

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

2 7 20 39 42
Meganumber: 5
Jackpot: \$10 Million

FANTASY 5

7 28 29 36 39

DAILY 3

Daytime: 1 9 4
Evening: 0 9 0

DAILY DERBY

1st: 11 Money Bags
2nd: 06 Whirl Win
3rd: 01 Gold Rush

RACE TIME: 1:49.48

NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Bureaucrats in North Korea's Communist Party, summarizing their understanding of the way the brain works, announced in January that, henceforth, all men would be expected to wear their hair short (2 inches, maximum) in that longer hair impairs function by taking oxygen away from the nerves in the head. (Balding men would be allowed another inch for comb-overs, and hair length of women was not addressed.)

■ In studies reported recently by mainstream researchers: (1) DNA-damaging cancers caused by heterocyclic amines were found reduced in rats that drank nonalcoholic beer instead of water (Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry). (2) Tobacco-smoking apparently provides some protection against the onset of Parkinson's disease (Karolinska Institute of Sweden). (3) Overweight patients tend to survive better than nonoverweight patients the rigors of a certain cardiac-bypass procedure (coronary artery bypass grafting) (American Journal of Cardiology).

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Editor: a person employed by a newspaper, whose business it is to separate the wheat from the chaff, and to see that the chaff is printed.

ELBERT HUBBARD
US AUTHOR (1856 - 1915)

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Wave of enthusiasm



Fabian Lewkowicz/Special to the Daily Press

A surfer stands tall upon the crashing surf in Santa Monica. Consistent chest-high sets are forecasted for today.

Officials strive to fix planning 'glitch'

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — Some elected officials are saying one week is too little time to review documents that will affect planning and transportation issues in Santa Monica for the next 20 years.

Despite a tight schedule, Santa Monica City Councilman Herb Katz said he would be supporting at tonight's City Council meeting

the city planning commission's request to extend the duration in which governing bodies and the public review reports regarding updates to the city's planning and transportation policies. The request would extend the period of time for review of the reports from one week to a month.

"It's a timing glitch that was overlooked until recently," Katz said. "We need good input on these reports, and in order to do

this, more time is needed to digest them."

The council and planning commission were jointly asked to evaluate the "emerging themes" report on April 26, a week after the report involving public comments on the city's future planning and transportation plan were published. Likewise, the second report of this planning and trans-

See **MORE TIME**, page 6

Council feeling well, paying to clean up water

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

BY WINTER JOHNSON

Special to the Daily Press

CITY HALL — The Santa Monica City Council is set to spend more than \$4 million this evening on citywide projects and improvements.

More than \$4 million in contracts have been earmarked for approval at the City Council meet-

ing, with an additional \$500,000 available for unexpected expenses. Among the projects, the funding will be used to evaluate the city's groundwater, maintain city landscapes and install art for the new Santa Monica Main Library.

The costliest project is a \$1.9 million agreement to provide groundwater modeling consulting services to the city of Santa

Monica and the Charnock Engineering Committee in efforts to restore the drinking water production from the Charnock Well Field.

This well field is a significant source of drinking water for Santa Monica, but its five drinking water wells were shut down in 1996 due to

See **CONSENT**, page 6

Workers may get permit parking

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — A program is on the table, which, if approved, would mark the first time employees could acquire preferential parking status in parts of Santa Monica.

The Santa Monica City Council is set to make a decision on a staff proposal this evening requesting that some commercial corridors along Montana Avenue, and Pico and Ocean Park boulevards be opened up for employee permit parking. City Hall's proposal comes in response to some council concerns that areas within some residential parking zones are not being fully utilized during the day and might help accommodate the parking needs of local workers.

Currently, only Santa Monica residents are allowed to apply for preferential parking permits.

Councilman Herb Katz, a long-time critic of most preferential parking programs in the city, said he would be supporting the proposal on the grounds it would make good use of available daytime parking space.

"We often say, 'this is a resident, they need parking' and 'this is a business, so the heck with them,'" Katz said. "I don't think we should do that, because we often mischaracterize who we are talking about."

"A lot of these business owners and employees are Santa Monica residents, just like a lot of the customers."

City Hall has designated four areas in Santa Monica where it would like to pilot the new program. To ensure resident parking does not suffer as a result of the program, staff will likely suggest

See **PERMIT PARKING**, page 6

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Kick up your heels, Scorpio

Santa Monica Daily Press

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ Honor the unexpected, as it could work for you. Though you might be set back by what you hear, you manage to change a situation into a win-win. Yay for you! Move past obsolete thinking and let go of preconceived notions. Tonight: Easy does it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ You are very playful and full of energy. Review recent decisions with an eye to switching a position or idea on which you might have been overly rigid. Know when you have had enough of a boss. Decide to change jobs if you're not comfortable. Tonight: Don't take work home.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ You might feel the push and pull of a situation or two. Open up and find out what you can do to change the immediate pressure in your life. Unexpected developments might toss you into a tizzy. Tonight: Let go of immediate problems.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Let others build on unexpected news. Choose to ask more questions and get to the bottom of a problem. You will want to make judgments with your own insight and information. Make way for others' thinking. Tonight: Talk up a storm with a friend.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Financial swings could make your head twirl. You are in a tizzy, especially when it comes to money. A word to the wise Lion: Do not take any risks with your well-being. Aim for what you want, keeping an eye on the long term. Tonight: Pay bills.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ The Moon in your sign makes you sparkle, though others might not be as agreeable or responsive as you are. You know what to do in order to get the results you want. You will buck some trends. Tonight: Do what you want.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★ Know when to duck — like now. You could be jolted by a child or loved one and what he or she does or reveals. What you assumed turns out to be wrong. You might want to do some soul-searching and regrouping. You might not be comfortable if you look in the mirror. Tonight: Take some time for yourself.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ A family member or domestic situation pops up out of the blue. Your version of what is going on might not jibe with reality. Look to the long term and what you want and expect. Perhaps an adjustment is needed. Tonight: Kick up your heels with your friends.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Take charge and manage your work and commitments. News might hit you from out of left field. You get into a position where you think everything will go a certain way. This unexpected upheaval reminds you that life changes. Tonight: Work late.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You will need and want to take the high road. Find solutions. Do your own research. Detach. Find experts. New or unexpected information comes forward. Use care with machinery and general communication. Tonight: Buy a new CD.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Work with one specific person rather than with groups. You will be able to see a situation in a different light. In fact, as a result, you might want to change your direction. You do the unexpected, and could surprise even yourself. Tonight: Dinner for two.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★ Others dominate, and you might want to pull back. Do the unexpected if you wish. You have a natural unpredictability or ingenuity that comes through. Let others do their thing. Tonight: Do your thing.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Emeritus artists make an ‘Impression’

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica College’s Emeritus College presents “Natural Impressions,” the spring 2005 student juried exhibition through Aug. 19 at the Emeritus College Art Gallery. The exhibit features an eclectic mix of styles, media and content.

The opening reception will be held from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursday, June 23, in the gallery, located on the first floor of Emeritus College, 1227 Second St.

Student works are being selected by jurors Elizabeth Gill Lui and Mary Wright, both prominent artists. The jury team was selected by Gallery Consultant Pamela Leeds. Gallery hours are from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Emeritus College is SMC’s widely praised program, founded 30 years ago, that serves about 3,500 older adults with 150 classes and special programs.

For information, call (310) 434-4306 or visit www.smc.edu/emmeritus.

Music at the speed of sound

By Daily Press staff

Adelphia Communications, Southern California’s largest cable operator, has launched Adelphia Music, a new online music service for its high-speed Internet customers, offering access to more than 1.5 million music tracks.

Adelphia Music is powered by the business-to-business digital music service MusicNet, which offers the largest available online subscription music library, including licensed tracks from all major record labels as well as thousands of independent labels.

The new service provides Adelphia’s high-speed Internet customers with access to exclusive song titles, music videos, editorial play lists and other features, all of which are available in CD quality audio. Subscribers may stream or download as many songs as they want to play on their PCs. In addition, they have the option to purchase songs that they want to own permanently, to burn to CD or transfer to supported portable music players. The service is suitable for all ages, and provides parents with the ability to restrict access to titles containing explicit lyrics.

“Adelphia Music enhances the value of our high-speed Internet service by making it affordable, safe and fun for our customers to find their favorite music or discover new music online,” said Karl Ossentjuk, Vice President of Marketing for Adelphia Southern California. “For about half the price of one CD per month, our customers will have access to tremendous music choice, with the flexibility to purchase only those songs that they want to own permanently.”

As the largest cable provider in Southern California, Adelphia provides a full range of entertainment and communication services, including basic and digital cable television and high-speed Internet access. For more information, visit Adelphia’s local web site at www.adelphiasocal.com.



Bob Almada is this week’s mystery photo winner, the first to identify that this shot was taken by the Sea Castle just south of the Santa Monica Pier. Bob has won a gift certificate to Over Under. Thanks for playing, Bob.

