

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

FANTASY 5

13 22 14 5 25

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 3 1 5

Evening picks: 4 8 6

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 10 Solid Gold

2nd Place: 12 Lucky Charms

3rd Place: 09 Winning Spirit

Race Time: 1:43.82



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

In February, an unidentified audience member was led away, still shouting, after attempting to debate former New York City mayor Rudolph Giuliani at a University of Oklahoma speech about Sept. 11's effect on the city; contrary to Giuliani's blaming the attack on al-Qaida, the man insisted that the culprit was Wal-Mart (Norman, Okla.). And in May, several senior Japanese women (ages from their 50s through their 70s) met to discuss the revival of the sport in which they had once excelled during its heyday, female sumo wrestling, a gathering that included an exhibition by the 61-year-old Ms. Mikako Shimada (Mikatsuki, Japan).



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"If your man comes home and he ain't hungry, he's been somewhere else."

— Janna Raebodnar



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Green backers want green back from Feinstein

Councilman's campaign off to a rocky start

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer



Mike Feinstein

OCEAN PARK —

With angry picketers stationed outside, City Councilman Mike Feinstein began amassing a war chest for his reelection bid this November at a weekend fundraiser.

Two of Feinstein's fellow Green Party members carried signs out front that read, "Full Disclosure Now" and "Stop Misbehaving." Feinstein has been at odds with Green Party leaders for more than three years over as much as \$40,000 in political donations he has refused to account for.

"I don't feel that he can be trusted," said picketer and local Green Party official Joe Crompton, who handed out fliers and spoke with people attending the fundraiser. "I found out about the fundraiser and I figured a little bit of direct action would be good."

Dozens of people attended the Saturday afternoon event at Seventh Street and Ashland Avenue, contributing up to \$250 apiece. Feinstein is one of four council members whose terms expire this November, and the first to establish a fundraising organization and solicit campaign contributions.

"I've learned a lot on the Council over the past seven-plus years, including serving two years as mayor," Feinstein said in a Monday press release. "But I think it's critical, as I seek reelection, that I re-engage myself with people on a block-by-block, neighborhood-by-neighborhood basis."

The dispute between Feinstein and Green Party officials centers around tens of thousands of dollars in donations made out to the county and state Green Parties that Feinstein deposited into a bank account that he controlled. Some say Feinstein is a pioneer for the

See FEINSTEIN, page 4

Senior moment



Alejandro Cesar Cantarero II/Daily Press

Student workers have laid the groundwork and set the stage for Thursday's graduation ceremony at Santa Monica High School. Final preparations on the campus tennis courts were being made Monday afternoon.

Heel the Bay: Visions of dog-friendly beach no joke



John Wood/Daily Press

Sand box? Some residents are pushing to have this stretch of Santa Monica beach set aside as a leashless area for dogs.

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

SM BEACH — Life's no beach for Georja Umano Jones and her Jack Russell terriers.

She envisions Marcello and Zucherro running leashless on a lesser-used stretch of Santa Monica's beach near the end of Arizona Avenue. They could swim, or lay their nuzzles in the sand for an afternoon nap.

But there's a problem: Dogs are forbidden on Santa Monica beaches. Leashless, they're allowed on just 57 beaches statewide.

So Jones, a teacher and standup comic, spearheaded a group called "Unleash the Beach," which aims to set aside the stretch of beach

between lifeguard towers 11 and 12, near a storm drain. The group met Saturday to formulate a game plan and will be staging a campaign kickoff event in mid-July.

City Councilman Kevin McKeown, who attended the meeting to offer advice on setting up a grassroots group, said City Hall traditionally has frowned upon leash-free areas because it worried setting up such a space would attract too many additional outside users. That may be less of an issue now, however, as a leash-free area has been set up in Long Beach and organizers are pushing for another area at Dockweiler State Beach.

See DOGS, page 4

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Listen to a friend, Cap



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)**
★★★★ Speaking your mind might cause a lot of fur to fly, though you might want to anyway. Plans, perspective and communication become subject to rapid changes. You could be jolted by another person's reactions. Tonight: Visit with a pal at a favorite spot.

 **TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**
★★★ Deal with finances directly before you get a jolt or someone lets you down. A partner might be directly opposed to your ideas. Listen and consider options carefully. Push hard to have what you want, but be ready for the cost — and to pay! Tonight: Your treat.

 **GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**
★★★★ Investigate opportunities, but be sure that others aren't 100 percent against your ideas and directions. You could create more opposition than you want. Be ready to adjust to an older friend or authority figure. Not everything tumbles into place perfectly. Tonight: Your smile is a winner.

 **CANCER (June 21-July 22)**
★★ Understand when you have had enough. Be willing to ask for support or to cocoon. You know what is best right now. Events force a new perspective. Don't push yourself too hard. Treat yourself as somewhat fragile. Tonight: Vanish.

 **LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**
★★★★ Conflicting interests mark your decisions. You might feel as if you are between a rock and a hard place. Notice what is going on with a key associate or partner. You might want to be more careful with this person. Tonight: Where you want to be.

 **VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**
★★ Could you be overly fussy? Consider this possibility. Associates, family and friends might make demands, but you also could become very touchy. Recognize that the only way to win a power play is not to play. Try to stay clear. Tonight: Hurry home.

 **LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**
★★★★ You might be trying to understand some of the chaos that surrounds you. Realize that sometimes you might not be able to smooth ruffled feathers. Detach and don't get triggered into today's fiery vibes. Concentrate on work. Tonight: Be a team.

 **SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**
★★★ Finances could prove touchy at best, if not difficult. Be sure of the fact that you cannot win for losing. Avoid any risk-taking, if you know what is good for you. What seems impossible today could be a lot different in a few days. Tonight: Go along with a loved one's plans.

 **SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**
★★★ You could be a bigger obstacle to yourself than you realize. Others let you know just how they are feeling and what they are thinking, though you might stonewall them. Clear out what appears to be a bad habit; just decide to let go. Tonight: Say "yes."

 **CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**
★★ You might want to lose yourself in your work, as you could be so tense and tired of others and their demands. Part of the problem might be how judgmental you are, not only with others but also with yourself. Tonight: Listen to a close friend's feedback.

 **AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**
★★★ What you have chosen as material reflections of who you are could be changing radically. Rather than toss everything, consider what might hold value in the long run. Don't push as hard as before. Tonight: Kick up your heels. Play as if it is the weekend.

 **PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**
★★ Your unpredictability could have quite an effect on others. Consider alternatives of expressing yourself. Investigate what you think you must have. Don't jump to conclusions just yet. Clear first. Tonight: Head home. Do some hard thinking.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Swing into summer with music on Main Street

By Daily Press staff

The annual Main Street "Summer Soulstice Festival" is back and will be highlighted by musical groups playing in the Edgemar courtyard.

On Sunday, June 20, from noon to 6 p.m., three groups will take turns in setting the mood for the much-awaited event.

Noon to 2 p.m. — Richard and Brothers Barton — virtuoso old-time and new acoustic string band music.

2 p.m. to 4 p.m. — Jacqueline Fuentes & Ensemble — world music with South American roots.

4 p.m. to 6 p.m. — The Western Continentals — classic country and honky tonk in the Bakersfield tradition, and western swing (music of Bob Wills).

Credits about to roll on film festival

By Daily Press staff

The seventh annual festival of unknown films and actors will end this Wednesday with the film "The Discontents" at Santa Monica's Laemmle four-plex theater. The week-long "Dances With Films" festival will have screened more than 90 feature films and shorts, with subjects ranging from growing pains to murder mysteries. Unlike films with Hollywood stars or directors, these movies and shorts champion the underdog in hopes of catapulting them into the spotlight.

"We're an exciting alternative to all those blockbusters you could see at the theater," said Leslee Scallon, the festival's co-founder.

The Laemmle is located at 1211 Second Street, between Santa Monica Boulevard and Arizona Avenue. Information on the films and showtimes can be found at www.danceswithfilms.com.

Kids invited to cycle through history

By Daily Press staff

With the Fourth of July quickly approaching, the Community Action Team is searching for elementary school-aged children to show off their patriotic colors and writing skills in an essay contest. The finalists will have a chance to win one of three new bicycles and ride as the grand marshals in the July 4 Bike Parade in Belmont Shore.

First through sixth-graders are invited to submit a one-page essay on the topic of "What Freedom Means to Me" by June 28. Essays should be mailed to Justin Rudd, Attn. July 4 Essay Contest, 5209 E. The Toledo #1, Long Beach, CA, 90803. Entrants need to include the following information on the back: name, address, age, grade, height (for bike size), school name, parents' names, daytime phone and e-mail address.

Children are also invited to compete for cash prizes during the Independence Day bike parade by decorating their own bikes with streamers and American flags. Contest and parade information can be found at www.BikeParade.com and www.communityactionteam.org.



SURF REPORT

Look for an increase in NW wind/ground swell to mix with slowly building SW swell today. For Northern LA County, look for most spots to be checking in around knee- to waist-high, with some sets up to chest-high at standout NW breaks. South Bay spots pick up the wind swell for waist-high+ waves at average breaks and sets to shoulder-high at standout spots. Light winds in the morning build out of the W in the 8-15 knot range for the afternoon.

Today the water is:

71°

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today at your local break.



