonight: Vanish and do your own thing.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Your opinions make a big difference in how you handle a boss. You need to invest more of yourself in your work. Take a stand, remaining in control of yourself. Schedule a meeting. A gathering could be important. Tonight: Where your friends are.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ You will need to distance yourself rather than act immediately, as is your nature as of late. Your perspective could change radically this a.m. Make calls to associates and those you consider in the know. A surprise is heading your way. Tonight: Your treat.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Use this morning to get your ducks in a row. You discover that someone else's perspective could be considerably different. Realize your limits in convincing someone that your way is the right way. Others seem vested. Tonight: Your smile makes you a winner. Be spontaneous.

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LOCAL

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

An old fashioned Huck Finn day

By Daily Press staff

A long-standing family tradition is planned this Saturday in Santa Monica, hosted by the Santa Monica Junior Chamber of Commerce, a local non-profit organization dedicated to the development of individual leadership skills through community service.

The 48th annual Huck Finn Day, a long-standing event for area children and their families, will be held on Saturday, June 14 at Reed Park, located at Lincoln and Wilshire boulevards.

"Over the past half-century, Huck Finn Day has become a highly-popular Santa Monica tradition that children and their families anxiously look forward to and immensely enjoy year after year," said Bob Cornish, president of the Santa Monica Jaycees. "The storied success and attraction of this distinctive event stem from the one-of-a-kind experience that children garner from reliving the days of Mark Twain's yesteryear. From trout fishing to pie eating to three-legged races, Huck Finn Day is all about providing Santa Monica kids with exposure to and appreciation for one of America's most prolific and accomplished authors."

Scheduled to begin at 9 a.m., the fun-filled affair will showcase local youths, ages 12 and under, fishing for live rainbow trout with bamboo poles. Families and volunteers also will enjoy pie eating contests, three-legged races, caricature drawing, face painting, interactive games and other children-oriented attractions. In addition, representatives of the Jaycees will provide fingerprinting and other identification services to children.

Individuals interested in attending Huck Finn Day, or obtaining additional information about the event, should contact event director John Kanan at (310) 766-2678, or by e-mail at jkanan@hitachiconsulting.com.

Founded in 1932, the Santa Monica Jaycees currently has more than 100 active members and is one of the top-ranked chapters in the country, based on excellence in community service.

The Jaycees has approximately 85,000 members nationwide, and over 2 million members in 8,000 chapters and more than 123 nations and territories, around the world.

SMC students show their stuff

By Daily Press staff

Culminating a year of creative output and lively debate in a unique arts community setting, students in Santa Monica College's Art Mentor Program will exhibit their work June 20-July 19 at the college's Pete & Susan Barrett Art Gallery.

The opening reception for the exhibit, "256 Cubic Feet," will be from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, June 20 at the gallery, located at SMC's Madison campus on Santa Monica Boulevard at 11th Street.

The SMC Mentor Program in visual arts gives students an opportunity to work individually and in small groups with instructors and professionals. Also included in the program, subsidized with private donations, are three art history mentor students, who produced a 24-page, full-color catalogue for the exhibit.

Two of the students, Cindy Short (painting) and Laura Forman (mixed media), received the 2003 Women Painters West Scholarship Grant Award, given to one or two outstanding art students in the Los Angeles area each year.

From painting to video to mixed media, the exhibit spotlights the accomplishments of a community of students who have been provided studio spaces at SMC's Airport Campus to work and exchange ideas and techniques. The students have also made weekly visits to professional artists' studios throughout the Los Angeles area.

The mentors (art professors), their students and respective media are:

- Maurizio Barattucci: Audrey Haworth and Cindy Short, both painting.
 - Ronn Davis: Melanie Lee, film and video; Ryan Payne and Mildred Rivera, both airbrush; and Charlene Tobias, painting and airbrush.
 - John Greco: Elizabeth Sadoff, printmaking.
 - Debbie Han: Vera Caldas, Laura Forman and Deborah Goldsman, all mixed media.
 - Tom Jenkins: Valerie Green, photography, and Theodore Henigson, film and video.
 - Sharon Kagan: Mark Dadlani, video and mixed media, and Michiko Yao, painting.
 - Anne-Marie Karlsen: Candida Ayala, mixed media; Arthur Pemberton, film and video; and Roz Ritter, mixed media.
 - Chris Madans: Linda Navaroth, mixed media.
 - Jeff O'Connell: Liz Bernstein, painting, and Giuletta Pagano, mixed media.
 - Ofunne Obiamiwe: Roel Punzalan, digital media.
 - Kristin Walker: Ekaette Ekong, Adi Hed and Vanessa Lefort, all art history.
- Gallery hours are noon to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.

surf report

Waist- to shoulder-high waves will bless many of the breaks south of Zuma and into the South Bay today, thanks to a combo of shadowed SW energy and NW wind swell.

BAD NEWS: Many of our breaks will be missed by the steep swells.

GOOD NEWS: The SW will hold through Wednesday and only start to fade on Thursday. The NW will pick up today and tomorrow.

OUTLOOK: A new, bigger S swell is expected next week.

Today the water is:

64°

Sunrise: 6:00 a.m.
Sunset: 7:58 p.m.

	LOW TIDE				HIGH TIDE			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	9:59	0.3	10:52	2.4	2:33	4.2	5:12	4.3
SUNDAY	10:49	0.5	N/A	N/A	4:06	3.9	5:45	4.8
MONDAY	12:02	1.6	(11:36)	0.7	5:33	3.8	6:19	5.4
TUESDAY	12:59	0.7	12:22	1.0	6:49	3.8	6:55	5.9
WEDNESDAY	1:50	-0.2	1:06	1.3	7:56	3.9	7:33	6.4
THURSDAY	2:38	-0.9	1:50	1.6	8:56	3.9	8:13	6.8
FRIDAY	3:27	-1.4	2:34	1.8	9:53	3.9	8:55	7.0

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The Q-Line

Now that the school parcel tax passed last week, the local school district's \$13 million budget deficit will get some financial help.

Measure S — a \$225 flat tax on parcels in Santa Monica and Malibu — will be in effect for six years and raise an estimated \$6.5 million a year for the school district. However, there still are dozens of academic programs that face elimination if the district can't close its budget deficit.

And despite that City Hall doesn't have a financial obligation to the school district, it has for years voluntarily contributed.

Some believe the Santa Monica City Council should buck up this year and give more than its usual \$3 million annual con-

tribution. Last year, the City Council gave an additional \$1.5 million in one-time funds because of a similar budget crisis.

On June 17, the Council will be asked to give more to the school district when it adopts its budget.

So, this week Q-Line wants to know: "Should the City of Santa Monica give more to the local school district? Why or why not?"

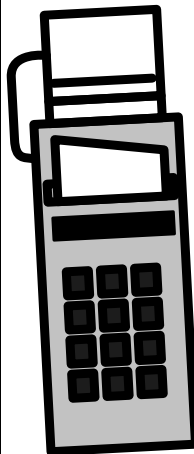
Call (310) 285-8106 with your response before Thursday at 5 p.m. We'll print them in Friday's paper. Please limit your comments to a minute or less. It might help to think first about the wording of your response.

