

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

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Daytime: 7 3 9

Evening: 7 6 9

DAILY DERBY

1st: 07 Eureka

2nd: 09 Winning Spirit

3rd: 12 Lucky Charms

RACE TIMES: 1:48.95

NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ James Samuel Steward suffered severe brain damage in May 1998 after he took an overdose of methadone that someone had smuggled into jail for him while he was an inmate in Goulburn, Australia. In May 2004, Steward's parents filed a lawsuit on his behalf (because he is now unable to care for himself), claiming that it is the government's fault that their son got tempted, in that it did not smuggle-proof the jail, and the Stewards are asking the equivalent of US\$2.7 million.

■ Earlier this year, a worker compensation commission in Sydney, Australia, awarded benefits for "psychological injury" to teacher Jeff Sinclair, caused when Baulkham Hills High School fired him. The basis for the firing was his romantic relationship with a student, which began in 2000 when he was 49 (and the married father of three) and she was 15. Sinclair will receive from the government the equivalent of US\$19,000, plus US\$215 monthly for as long as his "injury" continues. Teacher and student now live together, as Sinclair and his wife have divorced. (And in May, Sinclair's ex-wife said she would soon file a similar claim for "psychological injury," before the same commission, also based on the firing of her then-husband.)

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

"As you were, I was.
As I am, you will be."

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Attacking cougar was extremely emaciated

Santa Monica resident Shannon Parker lost an eye and suffered deep gashes to her leg in weekend attack in Sequoia Forest

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

WILSHIRE-MONTANA — The cougar that mauled a hiker from Santa Monica on Saturday weighed just 58 pounds, or about half what the average 2-year-old male mountain lion weighs, according to preliminary lab results returned Monday.

Shannon Parker, 27, lost her right eye and suffered deep gashes to her right thigh in the evening attack, which occurred as Parker was hiking on a clifftop trail in the Sequoia National Forest. Parker left her boyfriend and two friends at a mine shaft and was walking along the edge of the Kern River when the emaciated lion attacked, officials said.

"The boyfriend heard her screaming, and he came around a little tiny bend and he saw a mountain lion right on top of her — and it looked like the mountain lion was covering her face," said Lt. Brian Naslund from the U.S. Department of Fish and Game.

Naslund said Parker's boyfriend, Mathias Maciejewski, 28, jumped on the lion and twice stabbed it with a knife in the right shoulder, while Jason Quirino, 30, a friend, hit the lion four times with a softball-sized rock, finally forcing it to release Parker and flee. Meanwhile, Ben Aaron Marsh, 15, another friend, ran to get help from a Forest Service fire patrolman near the head of the Johnsondale Bridge trail. The mountain lion left a bloody trail, and was caught later and killed.

Parker, who underwent hours of surgery at the UCLA Medical Center in Westwood, lives in an apartment north of Wilshire Boulevard and works as a regional saleswoman for a surgical supply company. Friends, neighbors and colleagues on Monday described her as a short, pretty and athletic woman who is close to her family and spends a lot of time with her boyfriend Maciejewski, a law school student living in Los Angeles.

"She's a very sweet girl, athletic — hard worker," said neighbor Marisol Metcalfe, 32, a landscape designer, adding Parker is an avid runner and frequently worked out. "She's a great girl. I can't believe this happened to her ... Everything was going really well for her."

Marc Haverstock, Parker's work supervisor, said Parker is "loved by all that

See MOUNTAIN LION, page 4



File Photo

The backbone trail in the Santa Monica Mountains is mountain lion country.

Mountain lion attacks are rare, but are becoming more frequent

BY JOHN F. MULLER

Special to the Daily Press

Attacks by mountain lions are becoming more common for hikers who travel alone in the state's backcountry.

Santa Monica resident Shannon Parker is the 12th victim of a mountain lion attack since 1986. The California Department of Fish and Game recorded three attacks before that year, one in 1890 and two in

See ATTACKS, page 4

Senior exemption takes bite out of school tax

More applications flooding school district than last year

By Daily Press staff

DISTRICT HDQTRS. — With a little more than one month left for senior citizens to exempt themselves from a \$225 school parcel tax passed last year, officials said they've already seen a noticeable increase in applications.

The flat tax, passed as Measure S last June, applies to more than 32,000 properties in Santa

Monica and Malibu. It's expected to generate about \$6.5 million annually for the cash-poor local school district until it expires in 2009.

More than 3,000 senior exemptions were granted last year, for a total of \$711,000, said Dawn Smithfield, an administrator for the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. The vast majority of the exemptions — 2,280 — were in Santa Monica, while just 880 Malibu parcels were exempted from the tax.

Smithfield said the number of exemptions this year won't be known until August, but already she's seen an increase in applications

from seniors.

SMMUSD has avoided teacher layoffs in recent years but has been in a constant struggle to maintain services and programs, said officials, who added growth has been delayed until the financial forecast improves.

Residents who will be 65 by June 30 and own their homes can be exempted from the tax by providing the school district with proof of age and ownership. Those seniors who applied for and were given exemptions last year were

See PARCEL TAX, page 5

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5-6:30 13.⁹⁵

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Kick up your heels, Leo

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)
***** Others shake loose and finally get past a problem. How you think could change as a result of a newfound openness. Finances will straighten out if you relax and don't worry. Gain a perspective from recent events. Tonight: Make Fourth of July plans.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
***** What has been a sequence of bad-hair days will now clear up. Others seem drawn to you as they have not been in the past. Work with others on a one-on-one level. What was difficult flourishes at this point. Tonight: Work together.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
***** Others want your feedback. What has been a problem will start to clear up. You might not have all the answers just yet, but others will bring key information. Be open to feedback, brainstorming and not making judgments. Tonight: Just don't be alone.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
**** Dig into work, but be aware that you could be overly sensitive and withdrawn. How you see a situation could change as a result of a discussion. Work on getting the job done. Schedule a checkup if possible. Tonight: Run errands on the way home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
***** You might start the day slowly, but you'll end it with a bang. You find that communication in general eases up in the next few days. You have the intensity and savoir-faire to charm the living daylights out of others. Tonight: Kick up your heels.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
*** Conversations ease up as you gain a perspective on what works. Use the morning to return calls and network. This afternoon, you might be happiest closing your door and getting the job done. Express your need to be alone. Tonight: At home.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
**** Finances will straighten themselves out. You will feel much better. The old Libra pizzazz comes out in the next few days. You pull everything together where before you had difficulty. Make calls later in the day. Reach out for others. Tonight: Hang out.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
***** Your smile attracts others. Finally, you get something off your chest and share more of what is on your mind. Suddenly, you see the choices that surround your life. Make an effort to help others who could be more confused. Tonight: Pay bills first.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
**** Your magnetism soars as the day gets older. You discover how someone close feels about you, which could delight you. Much that you have wanted to happen becomes a possibility. Laugh and play along with friends. Tonight: Do what you love.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
**** An associate or partner might not have the same goals as you, but you have the creativity to make different ideas work together. You might want to mull over a professional or personal decision. Do just that. Tonight: Enjoy your own company.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
**** Others seek you out — first for advise or your leadership, later to make a meeting work. Don't pressure yourself. In the next few days, seek a new perspective on recent events. Don't listen to gossip or hearsay. Tonight: Join your pals.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
***** Your perspective helps with a financial agreement and with communicating. Do needed research before you make a public announcement. Others want to follow your suggestions. Why not? You're full of energy and ideas. Tonight: Could be working late.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Board trustee honored by Latino community

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica Board of Trustees Chair Margaret Quiñones received awards from the National Latino Trustees Association, the California Latino Trustees Association and from the statewide Puente Project in honor of her appointment to the California Community College Board of Governors. Quiñones was the first Latina appointed to the board.