LOW TIDES

HIGH TIDES

	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	1:10	0.9	12:20	1.4	6:56	3.5	6:24	5.3
SUNDAY	1:57	0.4	12:56	1.7	7:59	3.4	7:26	5.7
MONDAY	2:36	0.0	1:29	2.0	8:52	3.4	7:54	5.8
TUESDAY	3:12	-0.3	2:00	2.2	9:39	3.4	8:23	5.9
WEDNESDAY	3:46	-0.5	2:30	2.4	10:20	3.4	8:52	5.9
THURSDAY	4:20	-0.6	3:00	2.5	11:00	3.4	9:22	5.9
FRIDAY	4:54	-0.6	3:32	2.6	11:40	3.4	9:54	5.9

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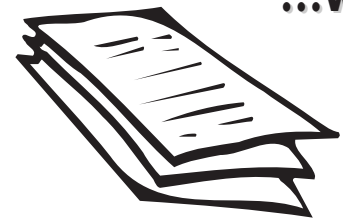
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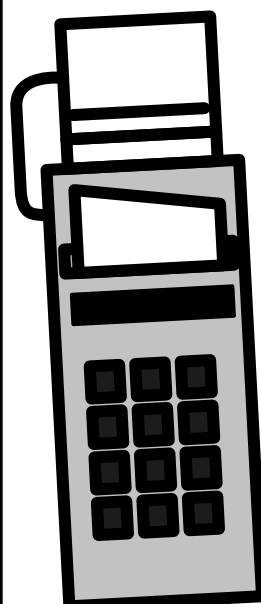
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City Hall has now focused its efforts on making sure business owners are complying with the rules and regulations set upon them when they were approved to open in their locations.

After the business owner is visited in a surprise inspection by a building and safety code compliance officer, he or she is handed a bill for \$500. City officials say business owners have to be charged to offset the inspection program.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "Should business owners pay to have their property inspected by City Hall? Why or why not?"

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

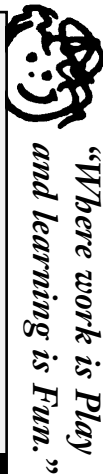


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Several county Green Party officials were angered when Feinstein participated in a vote earlier this year to drop a small claims lawsuit against himself. As a County Council member of the Green Party of Los Angeles County, Feinstein was both the plaintiff and the defendant in

Every dog has its Bay? Owners lap up concept

Environmentalists worry setting up areas for dogs on the beach could lead to dirtier ocean water, but Jones said those fears have been dispelled at other leash-

"The Green Party of California has been trying to get the records appropriately reported for more than three years," McKeown said. "Where we stand is that we still do not have the bank records. We still feel that those records, by law, have to be reported under the political reform act."

INTERESTED IN YOUR DAILY FORECAST?
CHECK OUT THE HOROSCOPES ON PAGE 3!

STATE BRIEFS

Rte. 66 Museum may have hit dead end

By The Associated Press

VICTORVILLE — The California Route 66 Museum has hit a financial pothole and supporters have asked for ideas to help the museum survive the cash flow crunch.

The museum has relied on a spring auction to provide cash for the summer, but this year's event was postponed due to an auctioneer's scheduling error.

Admission is free at the Old Town museum and it relies on donations and its gift shop to provide operating expenses.

The museum has a core backing of eight volunteers, a dozen board members and private donors. It does not receive any federal, state, county or local government funding and also lacks a corporate sponsor.

Attempts to solicit grants have been unsuccessful so far, said Judith Pfeffer, a board member.

Increased competition could be contributing to the hard times, said Dan Harlow, co-founder and board member of the museum.

"Competition has risen; there are now museums dedicated to Route 66 in Barstow and San Bernardino," Harlow said. "Although Route 66 is prominent in national media, it doesn't guarantee visitors at your door."

Museum supporters have scheduled a June 23 session to solicit ideas on how to keep it afloat. The auction also has been rescheduled for Sept. 11.

Officials look to cart away blight

By The Associated Press

SANTA BARBARA — City officials looking to clean up neighborhoods have targeted abandoned shopping carts.

"On the Westside, there are shopping carts everywhere," said Councilwoman Helene Schneider, a resident of the neighborhood. "The biggest problem from my perspective is where the shopping carts end up. It creates a visual blight."

Many grocery stores contract with the California Shopping Cart Retrieval Corp., which picks up carts from streets. Other stores use electrical devices that lock a cart's wheels if it is pushed past the market's property line, but the device is not their preference.

"It is very costly," said Ralphs spokesman Terry O'Neil, who declined to specify the amount. "We would much rather have customers understand that the shopping carts are there as a customer service. They are Ralphs' property and they are only to be used in Ralphs stores and in Ralphs parking lots."

Carts also have been ending up in area creeks.

Crews pulled out 124 carts from creeks in 2003, up from the 29 in 2002, said Jill Zachary, the city's creeks program manager.

City Councilman Brian Barnwell believes that charging a deposit to take carts off grocery store property might stop people from abandoning them. If a person abandons a cart, other people will return it to receive the deposit, he said.

Advocates for the poor said that idea would penalize those who can least afford it.

Woman killed in accident with patrol car

By The Associated Press

MURRIETA — An 18-year-old woman died early Sunday when the vehicle she was traveling in turned in front of a police patrol car heading to a burglary.

Carolyn Ellis was two blocks from home when the 2:40 a.m. collision occurred. Ellis, the front-seat passenger in a 2001 Honda CR-V, was pronounced dead within minutes after the vehicle flipped on its left side.

Kevin Beier, 23, the driver of the Honda, was arrested for investigation of drunken driving, a California Highway Patrol official said.

Beier was taken to Riverside County Regional Medical Center for treatment. A nursing supervisor declined to release information on his condition.

Robert Swartz, 25, a back-seat passenger in the vehicle, was taken to Inland Valley Medical Center for treatment and was in fair and stable condition.

Officer Mike Jacobs was recovering from surgery to his right arm at the Inland Valley facility, said Officer Frank LaVigne. Jacobs also suffered a cut to his head.

"He was shaken up over the fact a girl lost her life," LaVigne said.

Ellis had just completed her first year at Riverside Community College and worked as a server at Mimi's Cafe in Temecula.

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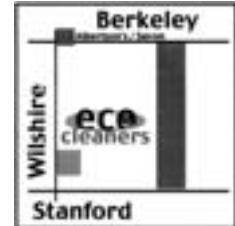
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OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

City Hall wringing citizens dry

Editor:

With regard to the argument put forth by a reader on Wednesday (SMDP, June 9, page 4) citing a favorite childhood book to support Draconian enforcement of the various arcane and outdated laws rising from the dead-like zombies at City Hall, the reader says, "What if everybody did it?" Well, it's time to put away the things of childhood and read a civics book or the Constitution. When everybody does it, that's a sure sign of consensus, or in our democracy, a unanimous vote — not a novel concept really. If everybody has tall hedges, then maybe things have changed since 1948. Do you think?

A second issue is the outrageous fine schedule being used by City Hall to enforce compliance. The good citizens of Santa Monica have evidently found that their pigeons have come home to roost — in their own hedges. Why the new enforcement employees and high fees suddenly? Remember proposition MM? This was sold on the idea that it would mitigate jet noise at the municipal airport. Teach those fun-loving pilots a lesson at no cost to anyone else, right? Think again. When citizens fail to zealously defend the freedoms of all citizens and engage in a frenzy of special-interest legislation, disenfranchising one group here and then another group somewhere else, we all lose. Think twice about giving the leeches at City Hall more power to wring every last nickel and dime out of its residents, business and visitors. One law — the law of unintended consequences — is definitely still in effect.

Bill Worden
Venice

Wipe out religion, for God's sake

Editor:

The comprehensive coverage by the SMDP and other local media regarding the controversy surrounding the inclusion of a perceived religious symbol on the official seal of the County of Los Angeles has alerted me to a systemic and pervasive problem. Galvanized by zeal borne of your splendid reportage, I have come to realize that this plague of official recognition of religion is far more pervasive than even SMDP realizes. Immediate action is required, lest we all be subverted by invidious insinuations of the forces of religiosity.

In the interest of seeking the fullest protection afforded by our Constitution, I am sending this demand to our fearless mayor:

"Dear Mayor McKeown:

The recent flap over the removal of a minuscule cross from the county shield has brought my attention to a shocking and blatant breach of the principle of separation of church and state that is perpetuated by our own city. As an alternative to the instigation of litigation seeking a writ of mandamus, I am affording the Council the opportunity to enact legislation to forthwith correct this breach of the Constitutional duty that you are sworn to uphold.

This city has perpetuated the official glorification of individuals canonized by the Church of Rome. Such a practice is a blatant violation of the city's constitutional obligations. The use of religious titles in the very name of the city must immediately cease.

All official signs that refer to any saint, san or santa must be changed at once. This would include, in addition to the name of the city itself (Ms. Monica), but of similarly offensively named thoroughfares such as Mr. Vincente and Ms. Monica Boulevards.

While I realize that bringing the city into compliance will entail some significant expense, especially for signs and stationery, it should be noted that Constitutional obligations trump any subordinate legislation. Therefore, the cost of compliance must be funded on a priority basis.

Perhaps, two mandates can be combined were the Council to employ the homeless to repaint all of the city's signs to delete the proscribed religious references. Instead of funneling money to bleeding-heart social agencies to build flop-houses, cash could be directly disbursed to the new, temporary city workers who would then be eligible for state-funded assistance on conclusion of their service. Think of the self-esteem that would be fostered by having the former dregs of society elevated to the status of dedicated civil servants.

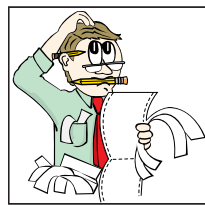
Of course, since the city would desire to pay these temporary employees a living wage, it may be necessary to seek further economies. The deal to increase the city's contribution to the school district is not carved in stone. Even if it were, Superintendent Deasy would have to agree that school funding must necessarily defer to Constitutional compliance. Besides, he will be otherwise occupied bringing the district into compliance with its own version of this problem

The law of unintended consequence could work in that the new spending mandates could curtail funds currently allocated for cement that is being poured in seemingly every roadway and corner in the city. The resulting increase in the ability to move freely about town could bring in more visitors, which means more tax revenue and more parking violation revenue. So you see there is a silver lining to every black cloud.

