

FREE

TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 2003

Volume 2, Issue 185

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

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FANTASY 5

21-13-29-03-22

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 8,5,7

Evening picks: 3,3,3

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 01, Gold Rush

2nd Place: 03, Hot Shot

3rd Place: 06, Whirl Win

Race Time: 1:47.08



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

■ Police chief Beverly Lennen instituted an advance-reservations system at the jail to serve activists who wanted to be arrested protesting a visit by President Bush (Santa Fe, N.M.).

■ The museum director who housed Marco Evaristi's installation, in which patrons were invited to turn on a live goldfish-containing blender, was acquitted of animal cruelty charges because the two unlucky fish died instantly (Copenhagen, Denmark).

■ Five stowaways, having boarded a ship in Buenaventura, Colombia, bound for Miami, emerged joyously when it docked after five days at sea, but then learned that it wasn't Miami, that mechanical trouble had forced the vessel back to port at Cartagena, Colombia.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I was the best I ever had."

— Woody Allen

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A cover up



Del Pastrana/Daily Press

An apartment building near California Avenue and Fourth Street undergoes fumigation for termites.

Report: Pico residents are poorer, less educated

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

In a city overwhelmingly populated by wealthy white professionals, one neighborhood stands out as a pocket of poverty and crime.

Community activists are demanding that City Hall do more for the troubled Pico neighborhood, whose residents earn less and aren't as educated than people in other areas of the city.

At \$39,821, the median income for households in the eastside Santa Monica neighborhood is the lowest in the city and well behind the \$118,553 that those north of Montana Avenue attract, according to a 2003 community profile of the city by the Rand Corp.

The Pico neighborhood has the highest concentration of young people and the highest percentage of families with children, according to the study, which is based largely on data from the 2000 Census.

Santa Monica at large is much different.

More than 50 percent of households in the city are individuals living by themselves and only 38 percent of households are inhabit-

ed by families, according to the study. The median income in Santa Monica is over \$50,000 and more than 60 percent of residents 25 years old or older have college degrees.

"This is the classic tale of two cities."

— RICHARD BLOOM
Santa Monica mayor

In Pico, where hundreds of residents have little or no education, 15 percent of the neighborhood's 9,193 households live below the poverty line.

"Poverty is crime," said Oscar de la Torre, director of the Pico Youth and Family Center. "That we sustain this disparity in income in such a wealthy city is really the root cause of the problem. We need to find out where the biggest need is and focus our resources there."

de la Torre — who attributes the eastside neighborhood's

See REPORT, page 6

Non-profits may take a hit in funding

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

For the first time in more than two decades, a cash-strapped City Hall may give less to area non-profits, which also are suffering from the weak economy.

Social service groups next year are expected to take a slight hit in funding and face even deeper reductions the following year because of the city's \$16 million budget deficit.

The City Council is scheduled tonight to approve a \$353.7 budget that fills the deficit by cutting \$7 million, raising \$5 million in new revenues and saving \$2 million through various policy changes.

As a result of a 5 percent across-the-board cut in City Hall departments, local groups that serve the homeless, children, seniors, the disabled and other mem-

"They're getting worse news from other funders. So I think the general feeling is 'Thank you.'"

— TRACY SCRUGGS

Supervisor, community and cultural services

bers of the community may receive thousands less in city dollars.

A little over \$6 million is proposed to be given to more than three dozen non-profit groups from the city's general fund. Nearly \$6.5 million went to them last year, according to city documents. Children and youth

See NON-PROFITS, page 6

Recall of Gov. Davis, once a longshot, now seen as likely

ERICA WERNER

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — A Republican-led campaign to recall California's Democratic governor, once dismissed as improbable, now appears poised to qualify for the ballot — and to shake up California politics like never before.

The outcome is anyone's guess, and the situation has politicians from both parties scrambling. It promises to be "a wild ride," says one political consultant.

Gov. Gray Davis was elected in a landslide in 1998 but his approval rating tumbled to 28 percent amid voter wrath over the state's energy and budget crises.

Now he could find himself forced from office by a campaign that has been fired up by a little-known conservative congressman who has poured \$800,000 into the effort so far.

Potential Republican replacements range from that congress-

man, Rep. Darrell Issa, to Bill Simon, the financier Davis narrowly beat in November, to actor Arnold Schwarzenegger, whose advisers say he will decide whether to run after the July 2 release of "Terminator 3."

Davis could even be replaced by a fellow Democrat, like Sen. Dianne Feinstein, who has not ruled out a run.

Many Republicans fear the recall could backfire and leave them worse off in a state where Democrats already control every statewide office and both houses of the Legislature.

"This entire process is unprecedented," state GOP communications consultant Rob Stutzman said.

When Republican activists started talking recall four months ago, few would have predicted it would get so far. Recall campaigns have been attempted 31 times against California governors but none has made it to the ballot.

See RECALL, page 7

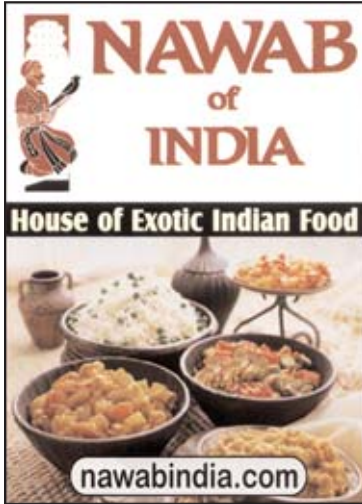
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Did you know?

Measure S restores only **half** of the \$13 million cut by the State from our local schools. Critical programs, services and personnel are still at risk, including nurses, librarians, PE assistants, computer lab techs & custodians.

Santa Monica City Council has listed education as its top priority, however its current contribution to schools is less than 1% of its annual \$354 Million budget.

Rally at Santa Monica City Hall
for the Council's Final Budget Vote

Tuesday, June 17 at 6 PM

Meet in front of
Santa Monica City Hall,
1685 Main Street.
(Free Parking at SM Civic
Center on Main Street just
north of Pico)

We need **everyone** who cares
about education to attend!
Parents, Children, Teachers,
Community Members.

Let the Council know that you expect
them to do what **MORE THAN 2/3 OF**
THEIR VOTING CONSTITUENTS
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★★★★★-Dynamic ★★★★★-Positive ★★★★★-Average
★★-So-so ★-Difficult

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, June 17, 2003:

Reach out for those at a distance. Your ability to see life from another person's perspective adds to your creativity and dynamic personality. People feel as if they can be real with you and you will like them anyway. Your intuition plays a significant role at work, an area of your life where you are likely to be driven. You'll work long and hard, especially if you're in your own business. Be careful if you work for someone else, as the boss could be feisty this year. If single, someone quite attractive will enter your life by the fall. You might feel that this is the right person. If you are attached, plan a special trip together. You will become much closer, especially if you share more of yourself. AQUARIUS opens doors.