Quiñones was elected to the SMC board of Trustees in November 2000. She served eight years as a trustee on the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board, including a year as president before that.

An SMC graduate, Quiñones received her bachelor's degree in mental health research methods from California State University at Dominguez Hills. She received a master's in counseling psychology from the University of Southern California, and a doctorate in educational leadership from UCLA. She also was a fellow of the John F. Kennedy Harvard School of Government.

Quiñones was the first Latina elected to the Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District and SMC boards.

SMC out of this world

By Daily Press staff

To get a ringside seat while viewing Saturn, you need not look further than Santa Monica's community college.

"Ringside at Saturn" will be the feature show July 2, 9, 16 and 23 at Santa Monica College's Friday night astronomy series. The show will examine the latest news about Saturn and look at Cassini, the largest and most complex interplanetary probe ever launched, as it arrives at Saturn to begin its exploration mission.

The guest lecture in May will be "JIMO, the Next New Thing." Guest lecturer David Lehman of the Jet Propulsion Lab-NASA will describe the plans for a robot to explore Jupiter's icy moons. The guest lecture will be held July 30.

The feature show and guest lecture are at 8 p.m. Each is preceded by "The Night Sky Show," which re-creates the night sky and provides the latest information on space exploration at 7 p.m.

The astronomy shows are held in the John Drescher Planetarium, which features the state-of-the-art Digistar projection system. It is located on the second floor of Drescher Hall, 1900 Pico Blvd. The guest lectures are in science lecture hall 140.

Tickets are \$5 each or \$9 for the "double bill," with discounts for children and senior citizens. For information, call (310) 434-4223 or (310) 434-3000.



SURF REPORT

Today look for the SW swell (200-210)/NW wind swell mix to be on the way down. Many spots with decent SW/combo exposure see waist-high waves with some occasional bigger sets. Expect 2-3 foot, knee- to chest-high waves and fair conditions.

LA and Ventura Counties see mostly light and variable wind. All spots see building SW wind in the 8-12 knot range for the afternoon. Similar conditions are expected on Wednesday.

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

Today the water is:

70°

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	10:15	1.2	N/A	N/A	4:11	3.4	5:14	5.0
SUNDAY	12:08	1.3	11:04	1.6	5:47	3.3	5:53	5.6
MONDAY	1:05	0.4	11:56	1.9	7:09	3.4	6:35	6.1
TUESDAY	1:55	-0.4	12:47	2.1	8:18	3.5	7:15	3.6
WEDNESDAY	2:44	-1.1	1:39	2.2	9:16	3.7	8:06	7.0
THURSDAY	3:32	-1.5	2:30	2.2	10:08	3.9	8:53	7.2
FRIDAY	4:20	-1.8	3:22	2.2	10:58	4.0	9:42	7.2

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Mystery photo winners

(Left) Richard Gobeil is last week's mystery photo winner. Gobeil accurately described where this photo was taken — Fourth Street and Broadway.

(Right) Eric Cooper is the winner of the mystery photo published in the June 19-20 edition. Cooper accurately described the location of the photo — Santa Monica Boulevard and Fourth Street. Both will receive prizes from the Santa Monica Daily Press. Check out this week's mystery photo in the upcoming weekend edition.



The Q Line

For the first time since the laws were put in place, city officials have decided that regulations pertaining to street performers on the Promenade are sufficient and do not need any significant revisions this year. Merchants on the Promenade and the performers themselves, however, have voiced concerns that the regulation requiring performers to be 40 feet away from each other does not provide enough room, forcing performers to increase their decibel levels

and risk noise-violation tickets. So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "Are the ordinances governing street performers on the Promenade sufficient? If not, what needs to be changed?" 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 first think about the wording of your response.

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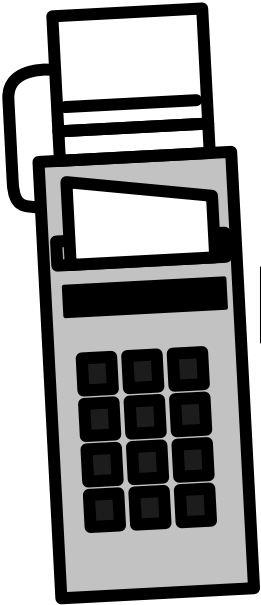
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LOCAL

Why cougar attacked is unclear

MOUNTAIN LION, from page 1

know her. We wish for a speedy and full recovery, and look forward to her return."

Parker was transferred to the UCLA Medical Center on Sunday. She was still there Monday, but officials were under strict instructions from her family not to release any information about her condition, said Enrique Rivero, a spokesman for the hospital.

Lab results returned Monday indicated the mountain lion weighed nearly 60 pounds and had virtually nothing in its stomach or intestines when it attacked Parker.

"This lion just wasn't eating," said Steve Martarano, a spokesman for the Department of Fish and Game, who added just one bone from a small rodent was found in the lion. "A lion that age should be up around 100 pounds ... The animal didn't have any injuries, such as broken bones or mouth abscesses, which might explain the animal's emaciated condition."

Martarano said a combination of reasons may have prompted the lion to attack — it may have been a subordinate male not able to find food from traditional

sources; a 2002 wildfire in the area may have changed the lion's eating patterns, or the lion may have viewed Parker as an easy target because — at about 5'2" — she was relatively short. When they do attack, mountain lions historically have targeted women and children (see related story).

Still, even those reasons don't add up, he added.

"You just never know what causes a lion to attack a human," Martarano said. "They normally don't look at humans as their prey of choice ... It's a very rare occurrence, and oftentimes we don't know what causes those attacks. We may never know. Even if the lion was hungry, that doesn't necessarily mean (it) would attack."

A rabies test on the lion came back negative. Further blood tests were being conducted at the Department of Fish and Game's Wildlife Forensic Laboratory in Rancho Cordova to screen for tularemia, plague, leptospirosis and brucellosis. Although the presence of any of those diseases may explain the animal's poor physical condition, it will not explain why the animal exhibited such bizarre behavior, senior wildlife biologist Doug Updike said.

ATTACKS, from page 1

1909. Parker suffered deep lacerations to her right thigh and injuries to both eyes during the attack, U.S. Department of Fish and Game officials said.

Of the 15 attacks documented in more than a century, six have resulted in fatalities, including all three of the attacks before 1986.

Steve Martarano, a spokesman for the Department of Fish and Game, attributed the increase in attacks to a mountain lion population that has steadied in the wake of Proposition 117 in 1990, which made the animals a protected species. Mountain lions were bountied predators until 1963 and classified as game mammals after 1969. Those designations allowed hunters to unnaturally limit the population, he said.