The passage of enabling ordinances to effect compliance must be treated as a priority matter lest I have no alternative but to seek judicial redress."

Bob Abernethy
Santa Monica

When I rule the world



DOSE OF REALITY

BY MATTHEW GLASSER

As I watched the farewell to President Reagan, I couldn't help but think about the meaning of leadership. Whether you agreed with President Reagan's policies or not, you would be hard pressed not to agree that he was a genuine leader. Thinking about leadership made me wonder what I would do if I was President of the United States. And, of course, that turned into a conversation about what I would do if I was ruler of the world.

So here you go. This is my platform with absolute power.

1. A 5-year moratorium on reality shows. It's enough already. And Mark Burnett, the creator of "Survivor" and the undeniable godfather of reality shows, should be tried for violating the Geneva Convention's rules about torture.

2. Only mimes will be allowed to perform at the Third Street Promenade. I can no longer hear myself think, let alone my date, when I visit on a Friday or Saturday night.

3. Fire all the Caltrans freeway workers and replace them with the construction crews that build mini-malls. They get those things up in days. Perhaps a construction crew that doesn't work for the worst-run government agency in the state could actually build new freeways before they invent flying cars.

4. Big, slow, pollution-spewing trucks will be restricted to driving on the freeway between midnight and 5 a.m. If you can't drive the speed limit, you have no business being on the road with the rest of the world.

5. Require drivers to score a 90 or above on their driving test in order to get their licenses. Why can you get a "C" on your test and still be entrusted to drive a 5,000-pound piece of steel.

6. While we are on the topic of licenses, would-be parents will have to take a class and exam on parenting in order to conceive. And they would have to score a 90 or above in order to earn the privilege of raising a little one.

7. Any Santa Monican found having an extra apartment because it is rent-controlled will have to allow a homeless person to be their roommate and live in that apartment. They must also give up their primary residence so that the city can covert it into a performance space for struggling actors, painters and singers.

8. Starbucks will be restricted to selling coffee. Just coffee. No more double vanilla low-fat lattes with soy milk and cinnamon. If you can't order using one word, you can't have it. And enough of Tall-Grande-Venti sizes. I have a master's degree and I still can't figure out what those sizes mean.

9. Car horn operators will only be allowed 12 honks per year. If you exceed that amount, you are using your horn as a communications device and you must be stopped. After using the 12, you will need to pay for a refill of honks and write an essay about why you will be a more considerate driver.

10. While we like to think we've evolved from apes, it seems to me that we are going backwards. You don't see apes killing each other for fun and profit. And

when was the last time you saw an ape knock down a tree to make a political statement. So let's replace the members of the United Nations with those apes that understand sign language. I bet they will do a better job bringing peace and prosperity to the world than Homo sapiens.

11. Any business executive that uses the terms "out of the box," "leading edge," "best of the breed," "world class," "win-win," "take offline," "seamless," "scalable," "robust" or one of hundreds of other meaningless business-speak terms should be demoted to the lowest-paying position in their company.

12. Implement "eye-for-an-eye" criminal penalties. If you torture or abuse an animal, you get to spend some time in the lions' cage at the zoo. If you kill someone while driving drunk, you have to stand on the track at the next Daytona 500. You get the idea.

13. Any politician seeking public office is automatically disqualified if their speeches contain more "what's wrong with..." statements than solutions and ideas.

14. All celebrity perks and privileges are hereby revoked. No more getting into restaurants and clubs without reservations, getting the best rooms and customer service and having the world fall all over you. Instead, doctors, nurses, children with cancer, school teachers, clergy and anyone who performed a good deed today will receive the perks once reserved for celebrities. Let's get our priorities in order, shall we?

15. Any bank or fast food restaurant that's busy with customers, but is only using 2 of its 10 registers or computers, should have to pay a "waste our time" penalty to every customer in the store. We have hundreds of thousands of people looking for a job. Hire some of them so I don't have to spend all Saturday waiting to cash a check.

16. Dr. Atkins' 15 minutes of fame is over. If I see another Atkins product display at my favorite store or restaurant, I am going to stand outside and pass out free samples of sourdough bread. I can't wait until science discovers that the consumption of carbohydrates is a way to prevent cancer.

17. You can't have a first-annual event. It's not annual until it has happened more than once. Any group promoting first-annual anything has to donate the earnings from that event to charity. I know it's a little thing, but it drives me nuts.

18. Any person who has a sign that reads "will work for food" will have to give up that sign when they refuse to actually work for food.

19. When possible, employees will be given the option of working from home. Do they really need to sit in on another planning meeting? If you let them avoid the commute, save money on gas, spend more time with their family, nine times out of ten you'll see an increase in productivity from them.

20. Finally, people need to lighten up, laugh more and enjoy the little things in life. Anyone found taking themselves too seriously will be sent to Clown College. And, yes, there is such a place as Clown College.

What would you do as ruler of the world? Send me your ideas and I will print them in an upcoming column.

(Matthew Glasser can be reached by email at mediamattthew@yahoo.com.)

OPINION



A good night's sleep means no commitments

LEGAL NEWS & VIEWS

BY DAVID PISARRA

Continuing with last week's essay on a real world example of how to build a business, this week I explain how we arrived at some of our numbers. We knew that we had certain fixed costs, such as rent, staffing costs, a tax burden on the staff, utilities, equipment leasing, marketing materials and administration costs. We also wanted to make sure that we weren't locked in to any long-term contracts as part of our exit strategy.

When reviewing estimates, what you need to always be aware of is whose estimate it is, and what are their personal motivations and goals. Entrepreneurs in the full rush of enthusiasm of a new venture will always overestimate their sales and underestimate their costs. On the flip side, the investor will almost always do the reverse, and overstating the expenses and underestimating the sales. Their motivations are important here — for the entrepreneur is an optimist and the investor is "being conservative."

Of course, the other reason for the investors to use lower numbers is that the value of the company is based on the projections, and that directly impacts what the investor receives for their investment. This is also why the entrepreneur wants to make the company look bigger, that way they can sell less of the company for more money.

When it comes to 'guesstimating' numbers, it is safer and better for all concerned to follow the investor's approach. You have a greater chance of success if you have overbudgeted your costs and underestimated your income.

For our sleep-testing company, the first projection was based on a hospital providing us with rent-free space in their unused rooms. We only need three rooms to get started and, since we would actually be a service provider to the hospital and increase their revenue, when it came to ancillary services we offer, this would not be unimaginable. This is a good scenario, and would have dramatically increased our bottom line, being rent-free. However, it did not provide us with the quick "time to market" that we wanted, since medical bureaucracies are renowned for being slow moving, and we found that to still be the case. Additionally, the business model we ended up with has the sleep lab in a resort-type hotel which more closely mimics a person's actual sleep environment.

The hotel setting allows us greater flexibility in our facilities, even though we had to negotiate a long-term lease with a hotel, which consisted of several short-term periods that provided us with options to extend our stay.

Part of our exit strategy is having the ability to get out of our commitments quickly and cleanly. This meant negotiating the push/pull of security versus flexibility. On the one hand, we want a long-term contract with the hotel to know that we won't have to move anytime soon. On the other hand, if we have no clients, I want us to be able to get out of the hotel and our equipment leases quickly. This meant we ended up doing

business in basically six-month increments.

Because we are in a hotel we don't need to worry about utility costs, but we do have a phone cost and Internet costs. These we budgeted for high, because when you are starting a business you will spend a great deal of time on the phone drumming up business. This included cell phones, fax machines and long-distance charges for 800 numbers. Then there was the equipment — phone equipment is purchased, but diagnostic is leased.

Equipment leasing was a big deal. Every new business wants to lease equipment, and not have a long-term contract that they are committed to, which is also personally guaranteed by the owners. Every equipment lessor wants long-term leases and will not do anything without a personal guarantee. Thus, a dilemma arises.

For us, that meant that we wanted, and would not sign, a long-term equipment lease. Our equipment cost is \$100,000, but I'm not going to buy it. I will lease it, but only for a short time. Six months was the longest lease I was willing to sign. We were able to negotiate hard, and with a couple of back-end options, we achieved a very favorable lease for our purposes.

Staffing is always a major expense of any new business. We had to plug in costs for high-level technicians, low-level technicians, administration people and marketing people. All of them have different rates, and depending on how much we used each one, and their position with the company — whether full time or part time — also affected their tax cost to us. We used a 20-percent tax burden for our salaried personnel. This is a crucial area and one that is frequently forgotten by new entrepreneurs. They look at the number of staff they have decided they need, and multiply by the rate, and use that as their "staff costs," but doing so will not show the tax burden of state and federal taxes, administration costs, payroll processing and bookkeeping costs. It is a small detail that can quickly become a big item.

Our technicians have three levels and three pay rates. The entry-level sleep technician earns between \$13 and \$19 an hour. The high-level techs earn between \$20 and \$25 per hour. Then there is the manager position, which is salaried, who oversees the scheduling, hiring, firing and general administration of the technicians. That position will have a base salary, plus employer tax burden, plus any benefits.

When considering staffing cuts, hourly employees have the most dramatic and immediate relief to payroll without killing a position. We can cut back on hours and not have to lose a person who is trained when times are tight. This cannot be done with a salaried person. They are either on or off, for the duration. Thus, to be on the safe side we projected a high pay rate for our technicians, so that we would have enough room to tighten our belts if we needed to later. This also increased the tax burden calculation, but we would have "wiggle room" if we needed it.