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OPINION

LETTERS

Reasons for SMC vote of no confidence

Editor:

The classified staff of Santa Monica College, which is represented by the Classified School Employees Association Chapter 36, voted on July 6, 225 to 45 in support of a no confidence resolution on SMC President Piedad Robertson.

This action was in concert with the faculty's vote of no confidence of the same day with 413 to 68 supporting a similar resolution.

The issues leading to this historical precedent have a genesis that predates the current budget crisis, which is only the latest event in our long conflict with the college's administration over values and vision. The issues include: Attempts to eliminate and circumvent the civil service/merit system, allowing the administrative/management staff to increase by 100 percent, not filling 50 open classified staff positions affecting student services and safety, eliminating vocational education programs, questionable granting of contracts and failure to hold contractors in compliance, unfair labor practice violations, failed bargaining practices and unresponsiveness to employee governance group suggestions.

The SMC College Board of Trustees hired the current president knowing her history of no confidence votes as Secretary of Education in Massachusetts. The board has supported the president despite continued reports of deteriorating campus morale and mismanagement. The board now must address the result of their actions in the occurrence of a joint no confidence vote by the SMC classified staff and the faculty.

The future of the college and its ability to recover from its current problems depends on the college board's ability to act independently in restoring the college to its community roots and values by bringing in leadership whose abilities and values are more appropriate to those of the college, the students and the community during these rapidly changing times.

Phil Hendricks
President, CSEA Chapter 36



YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

Send your letters to Santa Monica Daily Press Attn.

Editor: 1427 Third Street Promenade Suite 202

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Lessons to be learned from baseball's most recent black eye



Evelyn Jerome

■ I'm one of those people who thinks that baseball is a four-month-long metaphor for all that's right with the world.

I'm a fan of Roy Hobbs, Roy Capanella, Ray Kinsella, Jackie Robinson, Sandy Koufax and Kennesaw Mountain Landis. I'm not a fan of Pete Rose or Joe Niekro.

I'm also a fan of rules, in general. They're usually there for a reason. They keep us on the same playing field. Funny how that term, the "level playing field," is derived in itself from baseball. The game personifies fairness.

Baseball has given us heroes of all col-

ors and ethnicities. Next time you visit a baseball stadium, check out how many little boys and girls are wearing their favorite player's jersey. I became a Dodger fan in 1981, the year of Fernandomania. For the first time, Mexican-American baseball fans had a true hero. When Hideo Nomo first came to the Dodgers, the kitsch stands couldn't keep No. 16 on the shelves.

Like many professional athletes, baseball players are larger than life. They may not know it, acknowledge it, or behave like it, but they are role models for kids around the world, especially American kids. Ask any kid under 10 what he or she wants to be when they grow up, and the answer, more often than not, is a professional sports player. Like it or not, that means that athletes'

dalliances with right and wrong are magnified in our children's eyes.

Baseball is good clean fun, but not when someone breaks the rules. Not when someone pitches with a fistful of emery boards, or a bat full of cork or superballs.

In the case of baseball, the rules are there to ensure the integrity of the game. What's the point of keeping score, of memorizing all those statistics, if they aren't valid? What's the point of having a Hall of Fame if you don't really know who's the best?

The biggest problem with Sammy Sosa's corked bat and all the rest of the sports cheaters — discovered and not yet so — is the message it sends to the kids who sit in the stands, wearing the jersey numbers of their heroes. It says, "Cheating is

OK. You might get away with it. You don't have to do your best if you can find a way to bend the rules."

At its best baseball teaches us about life. Work as a team. Wait for your turn. Cheer for your colleagues. Play fair. Jump when you win and congratulate the other guy when you don't.

(Evelyn Jerome, an L.A.-area native, has been a true-blue Dodger fan since the championship season of 1981. She burst into tears watching the Cubs use Eric Karros as their second-string first baseman this past weekend. She continues to hold a grudge against the Braves for taking the Dodgers' NL West pennant in the final game of the 1992 season.)



Todd Flora

■ There is trouble in baseball. Depending on whom you believe ... 40 to 80 percent of all Major Leaguers are using steroids or other banned performance enhancements.

Did you think I was going to discuss Sammy Sosa's corked bat? Yeah, that incident did not do wonders for the game either.

However, I would add my name to the small chorus of Americans who — while demanding that a strong standard of ethics be upheld — would nevertheless call for a little perspective. The prospect of rampant drug

use in baseball is just one example. We could also talk about rising ticket prices impeding the ability of working and middle class families to attend games. Baseball and major sports in general, have a range of problems. Why the feeding frenzy over Sammy?

The fact is we don't REALLY like to solve big problems in this country. We almost breathe a sigh of relief when a juicy scandal diverts us from larger priorities. We seem particularly interested when we can witness one of our idols fail.

There is no question that Sosa broke the rules and should be punished. His use of a doctored bat that could give him a slight power advantage is no lesson for young fans. You know what is? Standing up, admitting your mistake and never doing it again.

I respect Sosa's handling of the incident on several levels. He stepped before the camera and confronted the issue the minute the game in question concluded. No talking through lawyers. No consulting a front office spin machine. He was direct and immediate, even making late news reports the same night. By taking this step, Sosa essentially said, "I'm Sammy Sosa. I know people are watching what I do. I know this was a mistake. But it was not made in malice and I will not do it again." THAT level of personal responsibility IS a lesson for kids. Mistakes should come with consequences. But his contrition bests the penchant for excuses and self-victimization we see from too many these days.

Sosa remains fallible. I have no respect

for the prospect that Sosa may appeal the eight game suspension that was rendered him by the League. Given his acceptance of responsibility, it sends a mixed message. But given that 70 plus other bats passed muster upon inspection, I for one would like to see Sosa ride out his suspension and America focus her attention on solving more nefarious problems haunting baseball and professional sports.

(Todd Flora is a professional communications and issues manager. Raised in North Orange County, he splits his time rooting for both the Angels and Dodgers. To comment or reach Todd, e-mail him at junkfood6@aol.com).

LOCAL



Patients have one of three options in settlement

SETTLEMENT, from page 1

Service was actually a legitimate business. However, as part of the settlement, Saint John's has agreed to stop using the name when collecting on patient accounts.

Attorneys for both sides refrained from commenting specifically about the case, saying the terms of the settlement bars them from giving the public details.

Nonetheless, in an age when customers are becoming more aware of both excessive bills for "retail" health care, as well as games played by collection agencies, the allegations in the Saint John's case appear astonishing.

The more than 11,000 patients said to have been affected by the fake collection outfit have been represented by the Century City law firm of Lange & Koncius. The firm also represents Weber, who formally originated the suit before class action status was sought.

Saint John's is offering one of three choices to those eligible to share in the fund, which works out to about \$40 per patient. It will make a charitable donation to a local non-profit organization, credit \$40 to the patient's outstanding balance owed to Saint John's, or have \$40 applied against future services there.

Patients must mail claim forms by June 16 to an East Coast claims administrator. The amount each patient is owed was determined based on the what the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act requires, said Jeff Koncius, the attorney handling the case.

According to the law, the payment would be either 1 percent of the net worth of the company or \$500,000, whichever is less.