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ Friends play a major role. A child or loved one could feel deprived by your lack of attention. Focus on meetings, groups and getting the job done. Much goes on behind the scenes. Tonight: Make time for a child or loved one.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ A must appearance demands 100 percent of your time. Think through a decision rather than acting too quickly. How you see someone else could change a lot in the next few days. Set boundaries before there is a problem. Tonight: Work as late as need be.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Your enthusiasm might make someone feel left out. Try to include associates in your thinking, even if they don't see eye to eye with you. Detach and grow from seeing different points of view. Hop on the computer, make calls and reach out for experts. Tonight: Relax through a favorite pastime.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ You might want to think through a decision more carefully in the next few days. Your perspective could change because of new information as well as a partner's input. What is excellent about you is your flexibility. Tonight: Fulfill another's request.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Seek out others rather than responding. Although yours is an assertive sign, you find this far more effective ultimately. You might find a partner to be a bit vague. You can handle all this and more, later on. Meanwhile, network and clear out work. Tonight: One-on-one time.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Pace yourself and get the job done. Others might push you a lot harder as you attempt to get through your day. In the next few weeks, others will tell you exactly what they think. Your instincts will help you follow through. Tonight: Off to the gym.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Listen to your instincts with a child or loved one. This person might not be presenting all the facts. Network and meet others. You are at your best within groups. Keep your focus and help others stay on point. Tonight: Ever playful.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ If you can work from home, do so. Otherwise, to accomplish what you want, you might need to close the door and screen calls. You might have a problem getting anything done. A superior could be pleased with your hard work. Tonight: Order in.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Follow through on a promise you made to someone. You'll be able to clear your desk and touch base with different friends. If you get past an immediate issue and lean back in your chair and relax, you will gain. Tonight: Try a new type of cuisine.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Deal with finances before they deal with you. You might be uncomfortable with a new idea that comes from an associate, but it could be surprisingly workable. Be open to different ideas, even if they seem excessive at first. Tonight: Pay bills.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Your smiling way draws others, though a problem might head your way when you least expect it. Listen to what others present. You can see where, perhaps, you might have been unusually vague. Thank others for helping you define what you want. Tonight: What would make you happy?

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Mars in your sign bestows unusual energy for the next few months. Right now, the wise action would be to take your time making decisions, making sure that everything is as you think it is. Don't be surprised if you hit a snafu. Tonight: Get as much sleep as you can.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Published Monday through Saturday
Phone: 310.458.PRESS(7737) • Fax: 310.576.9913
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LOCAL



A Beatles sighting



Photo courtesy of Gary Gordon
'Forever Fab,' a Beatles band, entertains the crowd on Sunday during Main Street's Summer SOULstice celebration. Plenty of bands, sales and family activities attracted thousands to Main Street on Sunday.

Man tries luring teen into van

By Daily Press staff

Police are looking for a man who last week tried to lure a teen-age girl into his van while exposing himself to her.

On June 12 at about 4 p.m., a man pulled his van next to the girl who was walking home in the area of Beverly Avenue and Ocean Park Boulevard. The victim reported that the suspect followed her for two blocks while exposing himself

to her. When his attempts to get her into his vehicle failed, he left the area south on Fifth Street toward Ocean Park Boulevard.

The suspect is described as a white male with a light complexion, in his 30's, wearing a T-shirt and shorts. He was driving a full size white van.

Anyone having any additional information is urged to call the Santa Monica Police Department, Investigations Division at (310) 458-8451.

'Dive in' movies at the SM pier

By Daily Press staff

There is more than just live music happening on the pier this summer.

The Santa Monica Film Festival and the Santa Monica Pier Restoration Corp. are hosting outdoor movies at the pier in August.

Here's the tentative schedule:

Tuesday, Aug. 5: "Grease"
 Tuesday, Aug. 12: "Jaws"
 Tuesday, Aug. 19: "The Sting"
 Tuesday, Aug. 26: "Endless Summer"
 Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Screening starts at 8 p.m.

Admission is free, but a ticket is required. Guest must have the appropriate

night's ticket for admittance to the screening. Drive-in tickets will be distributed through designated outlets. Those who do not have tickets are welcome to line up in the wait list line the evening of the desired screening. Admission from the wait line will begin 15 minutes before the program starts but is not guaranteed.

Seating is limited and will be made available on a first-come, first serve basis.

Refreshments will be available. No alcohol will be sold or consumed on the premises.

"SaMo Dive-In Screenings" are scheduled to happen rain or shine. For safety reasons, no vehicles will be allowed on the pier.

surf report

There is fun surf and more of it is on the way.

BAD NEWS: The SW swell we've enjoyed is on its way out.

GOOD NEWS: The steep NW has blessed us and will stay strong. Also, a new, much stronger S swell will fill in throughout today and in the evening we may have some head-high sets.

OUTLOOK: A modest SW swell will build this weekend from New Zealand, with the good breaks picking up some waist-shoulder high surf. A much better S is in store for early next week and there's also some activity off of Southern Mexico. We'll let you know tomorrow.

Today the water is:

67°

**Sunrise: 5:48 a.m.
 Sunset: 8:11 p.m.**

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

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The QLine

President Bush recently laid out a plan to end homelessness in the United States within 10 years. That plan was discussed last week at a meeting of U.S. mayors held in Denver.

Santa Monica Mayor Richard Bloom, along with Los Angeles Mayor James Hahn and other area leaders, have convened a committee to deal with homelessness as a regional issue.

Many argue that other cities won't deal with homeless people and rely on

Santa Monica to bear the brunt of the problem.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, **"What can be done regionally to alleviate Santa Monica of its growing homeless population?"**

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

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OPINION

LETTERS

Get your facts straight, Roth

Editor:

Once again, there are several comments in Eric Roth's opinion piece that warrant correction:

1. The new arts center, funded by Measure U, will not be built at Madison, but replace the existing arts center on the main campus.
2. Administrators, not faculty, were the first to be cut. Eleven administrative positions were eliminated and others were reassigned to the classroom where possible.
3. Along with the faculty and students, the administrators and the board of trustees worked (and continue to work) rigorously to re-establish funding, meeting with local, state, and federal officials, as well as pursuing private funding.
4. There could not have been an "emergency" expense in Measure U. Under proposition 39, funds cannot be diverted to the general budget or emergency situations. This action would violate state law.
5. The implication that all campus organizations at SMC support the vote of no confidence is false. There are far more than two organizations on campus.

Joe Weichman
Santa Monica

Editor's note: Columnists Evelyn Jerome and Todd Flora, who write "Think Twice" every Tuesday are taking a week off because they couldn't think of a topic to write about. If you have any suggestions, please e-mail them to either one of them so we can fill this space each week with some insightful and meaningful content. Their e-mail addresses are: junkfood6@aol.com and evelyn_thinktwice@yahoo.com.)

FUNNY "WHAT WOULD JOHN DENVER SAY?" PAPERZ

NOTICE OF INTENT TO REMOVE/REPLACE TREES

Date: May 5, 2003

The Community and Cultural Services Dept., Open Space Management Division has decided to ruin your neighborhood and there is nothing you can do about it. All of the trees on your street have been determined to be 50%-75% dead/and/or have reached the end of their useful life span.

Complete removal will begin before you have a chance to get a place on any City Council Agenda -- even if you are naive enough to think you have the slightest chance of being heard.

JOE KING

SO MUCH FOR SANTA MONICA BEING A "GREEN" CITY.

*In memory of Chico Mendes & the Brazilian Rain Forest

WOULDN'T IT BE GREAT IF WE COULD REMOVE ALL OF THE DEAD WOOD AT CITY HALL THAT HAS REACHED THE END OF ITS USEFUL LIFE SPAN?



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Santa Monica College president criticism is misdirected

As a former Santa Monica College trustee of eight years, professor and counselor for 31 years and the original organizer and first president of the Faculty Association (the bargaining unit for SMC), I would like to inform the public of some of the positive things that are happening and have happened at the college.

1. Clearly there is a great deal of support for SMC among the members of the community as shown by the almost 70 percent support of the voters for a \$160 million bond issue last year to use for capital improvements at the college.

