

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTO

FANTASY 5

5, 3, 37, 8, 25

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 7, 9, 8

Evening picks: 3, 2, 8

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 10, Solid Gold

2nd Place: 09, Winning Spirit

3rd Place: 03, Hot Shot

Race Time: 1:46.10



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

■ In May, Reuters reported on the increasing popularity in Australia of large cockroaches as pets (won't hurt children, very low maintenance). However, at about the same time, health authorities in Thailand decided to confiscate and destroy about 1,000 pet cockroaches, calling them pests, but reluctantly showed sympathy for the owners' losses by holding a Buddhist funeral rite for the cockroaches.

■ Artist Catherine Chalmers opened her "Executions" exhibit in New York City, featuring photographs of cockroaches dying simulated "human" deaths (hanging from tiny nooses or executed in a small prison electric chair) and, in a video, arising from the "dead" in a gas chamber (gruesomely knocked out by carbon dioxide, then revived as the gas dissipates).

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Why do writers write? Because it isn't there."

— Thomas Berger

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Local merchant pleads not guilty to federal charges

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

The owner of a Santa Monica furniture-stripping shop pleaded not guilty Monday to illegally storing hazardous waste and dumping toxic chemicals into the sewer.

A trial date has not been set for Michael Miller, 40, owner of Stripper Herk Inc., located at 2015 1/2 Main Street. But Alan Rubin, his Santa Monica lawyer, said Monday his client will be proven innocent.

"He's absolutely not guilty of anything," said Alan, who will review this month the evidence that has been compiled by the United States Attorney's office against his client. "He had no criminal intent."

Federal charges were levied in May against Miller, of Playa Del Rey, after a sewer worker fell into cardiac arrest and suffered third-degree burns from crawling through a diluted form of methylene chloride, a chemical common-

ly used to remove paint.

The worker, Vincente Valenzuela, was working on the Main Street sewer project earlier this year when the incident happened.

"I want to get this over with. I don't like living with the FBI up my butt."

— MICHAEL MILLER
Owner, Stripper Herk Inc.

FBI investigators linked the chemical to Miller's nearby shop, where they discovered a runoff drain with a broken seal.

Miller, a graduate of Santa Monica High School who has owned the five-man shop since the

See MERCHANT, page 5

SM firm awaits decision in wrongful death case

Families of victims in Colorado plane crash sue charter company

BY DAVE DANFORTH

Daily Press Staff Writer

The trial in the case of a chartered jet which crashed in Aspen, Colorado in March 2001 pits a plaintiffs' Santa Monica law firm against a specialized Dallas firm with experience in aviation mishaps. It is lubricated, for both sides, by the promise — or threat — of punitive damages.

But for the lure of big money, the case likely wouldn't have probed the details of the incident, in which a Gulfstream III jet carrying 15 party-goers from LA to Aspen crashed in a fireball after becoming lost in its final seconds

in temporarily blinding snow.

Because of an opportunity in California law, the largest money award in the wrongful death case revolves around one question everybody would just as soon ignore: Whether death came instantly to those on the plane, or if there was a split second between the time the jet's left wing clipped the ground and the two jet-lengths it traveled at 177 miles per hour before exploding.

However, the lawyers don't agree on that time frame. It is 1.08 seconds if you believe Santa Monica lawyers Brian Panish and Kevin Boyle, and .7 seconds if you follow the calculations of Marty Rose. Rose, of Rose Walker LLP, represents Avjet, the charter firm which operated the jet.

See TRIAL, page 5

Rising stars



John Wood/Daily Press

Encore Academy of Entertainment, a Salt Lake City-based youth dance organization, performs on the Third Street Promenade on Monday afternoon. Santa Monica is one stop in a four-day Southern California tour for the group of 55 youngsters, aged 10-14. Next up is the Queen Mary in Long Beach and Knott's Berry Farm in Orange County.

Are public court records too public in cyberspace?

BY DAVID KRAVETS

Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Courthouses have long been considered stodgy institutions, foreign to the public they serve. The Internet has made them a little less detached, offering the ability to pay tickets, attend traffic school, even monitor dockets online.

But most of the documents that are freely available at the courthouse are not online, either for lack of funding and technology or due to concerns that not all public records should be so easily available.

As state court officials across

the nation ponder whether and how to make courthouses Internet-friendly, policymakers from California to New York are shielding many otherwise readily available records from cyberspace.

"If I'm in San Louis Obispo, I should be able to get that information without driving five hours to Los Angeles to get to that courthouse," said Kelli Fager, a First Amendment attorney in California who sat on a nationwide committee that recommended to the states to put the bulk of their records online.

"The reality is, it's very difficult for some individuals to travel

See RECORDS, page 6

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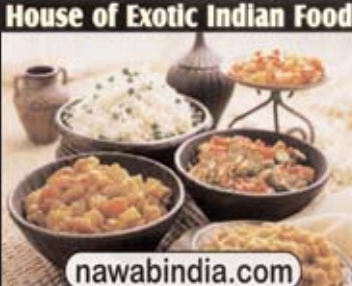
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★★-So-so ★-Difficult

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, July 1, 2003:

Making money comes naturally this year, but so does spending it. Ouch! Remember the old saying, "Make sure the check is in the bank before you spend it." You could revamp work so your daily life functions better for you. Be willing to adapt to bosses' and others' needs. Go back to school, or perhaps do some traveling. If you are single, you have a lot to offer, and others see you as very desirable. You will have your pick of potential suitors. If you are attached, plan a special trip together. Work toward a common goal. These activities will bring you much closer. LEO helps you make money.