"We don't manage them anymore because they're not a game species," Martarano said. "So there hasn't been any reason for there to be a study. We just don't know how big the mountain lion population is. But there are certain things that we are sure of. People have been building into mountain lion, bear and coyote habitats more and more, so (those animals) have to find other places to go."

Department of Fish and Game estimates have put California's mountain lion population between 4,000 and 6,000. More than half of California is considered mountain lion habitat, Martarano said. Mountain lions can be found wherever deer are present, he said. Department officials reported that mountain lion activity and attacks peaked leading up to 1996. There have been three attacks this year.

The department has a method for dealing with the animals.

"Every time someone sees a lion... we're going to take action," Martarano said. "There are two ways that mountain lions are taken in California. (First), if they attack property or livestock, then a homeowner can ask for a depredation permit and they get a time frame to kill the lion. Second, if we determine the lion is a public safety liability, we deal with it and kill it."

Roy Stearns, a spokesman for the California Department of Parks and Recreation, said the department seeks to promote awareness to visitors through brochures, signs, flyers and ranger talks.

"Our approach is to be proactive," he said. "To make sure our visiting public knows and respects what a mountain lion is all about."

Department of Fish and Game officials recommend people who live in lion country keep pets and livestock secure, watch their children when they play outdoors and refrain from feeding wildlife. They also recommend people install outdoor lighting and avoid using plants that attract deer.

Martarano stressed that hikers remain in groups at all times when entering mountain lion country.

"Beware of your surroundings," he said. "Don't travel alone. There has been a consistent pattern in these attacks: The people have been alone. Even in the case of this girl, she was traveling back to the car by herself for sunglasses."

Officials recommend hikers pay special attention to children because mountain lions have traditionally been drawn to smaller targets. Of the 15 victims the department has recorded since 1890, six have been 10 years old or younger.

In the event of encountering a mountain lion, it is best to stop moving and try to appear taller and larger by placing your arms in the air, Department of Fish and Game officials said. They also warn not to crouch or bend over.

Mountain lions are more likely to attack if confronted, and instinctually give chase to those who flee. Once attacked, it is best to try to remain standing and fight back with anything available, officials said.

Many mountain lion sightings are false alarms, Martarano said. Even when sightings are verified, they can often be explained as normal mountain lion behavior. Mountain lions usually hunt alone at night and normally prey on large animal like deer and elk. Their solitary nature makes it possible for people living in mountain lion country to never see the animals, Martarano said.

Only 3 percent of the reports relayed to the Department of Fish and Game result in a mountain lion being identified as an imminent threat to public safety, department officials said.

Martarano stressed that mountain lion attacks are extremely abnormal.

"Attacks are rare," he said. "If you look at how many people have been killed by dogs since 1900, it's probably over 1,000. We're talking about six fatalities (since 1890)."

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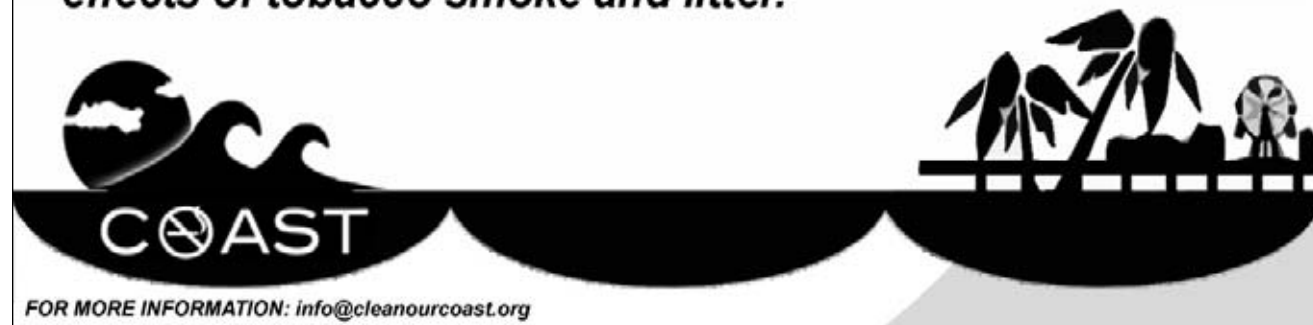
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LOCAL □ STATE

Seniors have until July 31 to apply for exemption

PARCEL TAX, from page 1

mailed renewal forms in May. Resubmitting proof of age or ownership is not required, though seniors must file a renewal form by July 31 each year, Smithfield added.

After the parcel tax passed last year, the clerk's office at City Hall was inundated with calls about the senior exemption — but powerless to help. The same is true this year, as the district is responsible for handling all senior applicants.

For more information on parcel tax

exemptions, seniors should contact Smithfield at (310) 450-8338, ext. 269. Smithfield mails exemption applications to fill out, sign and return along with proof of age — a driver's license, California ID card, passport or birth certificate — and a property tax bill copy. There is no exemption for renters, who share the tax burden with neighbors in their buildings.

Seniors aren't exempt from Measure Y, a \$104.13 school tax passed in 2001.

— John Wood

CALIFORNIA BRIEFS

Parading with pride

By The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — The party still had its traditional leather-clad legions and dramatic drag queens, but this past weekend's gay pride parade featured marchers even more radical — married same-sex couples.

Gay and lesbian newlyweds hoisting poster-sized reproductions of their marriage licenses had a starring role at San Francisco's 34th annual parade. They were joined by Mayor Gavin Newsom and others who helped promote same-sex unions in the history-making wedding march at City Hall earlier this year.

Newsom, 36, the straight, Irish Catholic Democrat who thrust the marriage debate onto the nation's agenda by directing his administration to certify marriages for gays and lesbians, shared grand marshal duties alongside veteran gay rights activists.

The first-term mayor's vintage convertible may have been 38th in the parade's 191-contingent lineup, but he received the kind of reception usually reserved for movie stars. He passed down Market Street to sustained applause and shouts of "We love you Gavin" and "Ga-vin, Ga-vin, Ga-vin," easily the event's most popular attraction.

Prosecution faltering in Peterson case

By The Associated Press

REDWOOD CITY — As Scott Peterson's double-murder trial enters its second month, many courtroom observers say the prosecution's case appears to be faltering.

Defense attorney Mark Geragos has used several prosecution witnesses to make his case that the investigation which led to charges Peterson killed his pregnant wife was shoddily executed and designed from the start to implicate Peterson.

Geragos was scheduled to resume his cross examination Monday of Detective Allen Brocchini, the first investigator assigned to the report that Laci Peterson had vanished. Last week, Geragos got Brocchini to admit to several investigative lapses.

"It's still a horse race. It's just not a close one right now," said former Alameda County prosecutor Michael Cardoza, now a practicing criminal defense lawyer.

Even outside court, the case isn't faring well.

A juror who was dismissed last week blasted the prosecution's case as unconvincing and dull.

"There's no way that you could possibly convict him," ousted juror Justin Falconer said. "He'd be innocent, because the prosecution hasn't given us any reason to believe otherwise."