2. The college has an exceptionally well-qualified president, Piedad Robertson, who has a doctorate degree, the minimum education necessary for an institution with the distinction of SMC. She firmly believes those in charge of making policies for higher education should believe enough in it to obtain a doctorate and demonstrate the worth of the product for which they are responsible. She has pushed and cajoled her staff so that recently three have obtained doctorates while they were working full time. In addition, she has served other institutions outside California as president and vice-president. Why do I stress that she has served outside California? Because she brings the experiences of a wider geographic area to bear on our local problems than one receives at times from Californians with tunnel-experience. For example, she knows everyone in education nationally, especially since she serves on the boards of all the important national educational organizations. In this fashion one gets the opportunity to discover how others cope with problems similar to ours and participate in solutions nationally. She also serves as the only community college representative on the Bill Gates huge scholarship organ-

ization. Incidentally, Santa Monica College has five students who won awards from this organization.

3. Under the tutelage of President Robertson, Santa Monica College has metamorphosed from a high school with asstrays to a first-class institution of higher education with a worldwide reputation for excellence. Of course she did not do this alone. The college has an excellent faculty and staff for the selection of which she has been in large part responsible. Evidence of this is the number and quality of applicants for positions at the college. It is not unusual for SMC to receive applications from those with doctorates from the leading universities in this country and abroad. As a result, SMC students receive the finest education possible for the first two years of college.

4. Again, under the leadership of Dr. Robertson, Santa Monica College has received millions of dollars each year through grants. When she first came to SMC she insisted upon hiring an excellent grant writer, Erica LeBlanc, who also has helped other Santa Monica organizations, such as the K-12 people, seek and receive a number of grants for developing many creative aspects of education for SMC students.

5. Dr. Robertson has given direction and help to develop a large international student program for Santa Monica College. What many people do not realize is that the money these students bring in supports capital improvements and the general administration of the college. This money stays on the campus for local use unlike the tuition other students pay that is sent to Sacramento to support state

government. In addition, these students spend a great deal of money in local businesses, renting apartments, eating in local restaurants, buying cars and so forth.

6. Dr. Robertson has stressed revision of our loan/grant program for SMC students. She realized that the federal government supported much more grant money than our students were receiving. Our students generally were being burdened with student loans to pay when they could get grants that did not require repayment.

7. It is hard to underestimate the importance to the morale and morality of a college to remove corruption and non-objective administration from the top. Dr. Robertson has managed to accomplish this. An uneven, personal favoritism kind of administration is detrimental to morale.

Dr. Robertson pushed, pulled and cajoled the departments on campus for years to come up with policy manuals for their individual departments so they could anticipate situations and solve them fairly. She also gave each department its own budget and explained they could spend it however they saw fit but they could not ask for more. This transferred the fiscal responsibility from the upper echelons to the lower echelons. How quickly the faculty and staff forget the objectivity of such an administration when the money begins to dry up. But it does lend itself to a uniquely fair and objective method when the administration says cut "X" percentage rather than "cut this and cut that" when there is not enough to go around.

8. Dr. Robertson stewarded the college through the aftermath of a devastating earthquake. Not one building was left

untouched and many were declared unfit for use until major repairs were made. One building, the Science Building, had to be demolished and rebuilt. Now the college has the finest lower division science building in a community college in the West. The library will soon be operational after a major repair and the building of an extension is completed in the near future.

9. Dr. Robertson decentralized the college campus by establishing centers in less populated areas such as the Academy of Entertainment and Technology and classes at the Santa Monica Airport. She also developed the Madison campus that was a white elephant to the K-12 school system to provide more parking in a business district and relieve congestion on the main campus in a residential district. For use of this property the K-12 system receives a very handsome rental to help support that segment of the city of Santa Monica's educational system.

I might also add some positive things about teachers' pay at the college. The average take home pay is approximately \$70,000 and many faculty members are well over \$100,000 per year in salary. In addition, the faculty gets health insurance, dental and eye glasses insurance, a pension to which the college contributes 8.25 percent every year and generous vacation time. All this in addition to tenure. If only the dissidents, instead of killing the messenger, applied their energies to campaigning the state legislators and the Governor, we might stand a chance to get the budget amount changed more favorably.

It would not be in the best interests of Santa Monica College to let a small group of unhappy people disregard the positive aspects of the past years of Dr. Robertson's administration.

Guest Commentary

By Nancy Cattell-Luckenbach

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

COMMENTARY

How to avoid getting in hot water with the IRS



LEGAL VIEWS AND NEWS

By David Pizarra

There are several ways in which an individual gets into trouble with the Internal Revenue Service or the State of California Franchise Tax Board.

They can have a spouse who has a drinking or gambling problem and rather than pay their taxes, are using the money for play. Last week I wrote about business owners who use the collected sales taxes or payroll taxes as an interest free loan. This is another way in which to get into trouble.

Depending on the circumstances there are three main ways to be relieved of an outstanding tax liability. Firstly, there is an application for relief as an "innocent spouse." This is the situation where one party has actively hid a tax obligation from the other spouse. In order to gain this relief one must in essence hang the other spouse out to dry. This is not a popular choice for most married couples.

Secondly, there is the payment plan. The IRS has become remarkably pleasant to work with in the payment plan arena. By approaching them first, before they have placed liens on your home, bank account and any other assets, you stand a much better chance of being able to work out a payment plan that you can abide by.

Thirdly is the Offer in Compromise process. Here, the IRS is willing to take less than full value of the funds that they are owed. This is a lengthy process, but it can be quite beneficial to you as a taxpayer, if you owe a large sum of money and have no real ability to pay it.

Under the Offer in Compromise process there are three grounds to qualify for a reduction of the liability:

1) Doubt as to the liability — basically the innocent spouse or partner theory, or that the IRS has in some way overcharged you. To submit, you must have a really good explanation of why you should be relieved of your liability.

2) Effective Tax Administration — the taxpayer acknowledges the tax is owed and that they have the assets to pay the amount, but doing so would be unfair or inequitable in some way, or would cause an economic hardship. This commonly is the situation where two business partners, one rich, one poor, have created a tax liability and the IRS is going after the rich one for all the back taxes owed. The other

common situation is where medical necessity requires funds for the treatment of the taxpayer. If the taxpayer incurred the liability and then was diagnosed with cancer, and the choice is to pay the taxes or get cancer treatment. Clearly the medical treatment should come first.

3) Doubt as to collectibility — this is the most common situation. You owe a relatively huge amount of money and have no real prospects for being able to repay it. This is frequently the case with business owners who have used their employees' payroll taxes as an interest free loan and the business has gone bankrupt or failed in some other manner. It also is very common for people who file themselves as "EXEMPT" with their employers because they need the cash today and assume that they will pay it back later.

The process is relatively straightforward. The delinquent taxpayer files the Offer in Compromise form, along with a stack of attachments, financial statements, letters of explanation, notes from your doctor and then waits. The IRS requires that a holding period of six months be imposed before they will take any action beyond a simple review of the paperwork for completeness.

The Offer in Compromise forms are comprised of a simple one page application, a basic financial statement of what the applicant makes, spends, owns and has available to them for the foreseeable future. The government has standards for the living expenses of individuals and families based on where you live and they apply these, unless you convince them that some other standard should be applied.

Once the forms are complete there is a formula by which the actual compromise of the claim is determined. Depending on the amount owed and the collectibility, an election is made to either pay a calculated reduced amount in a lump sum cash payment, or over a deferred period of 24 months, or pay the entire amount of the offer over the remaining life of the collection statute.

There is more to the actual process. Frequently a period of negotiation between the representative of the taxpayer and the IRS occurs and there is always updated financial information required.