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ Be playful and dance through a change. You might absorb information and see a situation differently after brainstorming. Use your intuition, and express your centered view. Your family and security take higher priorities. Tonight: Still ever playful.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Base your actions on your family and long-term desires. The unexpected occurs with a special friend and/or in a meeting. You might want to talk with others in order to get a new impression. Check out an investment. Tonight: Put your feet up.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Ask the right question, and you'll get the right answer — as surprising as it might be. Others easily respond to you, especially as you have a charming manner and approach. Understand that bosses know how to push your buttons. Whether or not you react is your call. Tonight: Out and about.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ You've probably said enough. Stop and do much needed research, and you'll get the correct answers. You need to settle down and figure out what is going on here. Investigate your options — be it a vacation or a new job. Tonight: Treat yourself to something new.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ The sun beams you into a position of power. You know your priorities. Timing encourages you to work with them. An associate might be more willing to pave your way than he or she has been in a while. Tonight: Whatever makes the big Lion purr.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ You can fuss as much as you want, but you might not be able to change your direction. Pull back and consider that you might need to take responsibility right now for what is going on. Consider how you could have changed directions. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Meetings and friends prove to be your strong suit. Gather with others. Push comes to shove if you try to cover all your bases. Expend an extra effort to clear out as much as possible. Pace yourself, focus and concentrate. Tonight: Where the action is.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Take your bows. Others encourage your creativity, especially within a work-related matter. Examine your finances with an eye to updating your budget. Do your needed homework. Go behind the scenes. Find experts. Tonight: A must show.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Read between the lines when dealing with those around you. You might care a lot more than you realize about a family member who seems to have an unusual ability to hurt your feelings. Talk rather than react. Let this person know how he or she affects you. Tonight: Try a new restaurant.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Others come toward you. You know much more of what you want than you realize. Start talking. A partner or associate does an excellent job of echoing what you say. Together you make quite a team. Tonight: Show your appreciation.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Others reach out — be it at work or play. You understand much more than you realize about a money matter involving work and/or your daily life. Start exchanging ideas. You could be delighted by what comes up. Tonight: Sort through your invitations.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Take your time making a decision. Not everyone has to agree or see eye to eye with you. You could be quite forceful when expressing yourself. Add that touch of creativity, and you've got bingo. Others think highly of your work. Tonight: Put your feet up. Get some extra R & R.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Santa Monica resident out of Mudd

By Daily Press staff

Cathy Kurata, a resident of Santa Monica, received a bachelor of science degree in mathematics last month from Harvey Mudd College, one of the nation's leading schools in percentage of graduates who earn Ph.D. degrees.

The college's aim is to graduate engineers and scientists sensitive to the impact of their work on society. HMC is also the pioneer of the internationally known Clinic Program, established in 1963.

SMC takes its music to Canoga Park

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica College Madison Performance Series will take its act to Canoga Park on July 19.

The series, currently in its fourth year, is co-producing a free concert at the Madrid Theatre that will feature critically acclaimed soloist Suzanna Guzmán. A family matinee performance featuring Guzmán in an interactive mini-recital will be held at 2 p.m. before she is joined by the internationally-acclaimed Debussy Trio at 7 p.m.

Guzmán, an east Los Angeles native who was recently honored as one of the nation's 12 "outstanding Latinos in music," is a mezzo-soprano and principal soloist with many international opera companies. The Debussy Trio has performed a repertoire that includes styles from French Impressionism to American jazz-fusion all over the world.

No reservations are needed for either concert. For information about the concert, call (310) 434-3431. The Madrid Theatre is located at 21622 Sherman Way in Canoga Park.

SMC started the Madison Performance Series to introduce new audiences to the type of programming that will be put on at a 500-seat performing arts center that will be built at the college's historic Madison site in central Santa Monica. Target Arts Live and The city of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department have recently joined SMC to co-produce the series.

Historical society has new board

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica Historical Society Museum has a new board of directors.

One of the board's major projects will be working on plans for the museum's permanent home in the new Santa Monica Public Library complex in 2005.

The board members and their affiliations are: Jean McNeil Wyner, chair, SM-UCLA Medical Center; Iao Katagir, vice chair, RAND; Karl Buchta, Fairmont Miramar Hotel; Carole Currey, Santa Monica College; Bob Gabriel, Bob Gabriel Co. Insurance; Dr. John Gilmore, retired; Jean Ann Holbrook, USC Trojan Guild; Misti Kerns, Santa Monica Convention & Visitors Bureau; Jim Parr, Jr., certified public accountant; Nat Trives, Santa Monica College and former Mayor of Santa Monica; Kristin Walther, Santa Monica Jaycees.