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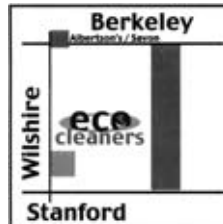
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Feeding hummingbirds bitter sweet

Editor:
In last Wednesday's Daily Press, (June 23, page 8) real estate columnist Jodi Summers suggested wildlife lovers might attract hummingbirds with a water and sugar solution.
Your readers should know that feeding hummers can have seriously adverse consequences for these birds. In our climate, the sugar solution must be changed every two to three days and the feeder thoroughly cleansed. Otherwise, the sugar water becomes the perfect template for the growth of harmful bacteria, which causes illness and often death in the hummingbirds who ingest it.
Unless one is willing to regularly clean a feeder and prepare fresh sugar solution, the best means to attract hummers and maintain their good health is to plant flowers, particularly red and orange species as suggested by Ms. Summers. Our mild weather allows Mother Nature to provide year-round the insects hummers need for protein and the nectar which fuels their energetic flight. Artificial food sources provided by humans often cause more harm than good.

Ted Winterer
Santa Monica

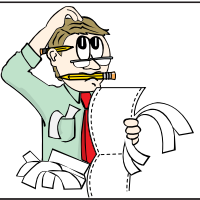
The beach is no place for a dog

Editor:
With respect to Georja Umano's letter (SMDP, June 28, page 7) about the dog beach, and her opinion and "survey" claiming that all dog beaches in California are welcomed, this is simply not the case. On its face, a "dog beach" is a great idea. It

allows dogs to run in an atmosphere that, for a dog, is compelling. However, environmental and other factors must be considered.
Most beaches cited as examples of dog beaches that work use anecdotal information from the people that use them, not those that live around them or that do not use them.
I have explored almost every inch of the California coastline and have witnessed dog beaches that work. Most that I have seen do not. Most that work are in isolated areas where few people recreate or live, or, the beach really isn't a beach. Take Fiesta Island in San Diego — while listed as a dog beach, Fiesta Island (the name gives it away) is a man-made atoll that is uninhabited less for the jet skiers, partiers and the infamous "Over the Line Tournament." However, even there, joggers, bird watchers and rowers often complain to animal control when they step on a recent nugget or get bit. Ocean Beach in San Diego isn't much better as it is dirty and neighbors frequently complain.
Another problem that is occurring in Northern California, particularly in places like B-Beach and in Santa Cruz, is unabashed defecation and unruly behavior from animals that are not fenced in and thus come into contact with different elements, including aggressive animals that have attacked smaller ones.
Clearly, Ms. Umano is passionate about her dogs. This was evident at the most recent "Dog Party" where many of the dog owners, (and I am told included Georja) dressed their animals up like humans. I would venture to guess that Georja is much like the gentleman down at the coffee shop that when asked to leash his dog, retorted, "He isn't a dog, he is my son."
My point is that even though dog owners (and I was one for most of my life) have incredible facilities here in Santa Monica with respect to off-leash dog parks, they always want more. The question becomes, "to what degree do we humans that may or

See LETTERS, page 7

Beware of talking heads and Moore's message



DOSE OF REALITY

BY MATTHEW GLASSER

I had dinner on the Third Street Promenade last Friday. As I walked toward my restaurant of choice, I ran into the minions of Michael Moore. There was a jubilant atmosphere as these folks waited to see one of the first screenings of Moore's "Fahrenheit 911." There were tables with literature about the big bad Bush. One man brought a video player and screen to show movies about the evils of the administration.
Apparently, the president also is responsible for starting the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, World War I and II, and Vietnam. The only thing missing from the festivities was an actual visit from messiah Moore.
Forget for a minute that most critics and reporters have declared Fahrenheit 911 as much fantasy as fact. If you hate the president as much as Moore's followers, you will believe anything that supports your point of view.
For example, in one scene, Moore shows a child flying a kite in pre-war Iraq. Moore wants us to believe that life was much better for Iraqis before the Americans came to town. Try telling that to the tens, if not hundreds of thousands, of Iraqis and Kurds who were tortured, raped, and murdered by Saddam Hussein and his henchmen.
I'm not going to analyze Moore's movie point by point. There is a bigger issue here. And it's a problem that's larger than a Moore movie. The fact is that Moore's documentary is not a documentary. It's film masquerading as a documentary that is edited and written to promote his point of view. This habit of selective and irresponsible reporting is one of the greatest threats to our ability to live happy and productive lives.
We have become victims of broadcast media propaganda and many of us don't

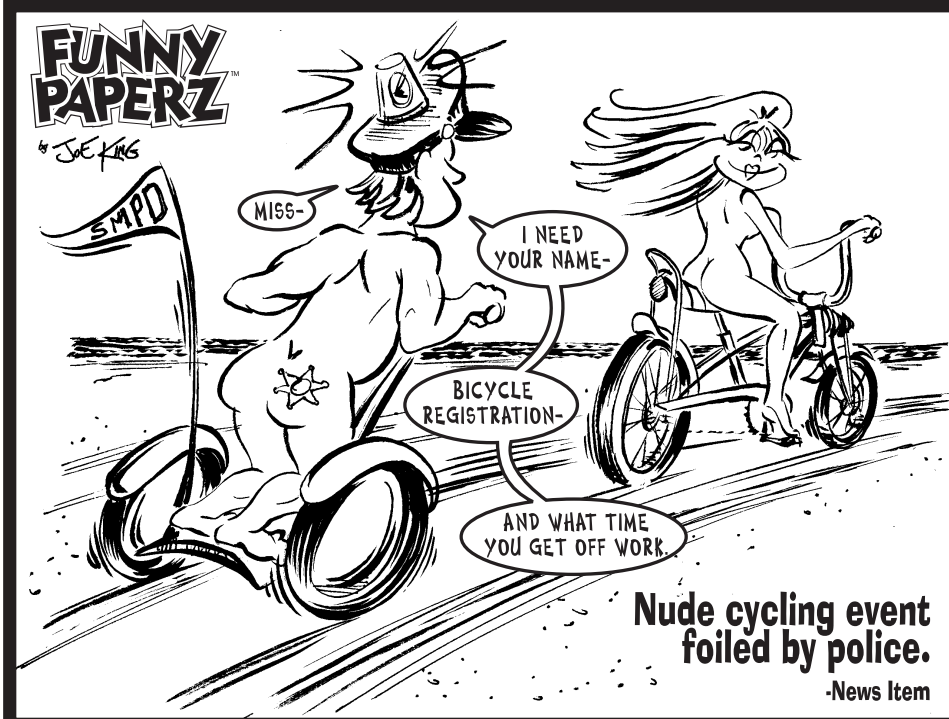
even realize it. In this case, media refers to more than just the press. Media is reality TV, local and national news, news magazines, and entertainment programs.
One of the criticisms of Moore's films is that he uses selective editing to push his point of view. He picks and chooses the pieces of video and the quotes that best express his perspective and disregards the rest. But this editing technique is certainly not reserved to Moore. It happens every day and is used to shape your opinions, ideas, and beliefs.
For example, a father may tell a reporter that "I would never let my son go to Iraq without giving him a long hug." But the news may cut the quote to "I would never let my son go to Iraq." The edited version has a very different meaning than what the father intended to say.
As a former television news producer, I witnessed first-hand the power of selective editing. It's used all the time to add to the drama of the story or create controversy when there isn't any. Editing is just one of the ways the media shapes a story. Unsubstantiated, and cut-and-paste reporting is another.
News programs have no problem scaring viewers with the results of new studies or surveys. Mercury is going to kill our kids. Pesticides are everywhere. Dogs are going to take over the world and enslave cats. The problem with these news reports is that most of them are wrong and even fewer of them are fact checked.
Here's how it works. A producer or reporter checks the wire services for interesting news items. They find a provocative study — more sex leads to a reduced chance of cancer — and they run with it. They grab the information from the wire, usually sent right to their computer, and turn it into something for the evening news. Very few reporters or producers, especially in local news, will actually take the time to research the study. They won't call the study sponsors or read the actual study literature. All of their information will come from an overworked and underpaid Associated Press reporter who is doing the best she can to meet her impossible deadlines.
As a result, we've spent decades inun-