The forms are available at the IRS Web site, www.irs.gov, or your attorney may prepare them for you and handle the negotiations with the IRS.

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

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For further information regarding the survivor's reception and lap, contact survivor chairperson Judy La Patka at (310) 579-7100 or judylapatka@aol.com Tracey Mayer at the American Cancer Society (310) 348-0356 option 3/ext. 246 or tracey.mayer@cancer.org.

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LOCAL

School supporters push for more cash from city

NON-PROFITS, from page 1

services will receive the most — \$2.3 million and homeless services will get \$2.1 million.

The organizations were first asked to propose any cost-savings they could enact on their own. Groups that regularly refund unused money at the end of the year were given less and city-funded grants also were reduced for groups that have clients outside of Santa Monica.

Though the cuts were difficult to make, most of the money was saved through routine belt-tightening, said Tracy Scruggs, a supervisor for the city's community and cultural services department, which oversees the distribution of money to the organizations.

But most non-profit administrators feel fortunate to get any contribution from City Hall, even if it is less than previous years.

"They're getting worse news from other funders," Scruggs said. "So I think the general feeling is 'Thank you.'"

City officials determine how much an organization should get in contributions based on the number of peo-

ple they serve and their track record of success, which is scrutinized through regular audits.

Scruggs said the situation will get worse before it gets better. City Hall department managers are expected to trim another 5 percent from their budgets for 2004-2005

"(Schools) need an ongoing revenue source ... and we don't even have enough money to run the city."

— MIKE DENNIS
City Finance Director

and defer raises to employees for another year.

In the meantime, school supporters are expected to turn out by the thousands tonight to participate in a "Rally for Education" one hour before the City Council meets to

adopt next year's budget.

Despite the city's \$16 million deficit, school supporters have asked the city to increase its annual \$3 million contribution to help the school out of its own multi-million dollar deficit.

Though many council members have expressed the desire to help, they have also cautioned that it may not be realistic for the city to give more.

Last year the City Council found an additional \$1.5 million in one-time funds to give the school district.

This year, the city has banked roughly \$3.5 million in savings, said City Finance Director Mike Dennis. But \$2.8 million has already been earmarked to offset revenue shortfalls due to the bad economy.

And more still may be needed.

Despite the lack of money, Dennis said the problem with giving money to the schools is it puts a temporary fix on an ongoing problem.

"I realize it's very difficult for the schools and I really empathize with them," he said. "On the other hand, they need an ongoing revenue source ... and we don't even have enough money to run the city."

Mayor: Pico neighborhood is the 'tale of two cities'

REPORT, from page 1

problems with drugs, graffiti, shootings and gang violence largely to economics — is pushing for more government funding, a living wage and other changes that would bring new resources into the area.

He has called for more funding to go to Pico neighborhood schools, more government jobs to be given to Pico residents and more family support and economic development programs.

"50-50 is not fairness," de la Torre said. "There has to come a point where somebody says, 'Hey, can I give a little bit to my brothers and sisters on the other side of the freeway?'"

Samohi students whose parents take the bus to work suffer psychologically, de

"There has to come a point where somebody says, 'Hey, can I give a little bit to my brothers and sisters on the other side of the freeway?'"

— OSCAR DE LA TORRE
Activist

la Torre said, when they compare themselves with classmates who drive expensive cars to school from neighborhoods north of Montana, where private police cruise the streets and nearly every family has a computer.

City officials said they have long struggled with the disparity between the city's

different neighborhoods.

"This is the classic tale of two cities," said Mayor Richard Bloom, adding that in a perfect world each of Santa Monica's neighborhoods would have a mix of residents.

In reality, the poverty and the diversity is focused in the Pico neighborhood. Over 70 percent of Santa Monica's 84,084 resi-

dents and nearly 90 percent of residents north of Montana are white. By comparison, Pico is dominated with blacks — 55 percent and Latinos — 38 percent. Sixteen percent of Pico residents are white.

Bloom said the city is working diligently to raise the standard for the Pico neighborhood with affordable housing programs, youth and education services and other social justice programs.

Pico has seen some change over the years. More young, middle-class families are moving there because home prices are cheaper than anywhere else in the city.

"You can't waive a magic wand and make it happen," he said. "It's not for lack of trying. But economies do shift over time. Things do change."

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STATE



CALIFORNIA BRIEFS

Drunks can arrive alive in their car

By The Associated Press

SUNSET BEACH — The scooter patrol is getting drunks off the road.

Anthony "Scooter" Panzica and his Sunset Transport Unlimited volunteers help wobbly beach bar customers by taking the wheel of their cars and driving them home. Bartenders call Panzica and a Sunset Transport Unlimited scooter is dispatched, usually within 15 minutes.

Panzica, 37, folds down the handlebars of the scooter and tucks it into the customer's trunk for the free ride home, up to 10 miles. Sunset Transport Unlimited serves the watering holes that line the stretch of Pacific Coast Highway from Seal Beach to Huntington Harbour.

The reason, he said, is simple.

"If you just try to do something, step up; sometimes you can make a difference, you know?" Panzica said.

His service is made up of himself, three other volunteers, two scooters and a rented desk above a hamburger joint. For now, only Panzica is shuttling customers. Everyone else answers the phone or shadows Panzica to learn the system.

"This guy's willing to take you home — plus your car's going to be there," said J.D. Lewis, who has owned J. Dee's Bar & Grill on Pacific Coast Highway since the early 1990s. "I have a few regulars who love him to death. This is very, very good."

Panzica gets up to 15 calls a day.

Santa Barbara out of the ozone

By The Associated Press

SANTA BARBARA — The county has reached an ozone milestone.

After three decades of effort, Santa Barbara County has now attained the federal standard for ozone. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency was expected to make a formal announcement this week.

Less-polluting cars, cleaner gasoline and big cuts in industrial emissions are reasons for the air quality gains. Favorable weather patterns have also helped: Air pollution from Los Angeles and Ventura County sometimes migrates to the area.

Ozone can cause respiratory problems and even harm plants. The colorless and odorless gas is created by a chemical stew that includes oxides, nitrogen and volatile organics from things like car exhaust, gas vapors and smokestack discharges.

"It's a big deal because it's a public health issue," said Doug Allard, director of the county's Air Pollution Control District. "Cleaner air means people will live healthier lives."

Meeting the federal standard will also mean the county won't need to pass even tougher rules to reduce air pollution, which will be helpful for businesses, Allard said.

But Santa Barbara County is still short of meeting the California standard, which is about 25 percent more strict than the federal rules.

After downplaying recall effort, Davis supporters rally

RECALL, from page 1

But everything changed in May, when Issa began shoveling money into the campaign. The ambitious car alarm magnate from the San Diego area, who has served in Congress since 2000, has set up a gubernatorial campaign committee. He started campaigning around the state Saturday.

"Darrell Issa supplied the fuel necessary. Now the rest is just mechanical," said Allan Hoffenblum, a Republican consultant. "It's not a matter of if, it's just a matter of when. And it's going to be a wild ride."

Recall supporters have until Sept. 2 to collect nearly 900,000 signatures to get the measure on the ballot. They hope to complete the process next month to force a special election this fall instead of next March, when Democrats will turn out for the state's presidential primary.

With Issa's money funding an army of paid signature gatherers, recall organizers claim they've already collected more than 700,000 signatures.

After playing down the recall effort for months, Davis allies recently formed a committee to fight it, raised nearly \$800,000 and hired signature gatherers of their own.

Davis himself has begun speaking out against the campaign.

"It will move us backwards and cost the taxpayers \$30 million," he told The Associated Press on Friday, referring to the projected cost of a special election.