Part of any good business plan is having a worst-case scenario planned out. We needed to know what we were locked into paying and to whom. Having an exit plan, means considering the downside. More on that next week.

(David Pisarra is a business development lawyer in the Santa Monica firm of Pisarra & Grist. He welcomes your questions and comments. He can be reached at dpisarra@pisarra.com or 310/664-9969.)

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STATE



Great Communicator relied on wit, wisdom

BY JEFF WILSON
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — The world knew Ronald Reagan as the Great Communicator for his now-famous phrases on the national and world stages — from proclaiming “morning in America” to challenging the “evil empire.”

But one of Reagan’s great gifts was his ability to communicate on a much smaller scale, to connect with those he met on a personal level. Those who knew, including reporters who covered him regularly, found him always ready with a joke. Wit and down-home wisdom were his trademarks in almost any setting.

Reagan always brushed aside the Great Communicator label, saying, “I wasn’t a great communicator, but I communicated great things.”

One of the tragedies of his battle with Alzheimer’s, which he lost June 5 at age 93, is that the disease ended his ability to tell stories and jokes.

He spent the last decade of his life almost completely sheltered from the public and hadn’t recognized his own children in years.

Before his public disclosure that he was suffering from Alzheimer’s, when he poignantly told America that he had begun the journey that would take him into the sunset of his life, Reagan loved to tell stories.

In his post-White House years, he could enrapture a small crowd with the simple details of pruning oak trees, one of his favorite pastimes at his Santa Barbara County ranch.

“Well, that reminds me of a story,” Reagan would say whenever he began a tale, the room growing hushed.

In 1990, he told an Associated Press reporter about a brief trip to see the family’s future home while he was still president.

Nancy Reagan spirited him away from the Century Plaza Hotel in Century City to see the Bel-Air house she had found for their post-White House years. With a twinkle in his blue eyes, he related how he rode the five miles crouched on the floor of the sedan.

“If I went any place, the press would have been in attendance, and we didn’t want that publicity at the time,” he said. “She said if I was willing to get down on the floor of the car and go there, the press wouldn’t be following or any photographers or anything, so I did. I didn’t get up until we were in the driveway.”

To set a room at ease, Reagan often told jokes. One he told repeatedly was about a businessman who ordered flowers for the opening of his new office.

The man was shocked when the flowers arrived with a card reading, “Rest in peace.” He complained to the florist, who

told him, “Just remember that there’s somebody today getting the message, ‘Congratulations on your new location.’”

He also didn’t mind making fun of himself, particularly his age.

“I can remember when a hot story broke and reporters would run off and shout, ‘Stop the chisels,’” Reagan was fond of saying in his later years, referring jokingly to ancient text hammered into stone.

No matter how many times he repeated that joke, it always got a laugh.

One of the most touching aspects of the former president’s life was his relationship with Nancy. Their 52-year marriage was like a continuous love affair, eloquently illustrated during his burial last week when Nancy said her final goodbye, resting her head on his casket and crying.

In this, too, Reagan was a great communicator.

On their wedding anniversary each year, Reagan would write his wife a love letter. Nancy recently published a book of his letters to her.

On their 25th anniversary, the couple slid into a canoe Reagan had named “Tru Luv” and paddled onto a small lake on their 88-acre Rancho del Cielo.

“I’m old-fashioned, I know, but I thought it would be so romantic if he was playing a ukulele,” Mrs. Reagan once said.

“I don’t have a ukulele,” Reagan told her.

“I said, ‘That’s OK. You can hum,’” she laughed. And he did.

As Alzheimer’s tightened its grip on the former president, such moments became few. Still, his ability to communicate his love to his wife never disappeared entirely.

Once in recent years, Reagan was returning from a neighborhood walk when he strolled up the wrong driveway.

A Secret Service agent gently tried to correct him, telling him his house was up the street. Reagan, as if his detour had been planned, ripped a rose from a bush and said, “I know. I was getting this for my love.”

His last act may have been his greatest role as a communicator. It was certainly his most personal.

Nearing death at the family’s home, Reagan had not opened his eyes in days, had not spoken in weeks. Just before taking his last breath, his eyes opened, bright and blue, gazing straight at his wife to say “I love you” one final time. Nancy Reagan told her family that gaze was the greatest gift he could have given her.

“The last thing he did in this world was to show my mother how entwined their souls are,” their daughter, Patti Davis, wrote last week in *People* magazine. “And it was everything.”

Summer Guide 2004



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NATIONAL

Environmental groups steer into legal dead end

BY DEBBIE HUMMEL

Associated Press Writer

SALT LAKE CITY — The Supreme Court on Monday blocked a lawsuit that accused the federal government of doing too little to protect undeveloped Western land from off-road vehicles.

The court, on a 9-0 vote, said environmental groups cannot use courts to force the federal Bureau of Land Management to more aggressively safeguard about 2 million acres of potential wilderness in Utah.

Interior Department spokesman Tina Kreisher said the department was "pleased that the court has upheld the principle that the federal resource managers may use their expertise to make day-to-day management decisions without unnecessary litigation."

Environmentalists acknowledged defeat but said the lawsuit nonetheless heaped attention on the damage done by off-road vehicles.

"It is not going away and neither are we," said Heidi McIntosh, a staff attorney for Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance.

SUWA sued the BLM to force land managers to be more aggressive in protecting wilderness study areas adjacent to a state all-terrain vehicle park.

A federal judge threw out SUWA's case, but the group prevailed at the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver, which ruled BLM could be sued for allowing damage to the land.

The Justice Department appealed that decision to the Supreme Court.

Justice Antonin Scalia, writing for the court, said that Congress never envisioned "pervasive oversight by federal courts over the manner and pace of agency compliance."

Congress has the final say on wilderness protection, but land managers are supposed to preserve study areas should Congress

decide they should be formally protected.

"Even though ultimately we did not prevail in the Supreme Court, there have been a lot of changes as a result of this litigation— positive changes," McIntosh said. "It's put off-road vehicle use on the map for the first time in Utah."

As one such success, McIntosh points to a travel plan for ATV use that was established near Price in central Utah.

Scalia said the land management agency has discretion to oversee lands being considered for wilderness designation, including allowing off-road vehicles there.

He noted, however, that the off-road vehicles have had negative consequences, "including soil disruption and compaction, harassment of animals and annoyance of wilderness lovers."

But he wrote that the agency is doing what it can with "scarce resources and congressional silence with respect to wilderness designation."

McIntosh said the BLM spends too much of its time and resources on approving oil and gas leases on federal lands in Utah, giving short shrift to the off-road vehicle problem.

"The protection of wilderness suitability at 95 wilderness study areas encompassing more the 3.2 million acres is a top priority at our agency," said Don Banks, a spokesman with the BLM's Salt Lake City office.

Unsightly tracks left by the vehicles are just the beginning of the problem, conservationists say. The tires rip up pine saplings and other vegetation, including the threatened milk-vetch plant, and cause erosion that affects water quality. The diminished water quality affects other wildlife, McIntosh said.

The case is Norton v. Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, 03-101.

Bones of contention: Indians are reburied

By The Associated Press

CHEYENNE, Wyo. — The remains of two people, believed to be an American Indian woman and her grandson who died while traveling with a 19th-century wagon train, have been reburied after they were inadvertently unearthed during a construction project.

"We've done what we can to give these folks a decent burial," Laramie County Coroner Bill Ryan said of Friday's service.

The bones were uncovered in November during work on a subdivision in south Cheyenne.

The bodies were buried near each other sometime between 1860 and 1900, he said. The woman could have been from 56 to 59 and the child from 6 months to 1 year old. Cause of death is unknown. They likely were part of a wagon train traveling along Crow Creek to Fort D.A. Russell, now F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Ryan said.

The woman was an Indian who likely

married a European, although investigators could not determine her tribe. Several tribes traveled through the area including Oglala Sioux, Cheyenne and Arapaho, Ryan said.

She was buried with a mourning ring, which had a band of black through the center as typically worn by the English to display widow status. The child had a mixed heritage.

Other artifacts uncovered with the woman were buttons from a Western-style dress. The child was found with part of a tie-up shoe.

Members of the Indian community paid their respects to the unknown pair because they could have been ancestors.

"It goes deeper than the fact that they found somebody," said Don Sanders, a member of the Oglala Lakota tribe. In the past, many makeshift graves were desecrated, he said. Funerals such as the one at Lakeview Cemetery set a precedent for properly honoring those dead, Sanders said.

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NATIONAL



Lack of energy: Enron may have gouged \$1.1B

BY GENE JOHNSON

Associated Press Writer

SEATTLE — Enron Corp.'s manipulation of energy markets gouged Western customers for at least \$1.1 billion, according to audiotapes and documents released Monday by the same utility that uncovered tapes of traders laughing about cheating grandmothers on their electricity bills.

The Snohomish County Public Utility District analyzed the records in hopes of defending itself against a \$122 million lawsuit filed by Enron, which has accused it of illegally breaking its contract with the company. The utility claims the contract was void because Enron engaged in fraudulent business practices to drive up the cost of energy during the 2000-01 power crunch.

Enron has sued several other Western utilities for more than \$500 million based on similar claims. If the Snohomish PUD loses its case, the average cost to each of its 290,000 customers would be \$420, the utility said.

U.S. Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., used the evidence to demand a new investigation by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. She said the agency's failure to uncover Enron's schemes wound up hurting thousands of energy customers, and that FERC tried to keep the utility district from getting access to Enron's tapes.

Cantwell, a Snohomish County resident, said that since Enron's market manipulation forced the Snohomish PUD to raise rates in January 2001, she has paid an extra \$800 for electricity — and her usage is about 20 percent lower than the average Snohomish PUD ratepayer.