dated with fear.
Just last week, the news media reported that a study shows that milk may actually be harmful to children. They claimed that certain chemicals in the milk could result in childhood problems. Then they went on to the weather. They didn't provide anyway to get more information or a way to evaluate the credibility of the report. So what's a parent to do? They have the word of the anchor that this could be a problem. But do they really have any useful information? Are they supposed to stop giving their child milk?
The media throws this information out to the public but doesn't give them the facts they need to make an educated decision. It's just a provocative headline. There are dozens of examples of this kind of irresponsible journalism.
Many of you may remember the Alar scare. Alar was a chemical that was sprayed on apples to improve their shelf life. A non-profit environmental group decided that the chemical was a health risk and produced a study using a risk assessment model. This is a research technique where you plug assumptions into a computer until you obtain the results you want.
After the group computed that Alar was dangerous, the organization's PR machine contacted the media. They appeared on every news program in the country and created a nationwide panic. Apples were pulled off the shelves and people protested the use of Alar. It turns out that the study was based on faulty science and there was no actual evidence that Alar was dangerous. But the result of this media campaign was a significant reduction in the consumption of apples. And the health problems from not eating fruit may actually be worse than the health issues related to consuming Alar.
The media once reported that chocolate may actually prevent cavities. It turns out that the study was sponsored by the company that makes M&Ms. But very few media organizations followed up on the study or alerted its viewers about the study's sponsors.
A child welfare group once issued a study declaring that one in eight children

go hungry. The group had the noble goal of ending childhood hunger but the study was wrong. Despite the faulty analysis, most news outlets reported that millions and millions of children were going hungry. The news reports created quite a stir and resulted in changes in public policy. What most people didn't know was that the study was partially funded by Kraft Foods in an effort to increase the purchase of groceries.
I could go on and on. The point is that you shouldn't believe what you see and hear without checking the facts for yourself. Should we all give up produce and fruit because of potential pesticide problems? Should we stop eating fish and meat because of health concerns? Should we avoid driving SUVs because they may roll over? Do you really want to let a news anchor make those decisions for you?
You have to research these issues for yourself. Don't rely on any single source for your information. Moore's film may be convincing but you owe it to yourself to look into his allegations. We must become active information consumers, and read and view multiple publications, TV programs, movies, and Web sites.
The Internet is a fantastic tool for researching these issues. Many of the original documents that news reports are based on can now be found online. If you really want to know about life in Iraq prior to the war, go visit the Web sites of Amnesty International, the International Red Cross, and the United Nations. Don't just take Michael Moore's word for it. And the next time your local news anchor tells you about a potential health problem, call your doctor or visit a health Web site and check for yourself.
Before you change your behavior in response to a media report, you might want to check out the facts for yourself. Sometimes the changes in behavior are more dangerous than the original problem. Consider that the next time you hear about a miracle cure or the danger of eating foods that are green.

(Matthew Glasser can be reached by e-mail at mediamattthew@yahoo.com).

OPINION



Thanks to "The Simpsons" for making cartoon tushies mainstream! © 2004 WWW.FUNNYPAPERZ.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LETTERS, from page 6

may not own pets give up and jeopardize our space to accommodate free and unrestricted animals?" And, to what degree do we jeopardize our health, safety and peace of mind to accommodate our pets? Just ask the residents around the Joslyn Park dog run that question.

With the increasing amount of human activities taking place outdoors, Santa Monica beaches, less for a few months in the winter, are far too crowded, and the health and safety hazards are far too great for a dog beach.

Maria Bell
Santa Monica

Moore needs a makeover

Editor:

Dan Dunn's review of the movie Fahrenheit 9/11 (SMDP, June 25, page 12) was kinder than most that have appeared in the mainstream media. My personal favorite description of Michael Moore was in the Wall Street Journal. There he was described as "the media village's most famous or infamous bomb thrower, self-promoter, used theory salesman, glib falsifier, discomfiting truth-teller, aggrieved patriot, shrewd lampooner, and serial ambusher." All that said, the real deal with Michael Moore is that he is really, really in need of a major makeover by the Fab Five. Isn't there someway we can get him a gig on Queer Eye for the Straight Guy?

Glynn Morris
Playa del Rey

The ocean is a dangerously dirty place

Editor:

There is now a smoking ban at two county beaches. This isn't enough. Our state legislature needs to act on this issue. There is a long stretch of coast in California, and a whole lot of state beaches. Smoking should be banned at all state beaches. It is alarming that children are being put in danger. Families and future generations should be allowed to enjoy our beaches.

There are also the larger issues. We currently allow passenger cruise ships to dump raw sewage only three miles from our shore. In one year at least 800 calls will be made to California's ports, each one dumping 210,000 gallons of sewage. That's 168 million gallons of raw human waste. This not only endangers marine life, but also human health. Millions of people visit our beaches, and everyday people are risking their health by swimming in our oceans. Our state legislature needs to act on this issue now that further human illness is preventable.

Diane Orozco
Los Angeles

Business 101: What you should do when your company makes a profit



LEGAL NEWS & VIEWS

BY DAVID PISSARRA

I've covered the process of building a business in previous columns and how to limit exposure if something goes wrong. Now we deal with success. If a company does well, there is just as much need for an exit strategy for the investors/owners as if it tanks.

This sounds like a no-brainer. Take the money and go live in the Carribean, drinking mai-tais.

But in reality, managing success can be just as difficult, and sometimes more, than failure. When a company is successful, there are many different problems that arise, not the least of which is when the investors now want their money back and wish to cash out.

A company that is now operating with a profit has several options. Clearly they can continue to operate, assuming that the management of the company is capable of continuing to manage the growth of staff, clients, billing, cash management and operations.

Selling the company to a larger concern also is a possibility, but not always a good idea depending on which chair you are sitting in. As a founder/manager, you might want to sell out the company, and go on vacation, but if you are an office manager in that company, you might be praying that the company stays as is, because a sale to a larger concern means your job is ripe for being made redundant.

Passive investors, those people who gave money to the entrepreneur to go make them rich want to see their money come back to them. This usually means that they want to see a sale of the company, either to a larger concern or through an initial public offering (IPO).