"It's just a bunch of affluent losers who are trying to spend money to throw this state into reverse."

Issa denies that he is funding the recall just to forward his own political ambitions.

"Many people say here's this rich guy trying to buy himself a governorship, right? Wrong," Issa told a gathering of moderate Republicans on Saturday. "People stand 30-deep to sign this petition ... I'm supporting the recall because Gray Davis needs to go."

Anyone could get on a recall ballot by paying a \$3,500 filing fee or collecting 10,000 signatures. That means there could be numerous candidates and the victor could win with a relatively small number of votes.

The format has set off furious jockeying in Democratic circles over whether to close ranks around Davis or attempt to unite behind a strong Democrat to replace him if he is recalled. Feinstein's name is the most often mentioned.

On the Republican side, many party leaders fear a Democrat could win or that the recall could distract from efforts to reelect President Bush.

Regardless of the outcome, the victor would get an unenviable prize: the job of handling the state's \$38.2 billion budget deficit.

"I'm concerned it could be successful, and some poor Republican governor walks into an empty office in Sacramento and says 'What do we do now?'" said former GOP Assemblyman Brooks Firestone.

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Santa Monica
A weekly look at events and program

Study determines mental anxiety disorders in children

Guest Commentary

By John Piacentini, Ph.D.

Most children and adolescents will be looking forward to exciting summer activities this month.

Many parents sign their youngsters up for day or overnight camps to keep them busy during the summer months. However, some youngsters are unable to go away to camps due to anxiety. Some youngsters worry that something bad may happen to him or his family if he is away from home. Other youngsters are extremely shy and become very nervous in social situations like camps. Thus, for some families, summertime can be stressful and anxiety-provoking, rather than a time of relaxation.

Research has shown that anxiety disorders are the most common type of psychiatric problem in children and adolescents with several studies suggesting a collective prevalence rate of 12 percent to 20 percent in this country.

Historically thought to be benign or developmentally normative, anxiety disorders can cause severe distress and lead to significant impairment in academic, social and familial functioning. Unfortunately, despite the fact that effective treatments exist for these children, only a small portion of clinically anxious youngsters ever receive appropriate and effective treatment for these symptoms. Research studies have shown both selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) and cognitive behavior therapy (CBT) to be effective treatments for childhood anxiety disorders. However, these two treatments have never been directly compared to each other or their combination. The long-term advantages of one treatment compared to another have also not been studied.

The National Institute of Mental Health has recently funded a large multi-center study (Child and Adolescent Anxiety Multimodal Treatment Study, or CAMS) addressing these two issues. The Child OCD, Anxiety, and Tic Disorders Program at the UCLA Neuropsychiatric Institute and Hospital (UCLA-NPI) serves as the local site for this trial. Children and adolescents are eligible for the study if they are between 7 and 16 years

old, medically healthy, off psychiatric medications and have a separation anxiety disorder, a generalized anxiety disorder or a social phobia.

All youngsters receive a comprehensive psychiatric evaluation to determine study eligibility. Eligible youngsters are then randomized to one of four treatment conditions: 1) sertraline, alone (Zoloft), 2) CBT, alone, 3) sertraline (Zoloft) plus CBT or, 4) pill placebo (sugar pill). Acute treatment lasts for 12 weeks. Responders to one of the three active treatment conditions receive an additional 24 weeks of the same treatment (meds, CBT, or both delivered during monthly clinic visits). Placebo nonresponders will be offered a free course of either CBT or medication, depending on their preference. All study assessments, visits, medications and therapy are provided free of charge.

For more information about the study, call Melody Keller at the UCLA Child Anxiety Program at (310) 825-4132.

(John Piacentini, Ph.D. is associate professor-in-residence in the department of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences at the UCLA School of Medicine and is director of the UCLA-NPI Child OCD, Anxiety and Tic Disorders Program.)

A listing of some summer recreational programs offered for children

The City of Santa Monica offers children of all ages a variety of recreational activities including Aikido, dance, gymnastics, art and in-line skating. Programs meet once a week beginning the week of July 14 - 19 and ending the first week of September. For information call Joslyn Park at 310-458-2239 or pick up a brochure at your local library.

SUMMER CAMPS presented by the City of Santa Monica Camp Santa Monica - for youth ages 8-12.

10 weeks: June 23 - August 28th; Monday - Friday, 7:00a.m. - 6:00p.m.

This camp offers exciting, new enrichment courses, field trips and non-conventional programming. Camp Santa Monica will be based at designated elementary schools. Registration forms are available at the Reed Park Youth Office, 1133 7th St., Santa Monica. Call 310-458-8540 for more info. The fee is \$170 weekly, scholarships are available.

ROSIE'S GIRLS - for girls ages 11-13.

Two 3-week sessions: Session 1 - June 30 - July 18, Session 2 - July 28 - August 15. Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

An award winning program where participants build self-esteem, physical confidence, interpersonal cooperation and leadership abilities through learning and applying basic skills in carpentry and other trades. Sessions include self-defense, welding and firefighting. Field trips include ropes courses, rock climbing and swimming.

Rosie's Girls will be based at Miles Playhouse at Reed Park and the City Yards. Call 310-458-8540 for more

info. The fee is \$325 per week for three weeks plus a \$75 materials fee.

SPORTS CAMPS

Santa Monica Sports Experience - a unique camp for girls and boys ages 10-14, who would like to concentrate their energy on sports activities and innovative theme weeks.

Four two-week sessions beginning June 23, Monday - Friday, 12:30 - 5:00 p.m. Fee is \$210 per session. Call 310-458-8540 for more info or register at the Youth office at Reed Park, 1133 7th St.

SOCCERPOLIS SUMMER SOCCER CAMP - for boys and girls ages 4-10 at Clover Park. A 9 week session beginning June 23, 9:00 a.m. - noon. Fees are \$150 per week for residents, \$155 per week for non-residents. Call 310-458-2239 for more info.

SKYHAWKS SPORTS ACADEMY - A one-week day camp for boys and girls ages 4-14 tailored specifically for baseball or basketball. Call 310-458-2239 for more info.

Week 1 - Basketball, July 21-25, 9:00a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Marine Park, ages 7-14.

Fees are \$123 per week for residents, \$128 for non-residents

Week 2 - Baseball, August 4-8, 9:00 a.m. - noon, Steward Park, ages 5-8.

Fees are \$105 per week for residents, \$110 for non-residents

MINI HAWKS - Sports Camp for boys and girls ages 4-

7. Half-day program introducing children to soccer, baseball and basketball. Call 310-45-2239 for more info. Week 1 - July 21-25, 9:00a.m. - noon, Marine Park. Week 2 - August 11-15, 9:00a.m. - noon, Marine Park. Fees are \$105 per week for residents, \$110 for non-residents

5 STAR BEACH VOLLEYBALL CAMP - ages 10-18, all levels.

July 21-25, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., 2030 Barnard Way. Call 310-458-2239 for more info.

Fees are \$225 per week for residents, \$230 for non-residents

BEACH KIDS BODYBOARDING CAMP - for boys and girls ages 5 - 7 who want to learn to ride the waves in a fun and supervised environment. BZ Bodyboards and wetsuits provided. Call 310-458-2239 for more info.

Eleven one-week sessions beginning June 16. Half-day or full-day sessions available.

Fees: Half-day resident - \$135 per week, non-resident - \$140

Full-day resident - \$235 per week, non-resident - \$240

SURF ACADEMY - for boys and girls ages 7 - 17. Soft surfboards and Body Glove wetsuits are provided. June 16 - August 29, half-day and full-day sessions available.