"When are you going to give justice to the individuals who have been hurt by this Enron market manipulation?" Cantwell asked. "If the federal oversight regulators aren't going to do their job, then they should get out of the way and quit obstructing justice."

FERC spokesman Bryan Lee said the agency would review the documents to see what new information they contained. He denied that the agency had tried to suppress any information.

Energy traders routinely keep tapes of their phone calls as a record of oral contracts. Last month, the Snohomish PUD unveiled profanity-laced transcripts of

Enron traders gleefully joking about stealing money from "those poor grandmothers" in California during the state's energy crunch.

The utility on Monday released more than 750 pages of financial documents dated from January 2000 to mid-June 2001 that it said show Enron manipulated the market on 473 of the 537 days during that period.

Among the records were accounting sheets that showed how Enron executed its trading schemes, said utility lawyer Eric Christensen. In one example of a "ricochet" scheme, Enron made \$222,678 in a three-hour period by shipping power from California to Oregon, masking the original source of the power, and then selling it back to California for \$750 per megawatt hour.

The records also show that Enron employed at least five other schemes, dubbed "sidewinder," "ping pong," "donkey punch," "spread play" and "Russian roulette."

In one of the newly released transcripts, an Enron employee says, "If the line's not congested I just look to congest it. ... If you can congest it, that's a money-maker no matter what." The documents also show that Enron maintained five separate sets of accounting records.

The Snohomish PUD is also seeking to convince a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission administrative law judge that Enron should be ordered to surrender up to \$2 billion in ill-gotten gains.

Sens. Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein of California want their state to receive at least \$8.9 billion in refunds and an order that long-term contracts made under manipulated prices be re-negotiated.

An administrative law judge's finding that Enron should forfeit \$32.5 million in unjust profits is pending before FERC.

Enron refused to comment on the records except to say it is cooperating with all investigations.

Other companies have reached settlements stemming from the Western energy crisis. California parties have settled complaints with Tulsa, Okla.-based Williams Cos. for \$1.4 billion and Houston-based El Paso Corp. for \$1.7 billion. Dynegy Inc. and NRG Energy Inc. in April struck a deal to wipe out more than \$280 million in unpaid electricity bills during California's energy crisis.

Authorities ID jumper who leapt from chopper

By The Associated Press

GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK, Ariz. — Authorities on Monday identified a tourist who jumped to his death from a Grand Canyon tour helicopter as a 25-year-old from Illinois.

The man was identified as Timothy Clam, said park spokeswoman Leah McGinnis. She would not disclose Clam's hometown.

McGinnis said Clam was sitting in the co-pilot's seat Thursday when he unbuckled his seatbelt, opened the door and started to jump. She said the pilot struggled to

keep Clam in his seat while maintaining control of the helicopter.

But Clam managed to jump, and the pilot had to pull Clam's headset back in the helicopter and shut the door, McGinnis said.

Clam fell 4,000 feet to his death in steep terrain near White's Butte, about 90 miles northwest of Flagstaff.

McGinnis said the pilot and four passengers, all unrelated to Clam, were shaken by the incident, but none were injured.

Officials are calling the death an apparent suicide, but are still investigating.

Bitch! Whine! Complain!

Check Out the Question of the Week on Page 3 and let us hear what you have to say

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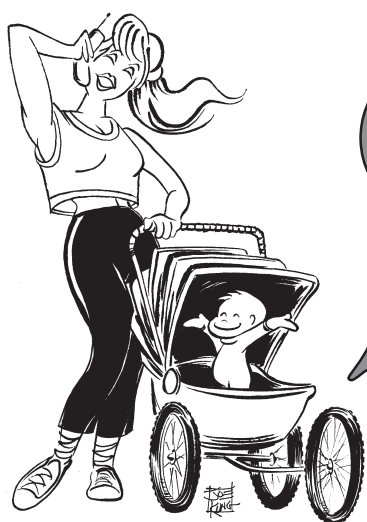
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How Much Is Enough?

By David J. Bredehoft

It could be that children today are more overindulged than we were, but then again, doesn't every generation look back on their own formative years through rosy glasses, and at the generation directly following them with critical eyes wide open?

Approximately 2,350 years ago, Socrates made the following observation about children in his time: "The children now love luxury; they show disrespect for elders and love to chatter in place of exercise. Children are tyrants, not the servants of their households. They no longer rise when their elders enter the room. They contradict their parents, chatter before company, gobble up dainties at the table, cross their legs and tyrannize over their teachers."

Fast forward a couple thousand years and Socrates' words sound very much like children in 2004.

One way to think about the question (Are today's children more overindulged than children growing up in the past?) is to look at today's numbers.

A 2001 Time/CNN poll asked and found the following:

1. Are children today more or less spoiled than children 10 or 15 years ago? **80% more.**
2. Are your own children spoiled or not spoiled? **68% very/somewhat spoiled.**
3. Do children today have to do fewer or more chores? **75% fewer.**
4. Are your children exposed to too much advertising when it comes to toys and games they might buy? **71% too much advertising.**

• Companies spend an estimated \$14.4 billion dollars annually to advertise products to kids.

• Children become brand conscious by age 3, and half ask for specific brands by age 5.

• Children influence parental decisions to the tune of \$290 billion annually.

• Children 18 and under spend \$150 billion each year.

• Americans under 25 spend 5 times more money than their parents did at that age.

• The average credit card debt for college freshmen is \$1,533. The average credit card debt for college seniors is \$3,262. 4% of college freshmen have debt over \$7,000.

• Experts figure the annual 'tween-age' (5-12 yr. olds) buying power at about \$85 billion.

• U.S. teens spend, on average, \$80 per shopping trip to the mall.

• Average back-to-school spending per family in 2003 was \$450.76 for a total of \$14.1 billion dollars.

• A growing number of parents are leaving school shopping to their 'tween-age' children.

• 50% of teenagers (14-16) say they've received little or no financial advice from their parents.

• The fastest growing bankruptcy rate is among adults under 25.

• On average, a child spends four hours in front of the TV each day and views 40,000 commercials per year.

• A recently released study found that for every hour of TV watched daily by 3-year-olds, there was a 10% increased risk of attention deficit problems by age 7.

• Of the typical 48 hours spent weekly on household chores, children average 6 hours, husbands average 10 hours and wives 32.

• 56.9 percent of 16- to 19-year-olds worked or looked for a job last summer [2002] — the lowest percentage since 1964, according to the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics. The rate has been declining steadily since 1978, when it peaked at 69.1 percent.

Now that you have read the numbers, how would you answer the question? Are children more overindulged today than we were?

Some tips for avoiding overindulgence:

Set limits on how much TV your children can watch and enforce them.

Teach your children to do chores.

Talk about money management with your children.

Educate your children about the effects of advertisements. Teach the difference between wants and needs.

Become a good role model for your child. Talk the talk and walk the walk. Set a goal of eating one well-balanced meal as a family each day.

Limit the number of fast food meals you and your children consume.

There is more help about avoiding overindulgence in "How Much is Enough? Everything You Need to Know to Steer Clear of Overindulgence and Raise Likable, Responsible, and Respectful Children."

(David J. Bredehoft Ph.D., Jean Illsley Clarke Ph.D., and Connie Dawson Ph.D., are coauthors of How Much Is Enough? Everything You Need to Know to Steer Clear of Overindulgence and Raise Likable, Responsible and Respectful Children — From Toddlers to Teens. David can be reached at bredehoft@csp.edu. To read more about overindulgence go to www.overindulgence.info)

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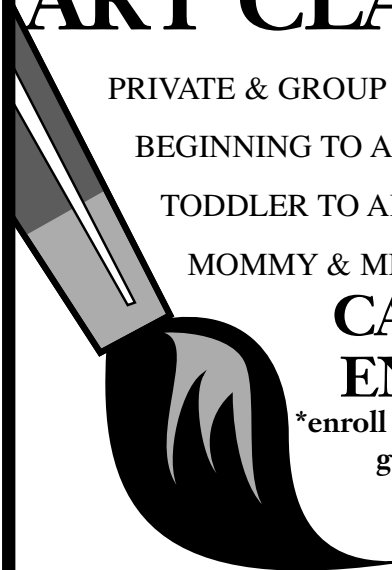
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SPECIAL EVENTS

FATHER’S DAY, SUNDAY, JUNE 20
MAIN STREET SUMMER SOLSTICE – 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Featuring Tribute bands, Sidewalk Sale, Scavenger Hunt and Kid’s Activities. On Main Street between Pico and Marine. Visit www.mainstreetsm.com for more info.

FAMILY FUNDAYS at the Will Geer Theatricum Botanicum. Featuring storyteller Michael D. McCarty weaving golden folktales. Ages 4 and up, 11:00 a.m., \$8, 1419 N. Topanga Blvd., Topanga Canyon, 310-455-3723.

“REAL MEN COOK” – features the culinary creations of more than 100 men, along with the attendance of selected celebrity chefs. 3 – 6:00 p.m., Exposition Park, LA, 310-714-1449, reallmencook.com.

SAND ART at the Zimmer Children’s Museum – can’t get to the beach? Let imaginations run wild as children make beautiful creations out of sand. All dads free today! \$3 + museum admission fee, 2 - 4:00 p.m., 6505 Wilshire Blvd., LA, 323-761-8989

FATHER’S DAY TRAIN TRIP – relax on a 2 _ hour scenic train ride through the beautiful Heritage Valley as you enjoy a wonderful Father’s Day lunch. 11:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., adults - \$43, children 4-12 - \$23. Fillmore & Western Railway Co., 250 Central Ave., Fillmore, 805-524-2546, fwry.com.