Employees who have stock options will definitely want to vote for the IPO. This is the source of so many millionaires in the dot-bomb world.

In our sleep testing facility, we have essentially two main categories of interested parties. There are the manager/owners, who have one set of goals, and the passive investor who has a different goal.

The manager/owners are interested in building a company for long term growth and stability of income. They want regular paychecks and a growth plan that allows the company to have a sustainable, stable plan for increasing our market reach and market share.

The passive investor is more interested in making sure that their investment gets repaid, and that they receive a sizable return on their money. This is where the two groups' goals are going to diverge.

Given that management wants to grow the company, cash and capital intensive investment gets put back into the company. The management will want to keep as

much cash as possible in the company to take advantage of opportunities as they arise. New leases, new equipment and marketing materials, traveling of staff to develop the new locations and increased administrative and legal fees are all expenditures that will come with a growth plan.

The investor will want the net profits to be distributed as quickly as is prudent in order to recoup their money they invested, and then to continue reaping their profits in that way, so that they have a return on their funds.

Alternatively, the company may have as its main goal an IPO. The company will incur substantial costs prior to making that big killing in the marketplace. As part of the initial public offering process, the Securities and Exchange Commission will require audited financial information. For any company that has as its goal the IPO, it is highly recommended that from the outset the books be audited annually. The reason for this is that if the books are set up properly from the outset, and reviewed by outside auditors, the time and cost savings will be tremendous when the company makes its application to the SEC.

However, for every good idea there is a cost. The costs of audited financials on an annual basis are much higher than unaudited financials. But when structuring a company for its IPO, this will actually be cheaper in the long run, since the first few years of operations are usually not as active as a growing company. By way of example, Arthur Mann, the philanthropist/entrepreneur, has a company he is taking public. So far the accounting fees are more than \$600,000. These are fees for a company that already has an accounting department.

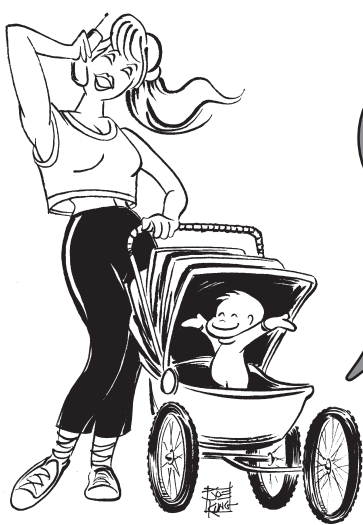
Also, like bad habits, good habits of financial accounting tend to reap rewards not only in speed and lower costs, but in the value of the stock by sending a message to the market that this company has solid management in place.

The sleep testing company is not planning on an IPO. We are however, planning on growing substantially over the next three years. To do that we will need to have a lot of cash on hand. For our company, we are keeping most of the income in house for the next two years, to provide capital, rather than sell off interests in the company. Our goal is to provide a steady income stream to our investors and members, and provide enough growth opportunities for the staff and management to want to stay with us.

We are growing with a valued staff, a team of location scouts, technicians, doctors, marketing people and based on a proven business model. That's how we are handling our success.

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

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Lactation Station gets pumped up

By Daily Press staff

Nurses, pediatricians and mothers all agree: Breastfeeding is best for your baby. The nutrients and antibodies in breast milk are essential to your baby's development and health, and breast feeding is one of the most joyful moments a new mother and her baby can experience.

Nursing a newborn, however, is not always easy. First time mothers, in particular, often find the initial experience frustrating and confusing. The Lactation Station at Saint John's Health Center will continue once the Women's Health Center has moved to the fourth floor of the new inpatient pavilion.

Founded in 1998, the Lactation Station is a service dedicated to helping mothers learn breastfeeding techniques and committed to providing support throughout the nursing process.

After delivery, trained lactation educators visit recovering mothers in one of the 12 birthing suites available on the fourth floor of the new inpatient pavilion to provide breast feeding support and encouragement. The free consultation assist patients with learning their babies' feeding cues, proper positioning and latch-on techniques,

issues arising from prematurity, breast augmentation or reduction, and breastfeeding in the workplace. The encouragement is reinforced through post-hospitalization visits and consultations.

"I try to see every new mother while they are in the hospital," said Elaine Robertson, lactation educator. "There is a lot of misinformation out there, and new mothers need support and encouragement. What I find most satisfying is helping a mom and her baby come to a resolution about nursing."

The Lactation Station offers a free breastfeeding support group to new mothers. Participants meet twice weekly to share the joys and trials of breastfeeding. The support group is supervised by a lactation educator who assists clients with breastfeeding problems, including sore nipples, engorgement, inadequate weight gain, nipple confusion, decreasing milk supply, returning to work, pumping, and the collection/storage of breast milk. The group meets at Saint John's on Wednesdays and Fridays from noon to 1 p.m. For additional information, call (310) 829-8944.

The Lactation Station additionally provides a breastfeeding support line for mothers to call with questions or if they are experiencing any nursing problems. The support line number is (310) 829-8944.



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DID YOU KNOW?

A Swiss study found that a majority of women unconsciously choose mates with a body odor that differs from their own natural scents, which, as a result, ensures better immune protection for their children. "Longevity" magazine reported that the genes that battle disease-provoking substances also influence body odor.



Santa Monica Mom

for Santa Monica mothers and mothers to be

MOM CALENDAR FOR June 29

SPECIAL EVENTS
JULY 2, FRIDAY – HARRY POTTER MAGIC SHOW with TONY DANIELS
2:30 p.m., Miles Playhouse in Reed Park, 1130 Lincoln Blvd. Presented by the Santa Monica Public Library. For ages 5 and up only. Free, but advance tickets required. Pick up tickets on Thursday, July 1 after 12:00 noon at the Fairview, Montana and Ocean Park Branch Libraries. Remaining tickets may be picked up Friday at the Temporary Main Library (1324 5th St.) at the 2nd floor info desk between 10:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Only 150 tickets will be issued.

JULY 3, SATURDAY – CELEBRATE AMERICA!
All Santa Monica residents are invited to come out for some good, old-fashioned family fun to mark our nation's independence. Come early, picnic on the lawn and enjoy continuous entertainment – including the USC Marching Band – special exhibits including plenty of refreshments, and a spectacular fireworks salute to America. Gates open at 5:00 p.m. Corsair Field at Santa Monica College. Free admission, parking is \$5. Sponsored by the City of Santa Monica, SMC and numerous local businesses. Call 434-3000 for more info.

**Check the Weekend Edition(Saturday) of the Santa Monica Daily Press for more 4th of July activities.*

WEDNESDAYS in JULY – MS. BETSY'S STORY-BOOK TREE
Meet the new school on the block! The Delphi Academy is sponsoring a free storytime for children ages 3-8, featuring quality children's books and a craft activity. Parents can join their children or take advantage of the EARLY READING WORKSHOP for PARENTS in the room next door. 1610 Broadway, 526-2700.

THE MAGIC of MUSIC for CHILDREN – THE DELPHI ACADEMY
Children will share in the fun they create with Grammy award-winner David Spear. Call 526-2700 to schedule a time and date. 1610 Broadway.