"From a person's perspective, this is the fairest settlement," Koncius said.

Both parties determined that it was in their mutual best interests to settle the lawsuit instead of going through a lengthy and costly trial. Because there is a maximum amount the court could grant according to law, \$500,000 was the most Saint John's would most likely pay,

Koncius noted.

"Each side is assessing its risk of going to trial," he said. "If you go forward, the upside is not that great."

The terms of the settlement have been in negotiation for months. A final agreement was reached Dec. 11, 2002 and signed June 2 by United States District Court Judge Steven V. Wilson in downtown Los Angeles.

"The hospital is satisfied with the settlement," said David Fisher, the attorney representing Saint John's. "The settlement greatly benefits the community."

If patients choose the first settlement option, a \$35 charitable donation will be made to either the Venice Family Clinic, Westside Family Health Center, Ocean Park Community Center, the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Infant & Family Support Program, St. Joseph Center or Serra Project. Saint John's will pick the organization based on community need, according to the settlement.

It is unclear where the additional \$5 will go if patients choose to contribute their settlement money to charity.

Koncius said of the 11,000 patients, only seven have chosen to opt out of the settlement so far.

Saint John's has agreed to pay up to \$70,000 in attorney fees to Lange & Koncius, LLP and Robert Lax & Associates for expenses incurred in the lawsuit.

However, Judge Wilson has the final say on lawyer fees.

It is still unclear how Saint John's set up its collection agency, how long it acted, how it was discovered, or the ramifications on other health care providers.

The entire industry has been rocked by recent national disclosures that uninsured patients can be billed several times the amount agreed to by insurance companies for exactly the same procedures. Then, health care providers use the fear power of collection agencies to make patients pay up.

Koncius said any time a person receives a letter from a collection agency,

he should deal with it immediately and make sure he is aware of his rights. But patients should also confirm that sup-

posed agencies actually exist before paying, he added.

"If you don't think it's correct, you should



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Landlords call for hearings

RENT CONTROL, from page 1

be served with notices from their landlords, who also are required to file a formal complaint with the board. The board then reviews the complaint and either dismisses the case or notifies the tenants, who are then allowed to respond.

If the tenant challenges the petition, a hearing date is set and the board sends an investigator to the apartment to gather third-party information. Though final rulings can be appealed to the board, landlords are not barred from raising the rent during the appeal process.

The rent control law allows renters to own other property but demands that the unit in question be their "residence of return" in order for them to be eligible for rent control.

Andrew Zanger, a tenants' rights attorney who has defended five of the rent control cases, said the hearings generally seem to be in favor of his clients.

Zanger echoed a common complaint among renters that Fourth Amendment rights are being violated by landlords and investigators who sift through underwear drawers and rifle through refrigerators to determine if tenants actually reside in their rent-controlled units.

He added that some of the cases

brought by landlords were plainly absurd.

One involved a legislative lobbyist who works in Sacramento and commutes to Santa Monica on the weekends. Another involved a woman whose residency was challenged because her boyfriend had put her name on a house he owned without her knowing it.

But not all landlords are being accused of acting irrationally.

Some renters, initially concerned about people snooping into their personal lives, now say they actually feel sorry for their landlords.

"People who use the Shores as their second unit are abusing the law," said Jack Neworth, a resident of the 532-unit Santa Monica Shores apartments in Ocean Park for the past 28 years. "My concern is one day people who really do live here will suffer some consequence. It's fortunate to have a second unit, but I don't think those people are entitled to rent control."

Apartments at the Shores have for years been rent controlled but as they become vacant, the landlord, Douglas Emmett Co., is able to charge market rate. As a result, the same-sized unit can go for as low as \$641 a month while others rent for more than \$3,000.



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STATE

Clock is ticking to pass bills in the state Senate

LEGISLATURE, from page 1

in six months of politics. The rush left some legislators thrilled when the last gavel fell in the green-carpeted Assembly chambers last week, others sad and many just relieved.

Assemblyman John Benoit said he had a bill awaiting action on the last day, "and I was kind of worried about the process." "But I was reassured it would happen, and I'm glad it did," said Benoit, a freshman Republican from the Coachella Valley town of Bermuda Dunes.

Benoit's bill would criminalize the security-avoiding line-jumping that has delayed flights and caused airport evacuations across the nation. The measure passed 64-3, a sharp contrast to countless controversial ideas that passed by a single vote.

"When you think of the dollar value of a closure like that, three, four hours of everybody not making their meetings, not getting their vacations, it's huge," he said.

Benoit's bill was one of 312 that passed the Assembly across four days, and 157 passed in the Senate. This week those bills start a new journey, attempting to pass the Legislature's other chamber by summer's end.

The Assembly will vote on 550 Senate bills that range from restricting logging in California's old-growth forests to undoing the 1996 electricity deregulation that brought blackouts instead of lower energy prices.

The Senate will consider 900 Assembly bills. Those bills, dealing with every subject imaginable and poured over by a Capitol army of lobbyists and interest groups, include reclassifying .50-caliber BMG rifles as "dangerous weapons," and making businesses pay \$10 an hour for minimum wage on large state contracts.

Still, many bills failed to pass by June 7, including those to ban high schools from using Indian-theme mascots and to let people view information about registered sex offenders over the Internet.

Now, in an arena where rules often allow exceptions to rules, many of those bills will get a new chance to pass by next Jan. 31, in the second half of the Legislature's two-year session.

"It's very much alive," said Will Brieger, who represents Attorney General Bill Lockyer on a bill to make cities show they have enough water for their growth. Builders and business groups fought the bill this year and stalled its momentum.

"These planning bills, and especially water, have typically taken years and years to really take shape and move forward," Brieger said.

A sales tax bill to make cities more friendly to houses and less eager for stores met a similar fate last week. Battled to a standstill by cities, the bill by Assemblyman Darrell Steinberg, D-Sacramento, and Assemblyman John Campbell, R-Irvine, is "very much alive," staffers for both legislators said.

Finally, lawmakers have yet to vote on numerous constitutional amendments that are exempt from the June 7 deadline to pass their first legislative house. Those include ideas to let regions hike their sales taxes for transportation with 55 percent majorities instead of the two-thirds vote required by 1978's Proposition 13. Others would allow cities to pass local sales tax

hikes for infrastructure and new taxes for public safety with 55 percent majorities instead of two-thirds votes.

Another allows voters to pass local infrastructure bonds with 55 percent majorities instead of two-thirds votes.

Last week's deadline has started the clock ticking on a new one, to pass bills through the opposite house. Senators will hear the measure Wednesday.

State bills at a glance

BILLS, from page 1

intentionally enter passenger areas without submitting to airport security screenings.

AB50 — Adds .50-caliber BMG rifle to state's list of dangerous weapons and requires owners to register them.

AB1093 — Requires businesses to pay \$10 an hour minimum on large state contracts.

AB245 — Sets six months in jail and \$250 fine for throwing items or entering field during sporting event.

AB259 — Sets same for hitting a fan or athlete during amateur or professional sporting event.

AB1426 — Establishes experimental program requiring cities of metropolitan Sacramento to make 10 percent of their housing affordable to people earning less than \$38,000 a year.