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SURF REPORT

The remnant NW wind swell sticks around for knee to waist high sets. South facing breaks are looking best with fairly consistent chest high sets, possibly shoulder high + at standouts.

Expect sunny weather after morning low clouds and fog. Highs in the mid 60s to upper 70s and mostly clear in the evening with low clouds and fog and lows in the mid 50s.

Today the
water is:

62°

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	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	7:31	0.2	6:19	3.1	2:59	3.4	N/A	N/A
SUNDAY	8:14	0.3	7:40	3.1	12:23	4.8	3:51	3.6
MONDAY	8:57	0.6	9:24	3.0	1:13	4.3	4:32	3.8
TUESDAY	9:40	0.9	10:58	2.6	2:19	3.8	5:04	4.1
WEDNESDAY	10:22	1.2	N/A	N/A	3:45	3.4	5:33	4.5
THURSDAY	12:07	2.0	11:02	1.4	5:17	3.2	6:00	4.9
FRIDAY	12:58	1.2	11:43	1.7	6:39	3.2	6:31	5.4

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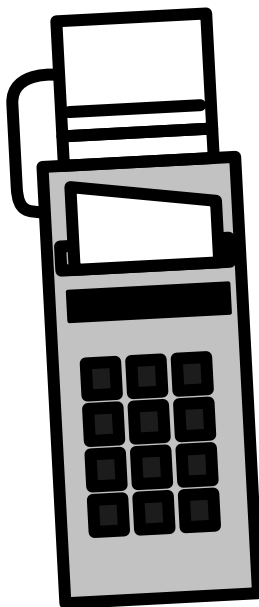
The Q Line

While participating in the United Nations World Environment Day conference held in San Francisco a couple weeks ago, Santa Monica officials, along with representatives from about 70 cities worldwide, pledged to improve the city’s sustainability efforts and work toward becoming a “greener” community.

So, this week Q-Line wants to know,

“Where should the city start? What environmental issues in Santa Monica should be given priority?”

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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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

VA offers plenty of help to homeless

Editor:
Kudos to the Santa Monica Daily Press for publishing James Zeruck’s long but extremely informational letter in the Tuesday, June 7 edition. While presented as opinion, it contained an excellent appraisal of the VA’s several homeless veterans’ service programs. I urge that you re-publish this information as a news story. This would go a long way towards providing the public with information concerning a little-publicized but vital set of programs which provide aid to homeless veterans.

Kenneth McCrae
Santa Monica

Water quality dogged by animal behavior

Editor:
Proponents of a dog beach claim that they have scientific evidence that shows dog poop or dog urine does not pose a threat to people, beaches or the ocean. Where is this evidence? Is it the opinion by the physician that she doesn’t think it will be a problem? Is it water-quality testing at the Long Beach Dog Zone, in ocean water that was bad to begin with? It seems to me that experts in the field of water quality believe dog waste does pose a threat. We should give more weight to these experts than the opinion of one physician or tests done on tainted water. If dog waste doesn’t pose a threat, why do we pick up after our pets? Why not just leave dog poop where it falls and let it go through the stormwater system into the Santa Monica Bay?

Jack Snow
Santa Monica

Full steam ahead with liaison position

Editor:
The premise of your lead story on Monday, June 6, was ridiculous — especially the headline (“Homeless liaison idea losing steam”), which, as you well know, is the only information some people will read. Councilmember Bobby Shriver’s proposal to hire a top-level manager to find more effective ways to move Santa Monica’s chronic homeless people off the streets is not losing steam. Councilmember Richard Bloom has opposed it from the beginning. That is not surprising, since Bloom has spent two years attending meetings of Bring LA Home. This is the group of movers and shakers who, if they stick to their current schedule, will have taken two years and three months just to unveil a plan to deal with homelessness in LA County. God knows how long it would take to implement any part of that plan, if that would ever happen. Councilmember Ken Genser, who was absent from the meeting when Shriver introduced his proposal, has now expressed general approval of the homeless liaison, but has asked some questions. That is not surprising, since it is an elected official’s responsibility to consider other options before committing public funds. It is surprising that you would make such an extreme statement in a headline with no extreme facts in the story to back it up. Many people have expressed support for the homeless liaison in your own newspaper. Why didn’t you ask them if they no longer support the idea instead of simply dredging up comments that are either weeks old, equivocal or both? Finally, Santa Monica has a councilmember willing to stand up and do something about the people living in our parks, streets and carports — and our daily paper undermines that effort by misleading their readers. What a shame.

Rose Gilhuly
Santa Monica

Jackson didn’t appear fit to acquit

Editor:
Unbelievable that Michael Jackson, or anyone, could get away with what he did. Jackson reportedly looked stunned when he left the courtroom. If that’s not guilt, what is?

Cheryl Erb
Santa Monica

Technology is good, until it poses a threat



WHAT’S THE POINT?
BY DAVID PISARRA

The world of technology has brought us many wonderful inventions. From the ability to do a full body scan where it used to be called “exploratory surgery” to the advent of cars that run on hydrogen, our world is exploding with possibilities. According to Moore’s law, the processors in computers double in capacity every 18 to 24 months. That law has created an expectation now in the world of designers and users that our toys and tools will continue to get better and better faster and faster. Today, it sometimes seems like we’re living in the scene in “Willy Wonka” where everyone is in the boat, and they’re in the tunnel with the lights and the sounds and the weird Gene Wilder voice speaking “Faster, Faster.” This is a good thing most of the time. I have a new toy in my Treo 650. It works as a phone, a PDA, a computer, and now it gets my e-mail and text messages. For example, I just got a text message telling me the Michael Jackson verdict was to be announced at 4:30. Very nifty. I love this machine. I live on the phone. I regularly burn through 2,500 minutes a month on my cell phone alone. So for me to be able to write a column, draft an e-mail, send a short text message to a client, all from the same machine is a huge convenience for me. It provides me with a higher quality of life because I can now be having a “day off” at Lake Perris while jet-skiing, and I can still be responsive to my clients and partners. The bad part of this is that I am now responsive to my clients and partners while I am trying to relax out at Lake Perris. It also causes some odd life moments. For example, I was at jury duty on Friday (yes, lawyers get called for jury duty also) and those of us who use juries, understand and respect the process and don’t try to weasel out of it. Anyways, I was in the jury room, a 1,200-square foot encampment of bad chairs, old magazines, and horrendously thick Grand Jury reports that go unread, when I was check-

ing my e-mail on my phone. It was then that I received a notice from a cousin of mine that her mother had died. I personally think this is an inappropriate way to inform people that a member of the family has died. But then, I was informed two years ago that another cousin had died, by fax, so maybe it’s just me. Still, it seems to me that the benefits of technology and the freedom it brings to us all need to be tempered with some civility and a general genteelness that is sorely lacking these days. I know that the trend towards casualness and “casual chic” is an outgrowth of the hip/hop generation, and that Hilton woman, but that is no excuse the wholesale tossing of manners and consideration. Just because we are all in constant contact with each other thanks to cellular technology, doesn’t mean that all formality should be dismissed. Personally, I wish that as a society we would go back to the days when people dressed to fly or put on their fancy duds for a good restaurant. One of the other things that I’ve noticed people are doing with greater frequency, is the reading of their e-mail on the phone, as they drive. This is beyond rude. It is freaking stupid. I can believe that people are that obsessive about their e-mail that they would try to scroll through the spam while navigating their way to downtown in bumper-to-bumper traffic, I just cannot believe that they are that stupid. This is something that needs to be corrected. The law should be that you are only to use the phone with a headset, and that using it to review your e-mail is a moving violation. I also believe that if it is shown that you were reading your e-mail and were involved in an accident, then you should lose your license for a period of time. The risks are just too great. Technology is great. It solves many problems and saves lives. But there are limits to what it can do, and what we should do with it.

(David Pizarra is a partner in the Santa Monica law firm of Pizarra & Grist specializing in Business Development. He can be reached at 310/664-9969 or by e-mail at dpizarra@pizarra.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.

Walking to the nearest newsstand increases circulation.
Santa Monica Daily Press

COMMENTARY



Any day in Chicago: A little LA in all of us



ANY DAY IN LA

BY HEIDI MANTEUFFEL

While LA may have the corner on unique personalities, I've noticed infringers of its trademark even in the so-called friendly Midwest. For when I went home to Chicago this weekend, I felt like I never even left LA.

I was ready to break free from LA's me-me personalities, the flooded market of would-be starlets and the spiritualists so in tune with the universe that they alienate (freak out) the rest of us. But as fate would have it, there would be no lucky break.

It wasn't the aggressive drivers that brutally cut you off just inches from your exit, or the gloomy overcast demeanor of the Chicago skies that reminded me fondly of June gloom.

No, it took the massive aggregation of med students to remind me of home. And let me tell you, with 1,000 type-A, shoot-for-the-stars personalities in one single room, the recollection was all too clear.