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!
“The Notebook”, starring Ryan Gosling, Gena Rowlands and Rachel McAdams.
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. “The Notebook” is based on Nicholas Spark's novel about two young people who meet in their teens and are reunited after World War II. The story of the young couple is told to a woman in a nursing home by an old man who visits to read to her from a notebook.

Storytelling
Main Library
Toddler Storytime at Reed Park; 10:00 & 10:30 a.m. Stories for two year olds with adult.
2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.
Cuentos Para Pequenos – 10:00 a.m., June 22 – Aug. 10. Six-week series in Spanish for 24 – 36 month olds with adult.
Lap Time – 11:00 a.m., 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.

Sewing Arts Center, 3330 Pico Blvd., 450-4300
June 29th - Beginning Sewing 1A, 6:30-9 p.m.; Introduction to Hand Piecing, 6 – 9 p.m.
Call for more info or to register.

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., 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

Sewing Arts Center, 3330 Pico Blvd., 450-4300
June 30th - Madison Hand Bag, 11a.m. – 2 p.m.;

Heirloom Blouse , 6 –9 p.m.; Borders and Bindings, 6 – 9 p.m. Call for more info or to register.

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; 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.

Sewing Arts Center, 3330 Pico Blvd., 450-4300
July 1st - Stained Glass Quilting, 6 –9 p.m. Call for more info or to register.

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.
Family Fundays at the Will Geer Theatricum Botanicum (also Sundays)
Ages 4 and up, 11:00 a.m., \$8, 1419 N. Topanga Blvd., Topanga Canyon, 310-455-3723.

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

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.
Family Fundays at the Will Geer Theatricum Botanicum (also Saturdays)
Ages 4 and up, 11:00 a.m., \$8, 1419 N. Topanga Blvd., Topanga Canyon, 310-455-3723.

MONDAY

Storytelling – Libraries are closed, no story-times July 5th.
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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WORLD BRIEFLY

Palestinians attack Israeli border

By The Associated Press

SDEROT, Israel – Palestinians fired a barrage of home-made rockets at this Israeli border town Monday, killing an Israeli man and a 3-year-old boy near a nursery as youngsters were arriving at school.

It marked the first time in nearly four years of fighting that Israelis were killed by rockets from Gaza, and harsh Israeli retaliation was expected. Prime Minister Ariel Sharon called an emergency security Cabinet meeting for Monday – an indication that he would seek special approval for military action.

Seven people, including the toddler's mother, were wounded in the rocket attack, for which the Islamic militant group Hamas claimed responsibility.

The rockets fell just hours after Hamas and the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades blew up an Israeli army outpost in the heart of Gaza with hundreds of kilograms of explosives, killing an Israeli soldier and wounding five.

In Gaza, four Palestinians were shot dead by Israeli troops overnight.

However, the burst of violence was not expected to disrupt Sharon's plan to withdraw from Gaza next year. Sharon has said a withdrawal is crucial for Israel's security and that he is determined to go ahead.

Saudi oil to continue flowing

By The Associated Press

DHAHRAN, Saudi Arabia – Saudi Arabia will keep oil flowing to the world and make up for any shortfall linked to violence in Iraq, the president of the kingdom's state oil company told The Associated Press on Monday.

"Saudi Aramco will be able to provide what the market demands and what the government asks us to produce," Abdallah Jum'ah, president and chief executive officer of the Saudi Arabian Oil Co., known as Saudi Aramco, said in an interview in this eastern oil hub.

Jum'ah noted that with Iraqi production down, "we have more capability than anyone else in this industry to be of support to the world economy by virtue of our reserves and our production capabilities and professionalism."

Kerry respects the picket line

By The Associated Press

BOSTON – Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry on Sunday canceled an appearance at the U.S. Conference of Mayors rather than cross a promised police union picket line at the event.

"I don't cross picket lines. I never have," Kerry said as he left Mass Sunday night at Our Lady of Good Voyage chapel in South Boston.

His decision came hours after Boston Mayor Thomas Menino called on Kerry to attend, calling the conference "an important event for urban America," and saying the pickets set up by the Boston Police Patrolmen's Association and other union members did not constitute a legitimate picket line. Menino has been locked in a battle with several city unions over unsettled contracts.

Menino said that he spoke with Kerry on Sunday evening, and that he was "very, very disappointed" with Kerry's decision.

"We're very proud of the senator and his stand," said Jim Barry, a spokesman for the police union.

Conference President James A.

Garner, mayor of Hempstead, N.Y., said in a statement released early Monday that the mayors are disappointed, and hoped to meet with Kerry soon to discuss issues facing American cities. More than 200 mayors are attending the conference.

Gas prices dip

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES – The average price of a gallon of gas fell close to 7 cents in the past two weeks – the second drop in a row after months of increases, an industry analyst said Sunday.

The national average price for all three grades of gasoline fell 6.6 cents to \$1.97 per gallon Friday, said analyst Trilby Lundberg, who publishes the semimonthly Lundberg Survey of nearly 8,000 gas stations nationwide. Self-serve regular averaged \$1.94 a gallon.

The price of gas fell about 6.5 cents in the two weeks before June 11, after rising more than 59 cents since mid-December, Lundberg said.

The recent price drop was due in part to falling oil prices and the completion of U.S. refinery maintenance projects in preparation for summer gasoline demand, Lundberg said.

It was unclear whether gas prices would continue to fall, Lundberg said.

The national weighted average price of a gallon of gasoline at self-serve pumps on Friday, including taxes, was about \$2.04 for midgrade and \$2.13 for premium.

Tremor hits the Midwest

By The Associated Press

CHICAGO – A brief earthquake struck the Midwest early Monday, rattling windows and awakening sleeping residents from Wisconsin south to Missouri and from Indiana west to Iowa.

No injuries were immediately reported from the quake, which occurred about 1:11 a.m. CDT. It was centered about 7 miles east of Troy Grove and 71 miles west of Chicago, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Brian Lassige, a geophysicist with the U.S. Geological Survey in Colorado, said the quake was magnitude 4.5, and its epicenter was about eight miles northwest of Ottawa in northern Illinois.

Initial reports indicated no major damage from the temblor, although police agencies and radio stations within the quake area were inundated with telephone calls.

Reports of the shaking came from at least as far east as Valparaiso, Ind., and as far west as the Quad Cities, and from Wisconsin in the north to the St. Louis area in the south.

Truckers ready to strike

By The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS – Officials at the nation's ports are bracing for a threatened strike by truckers upset over high costs, low wages and laws that prohibit them from unionizing.

Independent truckers, who get paid for each container they haul, have called for a strike to begin Monday that could slow down the movement of cargo at ports.

Truckers are upset over rising costs and low wages. But they also want to be able to form unions and collectively bargain for better contracts from shipping and trucking companies that hire them out.