AB1032 — Requires companies bidding on state contracts to disclose felonies and other violations and disqualifies those with three or more within last five years.

Bills that passed the Senate last week and must now pass the Assembly and receive governor's signature to become law:

SB754 — Puts new restrictions on logging in state's old growth forests and bans clearcutting in 35-foot buffer zones around old trees.

SB430 — Moves state primary election to June.

SB89 — Legalizes ownership of pet ferrets in California.

SB888 — Seeks to undo 1996 energy deregulation program in state.

SB841 — Allows insurers to offer discounts to longtime customers of other firms.

SB157 — Makes California join 40 states simplifying their sales tax systems to make way for widespread collection of sales taxes from online shopping.

SB228 — Sets limits on prices charged by outpatient surgery centers and pharmacies to treat injured workers.

SB354 — Bans doctors from referring workers compensation patients to outpatient centers owned by them or their family members.

SB420 — Gives medical marijuana users identity cards to protect them from arrest by state and local police.

SB1034 — Makes it a fiduciary duty of major recording companies to accurately account royalty payments owed their recording artists.

SB677 — Phases out soft drinks at California schools beginning in 2005.

SCA4 — Lets the governor remain the governor while traveling out of state, rather than transferring powers to lieutenant governor.

Bills that failed to pass the Assembly by June 7, and must pass by Jan. 31 or die:

AB112 — Requires that third conviction to qualify for life-in-prison sentence under "Three Strikes and You're Out" law must be for a violent felony.

AB1221 — Gives cities greater share of their property taxes to encourage more housing and make them less reliant on sales taxes from shopping.

AB1015 — Requires cities to identify water sources for development at planning stages, years earlier than most do now.

AB858 — Bans schools from using Indian names for school mascots without permission from nearby tribes.

AB488 — Allows citizens to get information about registered sex offenders via the Internet.

STATE



Former homeless man graduates from Berkeley

By The Associated Press

BERKELEY — Duane De Witt, a 48-year-old army veteran who overcame homelessness and repeated rejection from the University of California, Berkeley, went on to graduate from the prestigious university with top honors and to deliver a keynote speech at commencement ceremonies.

Wearing a borrowed cap and gown, De Witt, who spent nearly an entire semester sleeping in local parks, recently addressed 2,000 fellow UC Berkeley graduates, most of them at least 25 years younger.

"I went from sleeping in the park to speaking on the stage," De Witt told the Los Angeles Times.

De Witt shared the speaker's spotlight with Anne Lamott, who wrote "Traveling Mercies" and "Crooked Little Heart", at UC Berkeley's commencement ceremonies on May 22.

"I said that standing before them was a guy who used to be homeless," he said of his speech. "I told them looks can be deceiving, that the worst thing you can ever do is judge a book by its cover."

Classmates and instructors said De Witt's sheer will to succeed at Berkeley reasserted the values of the university better than any politician, celebrity or academic speaker could.

A Santa Rosa native, De Witt worked at a succession of part-time positions over two decades, never finding a full-time job with benefits and never earning more than \$27,000 a year.

He was rejected by UC Berkeley offi-

cial four times until he made a personal plea in the spring of 2000 to the UC system's Board of Regents that he deserved a chance. On May 1, his 45th birthday, De Witt received notice that he would be admitted for the fall semester.

"I still have that letter as a keepsake. It's the best birthday gift that I have ever received," he said.

During his first semester, De Witt slept in area parks and washed up each morning in a university restroom until thieves broke into his 1986 Subaru station wagon in October 2000, stealing not only his meager belongings but all of his textbooks and class notes.

With a \$1,500 personal loan from an empathetic university housing official, De Witt bought new books and moved into an apartment.

In his commencement speech, De Witt urged fellow graduates to give something back to Berkeley, in money or time, to make it possible for all disadvantaged Californians to follow in their footsteps.

De Witt, who graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a 3.8 grade point average, has been accepted into UC Berkeley's prestigious graduate program in city and regional planning. He hopes to earn a doctorate degree and perhaps become a scholar on homeless issues at Berkeley.

"Duane is Joe Everyman," said Ken Gonsalves, a university outreach coordinator. "He was determined to get here and once in, he was determined to stay. What he has accomplished is quite remarkable."

Officials: Video monitors increasing driver distractions

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Cell phones have long been lambasted as a distraction for California drivers. Now officials have a new worry: video monitors.

Once confined to the rear seats, video monitors are increasingly found on dashboards, in sun visors, even in steering wheels.

Officials say the issue of driver inattention is a growing problem.

But that hasn't dampened the enthusiasm for watching while motoring.

Chris Malek, 25, of Menifee, had a video screen mounted in the center console of his Toyota pickup and says it's just the thing he needs during long road trips.

"It's more for my passengers, but I do indulge in it, too," said Malek, who has played the Al Pacino/Robert DeNiro action flick "Heat" and motocross videos while on the road.

Malek said he'll only occasionally glance at the screen when a movie is playing and doesn't consider it any worse than

drivers who talk on their cell phone.

Law enforcement officials disagree. If the driver can see a screen from the driver's seat, it can become a distraction and possibly lead to an accident.

California Vehicle Code section 27602 says it is against the law to "drive a motor vehicle which is equipped with a television receiver, screen, or other means of visually receiving a television broadcast which is located in the motor vehicle at any point forward of the back of the driver's seat, or which is visible to the driver while operating the motor vehicle."

Violators can expect to pay a fine of about \$130, according to court administrators.

Sales of mobile video systems, meanwhile, continue to accelerate. Consumer Electronics Association Market Research estimates that 327,000 mobile video monitors were sold in 2002, including dashboard, headrest, armrest, visor, floorboard and overhead monitors. It predicts that 494,000 monitors will be sold this year. Prices can start around \$600 and reach \$3,000 or higher.

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Admission: \$5 in advance, \$10 at the door

(Seating is limited. For advanced reservations, call 310-842-3805)

Dennis C. Hardin, M.F.T., Ph.D., is a licensed psychotherapist and marriage counselor specializing in personal growth and goal achievement. He is the author of THE ETHICS OF PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT. He has also been certified by the Albert Ellis Institute in the techniques of rational-emotive therapy. His specialty is developing self-help methods which enable clients to retake control of their lives and remake their own destiny.

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Reduced City Budget Set for Adoption

To narrow the gap between escalating costs and declining income, the Santa Monica City Council will consider both expenditure cuts and revenue increases in adopting the 2003/04 municipal budget on June 17. Review the budget online at www.santa-monica.org or at city libraries.

BUDGET HEARING

Tuesday, June 17, 2003

6:45 p.m., City Hall

1685 Main Street

Cablecast on Channel 16

Netcast at www.santa-monica.org

On KCRW 89.9 FM, 8 p.m. - midnight

No need to attend the Budget Hearing to make your views known. Communicate your opinion to the Council by email (council@santa-monica.org), phone (458-8301, TDD 917-6626) or fax (917-6640).



A public hearing on the proposed FY 2003/04 Action Plan (allocating Federal Community Development Block Grant and HOME Investment Partnership Act funds) will be held in conjunction with the city budget hearing and adoption.