Call 310-458-2239 for more info, including details on the Wahine Surf Camp for girls only and the Kanaka Surf Camp just for boys.

Fees: Half-day resident - \$135 per week, non-resident

- \$140

Full-day resident - \$235 per week, non-resident - \$240

PAL

The Police Activities League - provides educational, cultural and recreational programs for youth ages 6-17. Summer programs include Arts and Crafts, Bicycle Club, Computer Lab, Dance, Family Nights, Fitness Classes, Hiking, Karate, Needlework and Outdoor Adventures. Teen Activities include 3-on-3 Basketball, Cooking, Friday Night Out, Midnight Broomball, SAT Prep, Sports and Trips. Class size is limited and on a first-come, first-serve basis. All PAL activities are free. Sign-ups are accepted at the PAL office, 1401 Olympic Blvd., Santa Monica. Call 310-392-7673 for info.

PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Santa Monica Public Library has Summer Reading programs for all ages. Sign ups start June 16. Swing by your local branch for detailed info. They also offer Activity Programs and storytelling throughout the summer.

YMCA

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

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SCHEDULES:

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

THE SANTA SWIM CENTER begins their extended summer hours for recreational swimming on June 23. The "Splash Pool" is great for kids of all ages (with their parents of course). The water temperature averages about 85 degrees, lifeguards are always on duty and the price is very reasonable. Located at Santa Monica College, 2225 16th St. Call 310-458-8700 for more info.

SUMMER HOURS – June 23 thru August 24
Monday-Friday – 10:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Saturday – 10:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Sunday – 10:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

FEES
Children – \$1.00 for residents, \$2.00 for non-residents
Adults – \$2.50 for residents, \$5.00 for non-residents
Family Weekend Pass – \$5.00 for two adults and two children
Discounted multiple day passes are also available.

TUESDAY

Storytelling
Main Library – Toddler Story Time at 10:00 and 10:30am – Reed Park/West Auditorium/7th and Wilshire – 2 yr olds with parent. 310-458-8922
Fairview Branch – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443
Lap Time – 11:00am, June 24 – July 29, for 0-24 month olds
Twilight Story Time – 7pm – an ongoing program for 3-5 year olds.
Cuentos Para Pequenos – 10am – June 24 – July 29 – a 6-wk program of stories in Spanish for 2-3 years olds.
Montana Avenue Branch – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081
NEW – Summer Activity Program – Tuesdays thru August 5, 2:30 p.m. – ages 3 and up.
June 24 – "Swim into the Library", Crocodile stories and crafts.
Family Story Time – 7pm – Stories for the entire family.
Ocean Park Branch – 2601 Main St. – 310-392-3804
NEW – Summer Activity Program – Tuesdays thru August 5, 2:30 p.m. & 3:30 p.m. Ages 3 to 7.

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

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

WEDNESDAY

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

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

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

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

THURSDAY

Storytelling
Main Library – Preschool Story Time – 10:30am – Reed Park. Stories for ages 3-5. 310-458-8922 for info.
Fairview Branch – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443
NEW – Summer Activity Program – Thursdays June 26 thru July 31, 2:30 p.m., ages 3 and up.
Toddler Story Time – 10:30am – June 26 – July 31, 5 – 6 week series for 2-3 year olds with adult.
La Hora Del Cuento – 7:00pm – Stories in Spanish for all ages.
Montana Avenue Branch – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081

Toddler Story Time – 10:15 a.m. – June 5 – July 10
Preschool Story Time – 11:15am – for 3-5 year olds.

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

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

FRIDAY

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

Classes
Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd, SM, 310-826-5774, HOT TOPICS FOR MOMS with babies 6-12 months – 1:00 – 2:30pm, \$15, no pre-registration required, space is limited.
June 20th – First Foods for Optimal Growth: Cynthia Epps, MS, IBCLC

SATURDAY

Storytelling
Children's Book World, 10580 W. Pico Blvd, LA, 310-559-800K, 10:30 am, ages 3-8
Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade – Kid's Story Time – 10am – 310-260-9110
Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion – 10:30am – ages 2-5 – 310-475-4144

Yoga
Yoga Baby (Venice) – 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga – 9:15 – 10:30am, and 10:45 – noon, \$13
Santa Monica Yoga – 1640 Ocean Park Blvd. – 310-396-4040, Prenatal yoga – 12:30 – 2:00pm, \$14

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

June 21

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

SUNDAY

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

MONDAY

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

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

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



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WORLD BRIEFLY

Truce expected between Palestinian and Israeli militias

By The Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Egyptian mediators summoned all Palestinian militias Monday in a final push to persuade them to halt attacks on Israelis, and Palestinian officials said they expect a truce to be declared very soon.

The Egyptians told militia leaders they have American guarantees that Israel will halt targeted killings of Palestinians suspected of involvement in violence, participants in the talks said.

The armed groups have said they will only consider laying down their arms if Israel promises to halt military strikes, including targeted killings.

Officials at the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv declined comment on whether Washington has given such guarantees.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon reiterated Sunday that there will be no blanket promises. Sharon said Israel would not initiate military strikes in the event of a ceasefire, but would continue targeting "ticking bombs," a term widely understood as referring to militants about to carry out attacks.

Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom on Monday rejected the idea of a deal with Hamas, saying Palestinian security forces have to dismantle militias, as required by a U.S.-backed plan, the "road map" to Palestinian statehood by 2005.

Pressure is on North Korea to back off on nuclear weapons

By The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea's official in charge of relations with North Korea said Monday that intensifying pressure on the communist state would force it to accept a U.S. offer for multilateral talks on its suspected nuclear weapons programs.

North Korea has insisted on one-one-one meetings with the United States, hoping to win security guarantees and economic aid in exchange for giving up its nuclear programs. Washington considers Pyongyang's nuclear ambitions a regional threat and says any talks on the crisis should include China, Japan, South Korea and possibly Russia.

"Various forms of pressure on North Korea — I wouldn't call them sanctions but rather diplomatic pressure — would get the North to change its mind," said South Korean Unification Minister Jeong Se-hyun in an interview with Seoul's CBS radio.

Jeong said talks including Japan and South Korea are "the North's only option" and that North Korea "is expected to change its attitude in one or two months."

Bush on re-election campaign trail with economy promises

By The Associated Press

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine — President Bush is placing renewed emphasis on spurring the lagging economy as he opens his drive for re-election this week with a burst of fund-raising appearances.

For Bush, the economy is key to winning another term, and he plans to devote much of this week to it. He was starting on Monday with a speech in New Jersey touting new tax breaks meant to spur businesses to invest in equipment. Reluctance to spend money on big-ticket items such as machinery and computers has held back the economic recovery.

En route back to Washington from a long weekend here, Bush was stopping in Newark to highlight business-friendly provisions of the tax cuts he signed into law May 28.

He was also touring Andrea Foods in Orange, N.J., a maker and distributor of frozen Italian meals.

The president plans to talk about employment training as a means of promoting job growth on Tuesday in Annandale, Va., a Washington suburb. Later that day, he headlines the first fund-raiser of his 2004 campaign.

On Thursday, he takes up economic growth again in Minneapolis, and on Friday he resumes fund raising in Greensboro, Ga.

Keating will resign over previous remarks of Catholic church

By The Associated Press

Former Oklahoma Gov. Frank Keating, criticized for remarks in which he said some church officials were being as secretive as members of the Mafia, will resign as head of a national panel examining sex abuse by Roman Catholic priests, his spokesman confirmed Sunday.

Church observers said the step would be a serious setback, but not a fatal one, to the National Review Board that Keating chairs.