After four years of sleepless nights, and following attendees and the lecture of many a professor half awake, my sister

finally received her diploma from Loyola's Strich School of Medicine.

The ceremony took place at the Sheraton adjacent to the Chicago River. The view was ridiculously breathtaking, and the hotel, quite ornate. But I was more intrigued by the juxtaposed sight of 600 med school relatives ready to barrel through the doors.

I felt like I was in an episode of MXC. As soon as the doors opened for seating, families pushed their ways for the absolute best spot, running ahead to flag down a section for their tribe. I wanted to tell them that it wasn't the "Star Wars" opening, and that 75 percent of the hall was still open for seating.

The ceremony was beautiful and went off without a hitch. The chosen speaker from Loyola in Maryland rightly told the would-be doctors to not run through life without taking care of themselves. But let's be honest, it doesn't take a brain surgeon to surmise this is a problem doctors incur.

The graduates must have taken the advice to heart, for the debacle after the ceremony showed the Kentucky Derby had a few more laps to go before they could go home for turducken.

The parents that sat calm and politely for two hours now ruthlessly cut off people in the aisles. Not to congratulate their daughters, though. They charged to be the

first ones through the luncheon gates. It was worse than the 101 meeting the 405 at rush hour.

I admit, my father and I are from a long line of Viking pillagers, and fought our way to the foyer as well. You could call it barbaric, but so is serving lunch at two o'clock. After some chicken skewers and baby éclairs, though, I was ready to congratulate my sister. She did a very good

job ... of ignoring the fact that I was more focused on tiramisu than family pictures.

Let's face it, you don't have to go far to find LA. It's like Mary Engelbreit saying "Wherever you go, there you are." Apparently, my location involves pushing people out of the way for miniature pastry.

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

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Four zones targeted to pilot parking program

PERMIT PARKING, from page 1

only 10 percent of the total spaces in these areas be considered for employee parking.

The section around Montana Avenue between Lincoln Boulevard and 17th Street — extending north to Alta and south to Idaho avenues — may be considered, according to a staff report. It is estimated this area could comfortably provide 100 employees with daytime parking spaces.

Two sections near Pico Boulevard — from 20th Street to 23rd Street and from 29th Street to 33rd Street — may also be considered for the pilot program, extending south to Pearl Street. Staff estimates this would provide a little less than 100 total employee parking spaces.

The section of Ocean Park Boulevard between 14th and 18th streets may also qualify for the new employee parking

zone, extending as far north as Maple Street and as far south as Hill Street, providing approximately 50 additional employee parking spaces.

City Hall expects to sell 155 permits in the first year of the program at \$120 each, generating \$18,600 in revenue to cover administration costs.

The permits would be issued quarterly through a lottery system used to distribute to businesses.

Jane Walker, chair of the Montana Avenue Merchants Association, said she supports an employee permit parking program in her neighborhood, in part because the parking impact to the neighborhoods would be minimal.

“All we ask is staff make sure the employee parking is spread to the second half of the block and staff re-evaluate the program in a year,” Walker said. “The

number of spaces would be limited to five or six per block.

“Because the impact is so minimal, it would be hard not to support it.”

Mark Armour, NOMA chair, said the neighborhood group does not support the employee parking proposal because it fails to comprehensively address parking issues for all parties involved.

“We are prepared to support a well thought out plan that would spread parking out evenly, but the staff’s proposal is like trying to heal a broken leg with a Band-Aid,” Armour said.

Armour said part of the problem NOMA has with the staff’s proposal is the criteria for those blocks which would have permit parking changed since a May 11 informational item was posted online. He said employee permit parking was supposed to include only those blocks

which were half-empty during the daytime, but now includes all blocks within the designated area — a difference which NOMA members do not support.

Councilman Kevin McKeown, who will be voting on the proposal at tonight’s meeting along with Katz, said he would support it on a conditional basis.

“I can’t vote for any plan that takes first claim on neighborhood parking away from residents, but it’s important we find an equitable way to share the empty spaces on some blocks so other nearby blocks don’t become overburdened,” McKeown said.

“I’m thinking employees should get spots only on specific blocks that are still half empty even after residents park, and the employee permits should be priced to cover all costs on those blocks so that residents who share get their own permits free.”

Officials want more time to lay out vision for the city

MORE TIME, from page 1

portation theme, which will discuss “opportunities and challenges,” is set to be publicized on June 21, with a joint council and planning commission meeting set to discuss it on June 28.

“land use” and “circulation” policy documents that lay out the vision for Santa Monica’s built and moving environment, governing everything from specific development projects to how particular neighborhoods and transportation lines should grow and be used.

The land use and circulation elements

are part of the city’s general plan, which last underwent a thorough change in 1984. The process is expected to take at least two-and-a-half years since it began in January. City Hall’s zoning ordinance, which is the practical implementation of its policies, also will be re-written in the process. The goal is to produce “a clear, accessible and easily administered zoning ordinance that can be understood by all,” according to city documents.

Mayor Pam O’Connor — who said one of her main goals as an elected official is

to help keep the policy updates on track — would like to see how the presentation and discussion of the reports can stay on schedule while allowing for the appropriate time to review them.

“It took Berkeley 10 years to get their land use element in place, and we don’t want to be compared to that,” O’Connor said. “We are going to have to look at some possible options whereby information is released and the planning commission can meet a few weeks out, all in a reasonable timeline.”

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Council spending to save ‘Early Man’

CONSENT, from page 1

the presence of MtBE, a chemical used for gasoline emissions, according to officials.

The CEC and the Shell Oil Company, Chevron U.S.A. Inc., Texaco and Exxon Mobil Corporation, who joined together as a result of a court-approved settlement agreement, will oversee the planning, design, construction and operation of the new treatment facility.

Selected by the CEC for its competence and experience, according to officials, GeoTrans, Inc. will conduct an engineering study of the nature of pollutants in groundwater, as well as create design criteria for the treatment facility, set water clean-up goals and a feasible end to the project.

Council is also expected to finance a one-year contract with TruGreen Landcare to provide landscape maintenance at city parks, streetscapes and various public facilities, to the tune of \$1.15 million.

These services include turf mowing, trimming, weeding, trash pick up, renovation of sports fields and irrigation.

Also, the Santa Monica Fire Department is likely to receive authorization to buy two new fire trucks from KME Fire Apparatus, replacing two cost-ineffective pumper vehicles, from the years 1975 and 1984, respectively, that are part of the Fire Department Emergency Vehicle Replacement Program, according to officials. These trucks will be used by the SMFD to carry hoses, ladders and water to fires.

In addition, the fire department is requesting an increase in dispatch capabilities to keep up with the increased number of emergency responses, as well as ensure firefighter safety. To solve the problem, the SMFD wishes to contract with the Los

Angeles Fire Department because of its quality service delivery and safety standard, according to officials. The cost of this contract totals more than \$250,000, but the SMFD said \$500,000 goes toward current dispatch and a no-match federal grant worth more than \$1 million is also being used for the new program.

In efforts to preserve the artistic face of Santa Monica, City Hall wishes to negotiate and execute a \$267,708 contract with ConservArt Associates to conserve and install the Stanton MacDonald-Wright Mural Series, entitled, “Technical and Imaginative Pursuits of Early Man.”

This process includes a condition assessment of the 38 panels and an outline of conservation steps for each mural panel. This mural series’ former home was the Smithsonian Institution in Washington DC, but it is now returning to the new Main Public Library.

Continuing in its environmental concern for Santa Monica, City Hall recommends that \$245,000 in grant funding be given to Los Angeles Community Partners in conjunction with the sustainable works residential and business sustainability programs, in order to increase participation and raise awareness amongst residents and businesses in the sustainable city program.

Established in 1998, the Sustainable Works program focuses on water conservation, energy use, gas emissions and waste generation amongst businesses and residents. With the grant money, Sustainable Works will be able to continue its existing programs and implement new ones. City Hall’s environmental programs’ division will continue to provide supervision of program development and implementation.

STATE



Michael Jackson beats charges of molestation

BY LINDA DEUTSCH
AP Special Correspondent

SANTA MARIA, Calif. — A jury acquitted Michael Jackson on Monday of molesting a 13-year-old cancer survivor at his Neverland ranch — exonerating the pop star who insisted he was the victim of mother-and-son con artists and a prosecutor with a vendetta.

Jurors also acquitted Jackson of getting the boy drunk and of conspiring to imprison his accuser and the boy's family at the storybook estate — a total legal victory but one that may do little to improve his bizarre image. Jackson had faced nearly 20 years in prison.

The courtroom was deathly still as the verdicts were read. Jackson, as motionless as he had been throughout the trial, dabbed at his eyes with a tissue. One of his lawyers burst into tears as the first verdicts were announced, and Jackson later stood and was embraced by his chief lawyer, Thomas Mesereau Jr. Some of the women in the jury also wept and passed around a box of tissues.