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Santa Monica

A weekly look at events and programs

Making the right moves during childbirth

Guest Commentary

By Anne Heffernan, R.N., B.S.N., C.C.E

QUESTION: What are the best positions for childbirth and what will be my physical limitations during labor and delivery?

ANSWER: Staying mobile at home during early labor is often feasible for many women and most moms find that walking around helps to relieve discomfort.

We try not to restrict physical activity during labor and birth at Saint John's, but it really depends on each individual's personal experience. Ambulating (walking) during labor can promote progress and be an effective comfort measure, but unrestricted mobility may not be possible due to the need for fetal monitoring and epidural anesthesia.

Even with continuous fetal monitoring, which restricts movement, your nurse and doctor can work with you to arrange for sit-

ting in a rocker, standing by the bedside, etc., to allow you some mobility during labor. In addition, intermittent fetal monitoring can be an option, with your doctor's orders.

A woman may choose to have an epidural for pain management in labor. Epidurals now create less numbing of the legs than in the past, but usually you must remain in bed.

If you choose to have an epidural and your physical activity is restricted, you can still change position frequently in bed under the guidance of your nurse. If you have been mobile in early labor, you may enjoy a nap after getting an epidural, prior to the pushing stage.

During the pushing stage, it's good to try different positions to find out which one suits you best. The most common position is the "C" shape, where the mother is on her back in a sit-up position with legs abducted out and back to widen the diameters of the pelvis. In this position, the mother is assisted by her nurse and support person(s).

Other pushing positions that work well include pushing on your side. However, remember that your legs must remain wide apart so your upper leg has to be held up by either the nurse or your support person. Your

nurse will give you directions and your support person can also help.

If the fetal heart rate tracing is reassuring, you can also try moving upright into a squatting position, which uses gravity to help facilitate the descent of the baby and may be a great alternative for some mothers. The birthing bed can be modified and a squatting bar attached to assist you if you choose this option.

Whichever position you ultimately choose, it's important to keep in mind that while it's good to have goals about physical activity and childbirth positions in advance of labor and the delivery itself, much will depend on your own actual circumstances. Be prepared to remain flexible about your options and collaborate with your caregivers. Remember that the ultimate goal is a healthy mom and baby.

(Anne Heffernan, R.N., is a clinical educator and Lamaze instructor at Saint John's Health Center in Santa Monica. For more information, contact Saint John's at (310) 829-5511 or visit the hospital's Web site at www.stjohns.org.)

EDUCATION, SUPPORT GROUPS AND OTHER RESOURCES

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Wendy Haldeman — 7-10 p.m.
Louise Tellalian — 6:30 — 9:30 p.m.
Call (310) 826-5774 to register

MOMS TO BE SUPPORT GROUPS

Pump Station — see calendar

SM/UCLA Medical Center — Registration required
3rd Wednesday each month at SM/UCLA Medical — Corky Harvey — 6:30 — 9:30 p.m.
(310) 319-4947 to register

LA LECHE LEAGUE

Santa Monica Chapter — 323-933-4614
Westchester Chapter — 310-390-2529

BABY CARE CLASS

SM/UCLA Medical Center — Registration required
One Saturday each month — 9 a.m. — 1 p.m.
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CHILD BIRTH PREPARATION SERIES — call for details
Ida Bird — Lamaze

310-374-4546
Chapman Family Center
Judy Chapman
310-453-5144
Jody Leanse — Bradley Method
323-931-8521

Wendy Haldeman (private sessions only)
310-826-5774

Birth and Beyond — Bradley Method
310-458-7678

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Maureen McTeague
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Rie Parent Infant Awareness Classes
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Music Together, Brazil Brazil Cultural Center
SM Airport, 3021 Airport Ave.
310-396-4436

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SCHEDULES:

Registration is underway for the YMCA Summer Programs including Parent & Child Classes, Youth Programs and Swim Lessons. The program dates are June 28th – September 3rd. Call 310-393-2721 for more info or pick up a brochure at the YMCA at 1332 Sixth St.

TUESDAY

Storytelling

Main Library – Toddler Story Time at 10:00 and 10:30am – Reed Park/West Auditorium/7th and Wilshire – 2 yr. olds with parent. 310-458-8922
Fairview Branch – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443
 Lap Time – 11:00am, June 24 – July 29, for 0-24 month olds
 Twilight Story Time – 7pm – an ongoing program for 3-5 year olds.
 Cuentos Para Pequenos – 10am – June 24 – July 29 – a 6-wk program of stories in Spanish for 2-3 years old.
Montana Avenue Branch – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081
 Family Story Time – 7pm – Stories for the entire family.

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, \$10 per class, first class free. Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 – 2:30pm

Yoga

Yoga Baby (Venice) – 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga – 7:00-8:15pm, \$13, Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) – 10-11am, \$9
Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150, Pre/Postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45pm, \$15, Mommy and Me – 1:45-3pm, \$15

Other

Recreational Swimming
Santa Monica Swim Center at SMC – corner of Pico and 16th, 4 – 6:30pm, Residents pay \$2.50 per adult, \$1.00 per child. 310-458-8700

June 10

After School Stories and More
Montana Avenue Library – 3:30 p.m.
 Stories and crafts for 5-9 year olds.

WEDNESDAY

Storytelling

Fairview Branch – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443,
 Preschool Story Time – 10:30am – June 25 – July 30, 3-5 year olds able to be on their own
Ocean Park Branch – 2601 Main St. – 310-392-3804
 Twilight Story Time – 7:00 to 7:30pm – for parents with 3-5 year olds.
Montana Avenue Branch – 1704 Montana Avenue – 310-829-7081
 Lap Time – 10:00 and 10:30 a.m. – June 4 – July 9, for 0-24 month olds.
 Toddler Story Time – 11:15 a.m. – June 4 – July 9, for two year olds with parents
Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion – 2 pm – ages 2-5 – 310-475-4144
Border's, Westwood – 11am – 310-475-3444

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, \$10 per class, first class free.

Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 – 2:30pm

Yoga

Yoga Baby (Venice) – 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga – 11:15am – 12:30pm, \$13, Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) – 10-11am, Mommy and Me (infants) 1-2pm, \$9
Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150, Pre/Postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45pm, \$15
Yoga Garden, 310-450-0133, www.yogagardenstudios.com, Restorative yoga for pre/postnatal – 6:30pm
The Pump Station, Jennifer Triggs – 310-451-9051 (call first), Pre-natal – 6:30 – 7:30pm, \$10

Other

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

Recreational Swimming

Santa Monica Swim Center at SMC – corner of Pico and 16th, 4 – 6:30pm, Residents pay \$2.50 per adult, \$1.00 per child. 310-458-8700

THURSDAY

Storytelling

Main Library – Preschool Story Time – 10:30am – Reed Park. Stories for ages 3-5. 310-458-8922 for info.
Fairview Branch – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443
 Toddler Story Time – 10:30am – June 26 – July 31. 5 – 6 week series for 2-3 year olds with adult.
 La Hora Del Cuento – 7:00pm – Stories in Spanish for all ages.
Montana Avenue Branch – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081
 Toddler Story Time – 10:15 a.m. – June 5 – July 10
 Preschool Story Time – 11:15am – for 3-5 year olds.
Ocean Park Branch – 2601 Main St. – 310-392-3804
 Lap Time – 9:20 and 10:20am – stories and songs for 0-2 year olds. Thru June 12, begins again July 10th.