Spokesman Dan Mahoney said Keating would send a resignation letter to Bishop Wilton Gregory, president of the U.S. Catholic hierarchy, and issue the text Monday or Tuesday. The Los Angeles Times first reported on Keating's plan Sunday.

Mahoney said Keating and Gregory spoke Saturday and that Gregory did not ask Keating to leave but indicated "whatever you decide, I'll respect."

Mahoney said Keating is still undecided on when his resignation will take effect. The board's next meeting is July 28-29 in Chicago.

Troops raid more homes in search of weapons, suspected insurgents

CHRIS TOMLINSON

Associated Press Writer

KHALDIYAH, Iraq — Armor-mounted American troops swept through towns and villages west of Baghdad after dawn Monday, arresting suspected resistance leaders and searching for outlawed weapons.

It was the second day of a forceful operation called Desert Scorpion, based on intelligence pinpointing opponents of the U.S.-led coalition in Iraq. It followed the expiration on Sunday of an amnesty program for people turning in heavy weapons.

Families of those arrested warned that resistance would only increase.

Also Monday, the U.S. military announced that ambushers fired rocket-propelled grenades at two U.S. military convoys Sunday, wounding 10 Americans — two of them seriously — in the separate attacks.

In the first attack, a grenade hit a civilian Iraqi bus that was passing a 4th Infantry Division convoy near the town of Mushahidah, about 15 miles north of Baghdad. Two Americans were seriously wounded, and six others were lightly injured, the U.S. military said. The number of casualties on the bus was unknown.

Soldiers returned fire "to protect the convoy and the civilian bus," U.S. Central Command said in a statement.

Also Sunday, assailants fired rocket-propelled grenades at a U.S. military convoy near Dujayl, 35 miles north of Baghdad, lightly wounding two soldiers, said Capt. John Morgan, an Army spokesman.

Qusai Taha, 33, a grocery store owner in the area, said he heard gunfire while in his store, ran outside and saw that the last vehicle in a 15-vehicle convoy had been hit.

Taha said he saw two American soldiers being taken out of the truck, and that they appeared to be wounded. Later, Taha said, two Iraqis arrived on a motorbike and set the truck ablaze. Other witnesses gave similar accounts.

American soldiers were working Monday to remove the burned out vehicle.

Forty-five miles west of Baghdad, more than 100 military police and infantrymen in 30 Humvees and four Bradley fighting vehicles poured into the small town of Khaldiyyah. Observation helicopters hovered a few hundred yards overhead.

They targeted six homes and took away nine men, acting on information about where suspected anti-American insurgents were hiding and illegal weapons stockpiled.

On the outskirts of Ramadi, about 20 miles farther west, troops seized four brothers from one home and two brothers from a neighboring family.

There were no immediate reports of injuries in the raids.

In the Ramadi area, families were still asleep when the armored column rumbled into their village at 5:15 a.m., blaring an Arabic-language warning from loudspeakers: "These are coalition forces. Please stay in your homes and open your doors. Thank you for your cooperation."

Troops bound men and women in the two houses with plastic handcuffs and moved them into a nearby field while they

searched the homes, residents said. They found one rifle.

Omar Mishrif Saleh, an older brother of the detainees, said the soldiers knew what they were looking for and sought out the house of his brother, who served in Saddam Hussein's army.

"Someone must have informed on us," he said, although he denied that his arrested brothers, aged 20 to 30, were engaged in anti-American activities.

Minutes after the soldiers left, the Saleh house was crowded with sympathizing neighbors who tried to comfort the weeping mother.

"The resistance is going to increase," said Abdul Qader Fahd, 30, a teacher. "Dealing with civilians like this is terrorism."

In Khaldiyyah, U.S. commanders said they were acting on a tip from an Iraqi man captured after he and two other men fired rocket-propelled grenades Saturday night at a U.S. patrol near an abandoned Iraqi ammunition dump. The two other men escaped and the prisoner pointed to two homes he said the insurgents had been using as a hideout.

When military police entered the homes, they found only families and a few hundred rounds of pistol and assault rifle ammunition buried in the backyard of one of them.

Female military police officers and medics stayed with the women and children as the troops searched the house, finding Iraqi Republican Guard uniforms and other military items, but nothing illegal.

In an old box used to transport artillery shells, the soldiers found strips of highly explosive cordite that had been emptied out of artillery shells.

Ibrahim Assam, a 30-year old man living in the house, said he and his father had sold their guns, but couldn't find a buyer for the ammunition. He said the children used the cordite to make fireworks.

"I don't know anything about attacks on the Americans," Assam insisted.

Next door, soldiers found one pound of C4 explosives on the roof along with a detonator cord.

The explosives appeared to come from an Iraqi ammunition dump about 1,000 yards away across an open field. Soldiers scanning the field spotted about 50 crates of artillery shells and a place nearby where looters were taking off the explosive warheads, dumping out the cordite and taking away the brass shells to sell as scrap metal.

U.S. troops had armed local volunteers to guard the hundreds of ammunition bunkers, but they had apparently failed to protect it at night.

As the low-flying helicopters spotted more ammunition cases on the roofs of other homes, they directed the military police to raid those buildings. The soldiers arrested eight more men, seized more C4 explosives weapons and anti-tank weapons. They allowed each family to keep an assault rifle for home protection.

The raids are not meant to disarm Iraqis completely. Heavy weapons such as rocket propelled grenade launchers are banned, as is taking weapons outside the home or workplace.

SPORTS

SPORTS IN BRIEF

By The Associated Press

 AUTO RACING

■ **BROOKLYN, Mich.** — Kurt Busch became the first three-time Winston Cup winner this season after snatching the lead from Jeff Gordon with 24 laps to go in the Sirius Satellite 400 at Michigan International Speedway.

That was the first time the 24-year-old NASCAR "Young Gun" led the 200-lap race. A late charge by pole-starter Bobby Labonte, who took second from Gordon on lap 185, came up 0.774-seconds — about six car lengths — short.

Labonte, a three-time Michigan International Speedway winner, got one last shot at Busch after Todd Bodine brought out the ninth caution flag of the race with 10 laps remaining when he crashed in turn two on the 2-mile, high-banked oval.

■ **MONTREAL** — Michael Schumacher won his fourth race of the season and finally passed Kimi Raikkonen for the lead in the driver standings by beating his brother, Ralf Schumacher, in the Canadian Grand Prix on Sunday.

Michael Schumacher, seeking his record sixth F1 world championship, has now won six times on the Circuit Gilles Villeneuve. The German driver gained the maximum 10 points for this victory and has now scored 999 for his career.

He started third but took over the lead after his first pit stop. He and Ralf had been running 1-2 when Ralf ducked off the track for service on the 20th lap.

 HOCKEY

■ **COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.** — USA Hockey elected Ron DeGregorio as its next president.

DeGregorio replaces Walter Bush Jr., who will become chairman of the board. Both were elected to three-year terms, USA Hockey said Sunday.

DeGregorio received his first appointment with USA Hockey in 1973. He has represented the United States at international events and served as vice president since 1995.

 TENNIS

■ **LONDON** — Andy Roddick enjoyed a commanding victory leading to Wimbledon, beating Sebastien Grosjean 6-3, 6-3 Sunday to win the Queen's Club title.

This was the second title of the year for the hard-serving American following last month's win at St. Poelten, Austria. He will be a strong contender when Wimbledon starts June 23.

Roddick lost in the first round at the French Open three weeks ago.

 BASEBALL

■ **PENSACOLA, Fla.** — The son of Hall of Famer Ted Williams got his first professional hit Saturday night — in his 12th at-bat.