As he left court, Jackson, looking drawn, held his hand to his heart and blew kisses to the screaming crowd. He was escorted by his aides into a black SUV, and made no immediate public statement. Jackson later arrived at Neverland, where applauding fans ran after his caravan as it disappeared behind the bunting-decorated gates.

"I would never have married a pedophile. And the system works," Jackson's ex-wife Debbie Rowe said in a statement given to "Entertainment Tonight."

Screams of joy rang out among a throng of fans outside the courthouse. Fans jumped up and down, hugged each other and threw confetti in celebration of the news. A woman in the crowd released one white dove as each acquittal was announced.

Santa Barbara County District Attorney Tom Sneddon sat with his head in his hands.

"Obviously, we're disappointed in the verdict ... but we believe in the system of justice," Sneddon told reporters. He said he had not yet spoken to the accuser's family about the outcome.

In a news conference later, jurors remained guarded about details of their deliberations but offered some insight. One said that at the outset they got beyond the fact that Jackson is a celebrity and treated him like anyone else.

Several jurors said they were irritated by the testimony of the accuser's mother, who stared at the jury and snapped her fingers at them.

"I disliked it intensely when she snapped her fingers at us," said one juror,

a woman. She said she thought to herself, "Don't snap your fingers at me, lady."

The verdict — reached after about 30 hours of deliberations over seven days — ended a star-studded, four-month trial that offered a global audience a lurid look into the weird world of Michael Jackson and presented jurors with vastly different portraits of him: a creepy pervert who preyed on little boys, or the victim of a frame-up by mother-and-son shakedown artists.

During the trial, defense lawyers described Jackson as a humanitarian who wanted to protect kids and give them the life he never had while growing up as a child star. The boy had asked to meet the star when he thought he was dying of cancer.

The defense said the family exploited the boy's illness to shake down celebrities, then concocted the charges after realizing Jackson was cutting them off from a jet-set lifestyle that included limo rides and stays at luxurious resorts.

Prosecutors who had been pursuing Jackson for years branded him a deviant who used his playland as the ultimate pervert's lair, plying boys with booze and porn before molesting them.

The acquittals marked a stinging defeat for Sneddon, who displayed open hostility for Jackson and eagerly tried him — an opportunity denied him in 1993 when the star settled another threatened molestation case with a boy for \$15 million to \$20 million. Later, Jackson derided Sneddon in song as "a cold man."

Jackson was cleared of 10 charges in all, including four counts that he molested the boy in early 2003. Jackson also was charged with providing the boy with wine — "Jesus juice," the pop star called it — and conspiring with members of his inner circle to hold the accuser and his family captive to get them to rebut a damaging documentary.

In the "Living with Michael Jackson" documentary made by a British journalist, Jackson held hands with the boy and acknowledged sharing his bed with children, a practice he described as sweet and not at all sexual.

Jackson agreed to take part in the documentary because he hoped it would help his image after years of eccentric behavior that included transforming his face through plastic surgery.

But the airing of the program in February 2003 triggered intense media scrutiny of Jackson's relationship with the boy, as well as calls for investigations. Authorities interviewed the boy and Jackson was charged before year's end. At the trial, prosecutors would allege that Jackson molested the boy in the weeks after the family helped Jackson record a rebuttal video.

The boy, now 15, testified that Jackson twice masturbated him while they were under the covers in the singer's bedroom. The boy's brother testified he twice witnessed Jackson fondle the boy as he slept.

Prosecutors hauled out bag after bag of adult magazines found in Jackson's home and projected explicit images onto a large screen, saying Jackson showed boys the material to arouse them. Prosecution witnesses described other bizarre behavior by Jackson: They said he licked his accuser's head, simulated a sex act with a mannequin, kept dolls in bondage outfits on his desk.

Prosecutors said kids were allowed the run of Neverland — a fantasy land of amusement park rides, golf carts and exotic animals about 110 miles northwest of Los Angeles — before being molested in Jackson's bedroom.

"They rode rides, went to the zoo, ate whatever they wanted — candy, ice cream, soda pop," prosecutor Ron Zonen said in closing arguments. "And at night they entered into the world of the forbidden."

Under an unusual California law, prosecutors were allowed to introduce evidence of other instances of molestation on Jackson's part that never resulted in any charges, to prove that the alleged crimes were part of a pattern of behavior.

A parade of servants and other Neverland staff members described seeing Jackson grope or otherwise molest boys, with a one-time security guard saying he saw the singer shower with and perform oral sex on a boy who later received a settlement with Jackson. The defense systematically portrayed the household help as disgruntled employees who were angry about being fired and peddled gossip about the pop star to the supermarket tabloids.

The defense also relentlessly attacked the credibility of the accuser and his family, namely by focusing on a \$152,000 settlement they received from J.C. Penney after the mother accused store security guards of roughing up the family and groping her.

Jackson's lawyers said it was a trumped-up lawsuit and suggested that the woman's injuries were actually caused by her abusive then-husband. The defense also portrayed the mother as a welfare cheat for obtaining benefits after winning the settlement.

Witnesses for the defense testified that during the weeks the boy and his family were supposedly being held against their will by Jackson's associates, they were taken on shopping sprees, the mother went to a spa for a body wax, and the children had an orthodontist appointment — all paid for by Jackson.

In his closing argument, Mesereau called the family a pack of scam artists trying to pull off the "the biggest con of their careers."

Jackson never took the stand, but spoke on several videos played in court.

The case unfolded at times like a circus. After his arraignment, Jackson jumped atop an SUV and danced for cheering fans. He failed to show up for court one morning and was nearly jailed before he shuffled in wearing pajama bottoms, suffering from what aides said was a back injury. Often, he came to court in dark jackets and a rainbow of vests and matching arm bands.

The jury got a look at the strange world of Michael Jackson when the documentary was played in court. Jackson said he would often hug or play with his chimp Bubbles to relax after a hard day's work. He also said he once considered having a celebrity animal party for Bubbles.

Several celebrities testified for Jackson, including Macaulay Culkin and comedians Jay Leno and Chris Tucker. Tucker said he felt used by the family and warned Jackson to beware. Culkin said he slept in Jackson's bed as a child but nothing improper ever happened, contradicting testimony that Jackson put his hands up the "Home Alone" actor's shorts.

In jumbled and tearful testimony, the accuser's mother claimed that Jackson's associates held her against her will, warning her that killers were after the family and that they might somehow disappear from Neverland in a hot-air balloon.

"Please don't judge me!" the mother implored jurors, holding out her arms. "He's wrong!" she said, pointing at Mesereau, an aggressive defense attorney with a mane of pure white hair and the build of a prize fighter.

The trial seemed to wear Jackson down. He lost weight, and the artist known for his electric, moonwalking performances was rendered motionless, seemingly frozen in his courtroom chair as his private world became utterly public.

Prosecutors portrayed Jackson as being in dire financial straits because of heavy spending. Jackson's "Thriller" album from 1982 is one of the best-selling albums of all time, but his dominance of pop music eroded around the time molestation allegations began to arise in the 1990s.

Although Jackson did not take the stand, the defense used a powerful tape of him shot by his own video cameraman. The jury saw nearly three hours of introspection during which the star talked about his troubled childhood.

"I haven't been betrayed or deceived by children," he said. "Adults have let me down."

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Keep that physique while exercising for two

BY BARBARA BISHOP AND JULIE WATT

Special to the Daily Press

SANTA MONICA — Staying fit during pregnancy is essential to you and your baby's good health, but moderation and caution are also important. To be on the safe side, pregnant women should always consult their physician before starting any new exercise routine or sports activity.

"During pregnancy, women should stick to low-impact exercise routines and sports in order to help avoid injury, particularly to the joints, which are stressed by the extra weight gain," explains Jon Matsunaga, M.D., an Ob/Gyn specialist and chair of the Ob/Gyn department at Saint John's Health Center in Santa Monica. "Hormonal changes impact the joints as well, making them looser and thus more vulnerable to injury."

Two of the workouts Dr. Matsunaga wholeheartedly prescribes for pregnant women are swimming and aqua aerobics. The buoyancy of the water takes the weight off

the back and joints, helping relieve some of the discomfort of pregnancy. During hot summer months, water sports also have the added benefit of helping women avoid overheating during exercise, which can be harmful.

"Low-impact exercises such as walking, low-impact aerobics, riding a stationary bike and using a stair-climber are permissible, as long as pregnant women don't overdo it," says Dr. Matsunaga. "I tell my patients to keep a low-impact aerobics workout to 30 minutes or less, while making sure that their heart rate does not exceed 120 beats per minute. A heart rate of more than 140 is too high, indicating that you need to take it easier and slow down your workout. A good rule of thumb to follow is that if you can talk during your workout, you're fine; if you're too out of breath to speak, you are overdoing it."

Exercises to avoid include any sports that involve the risk of falling, such as horseback riding, and any high-impact sports, including tennis or volleyball, which also involves sudden changes in direction that put unnecessary stress on joints. Pregnant women should not scuba

dive under any circumstance, as scuba diving poses major health risks due to pressure and oxygen changes during diving.