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, \$10 per class, first class free. Moms/babies 4-8 months, 1:00-2:30pm

Yoga

Yoga Baby (Venice) – 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga – 7:00-8:15pm, \$13, Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) – 10-11am, \$9
Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150, Pre/Postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45pm, \$15, Mommy and Me – 1:45-3pm, \$15

Recreational Swimming

Santa Monica Swim Center at SMC – corner of Pico and 16th, 4 – 6:30pm, Residents pay \$2.50 per adult, \$1.00 per child. 310-458-8700

June 12

Nature Walk (Children's Nature Institute)

– Sullivan Canyon, West LA – 10am
 Reservations required – 310-998-1151 or www.childrensnatureinstitute.org

FRIDAY

Yoga

Yoga Baby (Venice) – 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga – 11:15am – 12:30pm, \$13, Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) – 10-11am, Mommy and Me (infants) 1-2pm, \$9
Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150, Pre/Postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45pm, \$15

Classes

Puppetolio, 2415 Wilshire Blvd, SM, 310-826-5774

HOT TOPICS FOR MOMS with babies 6-12 months – 1:00 – 2:30pm, \$15, no pre-registration required, space is limited.
 June 13th – Attachment and Separation: Krista Swanson, PhD

Recreational Swimming

Santa Monica Swim Center at SMC – corner of Pico and 16th, 4 – 6:30pm, Residents pay \$2.50 per adult, \$1.00 per child. 310-458-8700

June 13

Puppet Show – Miles Playhouse in Reed Park – 4:00p.m. with Woody and Lester.

SATURDAY

Storytelling

Children's Book World, 10580 W. Pico Blvd, LA, 310-559-800K, 10:30 am, ages 3-8
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

MONDAY

Storytelling

Main Library (programs for the Main Library are being presented in off-site locations during renovation)
NEW PROGRAM BEGINS JUNE 16. Lap Time for parents and children up to 24 months, 9:30am, Joslyn Park – 310-452-6132.
Ocean Park Branch – 2601 Main St. – 310-392-3804
 Spanish for Little Ones – 11:15 a.m. – June 9 – July 14. Songs and stories in Spanish for ages 2-5.
Barnes and Noble – 3rd St. Promenade – Toddler Story Time – 10am – 310-260-9110

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, \$10 per class, first class free. Moms/babies 8-12 months, 10am – 11:30pm Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 – 2:30pm

Yoga

Yoga Baby (Venice) – 310-306-9381 Prenatal yoga – 11:15am – 12:30pm, \$13 Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) – 10-11am, Mommy and Me (infants) 1-2pm, \$9
Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45pm, \$15
Yoga Garden, 310-450-0133, www.yogagardenstudios.com Restorative yoga for pre/postnatal – 6:30pm

June 16

Nature Walk (Children's Nature Institute) – Temescal Canyon, Pacific Palisades – 10am
 Reservations required – 310-998-1151 or www.childrensnatureinstitute.org

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INTERNATIONAL

Bush optimistic for Mideast peace despite violence

BY TOM RAUM

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — President Bush on Monday condemned a new outbreak in violence in the Middle East and called on the prime ministers of Israel and the Palestinians stand fast behind their pledges to press forward with a U.S.-backed peace plan.

"I recognize there're going to be extremists, particularly in the Palestinian territories, that want to blow up peace. I think people are sick of it," Bush told reporters.

Just four days after Bush presided over a three-way Mideast peace summit in Jordan, Palestinian militant groups

claimed joint responsibility for an attack Sunday on a northern Gaza checkpoint that left four Israeli soldiers dead.

Bush said he remains optimistic, however, that Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas will follow through on their promises to work for the so-called "road map" to Palestinian statehood by 2005.

The peace plan calls for an end to armed attacks against Israel.

Militant groups have defied Abbas' call for an immediate end to violence. Sharon has been criticized by members of his own right-wing Likud party for conceding too much in agreeing to dismantle unautho-

rized settlement outposts in the West Bank.

"Yes, I understand there's going to be a lot of work to do, but I'm prepared to lead," Bush said. He spoke to reporters after giving his Cabinet a briefing on his seven-day trip to Europe and the Middle East.

"The average Palestinian must understand that their lives will improve with the vision of Prime Minister Abbas. And the Arab neighborhood understands that violence will lead to nothing except misery and the lack of hope," Bush said.

"And so I'm optimistic that responsible leaders have now got the message that we must combine to work to fight off the terror attacks so that a peaceful Palestinian

state can emerge."

Abbas was struggling to make good on the peace plan's demand for reining in anti-Israeli violence. Abbas said Monday he would not use force against militant groups under any circumstances, despite their stated determination to derail the peace plan with attacks on Israelis, including two weekend shootings that killed five soldiers.

He suggested using force could result in civil war.

Israeli troops began dismantling an uninhabited West Bank settlement outpost Monday, taking a first step toward meeting part of Israel's obligations under the U.S.-backed peace plan.

North Korea says it needs 'nuclear deterrent' against U.S.

BY SOO-JEONG LEE

Associated Press Writer

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea sharpened its tone in the standoff with the United States on Monday, publicly threatening for the first time to develop a "nuclear deterrent" unless Washington abandons its "hostile" stance toward the communist nation.

The statement was the isolated North's most direct admission of its intention to develop nuclear weapons. Until now, Pyongyang has referred to its need for "physical deterrence" against what it calls U.S. plans to attack it, though U.S. officials say the North Koreans told them privately that the country already has nuclear bombs.

"If the U.S. keeps threatening the DPRK with nukes instead of abandoning its hostile policy toward Pyongyang, the DPRK will have no option but to build up a nuclear deterrent force," the KCNA news agency said in its official English translation, using the North's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The regime also linked its nuclear ambitions to an effort to rebuild the country's shattered economy.

The "intention to build up a nuclear deterrent force is not aimed to threaten and blackmail others, but reduce conventional weapons under a long-term plan and channel manpower resources and funds into economic construction and the betterment of people's living," the agency said.

Pyongyang keeps two-thirds of its 1.1 million-strong military, the world's fifth largest, near the inter-Korean border, the world's most heavily fortified.

The United States has asked North Korea to reduce its troops near the border, but the North has emphasized the importance it sees in using military force to stave off a possible U.S. attack in the wake of the war against Iraq.

The North has insisted in the past that it has the right to develop nuclear weapons to defend itself.

The escalation came as South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun repeated Monday that his country would never accept a nuclear-armed North Korea.

Addressing Japanese lawmakers at the end of his first official visit to Tokyo, Roh acknowledged that negotiating an end to the standoff over North Korea's suspected nuclear weapons program would take time.

"I am not hoping that this issue can be solved in a day or two."

— ROH MOO-HYUN
South Korean president

"I am not hoping that this issue can be solved in a day or two," Roh said.

Despite the tensions, the Koreans announced that they agreed to connect their railways at the border on Saturday, the first such link between the two in half a century. The railways, under construction in the Demilitarized Zone, will be linked at two points along the 150-mile border, the countries announced Monday.