The 34-year-old John Henry Williams, playing for the Southeastern Cloverleaves of the unaffiliated Southeastern League of Professional Baseball, hit a soft popout that fell in behind Pensacola Pelicans shortstop Heath Kelly in the ninth inning. Pensacola won 5-3.

Ted Williams finished with a .344 career average and was the last major league to bat over .400, when he hit .406 in 1941. John Henry Williams' career average is .083.

He did not ask for the ball, Pelicans owner Quint Studer said.

■ **ANAHEIM** — Before Steve Trachsel had time to think about a no-hit bid, David Eckstein broke it up.

Trachsel pitched his second career one-hitter and rookie Jose Reyes hit a grand slam for his first major league home run as the New York Mets beat the Anaheim Angels 8-0 Sunday.

Eckstein lined a two-out single to right field in the sixth inning.

"I wasn't really disappointed at all. It just shows how hard it is to do," Trachsel said. "I wasn't even thinking about a no-hitter at that point."

"Maybe in the eighth inning you think about it. But with that lineup, I'm just trying to go one out at a time," he said.

Trachsel (5-4) earned his sixth shutout and 17th complete game in 292 career starts. The right-hander ended a personal two-game slide just 10 days after the Milwaukee Brewers hit four home runs against him at Shea Stadium.

"The biggest difference today was that the ball was down in the zone and I pretty much had an idea where it was going," Trachsel said. "In the Milwaukee game, I was pretty much relegated to throwing the fastball because everything else was belt high."

 TRACK & FIELD

■ **VILLENEUVE D'ASQ, France** — Russia's Svetlana Feofanova won the pole vault at the Lille Metropole meet Sunday, besting American Stacy Dragila.

Feofanova had a leap of 15 feet, 5 3/4 inches, while Dragila was third with a jump of 15-1 3/4. Feofanova holds the world indoor record, while Dragila holds the world outdoor record and won the 2000 Olympic gold medal.

In other events, France's Christine Arron won the 100 meters in 11:08, Russia's Anastasiya Kapachinskaya won the 200 in 22.48 and France's Baala Mehdi won the men's 800 in 1:44.

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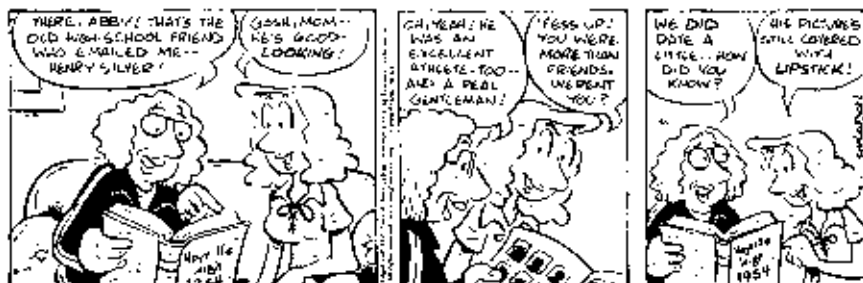
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 - 29 Menu choice
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Former Globetrotter pleads innocent to fraud charges

By The Associated Press

■ **RICHMOND, Va.** — Former Harlem Globetrotter Clyde E. "The Glide" Austin Sr. pleaded innocent Monday to federal charges from a scheme prosecutors say bilked investors out of more than \$10 million.

Austin, who was arraigned on fraud, money laundering and conspiracy charges, will remain free until his October trial. His lawyer had no immediate comment Monday.

The charges carry a maximum penalty of 180 years in prison and \$6.5 million in fines, prosecutor Dave Maguire said.

Prosecutors allege Austin, 45, and three other men promoted a pyramid scheme that promised investors high-yield "secret and exclusive investment opportunities."

Many of the more than 200 investors were members of churches in North Carolina, Virginia, Illinois and Missouri that were associated with the defendants, according to prosecutors.

Austin was arrested June 6 in Las Vegas, where he runs the Heavens Light Christian Center. He played for the Globetrotters from 1981-90.

■ **LOS ANGELES** — In the crowded neighborhood of late-night talk shows, Orlando Jones wants to move in and become the rowdy resident who shakes up the block.

The "The Orlando Jones Show,"

debuting Monday night on the FX cable network, features the popular former 7-Up TV spokesman pledging to break what he called the stale humor of his late-night rivals.

Among the sketches, Jones plays a researcher at an institute studying the palm-slapping, finger-jabbing moves of street handshakes. He also plays the pitchman for bandages that match the skin tones of black people, from "Morgan Freeman Black (with freckles)" to "Halle Berry Latte."

If that sounds offensive, Jones says you're too uptight — or too old. The 35-year-old actor-comedian said he's "not looking at the world the way people who are 50 look at it."

Instead of having a band, he hired pop and R&B producer Dallas Austin to add music to the show. He also discarded the traditional talk-show decor. "A desk and a cityscape is really kind of boring," Jones said. "It's not me. ... I want a sofa, something Italian, sexy, sleek, that looks like a club I'm going to."

Among his first guests: Adrien Brody, the Oscar-winning star of "The Pianist," and Michael Chiklis of FX's crime series "The Shield," a program that proved to Jones that the network would stand by edgy material. Half-hour episodes will air Monday through Thursday with a rerun on Fridays.

■ **NASHVILLE, Tenn.** — A settlement has been reached in a federal law-

suit that claimed former television host and current New Age musician John Tesh based a song on a Sept. 11 poem written by a Missouri woman.

Stacey Randall filed a copyright infringement lawsuit last month in U.S. District Court in Nashville. She named Tesh as a defendant along with his Louisville, Ky.-based Internet service provider, MaximumASP.

Randall said she wrote "Met in the Stairwell" five days after the terrorist attacks. It describes the airplanes crashing into the World Trade Center from God's point of view.

Randall said she posted the poem on her family's Web site. A few people copied it and sent it to friends, and soon it was crisscrossing cyberspace, often as an e-mail attachment without credit for its author.

Tesh was one of its recipients. The 50-year-old was moved by the images, such as a doomed father calling home from the burning 110th floor, to set it to music.

Randall's Nashville attorneys, David Moser and David C. Risner, contend she had copyrighted her work.

When Randall learned last August that Tesh was performing a shortened yet nearly verbatim version called "God in the Stairwell," she began legal action.

Tesh originally offered royalties in a settlement, court records show, but Randall turned them down. He acknowledged he "received a copy of the Poem in one of the

uncredited e-mails and was moved to write about it," the lawsuit states.

Risner said last week that all parties have reached a settlement, but terms will remain confidential.

■ **EL PASO, Texas** — Two museums in this West Texas city are displaying one of the largest traveling collections of Chicano art, on loan from actor Cheech Marin's collection.

Marin launched two exhibits this weekend: "Chicano Visions: American Painters on the Verge" at the El Paso Museum of Art and "Chicano Now: American Expression" at the Insights El Paso Science Museum.

"It's a source of great pride, hopefully, and everybody can enjoy some world-class art that comes from their own communities," said the 56-year-old, who co-starred with Tommy Chong in the "Cheech and Chong" comedies of the 1970s and '80s.

Rene Yanez, the curator of Marin's collection, said the works depict urban and rural imagery, mostly from California and Texas, that will show El Pasoans renderings of America with which they can identify.

"I think (audiences) are seeing things in common with the artists," Yanez told the El Paso Times in Sunday's online edition.

"Chicano Visions: American Painters on the Verge," will be at the Museum of Art through Sept. 21, while the Insights show continues through Jan. 4.

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