According to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, pregnant women should not exercise without their physician's permission if they suffer from high blood pressure, pregnancy-induced hypertension, heart disease, vaginal bleeding, early contractions or premature rupture of the membranes.

Dr. Matsunaga reminds pregnant women to stop exercising immediately and notify their physician if they experience any of the following symptoms:

- Vaginal bleeding or unusually heavy discharge
- Dizziness or faintness
- Increased and pronounced shortness of breath
- Sudden pain anywhere in your body
- Extremely rapid heartbeat (140 beats per minute)

To find an Ob/Gyn (or any type of physician), log onto the Saint John's website at www.stjohns.org.

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SPECIAL EVENTS

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, JUNE 18-19
A KID'S LIFE!, 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Upbeat music, dazzling dance and adorable characters that connect children to parents. Brentwood Theatre, 11611 Wilshire Blvd., 479-3003 for tickets. \$17.50 adults, \$12.50 kids.
*Note from the calendar editor: My daughter, age 2 years, 10 months, loved this show! She and her friend were completely engrossed and loved meeting the characters afterwards. She said she wants to see it again.

FESTIVAL of the HORSE, 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Riding demos, Wild West Shows, Mexican Charreadas, pony rides & more.
FREE! Museum of the American West, 4700 Western Heritage Way, 323-667-2000.

SATURDAY, JUNE 18
KIDS' NIGHT OUT at KIDS' YOGA CIRCLE, 5:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Yoga drum circle, karaoke, art, dinner and a movie. \$48, ages 7 – 11.
1814 14th St., 260-2736. Call for reservations and info.

EMERGING ARTISTS FAMILY WORKSHOP, 10:00 a.m. – noon.
Today's program: Create mixed media art with artist Torbjorn Vejvi. Ages 6 and up, \$12.
Santa Monica Museum of Art, 2419 Michigan Ave, 586-6488,ext. 32.

SUNDAY, JUNE 19 – HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!
FAMILY FUNDAY at the WILL GEER THE-ATRICUM BOTANICUM
Three Tales by Hans Christian Andersen presented by Creative Playground.
All ages, \$8. 1419 Topanga Canyon Blvd., Topanga, 455-3723.

REAL MEN COOK for CHARITY, 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.
A Father's Day food-tasting event. Exposition Park, Adult Center, 866-888-8542.

CHINESE FOOD FESTIVAL, 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Sample cuisine from more than 30 restaurants, culinary experts and chefs. Cooking demonstrations and educational exhibits on tea, noodles, Chinese medicine and feng shui. Broadway and College St., Chinatown, downtown LA. \$8 adults, \$4 children ages 5-12, 213-680-0243.

COMING UP
TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 10:00 a.m. – Alpha Mom TV (the first-ever 24/7 parenting channel) has partnered with the Loews' Reel Moms program to present their programming live in front of the Reel Moms audience. Karen Ballou, a certified infant massage instructor, will present techniques of infant massage followed by a Q&A session. At 11:00 a.m. the movie (TBD) will be shown. Loews Cineplex Broadway Cinema, 1441 3rd St. Promenade.

SATURDAY, JUNE 25th – FAMILY DAY at the SANTA MONICA PIER presented by the LA FILM FESTIVAL – check back next week for details or visit www.laff.com.

TUESDAY

Movies for Moms! June 14 –The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants – starring Amber Tamblyn, Alexis Bledel and American Ferrara. Comedy-Drama, Rated "PG."
11:00 a.m., Loews Cineplex Broadway Theatre, 1441 3rd St. Promenade – for Moms and babies newborn – 1 year old. Doors open early for socializing and getting comfortable. Visit www.enjoytheshow.com/reelmoms for details.

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

Toddler Storytime, 10:00 a.m. For 2 year olds with adult.
Preschool Story Time, 10:30 a.m.; for ages 3-5.

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

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.
Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St. – 310-392-3804.

Toddler Storytime, 10:00 and 10:30. Music, rhymes and stories for 2 to 3 year olds. Current session 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 452-3881for details and prices.

YMCA – Attachment Parenting Classes - 2:00 – 3:30 p.m., 1332 Sixth St., 393-2721 (ask for Shelana Philip-Guide or Audrey Meyer). This new class for mothers/dads and babies up to 12 months is presented by Karol Darsa, PsyD, a licensed psychologist with extensive experience working with children and families. Fees: Members – 1 class - \$40, 5 class pass - \$180; Non-members - \$50, 5 class pass - \$200.
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. Current 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. Thru June 16.

Preschool Story Time, 10:30 a.m.; for ages 3-5. Thru June 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.

Current 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 Drescher Planetarium, 7:00 p.m. - Night Sky Show, 8:00 p.m. – featured program. \$5 adults, \$4 children. Pico and 17th St., 434-3000.

Classes

YWCA – A Place for Parents – Toddler & Me (1-3 years) – 9:20 – 10:20 a.m.; Parent Support (1-3 years) – 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.(childcare provided). 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

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

Yoga & Exercise

Fitness for Moms – Babies Welcome! Indoor Cycling, 10:30 a.m. at the YMCA, 393-2721, ext. 117 for more info. Free for members, non-members pay \$90 for 10 classes.

Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45 p.m., \$15.

Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

Kids' Yoga Circle – Yoga for ages 8 - 11, 4:30 – 5:45 p.m., includes 15 minutes of indoor play and song, \$18 drop-in, discounted multiple week passes available, reservations required. 1814 14th St., #208, 260-2736

Other

Baby Attuned - Fridays, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.,

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

SATURDAY

Storytelling

Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade – Kid's Story Time – 10am, 310-260-9110

Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion – 10:30am – ages 2-5, 310-475-4144.

Children's Book World, 10580 1/2 Pico Blvd, LA - 10:30 a.m., 310-559-800K.

Village Books, 1049 SwarthmoreAve, Pacific Palisades – 10:30 a.m., 454-4063.

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

Yoga & Exercise

Santa Monica Yoga – Pre- & Post-Natal Yoga, Saturdays – 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

1640 Ocean Park Blvd, 396-4040, www.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.santamonicaplayhouse.com, 1211 4th St. **Puppetolio – 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St.,** ages 3 & up, reservations suggested

Magiopolis – 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 – HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

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

Magiopolis – 2 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$15. Call 310-451-2241 for info.

Barnyard Madness with the Three Little Pigs at the Santa Monica Playhouse

Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m, thru June 26; \$12 adults, \$10.50 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 2 for reservations, www.santamonicaplayhouse.com. 1211 4th St.

Breastfeeding

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

MONDAY

Storytelling

Main Library – Lap Time at Joslyn Park, Craft Room, 9:30 a.m. A series for babies up to two years old, 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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Special election might define Schwarzenegger's first term

BY TOM CHORNEAU

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is poised to call a special election that he says is crucial to reshaping state government, a campaign that would become the centerpiece of his "Year of Reform" and define his young tenure as California's chief executive.

The outcome of a November election also could determine whether he seeks a second term to the office he has held for 20 months.

It is almost certain to create a bitter partisan fight, a specter that runs counter to the groundswell of popular support that propelled Schwarzenegger to power in the 2003 recall. He faces well-financed challenges from public employee groups and labor unions that see a threat to their political influence.

On Friday, the last two of Schwarzenegger's three initiatives qualified for the ballot, bringing to five the number of measures that have been certified so far.

"This is the nuclear war we've been dreading and screaming about and trying to avoid," said Steve Maviglio, spokesman for Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez, D-Los Angeles.

The governor's office said Schwarzenegger will make an announcement at 5 p.m. Monday "regarding a special election." Last month, he told a Sacramento radio station that he would call the election "no matter what," adding, "I can guarantee you that."

The Republican governor, in a description befitting the warrior roles that made him one of Hollywood's most popular action figures, has described his proposed special election as "the great battle." On his side, anti-tax conservatives and business interests; on the other, the state's majority party, the Democrats, and California's powerful public employee unions.

How the state's registered voters feel about the possibility of another statewide election, their fourth in two years, is uncertain. Already, voter fatigue may be setting in.

A recent poll by the Public Policy Institute of California found that 62 percent of likely voters opposed plans for a special election. An association representing California's 58 counties sent a letter to the governor asking the state to pay the election's cost, initially estimated at between \$70 million and \$80 million.

On Friday, the secretary of state's office dropped the estimated cost to just less than \$45 million, saying 34 counties already have local elections scheduled for Nov. 8. The revised figure reflects the additional costs of the governor's special election, Secretary of State Bruce McPherson said.

"In his early months, Schwarzenegger built up a great deal of political momentum," said Jack Pitney, a government professor at Claremont McKenna College in Southern California. "In recent months, he's had some difficulty. The special election will either restore his momentum or increase his problems."

Most of the attention so far has focused on Schwarzenegger's three proposals.