Korea was divided at the end of World War II, and the last train to cross the border did so shortly before the 1950-53 Korean War.

South Korea has been pressing a policy of reconciliation with the North. Pyongyang has said it would give up its nuclear programs in exchange for U.S. security guarantees and economic aid, which it needs to fight the severe

privation and food shortages its 22 million people suffer.

The United States says it has no plans to invade North Korea, but has not ruled out the military option.

In recent weeks, the North has escalated its anti-U.S. rhetoric, criticizing the U.S.-South Korea and U.S.-Japan summits in May.

In separate meetings with President Bush, Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and Roh said they agreed to seek a peaceful resolution to the crisis over North Korea's nuclear programs.

All three leaders warned of tougher measures if North Korea escalates tensions.

Last week, U.S. lawmakers who visited North Korea said Pyongyang officials told them the country has nuclear weapons and plans to build more. It also claimed it had nearly finished reprocessing more than 8,000 spent nuclear fuel rods, they said. The rods would give the communist state enough plutonium to make several atomic bombs.

North Korea has said it might consider U.S. demands for talks involving several nations, if it can meet one-on-one with the United States. Washington says talks to defuse tensions should include Russia, China, South Korea and Japan.

On Monday, KCNA denounced the United States' insistence on involving other nations in discussions to resolve the nuclear crisis.

The dispute flared in October when U.S. officials said North Korea admitted it had a clandestine nuclear program in violation of a 1994 agreement with Washington.

The United States and its allies suspended fuel shipments promised under the 1994 deal, and Pyongyang retaliated by expelling U.N. monitors, restarting frozen facilities capable of making nuclear bombs and withdrawing from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Mauritanian government regaining control after coup attempt

BY SHEIKH BEKAYE

Associated Press Writer

NOUAKCHOTT, Mauritania — Government forces appeared to regain control of the capital of this Arab-led West African country Monday after rebellious soldiers launched a coup attempt against Mauritania's pro-West leader.

Silence fell across the city after gunbattles and explosions, which erupted for a second day early Monday, subsided around midday.

Government roadblocks sprang up overnight in otherwise deserted streets near the presidential palace and state-radio headquarters.

Hundreds of government supporters spilled into downtown shouting, "We have won, we have won."

"If the coup fails, it's a catastrophe," said one young man, Sid Ahmed Ould Ali.

"If it doesn't fail, it's still a catastrophe."

President Maaouya Sid'Ahmed Ould Taya's whereabouts remained unknown, though government officials said he was in a secure location directing efforts to restore order. State radio and television stations were not broadcasting.

The uprising came after a government crackdown on Islamic activists, launched with the U.S.-led war in Iraq.

Nouakchott residents awoke early Sunday to heavy explosions, which continued throughout the day. While fighting dwindled overnight, fresh explosions rocked the city early Monday.

There was heavy fighting around the presidential palace and nearby radio station, where loyalist soldiers and paramilitary police traded gun and tank fire with Kalashnikov-toting insurgents.

There were also explosions near a military base, in the southern part of the city,

and around the international airport, on the eastern outskirts of town.

Army Chief of Staff Mohammed Lamine Ould N'Deyane was killed during the fighting, military sources said Sunday, speaking on condition of anonymity. The circumstances were not immediately clear.

Staff at the city's main hospital said they had received the bodies of at least three soldiers and treated 16 others for gunshot wounds. Many civilians were injured, they said Sunday.

The Arab satellite television station Al-Jazeera said the coup appeared to be led by officers recently dismissed from the army and others angered by the government's campaign against Islamic extremism.

Military officials said coup forces controlled Nouakchott's tank division, based in the city's southern neighborhood of Arafat. The division's strength wasn't known.

The government crackdown initially

tried to quell Islamic shows of support for Iraq. Dozens of Islamic leaders were arrested last month for allegedly using mosques to recruit young men as fighters. At least 32 were freed Sunday when rebel soldiers released prisoners from two jails, opposition officials said.

Mauritania's Arab-led government has tried to balance a strongly Islamic nation with Westward looking foreign policy.

After a bitter falling out with ousted Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, Ould Taya traded a one-time alliance with Iraq for improved relations with Israel. Mauritania is one of only three Arab nations to hold diplomatic relations with Israel.

Ould Taya himself came to power in a 1984 military coup, and was elected president in 1992 and 1997 voting widely viewed as flawed.

Mauritania is among the world's 30 poorest nations.

DID YOU KNOW?: Adams, Jefferson and Monroe all died on July 4. Adams and Jefferson died within hours of each other, on July 4, 1826.

SPORTS



Sabbatini in position for elusive second victory

BY JOSEPH WHITE
AP Sports Writer

POTOMAC, Md. — Rory Sabbatini was just 24 years old when he won for the first time on the PGA Tour. He never thought the second victory would take this long.

Three years later, Sabbatini is close to No. 2, holding a one-stroke lead going into Monday's final round of the rain-delayed FBR Capital Open.

"I say it's harder the second time," said Sabbatini, who won the 2000 Air Canada Championship. "Mentally, you go 'OK, I've done this, let's go out there again.' And you try to repeat, and in some sense you're actually putting more pressure on yourself."

"It's very rare that someone's going to go out there and win their first one and then start having strings of wins. Unless you're Tiger, of course."

Sabbatini's steady back nine, marred only by a three-putt bogey at the final hole, gave him a 3-under 68 on Sunday and moved him to 11 under with a three-round total of 202.

Sweden's Niclas Fasth, a member of Europe's victorious Ryder Cup team a year ago, shot a 67 and was in second place. Duffy Waldorf was three shots off the lead, while Fred Funk, Padraig Harrington, Chris DiMarco, J.L. Lewis, Rich Beem and Tom Gillis were another stroke back.

A rainout Saturday forced organizers to move back the final two rounds of the tournament, the last event before the U.S. Open at Olympia Fields near Chicago.

"It was definitely different being out there," Sabbatini said. "You could notice the atmosphere, being a Sunday atmosphere, and still knowing that you had another 18 to go."

Sabbatini, a South African who lives in Arizona, has two top-10 finishes this year, including a tie for fifth in the Colonial. His aggressive play has won him admirers in the locker room.

"He's a lot of fun to play with," Waldorf said. "It seems like he plays by the seat of his pants. He goes for everything and is an aggressive player. When he's on, he's tough to beat."

A good example Sunday was No. 12, the hardest hole on the course. Sabbatini put his 5-iron approach to 9 feet to birdie a hole that many are content to par.

At the 16th, Sabbatini clobbered a 295-yard drive — a formidable distance under

the conditions — that nearly caught up to fans who thought they were crossing the fairway at a safe place. He put his approach within 6 feet to set up a birdie putt that gave him a two-shot lead over Fasth.

But Sabbatini lost a stroke at the final hole, missing a 3-footer for par.

"I fooled myself into thinking it was going to do one thing," Sabbatini said. "And it did another."

"I say it's harder the second time. Mentally, you go 'OK, I've done this, let's go out there again.'"

— RORY SABBATINI
Professional golfer

Told about Sabbatini's bogey, Fasth said: "That's one less for tomorrow."