ARTFUL WEEKENDS at the GETTY – Saturdays and Sundays, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Parents are invited to join their children in an outdoor, drop-in workshop. Create masterpieces and visit others in the gallery. Free admission, \$5 parking. Family Room Patio, 1200 Getty Center Dr., 440-7330, www.getty.edu.

The YMCA is currently accepting registration for the summer session of programs for infants, toddlers and children, including Parent and Me Gym/Swim, Toddler Time, Tiny Tumblers and more. Call 393-2721 or stop by the YMCA at 1332 6th St. for more info.

The YWCA is currently accepting registration for a variety of summer programs for women and children including Mommy and Me, Pilates, dance, crafts, tumbling and more. Pick up a brochure for more info. 2019 14th St., 452-3881

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

PARENTING WORKSHOP – Falling in Love and Staying in Love with your Kids

Saturday, July 10, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Skirball Cultural Center, LA. Register now for this parent training course conducted by Connie Lillas Ph.D. MFT, RN, parent, nurse, marriage, family and child therapist and psychoanalyst. Keynote Address by Mary Hartzell: Raising a Child to Thrive – It’s All About Relationship. To register call 888-992-9199 from 7:30 a.m. – noon. Limited to 175 people, first come/first served. \$40 includes training, parking, coffee and lunch.

TUESDAY

Movies for Moms sponsored by: “THE STEPFORD WIVES” showing June 13. 11:00 a.m., Loews Broadway, 1441 3rd St. Promenade – for Moms and babies newborn – 1 year old. Doors open early for socializing and getting comfortable. www.enjoytheshow.com/reelmoms. Starring Nicole Kidman, Matthew Broderick and Bette Midler. Rated PG-13. Based on a book by Ira Levin about a couple who move to a quaint suburb where most of the women seem to have the same bland personality.

Storytelling

MAIN LIBRARY
Toddler Storytime at Reed Park; 10:00 & 10:30 a.m. Stories for two year olds with adult.
Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.
Cuentos Para Pequenos – 10:00 a.m., next session is June 22 – Aug. 10. Six-week series in Spanish for 24 – 36 month olds with adult.
Lap Time – 11:00 a.m, next session is June 22 – Aug. 10. Six-week series for babies 0-24 months, co-sponsored by the SMMUSD Infant and Family Support Programs.
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 24-36 month olds with adult.
Tiny Tuesday Storytime at Storyopolis Themes change weekly; 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

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.
Itsy-Bitsy Yoga at Ocean Oasis Day Spa, 1333 Ocean Ave.

Tots (crawling to 24 months) – 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.; Babies (6 wks. to pre-crawling) – 11:30 – 12:30 a.m. On-going 6-week series; \$120. Pre-register at 458-8190; visit www.khefri.net for more info or contact khefri@earthlink.net.
Yoga Baby (Venice) – 310-306-9381 – Mommy & Me (ages 0-5 years) – 10 – 11 a.m.; Pre-natal yoga – 7- 8:15 p.m.
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 – 11870 Santa Monica Blvd, at the Dance Factory, West LA, 310-394-6711. Pregnancy Exercise – 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.; Post Partum Exercise – 10:15 – 11:15 a.m. (babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)

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.
Preschool Story Time – 10:30 a.m., next session June 23 – Aug. 11; six-week series for 3-5 year olds with adult.
Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.
Lap Time - 10:00 & 10:30 a.m., for children ages 0-2.
Toddler Story Time – 11:15 a.m., for 2 year olds.
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.

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Baby (Venice) – 310-306-9381 – Mommy & Me (ages 0-5 years) – 10 – 11 a.m.; (infants only) – 1 – 2 p.m.. Pre-natal yoga – 11:15 a.m. – 12 :30 p.m.
Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45pm, \$15
Ocean Oasis Day Spa, 1333 Ocean Avenue, 458-8190. Pre/Post Natal Yoga/Gentle Flow – 5:30 – 6:45 p.m. Private sessions available; call Kate Thomas, RN – 408-1717

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

Storytelling

Babystyle, 1324 Montana Avenue, 434-9590 10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4.
Main Library – Reed Park
Toddler Storytime at Reed Park; 10:00 a.m.; for 2 year olds.
Preschool Story Time at Reed Park; 10:30 a.m.; for ages 3-5.
Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.
Toddler Story Time – 10:30 a.m; next session June 24 – Aug. 12; for ages 2 –3.
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.
Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St. – 310-392-3804.
Lap Time – 9:20 & 10:20 a.m. ,next session July 8 – Aug. 12). 6-week series for babies 0-24 months, co-sponsored by SMMUSD Infant & Family Support Program.

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 Baby (Venice) – 310-306-9381 – Mommy & Me (ages 0-5 years) – 10 – 11 a.m.; Pre-natal yoga – 7- 8:15 p.m.
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 – 11870 Santa Monica Blvd, at the Dance Factory, West LA, 310-394-6711. Pregnancy Exercise – 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.; Post Partum Exercise – 10:15 – 11:15 a.m. (babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)

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

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. (next meeting May 14)

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45 p.m., \$15.
Yoga Baby (Venice) – 310-306-9381 – Mommy & Me (ages 0-5 years) – 10 – 11 a.m.; (infants only) – 1 – 2 p.m.. Pre-natal yoga – 11:15 a.m. – 12 :30 p.m.
Ocean Oasis Day Spa, 1333 Ocean Avenue, 458-8190. Pre/Post Natal Yoga/Gentle Flow – 10:30 – 11:45 a.m.; Yoga for Fitness – noon – 1 p.m Private sessions available; call Kate Thomas, RN – 408-1717
PRENATAL BREATH AND MOVEMENT – a Continuum Movement and Yoga-based program designed to support women through various sound and movement explorations that celebrate pregnancy and labor as powerful rites of passage. 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
With Deborah Raoult at the Continuum Studio, 1629 18th St., #7. For more info call 625-3739, www.openskymovement.com. \$108 for a six-week session.

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-BOOK.

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
Yoga Baby (Venice) – 310-306-9381; Prenatal yoga – 9:15 – 10:45 a.m., \$13
Mommy Care – 11870 Santa Monica Blvd. at the Dance Factory, West LA, 394-6711; Pregnancy Exercise – 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.; Post Partum Exercise – 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. (babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)
Ocean Oasis Day Spa, 1333 Ocean Avenue, 458-8190. Pre/Post Natal Yoga/Gentle Flow – 10:30 – 11:45 a.m.; Yoga for Fitness – noon – 1 p.m. Private sessions available; call Kate Thomas, RN – 408-1717

Other

Snowwhite, a brand new musical for kids of all ages, at the Santa Monica Playhouse Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m. thru Sept. 26, \$12 adults, \$10 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 1 for reservations, www.santamonica-playhouse.com
Puppetolio – 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested
Magicopolis – 2 and 8 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$20 for evening, \$15 for matinee. Call 310-451-2241 for info.
Precious Prints – Ceramic Heirlooms for a Lifetime
Second Saturday every month at The Pump Station, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Contact

Kristan Ritchie at 310-802-8013 or visit www.preciousprintsstudios.com for more info.

Breastfeeding

Working Mother’s Support Group
The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd. - 10:00 – 11:30 a.m., \$12 fee, led by Ilka Sternberger, certified lactation educator. Call 826-5774 for more info.

SUNDAY – HAPPY FATHER’S DAY!

See the Special Events section for some fun ways to celebrate!
Snowwhite, a brand new musical for kids of all ages, at the Santa Monica Playhouse Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m. thru Sept. 26, \$12 adults, \$10 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 1 for reservations, www.santamonica-playhouse.com
Main Street Farmer’s Market – 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., corner of Main St. and Ocean Park Blvd. Pony rides, live music, lots of vendors and great family socializing.
Puppetolio – 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested
Magicopolis – 2 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$15. Call 310-451-2241 for info.

MONDAY

Storytelling

Main Library – Lap Time at Joslyn Park, 9:30 a.m., thru July 26th (no Lap Time on July 5th) Ages 0-24 months with adult in conjunction with the Infant and Family Support program of SMMUSD.
“Family Connections” is on summer break. Check back here for the fall start-up date.
Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main Street, 310-392-3804.
“Spanish for Little Ones”, 11:15 a.m., call for next session dates.
Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade – Toddler Story Time – 10am – 310-260-9110

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.yogagardenstudios.com
Yoga Baby (Venice) – 310-306-9381 – Mommy & Me (ages 0-5 years) – 10 – 11 a.m.; (infants only) – 1 – 2 p.m.. Pre-natal yoga – 11:15 a.m. – 12 :30 p.m.
Ocean Oasis Day Spa, 1333 Ocean Avenue, 458-8190. Pre/Post Natal Yoga/Gentle Flow – 10:30 – 11:45 a.m.; Yoga for Fitness – noon – 1 p.m. Private sessions available; call Kate Thomas, RN – 408-1717

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NATIONAL

Governors differ in ways to pay their respects

BY SARAH LINN
Associated Press Writer

PORTLAND, Ore. — It was a message mourners at the funeral of Gary Van Leuven wanted to hear — the Marine lance corporal did not die in vain in Iraq. But the words carried particular weight because of who delivered them: Gov. Ted Kulongoski.

A former Marine himself, Kulongoski has attended memorial services for more than a dozen of the 23 servicemen with Oregon ties who have been killed in the Iraq war, and he has often delivered the eulogy.

Attending the funerals “probably means more to me than anything I have done,” the Democrat said in an interview.

With each body that is returned home, the nation’s governors must decide the most appropriate way to pay their respects. Some send condolences, or telephone the grieving family, or send someone to the funeral in their place. Some go to the funerals but only rarely give a eulogy. Very few regularly attend memorial

services.