The most controversial is a spending cap that would trigger automatic cuts if revenues fall below projected income. It also would eliminate the current minimum funding requirement for public schools that voters passed in 2000 as Proposition 98, angering education groups. The governor insists the measure is crucial for returning California to fiscal health after years of deficit spending.

He also wants new legislative and congressional dis-

How the state's registered voters feel about the possibility of another statewide election, their fourth in two years, is uncertain. Already, voter fatigue may be setting in.

tricts to be drawn by a panel of retired judges, which Schwarzenegger hopes will send more moderates to Sacramento.

And he wants to extend from two years to five the time it takes public school teachers to gain tenure.

The tenure proposal had qualified previously for the ballot. On Friday, McPherson said he also had certified the state spending and redistricting initiatives.

The ballot is likely to be much longer if the governor declares a special election, as he said he would.

Holding to California's initiative-happy tradition, the ballot could include a wide range of other possible measures. Among them: requiring minors seeking an abortion to get parental permission; re-regulating the state's electricity market; lowering prescription drug costs; and forcing unions to get written consent from their members before using dues for political purposes.

The abortion consent and union dues measures have been certified.

Schwarzenegger has not taken a position on the union dues measure, although its backers are business groups closely tied to the governor. It has incensed Democrats and unions, who are heavy contributors to California's majority party.

The governor has said he wanted to negotiate compromise agreements on his three initiative proposals but accused Democrats of being unwilling to bargain. Democrats said it is the governor who has not seriously considered alternatives.

Teachers, firefighters and other public employees have been a constant presence at public rallies against his proposals.

"The public employees were not interested in a compromise with Schwarzenegger," Republican consultant Kevin Spillane said. "Their goal was not to negotiate but destroy him."

Still, some hold out hope for an eventual compromise, even if Schwarzenegger signs an executive order calling the election.

Under one scenario, the governor would call the election and in the coming months reach agreements with Democrats. The two sides would then campaign together against initiatives already on the ballot. If it is called by Monday, however, the election would go forward Nov. 8 no matter what is negotiated.

"I'm always hopeful," Assemblyman Kevin McCarthy of Bakersfield, the Republican minority leader, said of compromise. "But I have not seen any movement from them."

Spillane said he expects the gulf to remain. He said union leaders and Democrats believe that if they can defeat Schwarzenegger's initiatives in a special election, they might not have to face him in a 2006 re-election campaign. In fact, just the opposite might be true, he said.

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NATIONAL



Study: Mexican migrants have high HIV rates

BY LAURA WIDES

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Mexican migrants are infected with HIV at a higher rate than the general population in California and Mexico, according to two studies released Monday.

The findings marked a significant change from past research that found migrants engaged in high risk behavior but were unlikely to contract the disease.

A study of Mexican migrants in California found that 0.6 percent were infected with HIV. That compares to numbers released Monday by the CDC, which put the prevalence rate as of 2003 at around 0.4 percent in the general U.S. population.

A separate study of migrants in their home states in Mexico found the rate of infection was even higher, at 1.1 percent, compared to 0.3 percent among the general Mexican population.

"The data raise concerns that the HIV epidemic may be expanding in Mexico and in California," said George Lemp, director of the University of California's Universitywide AIDS Research Program.

Lemp coordinated the California study, which was

presented Monday at the 2005 National HIV Prevention Conference in Atlanta.

"For a number of years, we saw risk behaviors but little HIV," Lemp said. "But as the virus trickles in or spreads into the community, the same risk behaviors can spread the virus around, and the disease can reach a threshold and then take off."

The studies were jointly coordinated by the UC program and the Mexican government's Mexican National HIV/AIDS Center. They are part of a larger effort between Mexico and California to stop the spread of AIDS and other diseases on both sides of the border.

Lemp said the difference in the Mexico and California rates were within an acceptable statistical margin of error. He said more research is needed to determine if there is actually a difference, and if so what its cause might be.

The California study surveyed a random sample of 791 adult migrants in Fresno and San Diego counties, where they frequently seek construction work and jobs picking tomatoes, strawberries and other produce.

Five people tested HIV positive. All but one acknowledged having sex with other men. The study, which is ongoing, also found high rates of the sexually transmitted

disease chlamydia.

The Mexican study did not seek to survey the same individuals but looked instead at migrants who had returned to rural communities in five Mexican states. The study included roughly 1,500 adult migrants from the Federal District of Mexico, Jalisco, Oaxaca, Michoacan and Zacatecas. The study also sampled nonmigrants in the communities but those results have yet to be released.

Lemp said he believes migrants acquire HIV in California, but the infection may spread faster in Mexico due to limited health care and cultural taboos against discussion of sexually transmitted diseases. He also stressed male migrants who have sex with men may not consider themselves gay and may have wives or girlfriends back home.

Dr. Carlos Magis Rodriguez, head of the Mexican HIV center, said he believes HIV prevention programs may be more important in the United States, where mostly male migrants are often isolated with little money or emotional support and may engage in riskier behaviors than in Mexico.

"Migrants are particularly vulnerable to situations or conditions in the U.S. that may lead to HIV infection," he said. "However they also seem to be receptive to prevention services while in the U.S."

Investigators hopeful 'Jane Doe' bust solves 51-year-old murder case

BY JON SANCHE

Associated Press Writer

BOULDER, Colo. — Investigators hope a gypsum-and-fiberglass bust of a young woman with blonde hair, close-set eyes and a melancholy gaze helps solve a 51-year-old mystery: the identity of a woman beaten and left to die along Boulder Creek.

Two men walking along the creek west of the city found the woman's nude body in April 1954. Residents raised enough money to bury her in a private cemetery plot marked with a small granite headstone reading "Jane Doe. April 1954. Age about 20 years."

Authorities have never been able to identify her. The only man arrested in the case was cleared a few days after the body was found.

But a Boulder historian was able to raise enough money — and interest — to recruit the help of the Vidocq Society, a Philadelphia-based group of forensic analysts who volunteer to help solve cold cases.

The woman's remains were exhumed last summer and the pieces of her skull were painstakingly reconstructed to give an artist the framework on which to reconstruct what he believes she looked like. Boulder County Sheriff Joe Pelle showed the sculpture publicly for the first time Monday.

"Ultimately it's our hope someday that every aspect of this mystery can be resolved," Pelle said. "I realize that's a long shot, but maybe at least we can identify her and provide some peace to her relatives."

The artist, Frank Bender, said his reconstructions have helped solve several other cold cases. He said he relied on his experience and scientific charts to reconstruct Jane Doe's face.

"I feel very confident what I put out there will ring a bell," he said.

Pelle said Bender's work has already allowed authorities to rule out one possibility, another woman who was reported missing in 1953, and detectives are following other leads. DNA was extracted from the remains to compare to samples from possible family members.

Pelle said details of the woman, down to the bobby pins found in her hair and depicted on the bust, will be placed in several national databases of missing persons.

Pelle said he was reluctant to reopen the case until historian Silvia Pettem, who began researching the case in 1996, was able to raise the money to pay for the exhumation and investigation. Since February 2004, when her efforts were first publicized, she has raised more than \$3,600.

"I don't think anybody should go to their grave without a name," Pettem said.

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Cheney: No plans to close Guantanamo prison

BY SIOBHAN MCDONOUGH

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Suspected terrorists will continue to be held in the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Vice President Dick Cheney says, amid concerns by some fellow Republicans that the situation may be counterproductive.

"The important thing here to understand is that the people that are at Guantanamo are bad people," Cheney said in an interview airing Monday night on Fox News Channel's "Hannity & Colmes" program.

"I mean, these are terrorists for the most part. These are people that were captured in the battlefield of Afghanistan or rounded up as part of the al-Qaida network."

The White House, meanwhile, said Monday that all options remain open about Guantanamo Bay's future.

"We should never limit our options," said White House press secretary Scott McClellan.

Human rights activists and some lawmakers want the prison closed, highlighting allegations of torture and abuse of detainees. President Bush has said his administration is "exploring all alternatives" for detaining the 540 prisoners, some of whom have been held for more than three years without charge.

"We've already screened the detainees there and released a number, sent them back to their home countries," Cheney said in the interview, taped Friday. "But what's left is hard core."

Some Republican lawmakers say problems over the

prison itself and allegations of mistreatment there should cause the administration to consider closing the facility.

Sen. Chuck Hagel, R-Neb., cited Guantanamo on Sunday as one reason the U.S. is "losing the image war around the world."

"We've got a lot of people running around the world who want to do great damage to this country and other nations," he told CNN's "Late Edition." "We do need some kind of a facility to hold these people. But this can't be indefinite. This can't be a situation where we hold them forever and ever and ever until they die of old age."

In a statement Sunday, the Defense Department said it "does not wish to hold detainees longer than necessary, and effective processes are in place to regularly review the status of enemy combatants."

The Senate Judiciary Committee plans a hearing on the issue Wednesday. Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont, the panel's senior Democrat said the United States has created a "legal black hole" at Guantanamo. "We want other countries to adhere to the rule of law. And in Guantanamo, we are not," he told CBS' "Face the Nation."

The chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, said the detainees haven't been abused in Guantanamo.

"We treat these people very well," Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., said on "Fox News Sunday." "We supply every one of them with the Quran. We supply them with oil. We supply them with prayer beads. Five times a day on the prison system, we do the call to prayer with arrows pointing in the direction of Mecca and assist them in their prayer ritual."

Time magazine reported Sunday on an 84-page document detailing the Guantanamo interrogation of one detainee, Mohamed al-Qahtani, who was captured during the war in Afghanistan.

It was learned later that he had tried to enter the U.S. in August 2001, but was turned away by an immigration agent at the Orlando, Fla., airport. Mohamed Atta, ring-leader of the Sept. 11 hijackers, was in the airport at the same time, officials have said.

Military intelligence officials at Guantanamo got permission to use intensive interrogation techniques on two prisoners, including al-Qahtani, who were deemed to be important al-Qaida figures, the commander of U.S. Southern Command has said.

Time said interrogators used such techniques as dripping water on al-Qahtani's head; strip-searching him and making him stand nude; and depriving him of sleep. At one point, after receiving fluid intravenously because he was dehydrated, al-Qahtani was told to urinate in his pants by interrogators who refused his request to use the bathroom so they could continue with their questioning, according to the account.

The Defense Department said in response that the interrogation of al-Qahtani "was guided by a very detailed plan and conducted by trained professionals motivated by a desire to gain actionable intelligence, to include information that might prevent additional attacks on America."

It said al-Qahtani provided valuable information on the logistics of the Sept. 11 attacks and how al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden evaded capture by U.S. forces.

Tribunal video shows Saddam answering to murders

BY PAUL GARWOOD

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The tribunal that will put Saddam Hussein on trial released a new video Monday of the former dictator being questioned by magistrates about the killing of 50 Iraqis in retaliation for a failed assassination attempt in 1982.

The video from the Iraqi Special Tribunal showed a bearded Saddam wearing a dark gray suit with pinstripes and white open-collared shirt being questioned by chief judge Raid Juhi. Four other members of Saddam's administration also were shown in the video. There was no audio.

It was unclear when the video was made, and Saddam's chief lawyer, Khalil al-Duleimi, said he would have to see it before commenting. The tribunal said the lawyer was present during the questioning.

The 68-year-old Saddam looked drawn and tired, the first time he has been seen in a video since his arraignment on July 1, 2004, in Baghdad on broad charges including killing rival politicians over 30 years, gassing Kurds in the northern town of Halabja in 1988, invading Kuwait in 1990, and suppressing the Kurdish and Shiite uprisings.

Unlike that appearance, where Saddam was combative and tried to exhibit his authority, the tape shows a man who appears to a shadow of his former self. There are heavy bags under his eyes, he often clasps his hands and squeezes his fingers. His hair appears unkempt and his beard has more gray flecks running through it than a year ago.

At least two legal officials close to the case said that the video was apparently made Sunday. They did not want to be identified for security reasons.

In early June, Juhi said Saddam's morale had collapsed because of the charges he faces.

In Amman, Saddam's lawyer said his Jordan-based legal team was not aware he was questioned.

"Up to this moment, we have no information at all that the president had been questioned," the lawyer, Ziad al-Khasawneh, told The Associated Press. "If it really happened, we consider this move a violation of his basic right to a lawyer during questioning."

He added that "this shows the kind of justice which the president is expected to endure during the upcoming trial."

Iraqi officials said last week Saddam could appear before a special tribunal within two months, but have since backtracked. Authorities have said he will face 14 thoroughly documented cases relating to alleged crimes

committed during his 23-year rule. Many carry the death penalty.

An announcement that accompanied the tape said Saddam was being questioned about crimes related to the execution of at least 50 Iraqis in 1982 in the Shiite town of Dujail, 50 miles north of Baghdad, in retaliation for the failed assassination attempt.

In Monday's violence, four suicide car bombings and other insurgent attacks Monday killed 10 people, and at least 16 Iraqis were wounded after militants opened fire on authorities trying to evacuate the injured from one of the blasts.

The wave of attacks in Baghdad, Samarra and Tikrit came as radical anti-American Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr met with the Russia ambassador and tribal chiefs from the insurgent hotbeds of Fallujah and Ramadi. Russia and al-Sadr fiercely opposed the war.

The new video also depicted Hussein Rashid Mohammed, a former Republican Guard general, and Taher Tawfiq al-Ani, a senior Baath Party official and adviser on Kurdish affairs. They were questioned concerning the 1987-88 Anfal campaign, a depopulation plan in which hundreds of thousands of Kurds were killed or expelled from northern Iraq.

The two other men shown were Barzan Abd al-Ghafur Sulayman Majid al-Tikriti and Muzahim Sa'b Hassan al-Tikriti. The first was a special Republican Guard commander and Saddam's cousin who was captured on July 23, 2003. He was No. 11 on the American list of most-wanted Iraqis. The other headed Iraq's air defenses under Saddam and was captured on April 23, 2003. He was 12th on the list.

They were questioned about the 1991 suppression of a Shiite uprising in southern Iraq.

The meeting between al-Sadr and Russian Ambassador Vladimir Chamov in the Shiite holy city of Najaf, south of the capital, seemed to be a sign of the cleric's desire to return to active politics after going into isolation last fall following clashes between his militia and U.S. troops.

Al-Sadr has in recent weeks been trying to mediate between an influential Sunni Arab association and a Shiite militia that have traded accusations of targeting each other's supporters and clerics.

Chamov was making the first visit by a Russian envoy to al-Sadr's office since the U.S.-led war began two years ago.

"The meeting was in the framework of creating contacts between the Russian Embassy and the Iraqi parties and movements and we are pleased with the results of our

talks," Chamov told reporters. "We talked about what the Iraqi people are facing and what's taking place in Iraq, including the American presence and terrorist attacks."

In one such attack, a suicide car bomb targeting a U.S. convoy in Baghdad missed and instead killed a 6-year-old girl and injured another five Iraqis. In Baghdad's western Radwanya district, another Iraqi army soldier was killed and three were injured by a car bomb, hospital officials said.

Police found the bullet-riddled bodies of 28 people buried in shallow graves or dumped along streets in Baghdad. At least one was identified as a security guard at a leading Sunni charitable organization.

A suicide car bomber blew himself up in Samarra, about 60 miles north of Baghdad, as an American-Iraqi patrol was passing, police Lt. Qassim Mohammed said.

As emergency crews gathered, a roadside bomb detonated and gunmen in two speeding cars opened fire on the crowd. Three policemen were killed in the explosion and a total of 16 civilians were injured, Mohammed said.

In Saddam's nearby hometown of Tikrit, another suicide car bomber killed two police officers and injured six civilians, police Lt. Col. Tariq Alwan Al-Jibouri said. A firefighter was also killed, he said, but the circumstances were unclear.

The spiraling violence and rising U.S. death toll — 1,701 have died since the war began — comes despite crackdowns by Iraqi and American forces that continued Monday with hundreds of suspected militants being rounded up in the past two weeks.

South Korean Defense Minister Yoon Kwang-ung, meanwhile, said Seoul is likely to seek an extension of its deployment of more than 3,000 troops. Yoon said he believes Iraq will need multinational forces until mid-2006.

The bodies of the 28 men were discovered as Iraq's Shiite-led government pressed to open disarmament talks with insurgents responsible for relentless violence that has taken on ominous sectarian overtones.

At least 943 people, including U.S. troops, have been killed since the Shiite-dominated government of Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari announced his government six weeks ago — an event that many thought would curb the violence.

Lt. Ayad Othman said a shepherd found the bodies of 20 men Friday buried in the Nahrawan desert, 20 miles east of Baghdad. All were blindfolded, bound and shot.

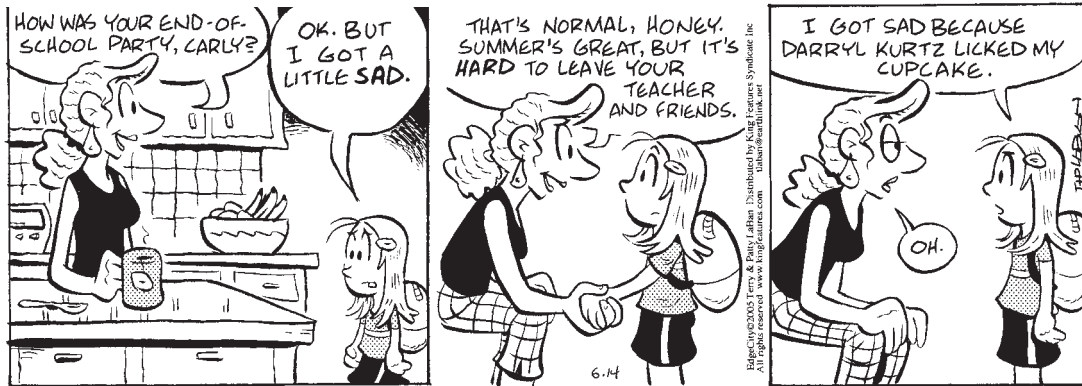
Witnesses claimed the men were Sunnis, according to the influential Sunni organization, the Association of Muslim Scholars.