Although the rains were gone Sunday, it was very humid. The ball didn't carry well in the heavy air, and the wet fairways gave little bounce or roll. The players were again allowed to lift, clean and place their balls in the fairways.

Fasth hit every green in regulation until he pulled his tee shot into the rough on the par-5 13th. He played his second shot to the fringe of a rarely used alternate fairway and bogeyed the hole.

"I feel very confident about the game," said Fasth, whose only European tour victory is the 2000 Madeira Island Open. "I know I can handle the pressure if it comes down the line and it's close."

David Duval, who set a course record with a 62 on Friday, reverted to the inconsistent play that has dogged him for a year and a half. He put his tee shot in the rough at No. 3 and landed in the creek trying to reach the green with his second shot at the par-5 sixth. He then hooked his tee shot into nasty rough at No. 7.

Duval was 1 over for the day, giving him uneven tallies of 74-62-73 over three rounds.

Local favorite Funk, the former University of Maryland golf coach, thrilled the galleries by moving to 8 under before a double bogey at No. 15. He birdied the 18th with a 15-foot putt to finish with a 5-under round of 66.

CITY OF SANTA MONICA NOTICE

INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA PERSONNEL BOARD

The Santa Monica City Council is now accepting applications for two (2) appointments to the City of Santa Monica Personnel Board. Applicants must be a current resident of the City of Santa Monica.

The State Political Reform Act requires certain officeholders to disclose their interest and income that may be materially affected by their official action. The applicant appointed to serve in this position will be required to file a Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) with the City Clerk's office upon assuming office, and annually thereafter.

Applications and information on Board duties & disclosure requirements are available from the City Clerk's Office, City Hall, 1685 Main St., Rm. 102 (submit applications at this same location), by phone at (310) 458-8211, or on-line at <http://santa-monica.org>.

All current applications on file will be considered.

Applications due by noon, Tuesday, June 17, 2003.
Appointment to be made by City Council, June 24, 2003.

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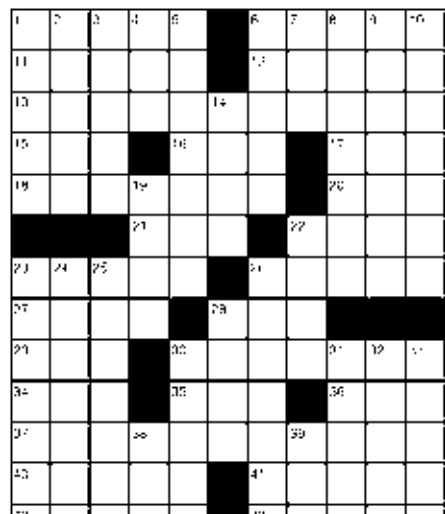
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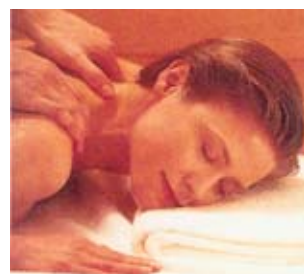
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BACK PAGE

**K-9 breeder snuffed out**

By The Associated Press

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Call it the case of the K-9 that couldn't sniff the C-4.

Kennel owner Russell Lee Ebersole is accused of providing bomb dogs that couldn't find bombs. He is charged with defrauding the government of more than \$700,000 and putting at risk the lives of thousands of federal workers whose workplaces his dogs guarded.

Calls to anti-fraud hot lines tipped the government of alleged problems with Ebersole's dogs.

On April 14, 2002, private detectives hired by the Federal Reserve posed as contractors and drove vehicles up to three Federal Reserve building entrances. The vehicles carried 50 pounds of dynamite, 50 pounds of TNT, and 15 pounds of C-4 plastic explosive hidden inside.

The indictment says Ebersole's canine teams "failed to detect the explosives, and the vehicles were permitted to enter Federal Reserve parking facilities."

Ebersole, 43, is scheduled to go on trial Monday in U.S. District Court. If convicted, he could face up to five years in prison on each of the 28 counts and fined up to \$1.4 million. Ebersole has pleaded innocent to all counts.

"I believe that we'll be able to demonstrate the dogs are quite capable and are still working for government agencies," said Ebersole's attorney, Spencer Ault.

The court has refused a defense request to let the jury see the dogs at work.

Ault said he looks forward to the trial to "discuss how these tests were administered and what transpired

there." He said the case is largely the result of professional jealousy among rival dog trainers envious of Ebersole's methods.

Cleaner swallows ring

By The Associated Press

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP, Mich. — A carpet cleaner is accused of swallowing a diamond ring in order to smuggle it out of the house he was cleaning.

The \$3,000 ring was recovered Thursday. Daniel Dyament, 19, admitted putting the ring in his mouth in order to smuggle it out of the house, police said.

Maria Reilly was feeding her children breakfast Monday, when Dyament asked if he could use an upstairs bathroom. After the crew left, she discovered the ring was gone.

She called police, who called the carpet company. Dyament was arrested when police learned he was wanted on outstanding warrants. Dyament was charged Tuesday with larceny from a building.

The ring will be returned to the Reillys after it has been used as evidence, police said.

Bear bounces through park

By The Associated Press

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, Wyo. — Yellowstone park rangers are trying to net a bouncing bear.

Park officials erected a decoy tent in hopes of luring the mischievous bear that has been hopping on tents.

On Sunday, the bear bounced onto an unoccupied tent near Grebe Lake just west of Canyon Junction. The park closed the campground Tuesday and put up the decoy tent, park spokeswoman Cheryl Matthews said.

Meanwhile, Pebble Creek campground and West Thumb Geyser Basin remain off-limits to visitors after recent bear encounters.

A young grizzly pounced on an unoccupied tent at Pebble Creek in the northeast corner of Yellowstone National Park Sunday, crushing the tent and rolling on it

before leaving. No one was injured.

Video taken by a camper indicates the bear could be the same one staff tried to capture last year after several reports of a tent-smashing bear in the Lamar Valley.

Rangers say it is unlikely the bear is the same one that attacked the tent near Grebe Lake. The two sites are 25 miles apart.

Taking the fun out of a food fight

By The Associated Press

DANVILLE, Pa. — A food fight could land some high school students in hot water.

Police are considering filing criminal charges after more than 20 Danville High School students took part in a food fight Thursday. Superintendent Richard Martz said some seniors might not be allowed to attend next week's graduation.

"The bottom line is that it will not go unnoticed. It will not go unresponded to," Martz said.

Some students said the food fight had been planned as an end-of-the-year prank.

Police Chief Rae Leighow said he expected to file disorderly conduct charges against several students. The charge carries a fine of up to \$300.

Skunk charms neighborhood

By The Associated Press

POPLAR BLUFF, Mo. — Residents on Willow Street in this southeast Missouri town find the skunk roaming their neighborhood charming and anything but a stinker.

This skunk apparently likes people, even following neighbors around and brushing against their legs like a cat.

Since making its presence known a couple of years ago, the olfactory-offending animal has become a fixture around Willow Street.

"He really took up with a woman who lived down the road," said Margie Timmons. "He would wait for her at her mailbox at night when she would get home from work."



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