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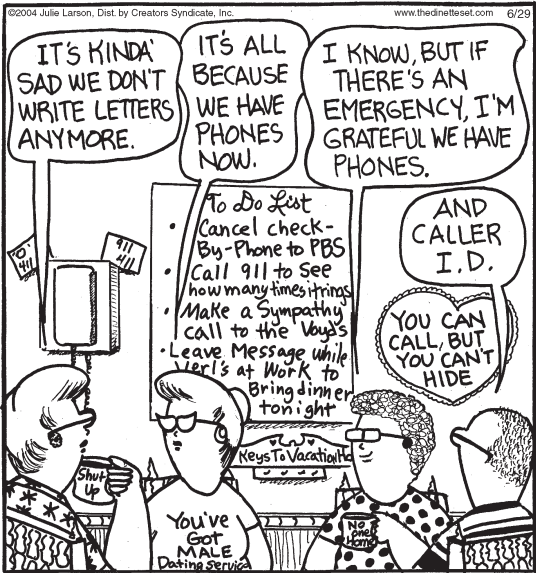
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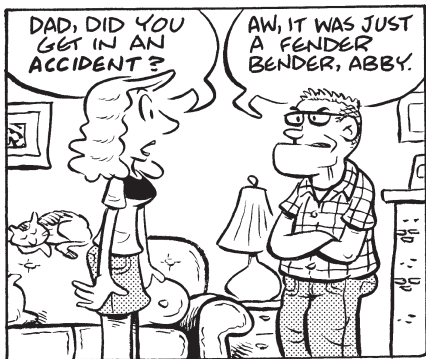


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 - 6 "I understand"
 - 11 Resort off Venezuela
 - 12 Wear away
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 - 15 Spring month
 - 16 Balloon filler
 - 17 Spot
 - 18 Confederate soldier
 - 20 Labrador explorer
 - 23 Fit for a king
 - 27 Eager
 - 28 Long skirt
 - 29 Ninnies
 - 31 Famous
 - 32 Eagle's claw
 - 34 Greek letter
 - 37 Used one's teeth
 - 38 Relaxing resort
 - 41 Cargo carrier of World War II
 - 44 Martini garnish
 - 45 Wed in secret
 - 46 Medicine amounts
- 47 Uses a keyboard
- DOWN
- 1 Peaceful
 - 2 Opera highlight
 - 3 July stone
 - 4 Burrows of Broadway
 - 5 Goal
 - 6 Yellowstone sight
 - 7 Sphere
 - 8 Low digits
 - 9 Not busy
 - 10 Far, in combinations
 - 14 Bar bill
 - 18 Thesaurus author
 - 19 Citrus flavor
 - 20 Heel
 - 21 In the past
 - 22 Jazz style
 - 24 Gangster's gun
 - 25 Chopping tool
 - 26 Top team
 - 30 Buffalo
 - 31 Later
 - 33 Ignited
 - 34 Trudge
 - 35 Rural sight
 - 36 Sacred bird of Egypt
 - 38 Enjoy the mall
 - 39 Leak site
 - 40 Gorillas and gibbons
 - 42 Genesis name
 - 43 Cunning

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6-29

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Moore's '911' rises to the top of documentary records

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — “Fahrenheit 9/11” filmmaker Michael Moore called the opening weekend numbers for his documentary “mind-boggling” and credited his political opponents for boosting ticket sales.

“They’re all getting a Christmas card from me this year,” said Moore, who greeted filmgoers at a downtown Manhattan theater on Sunday.

The film, an indictment of President Bush’s leadership and his decision to go to war in Iraq following the 2001 terrorist attacks, took in \$21.8 million in 868 theaters in its first three days of release. It beat an opening weekend record for a documentary, \$21.6 million, set by Moore’s 2002 film, “Bowling for Columbine.”

Moore said that conservative groups helped draw attention and viewers to his latest film. He said the movie will convince “a lot of swing voters, independents and even Republicans.”

SALT LAKE CITY — Because of her dedication to Western art, actress Diane Keaton has been awarded the Utah Governor’s Award for Devotion to the Arts.

Keaton, an Academy Award winner who’s appeared in dozens of movies, including “Annie Hall” and “The Godfather” trilogy, received the honor Friday at a ceremony celebrating the new Museum of Utah History and Art.

BALDWIN, Wis. — A Minnesota woman who wanted to match former President Bush’s birthday skydive marked her 90th birthday with an airplane jump of her own.

Aileen Fritsch of Maplewood made the leap here Sunday, attached to a skydiving instructor.

The longtime nurse said there was nothing to it — she just stepped out of the plane, and the jump and the landing went smoothly.

“I haven’t been afraid of anything so far in this

world,” said the 5-foot-1-inch Fritsch.

She said she decided to make the jump after seeing the 41st president skydive on his 80th birthday earlier this month. Fritsch said she’s a dyed-in-the-wool Democrat and didn’t want to let the Republican get ahead of her.

WEST CHESTER, Pa. — Four months after Brandon C. “Bam” Margera began taping episodes of his MTV show “Viva La Bam” on a 13.8-acre Chester County spread, he’s been slapped with a cease and desist order by local officials.

Margera and MTV said they’ll appeal the June 16 letter from Pocopson Township ordering him to stop production and get rid of his TV gear and props in 30 days.

Margera paid \$1.2 million for the property and moved in in February. He said he wasn’t unsure which event he’s filmed that may have caused trouble with the township.

Among other things, he’s staged a heavy metal concert, a helicopter landing, a demolition derby and an encampment of Civil War reenactors on the property.

“The question is whether he is running a business in a residential neighborhood,” said H. William Sellers, supervisors chairman in the township, told The Philadelphia Inquirer. Officials declined to discuss specific incidents or say who had complained.

Margera taped an episode last week featuring a reunion with Johnny Knoxville, his co-star in the original “Jackass” series, from which “Viva La Bam” was spun off. The episode involved using a power hacksaw to remove the top and make a convertible of Margera’s Hummer H2.

Margera and MTV have until July 16 to appeal the township order.

“We’ve been having amicable discussions with Pocopson Township authorities, and look forward to reaching an agree-

ment soon,” MTV spokesman David French said.

GLASTONBURY, England — Rain didn’t damp the enthusiasm for Paul McCartney, who took the stage at the Glastonbury music festival to cheers from tens of thousands of concertgoers.

The 61-year-old former Beatle opened his set Saturday with “Jet,” a hit from his time with Wings. The gig, which ends McCartney’s monthlong European tour, is McCartney’s first appearance at Britain’s leading summer music festival.

More than 100,000 music fans endured several hours of rain on the second day of the three-day event Saturday. Many went barefoot or donned bright Wellington boots, and some slathered themselves in mud, as the rural site in southwest England was churned into a soupy stew.

This year’s festival also includes performances by the Black Eyed Peas, Scissor Sisters, Basement Jaxx, Joss Stone, Jamie Cullum and Oasis — and, for the first time in the event’s history, opera. The English National Opera staged the third act of Wagner’s “The Valkyrie.”

The festival ended Sunday with performances by James Brown, Morrissey and Muse.

LOS ANGELES — Bob Barker, host of the television game show “The Price is Right,” has been inducted into the Academy of Television and Arts & Sciences Hall of Fame.

Barker, 80, received the honor Saturday from action star Chuck Norris, his friend of 30 years. Barker has been hosting the popular show for more than 30 years.

“They may in the future induct people who deserve it more than I, but they will never induct anyone who appreciates this honor more than I,” Barker told KCAL-TV.

Other inductees Saturday included Katie Couric and Dan Rather.

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