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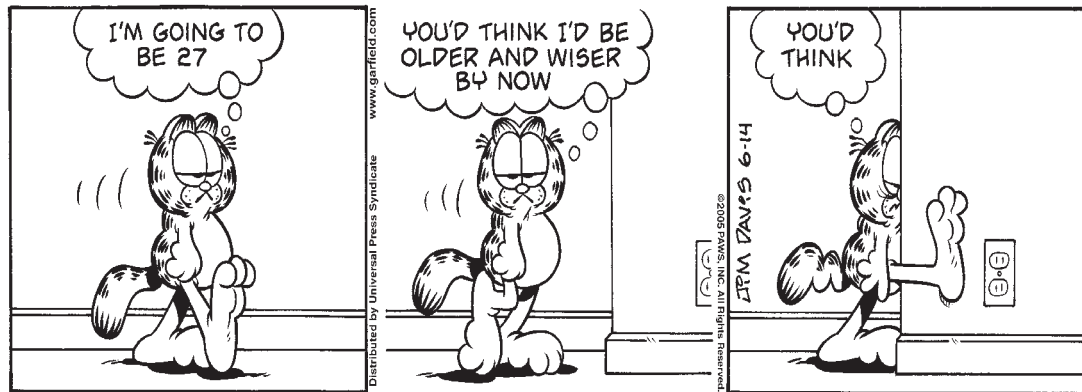
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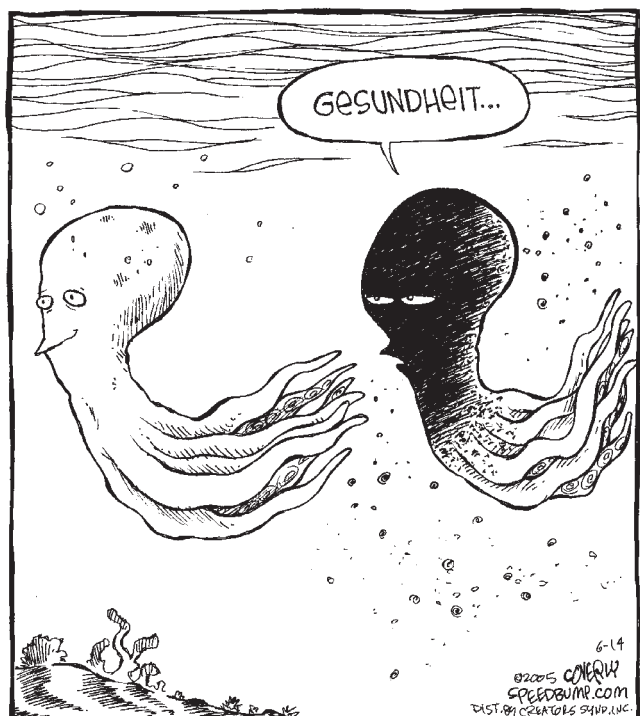
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ACROSS

- 1 NBA star center, for short
- 5 Complete happiness
- 10 Did some modeling
- 12 Permitted
- 13 Cole Porter song
- 15 Brewed drink
- 16 Luggage ID
- 17 Crooner Tormé
- 18 Pizza servings
- 20 Window part
- 21 Spill over
- 22 Hill insects
- 23 Articles
- 25 Look over
- 28 Shows fondness
- 31 Colleen
- 32 Place for a bump
- 34 Fitting
- 35 Crude home
- 36 One or more
- 37 Cole Porter song
- 40 Come in
- 41 Ball gazers
- 42 Clarinet parts

- 43 Aussie greeting

DOWN

- 1 Rotisserie parts
- 2 Travel stops
- 3 Set on
- 4 End-of-proof letters
- 5 Online journal
- 6 Tyler of "Jersey Girl"
- 7 Old supplier
- 8 Hushed
- 9 Fashions
- 11 Abhor
- 14 Made verbal attacks

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Yesterday's answer

- 19 Change
- 20 Lasagna and linguine
- 24 Calendar pages
- 25 Buffy, for one
- 26 Ness rival
- 27 Keen
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- 33 Romany speaker
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- 38 Wine choice
- 39 Brain wave chart, for short

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Hilton checking out: Paris wants out of limelight

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Paris Hilton plans to give up public life for family life.

The 24-year-old hotel heiress, star of “The Simple Life” reality series, tells Newsweek magazine that when she was younger, “I thought it was cute to play a dumb blonde. On TV, I do it because it’s funny. I consider myself a businesswoman and a brand.”

But Hilton says she plans to give up her public life in two years, by which time she expects to become a mother with her fiancé, Paris Latsis.

“I don’t enjoy going out anymore,” she says in the June 20 issue of the magazine, on newsstands Monday. “It’s such a pain. It’s everyone saying, ‘Let’s do a deal! Can I have a picture?’ I’m just, like, ‘These people are such losers. I can’t believe I used to love doing this.’”

Paris and her mother, Kathy, were the grand marshals Sunday at the Los Angeles Gay, Lesbian, Bi-Sexual & Transgender Pride Parade. Kathy Hilton wore a large white hat; Paris wore a tiara.

Kathy Hilton’s new NBC reality series, “I Want to Be a Hilton,” in which she coaches 14 contestants in taste and etiquette, premieres June 21.

Newsweek says Kathy and her husband, Rick Hilton, didn’t want their name on the show. “We thought it was too cheeky,” Rick Hilton is quoted as saying. “It does sound a little obnoxious.”

Kathy Hilton says a sex tape of Paris and an ex-boyfriend that became a cyberspace novelty taught her a lesson.

“Well, that was very painful. Very painful. Very painful,” Kathy Hilton tells the magazine. “But it taught me that I really can’t trust everybody.”

The sex tape surfaced in 2003 just before the start of Paris’ reality series. She has said she was embarrassed and humiliated that the tape ever became public.

TOKYO — Steven Spielberg says the days when movie audiences sympathize with a lovable alien such as E.T. may be over.

“It seemed like the time was right for me as a filmmaker to let the audience experience an alien that is a little less pleasant than E.T.,” Spielberg said Monday at a post-premiere news conference for his new film, “War of the Worlds.”

“Today, in the shadow of 9/11, I think the film has found a place in society,” said Spielberg, who directed 1982’s “E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial” and 1977’s “Close Encounters of the Third Kind.”

He noted the panic-causing radio play of H.G. Wells’ alien invasion novel was produced in the late 1930s, when many feared the rise of Nazism in Germany, while the 1953 movie, “The War of the Worlds,” was made during the Cold War.

“All occurred at a time of great unease in the world,” he said.

In “War of the Worlds,” Spielberg substitutes space invaders called “tripods” for the Martians of Wells’ book. He said the first tripod is killed in Osaka, Japan’s second-largest city.

“Osaka has a lot of experience,” he said, referring to the many scenes of urban destruction in “Godzilla” and other Japanese monster flicks. “I’m proud of the film, and I’m proud to bring it to Japan.”

Tom Cruise, star of the movie, said “War of the Worlds” is more about family values than interplanetary disturbances.

“The idea was always about family,” Cruise said. “What would you do for your family? How far would you go? Can you protect your family?”

“War of the Worlds” opens in theaters on June 29.

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court has declined to

consider whether a 1992 Beastie Boys song infringed on the copyright of a jazz flutist’s recording.

Without comment, justices let stand Monday a lower court ruling against jazz artist James W. Newton. Newton contended that the punk rappers’ “Pass the Mic” included a sample from his musical composition “Choir” without his full permission.

The Beastie Boys paid a licensing fee for the six-second, three-note segment of Newton’s work, but failed to pay an additional fee to license underlying composition.

The San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals agreed to dismiss Newton’s lawsuit alleging copyright infringement. The appeals court reasoned that the short segment in “Pass the Mic” was not distinctive enough to be considered Newton’s work.

Several members and representatives of the jazz and independent artists community — including the American Composers Forum, the Electronic Music Foundation and Meet the Composer — had filed a joint friend-of-the-court brief in support of Newton.

NEW YORK — Alicia Silverstone is, like, totally married.

The 28-year-old “Clueless” star wed longtime boyfriend Christopher Jarecki at Lake Tahoe on Saturday, said Silverstone’s publicist, Elizabeth Much, confirming a report in People magazine.

It’s the first marriage for both Silverstone and Jarecki, lead singer of the band S.T.U.N. The pair have been together for eight years.

The wedding was held for 135 friends and family at a private lakeside estate. The couple exchanged vows while barefoot on the beach, People reported Monday.

Silverstone played Valley Girl-with-a-heart-of-gold Cher Horowitz in the 1995 film “Clueless.” Her screen credits also include “The Babysitter” and “Beauty Shop.”

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