It is a tricky decision. Politicians who attend funerals for the war dead can be accused of trying to draw attention to themselves. But a leader who avoids public displays of sympathy runs the risk of appearing uncaring.

President Bush has been criticized for not attending any soldier’s funeral since hostilities in Iraq began in 2003. “The president mourns the loss of each and every soldier,” said White House spokesman Ken Lisaius. “He doesn’t want to elevate or diminish one over the other.”

Gov. Jim Doyle of Wisconsin has attended funerals for many soldiers from his state. “It’s important for families to know the whole state feels their loss and is there for them,” spokesman Dan Leistikow said.

Republican Gov. Rick Perry of Texas has appeared at some funerals of that state’s war dead. But he does not tell reporters, because he does not want to draw attention from the soldier, said spokesman Robert Clark.

And he and Wisconsin’s governor

rarely deliver a eulogy.

Instead of attending memorial services, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger of California sends eulogies as news releases to the media, veterans’ organizations and other groups. Schwarzenegger and his wife, Maria Shriver, also send letters of condolence to the families.

Mark Petracca, a political science professor at the University of California at Irvine, said Schwarzenegger’s approach makes sense, because an appearance by the former movie star at a soldier’s funeral could turn it into a media spectacle.

In Pennsylvania, Gov. Edward Rendell has called some of the relatives of soldiers from that state killed in Iraq. He has also sent representatives, including the lieutenant governor, to memorial services.

Rendell has attended one funeral — that of Sgt. Sherwood Baker of the Pennsylvania National Guard, whose mother was Rendell’s deputy mayor when he served as mayor of Philadelphia.

“The governor is sensitive to politicizing the funerals and drawing attention to himself,” said Rendell spokesman Adrian

King. But also, as governor of a large state, “it’d literally be a full-time job” to attend soldiers’ funerals, King said.

In Oregon, Kulongoski said at Van Leuven’s funeral in Coos Bay in April: “We will continue to debate the merits of this war. That is democracy. That is what free people do.” But he also said there is no doubt that the 20-year-old Van Leuven died a hero because he was fighting for Iraqis’ freedom.

Christine Dybevik, Van Leuven’s mother, said she was impressed with how Kulongoski conducted himself.

“He wasn’t pretentious. He wasn’t political. He was a man sending his condolences to our family,” said Dybevik, whose son was killed by a sniper’s bullet on April 17.

Oregon Republican Party Chairman Kevin Mannix, who narrowly lost to Kulongoski in the 2002 governor’s race, said: “The governor has shown good moral support for men and women in uniform. “I may be critical of Governor Kulongoski on other issues, but not this one.”

The coast was clear all along during Mayday hoax

BY MATT VOLZ
Associated Press Writer

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — A Coast Guard seaman’s apprentice has pleaded guilty to radioing a Mayday hoax in which he pretended to be two fishing vessels in need of rescue.

Robert T. Tolson made the false distress call last December while his San Diego-based cutter was laid over in Kodiak for supplies and fuel, Chief Petty Officer Marshalena Delaney said Thursday. The cutter had been on a fishing patrol in the Pacific Ocean.

Tolson pleaded guilty to the hoax on June 3 in a special court-martial proceeding in San Diego. He was sentenced to

five months in the Naval Brig at Marine Corps Air Base Miramar, after which he is to be discharged, Delaney said.

“Making a hoax call is a very serious incident,” Delaney said. “The worst thing that could possibly happen is if a real rescue situation had taken place while we were out chasing shadows.”

Tolson made the Mayday call over VHF-FM radio channel 16, the international hailing and distress channel, on Dec. 12, identifying himself as the fishing boat Ashanti, according to Capt. Michael Neussl, commander of the Coast Guard Air Station Kodiak.

Tolson said the boat was carrying about two dozen passengers and its deck was awash with 2 feet of water, Neussl said.

Tolson then pretended to be aboard another fishing boat, the Merrimack, which was responding to the Ashanti’s call but struck some rocks and began taking on water, Neussl said.

Tolson invented both boats and their names, Delaney said.

For up to two hours, Tolson used different voices to represent the vessels involved in the phony rescue.

“He was masterfully playing a variety of roles and keeping them all straight,” said Neussl, who was monitoring the radio calls.

A helicopter was diverted to find the boats and four Coast Guard cutters in Kodiak were preparing to assist in the rescue.

But then Tolson pretended to be a real

Coast Guard officer aboard his own cutter. That officer heard the imitation over the radio and called to say it was not her.

“He got tripped up when he started playing the role of a Coast Guard cutter,” Neussl said. “I think his story got a little too complex for him to keep track of.”

A public affairs officer for the Coast Guard in San Diego said she was not aware of the case and that Tolson’s age and hometown were not immediately known.

“I was disappointed to hear that a Coast Guard member perpetrated this act,” Capt. John A. Schott, chief of operations for the 17th Coast Guard District, said in a news release. “I am glad to see the Coast Guard is taking decisive action on this case.”



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INTERNATIONAL



Suicide car bomber kills a dozen people in Baghdad

BY ROBERT H. REID

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A car bomb exploded during rush hour Monday on a busy street in Baghdad, killing 12 people — five of them foreigners working to rebuild Iraq's power plants. Dozens of people were injured, including three other foreigners.

A second car bomb went off Monday near the town of Salman Pak southeast of Baghdad. Police said a gray Opel drove between police vehicles and exploded, killing four people and injuring four others.

Col. Adnan Abdul-Rahman of the Interior Ministry said the foreigners in the Baghdad bombing were French, but the British Foreign Office said two Britons died and added there could be other British casualties. The reason for the discrepancy was unclear.

The bomb in Baghdad went off as three SUVs carrying the contractors were passing through Tahrir Square in the center of the city. Five other vehicles were also destroyed, as well as nearby shops and a two-story house.

Iraqi civil defense Col. Qadri Abdul-Latif said at least 12 people were killed, many of them in the surrounding buildings.

The attack unleashed fresh anger at the United States.

As bystanders crammed bodies into pickup trucks to rush them to hospitals, a

crowd gathered at the scene, shouting "Down with the USA!" and setting fire to an American flag. A group of about 20 young men danced around a charred body.

American troops beat one man with a stick; but after trying in vain to restrain the crowd, the troops and police withdrew from the area.

"We deplore this terrorist act and vow to bring these criminals to justice as soon as possible," Prime Minister Iyad Allawi said after the attack.

Allawi said the foreign victims of the Baghdad bombing were helping to rebuild power plants, but did not identify them by nationality.

There have been 17 car bombings and a near-daily string of other attacks in Iraq this month. On Sunday, 12 people were killed in a car bombing near a U.S. garrison in Baghdad, and gunmen assassinated another member of the new Iraqi government, an Education Ministry official.

The violence, nearly two weeks before the formal end of the U.S.-led occupation, has stunned Iraq's new government, which had hoped to gain public support as the legitimate representatives of the Iraqi nation.

Capt. Issam Ali, security officer at the Neurological Hospital, said three dead and 14 injured had been brought there, many with serious burns and lost limbs. Al-Kindi Hospital reported receiving 29 injured.

American authorities had feared an escalation of violence in the run-up to the

June 30 handover of sovereignty. But they hoped the recent establishment of a sovereign Iraqi government would drain support for the insurgency, allowing security to improve so that balloting for an elected administration can be held by the end of January.

However, two members of the interim government have now been assassinated since its establishment on June 1. Kamal al-Jarah, 63, an Education Ministry official in charge of contacts with foreign governments and the United Nations, was fatally shot outside his home in Baghdad Sunday.

He was killed a day after the deputy foreign minister, Bassam Salih Kubba, was gunned down while driving to work. Both attacks happened in predominantly Sunni Muslim neighborhoods.

Two other top Iraqi officials — both with the police force — narrowly escaped death over the weekend.

Allawi accused Jordanian-born terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi of trying to disrupt the transfer of sovereignty.

"Al-Zarqawi and his followers are earnestly working to prevent the success of this measure," he said.

"I want our people to be patient this month against those forces which are trying to assault them, and I promise the people that we are going to get rid of them and victory will be ours to build the a free and decent Iraq life."

Rather than going after top government figures who are well protected, the insur-

gents appear to be targeting middle and upper level officials who lack adequate security.

Industry Minister Hakim al-Hasni said the assassinations are an attempt to stop Iraq's progress toward sovereignty.

"They are not a resistance because they are resisting their own people. They are killing the highly qualified people. What kind of a resistance is this?" he told Al-Arabiya television.

In Washington, Secretary of State Colin Powell said U.S. forces would do "everything we can to try to defeat these murderers." However, Powell told "Fox News Sunday" that "it's hard to protect an entire government."

Underscoring those difficulties, a rocket exploded Sunday in the Green Zone, causing minor damage to the Republican Palace where U.S. administrator L. Paul Bremer maintains his offices. No casualties were reported, but U.S. Apache attack helicopters roamed the skies overhead looking for the assailants.

Sunday's car bombing occurred near the U.S. Army's Camp Cuervo in eastern Baghdad. The 12 dead included Iraqi four policemen, officials said, but there were no American casualties.

Thirteen Iraqis were injured in the blast, which occurred about 9:15 a.m. after police flagged down a vehicle traveling on the wrong side of the road. The driver detonated the explosives as police approached.

WORLD BRIEFLY

Europeans casting doubt

By The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — Elections for the European Union's parliament were marked by widespread apathy and protest votes as citizens of the 25 EU nations punished their governments for everything from high unemployment to involvement in Iraq.

Across the continent, voters voiced discontent by casting ballots for opposition and fringe parties.

Voters punished leaders in Britain, the Netherlands, and to some degree Italy for getting involved in Iraq — but also turned their ire on German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and French President Jacques Chirac, Europe's leading opponents of the war.

The outcome highlighted anxieties about the expanding union, with anti-EU parties gaining ground in Britain, Sweden, and even the Czech Republic.

Overall, center-right parties won, with the European People's Party taking 269 seats in the 732-member EU assembly and retaining its plurality.

The center-left European Socialist Party finished second with 199 seats. The third-largest group in the EU assembly was the Liberal Democrats with 66.

The Greens won 39 seats, while the left-leaning and communist European United Left group won 37 seats.

Nuclear watchdog keeps eye on Iran

By The Associated Press

VIENNA, Austria — In comments suggesting exasperation with Iran, the head of the U.N. atomic watchdog agency urged it Monday to replace foot-dragging with "full cooperation" with his agency's probe of suspicious nuclear activities.

Mohamed ElBaradei, director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, spoke outside a meeting of the IAEA's 35-nation board of governors, which will review Iran's record of working with the agency.

An Iran resolution will likely be presented during the meeting, which began Monday. The gathering will review an agency report that notes Iran's cooperation in granting IAEA inspectors access to sites but otherwise gives it low marks in eliminating concerns about activities that the United States and its allies say point to attempts to make nuclear weapons.

Iran long has rejected U.S. allegations its nuclear program is for military purposes.

Iran insists its uranium enrichment program — which could be used to make bombs, once fully operational — is geared solely to generating electricity.

Bevy of bishops to commune

By The Associated Press

Internal rifts over the politics of Holy Communion and the handling of the clergy sex abuse crisis have become uncomfortably public for the Roman Catholic church.

In a private retreat set to begin Monday, U.S. Roman Catholic bishops will discuss those and other issues the church now faces.

Bishops disagree on whether Catholic lawmakers at odds with church teaching should receive the sacrament. They've sparked a national debate on the issue as a Catholic who supports abortion rights — John Kerry — is poised to become the Democratic nominee for president.

The bishops also will decide whether to override the objections of some U.S. church leaders and authorize a second round of audits of American dioceses — reviews that are aimed at determining whether the dioceses are doing enough to combat the molestation scandal.

Bishops hope to emerge from the weeklong meeting in Englewood, Colo., with a more unified message on both fronts, church observers say.

Bush gets sinking feeling on birthday

By The Associated Press

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — After floating down to Earth in a 13,000-foot skydive, former President George Bush had a message for all those who, like him, have reached the age of 80.

"Get out and do something," Bush said. "Just don't watch TV."

Strapped to an Army parachuting expert to ensure his safety, Bush jumped out of an airplane over his presidential museum Sunday to culminate a weekend of birthday celebrations.

He made a tandem jump — harnessed to a member of an Army's Golden Knights parachute team — after officials decided the wind conditions and low clouds made it too dangerous for Bush to jump alone, which he did when he turned 75.

Among those watching were his wife, Barbara, his son, Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, and former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

The elder Bush made his first parachute jump as a 20-year-old Navy pilot shot down over the Pacific during World War II. In 1992, he bailed out over Yuma, Ariz., fulfilling a wartime promise he made to himself that someday he'd jump from a plane for fun. Five years ago, he made a similar jump over College Station, and earlier Sunday made a practice tandem jump before the main event.

The skydive capped two days of birthday festivities for Bush.

In the eye of the storm

By The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Severe thunderstorms swept through the Midwest, felling trees, cutting power and spawning tornadoes that destroyed homes and overturned cars.

Crews worked to restore power to thousands of residents this week, following storms that caused at least one traffic death and a drowning.

About 110,000 customers in Kansas and Missouri lost power during the storm, and many remained without electricity Sunday.

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson

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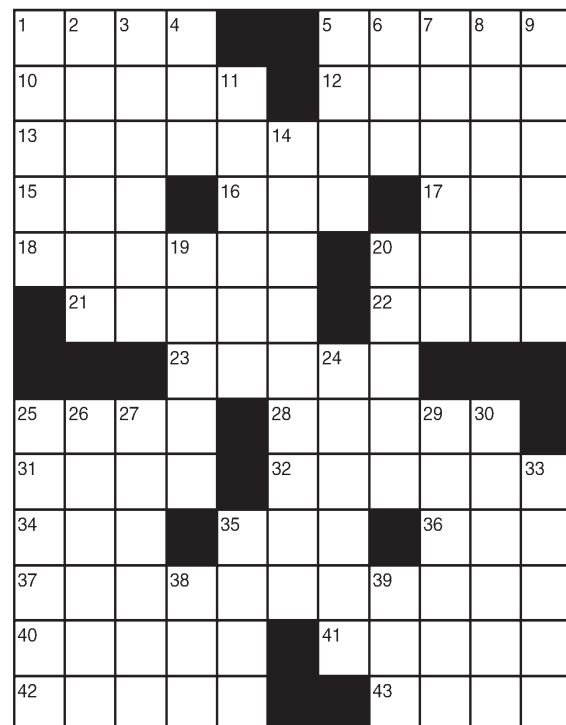
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Yesterday's answer

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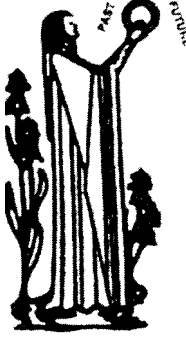
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Peace out: Organizers pull plug on music festival

By The Associated Press

■ **HANOI, Vietnam** — Organizers of the biggest international music concert ever scheduled in Vietnam have canceled the event less than two weeks before the show, but it was unclear why.

The 2nd annual World Peace Music Awards had been set for June 22 at Hanoi's National Stadium, with well-known artists including Lionel Richie, Gloria Gaynor, Hootie and the Blowfish and the Black Eyed Peas expected to perform.

Chief Executive Producer Matt Taylor issued an e-mail Saturday saying the concert, organized to honor artists who have devoted their lives to promoting world peace, had been called off because of "insurmountable circumstances completely beyond our control."

Taylor wouldn't elaborate Sunday on what happened, saying only that the cancellation had nothing to do with the communist government in Hanoi.

"We feel extremely saddened for the Vietnamese people," he said by telephone from Mountain View, Calif. "They have worked so hard, but at the end of the day, it's not anybody's fault. It's not a lack of will on anybody's part."

The Vietnamese government had approved the show and was involved in organizing it. Taylor said it was still possible to reschedule it later this year.

The concert, supported by the United Nations, was intended to honor musicians including Bob Dylan, Joan Baez and Peter, Paul and Mary for their songs that spurred protest in the United States during the Vietnam War.

Twenty-five artists from around the world were expected to take part with some proceeds benefiting victims of Agent Orange, the chemical defoliant the U.S. military used during the Vietnam War.

The first World Peace Music Awards took place last year in Bali, Indonesia.

■ **SHANGHAI, China** — Meryl Streep says she's a fan of Chinese cinema and wants more people to learn about the country's films.

"I love Chinese movies and don't get enough of them in the United States and that's why people hold film festivals to make others aware of films in other countries," said Streep, quoted in Monday's Shanghai Daily newspaper.

The American actress was in China on Sunday to present the Shanghai International Film Festival's best film award to Iranian director Khosro Masumi for the prison drama "Tradition of Lover-Killing."

The festival's Grand Jury Prize went to the Chinese movie "Jasmine Women," co-starring Joan Chen and Zhang Ziyi. South Korea's Lee Je-yong won the best director award for "Untold Scandal," according to the festival's Web site.

Sweden's Andreas Wilson took home the best actor prize for his portrayal of a troubled teen in "Evil," while China's Gu Meihua won best actress for her role in the nostalgic family drama "Shanghai Story."

Judges included France's Olivier Assayas, whose "Clean" won a best actress award for Hong Kong's Maggie Cheung at this year's Cannes Film Festival.

Streep, the 54-year-old star of films including "Sophie's Choice" and "Out of Africa," received a lifetime achievement award last week from the American Film Institute.

■ **NEW YORK** — The husband and wife duo David Finckel and Wu Han are the new artistic directors of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center.

Finckel is the cellist with the Emerson String Quartet, which was awarded the \$50,000 Avery Fisher Prize in April. His pianist wife performs with orchestras, as a soloist and with Finckel. They have released seven joint recordings on their Internet-based label, ArtistLed, most

recently works by Schubert.

The couple also ran the SummerFest La Jolla series in La Jolla, Calif., for three seasons and started Music(at)Menlo in Silicon Valley last summer.

"David Finckel and Wu Han are not only brilliant performing artists but true innovators," CMS Executive Director Norma Hurlburt said in a statement. "They bring great imagination to their programming, and communicate a great sense of excitement about the repertoire. I can't imagine a better fit for CMS at this time."

They will present their first programmed season in 2006-07, although their appointment is effective immediately, the 35-year-old society said Monday.

"The opportunity to lead the Chamber Music Society forward while building upon its venerable mission is a privileged responsibility, one to which we pledge the same passion and pursuit of excellence that guide our performing careers," the couple said in a statement.

They succeed clarinetist David Shifrin, who held the post from 1992-2004.

■ **SYDNEY, Australia** — Primetime entertainment turned into political protest in Australia when a contestant evicted from hit reality television show "Big Brother" staged a silent sit-in against the detention of asylum seekers.

After being voted off the show Sunday night — or "evicted" as they call it on the program — 24-year-old Merlin Luck was whisked to a nearby television studio for a live post-eviction interview with host Gretel Killeen.

But instead of the usual gushing question-and-answer session, Luck sat silently, his mouth taped shut, holding a poster made from black tape stuck to paper that read "Free th refugees." (The letter "e" from the word "the" apparently fell off somewhere between the "Big Brother" house and the studio.)

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