Learn about the 'biz' from a lawyer's perspective

By Daily Press staff

Are you an artist that needs some business sense?

California Lawyers for the Arts, a non-profit organization providing legal assistance and education to artists of all disciplines, will present a film and media business seminar on Saturday, Nov. 1, 2003 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Topics to be covered include: Obtaining rights and protecting them, collaboration agreements, the roles of agents, attorneys and managers, and film financing and distribution.

Speakers will be experts in each of the fields, including both artists and attorneys. The seminar will be held at Loyola Law School, 919 South Albany St., Los Angeles in Merrifield Hall. The cost of the seminar is \$65 for general admission and \$55 for co-sponsors. A \$5 discount is offered for early registration by Oct. 17, 2003. For more information and reservations, call (310) 998-5590.

surf report

SW swell will fill in a touch more along with some small NW and S energy. For the better exposed summer breaks between Zuma and the Manhattan area, expect very inconsistent sets in the knee-to-chest high range. Standout spots will see some shoulder-high sets, especially on the tide push through mid morning.

Today the water is:

62°

Sunrise: 5:50 a.m.
Sunset: 8:15 p.m.

	LOW TIDE				HIGH TIDE			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	3:50	-0.5	2:34	2.5	10:26	3.5	8:55	6.1
SUNDAY	4:24	-0.6	3:08	2.5	11:04	3.6	9:29	6.1
MONDAY	4:59	-0.7	3:45	2.6	11:42	3.6	10:04	6.1
TUESDAY	5:35	-0.7	4:25	2.7	(12:22)	3.6	10:41	6.0
WEDNESDAY	6:12	-0.6	5:11	2.7	(1:04)	3.7	11:21	5.7
THURSDAY	6:51	-0.4	6:09	2.8	N/A	N/A	1:48	3.8
FRIDAY	7:32	-0.1	7:23	2.8	12:07	5.3	2:32	4.1

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The Q Line

City Hall officials are looking at a new noise ordinance that aims to make it quieter on Santa Monica streets.

Residents knowledgeable about the ordinance think it's not enough. Business owners think it's too restrictive. Others think it is the city itself that makes too much noise with its garbage trucks and buses.

This week, Q-Line wants to know,

"Should the noise laws be more restrictive? Is it already too loud here?"

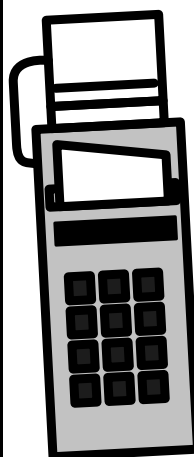
Call (310) 285-8106 with your response before Thursday at 5 p.m. We'll print them in Friday's paper. Please limit your comments to a minute or less. It might help to think first about the wording of your response.

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OPINION

LETTERS

Blowing smoke

Editor:

I, too, "have one simple question," this one for Ali Altar (SMDP, June 30, page 4). If you do not want to "inhale tons of smoke" every time you pass the cigar store on Broadway, why don't you just walk on the other side of the street?

Of course, the answer to the simple question is also very simple: Because, there is nothing common about common sense.

Ed Holmes
Santa Monica

Murder and defense of accused tragic

Editor:

Re: "Parents of slain woman protest attorney's tactics" (SMDP, June 27, page 1)
Thank you for the article and thank you to the mother of the victim, Terry Wark, for voicing what I have long felt and have never heard expressed by any media coverage of similar crimes. This is indeed a hate crime and should be listed and prosecuted as such.

The violent punishment, degradation and killing of women should be called what they are — the expression of the killers' deep-seated hate, loathing and fear of women. They are hate crimes just as much as crimes against minorities and gays are, and should be treated as such.

Brava, and my heart and prayers go out to the parents, friends and family of this beautiful young woman. I too, often wonder how these lawyers sleep at night trying to free men who will do this again and again if they have the opportunity. Hopefully, these attorneys do not have mothers, wives, sisters or daughters to be the next victim of the men they seek freedom for.

Marilyn Brennan
Santa Monica



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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.



Recall of Gov. Davis a waste of money or an insult to democratic process?



Evelyn Jerome

Let me say right off the bat, for those who might think otherwise, that I'll vote "no" on the recall of Gov. Gray Davis, if it ever qualifies for the ballot.

But I'm not appalled or aghast that California's right-wing Republicans, embittered by losing last November in a close-when-it-wasn't-supposed-to-be election, are now trying another avenue.

I don't think this recall effort is a massive abuse of our democracy. In fact, the recall effort is a legitimate use of the democratic process. There's a difference between recall and impeachment — we impeach governors and presidents for "high crimes and misdemeanors," but a

recall can be requested for almost any reason, if enough people sign the petitions.

I went right to the source to determine if this recall effort is really an abuse of the system. Here's what our state constitution says about recalling an elected official:

"Recall is the power of the electors to remove an elective officer." And later: "Sufficiency of reason is not reviewable," which means that you have to give a reason for asking to recall an elected official, but no one has the power to say, "That's not a legitimate enough reason."

Is it a massive waste of time and privately-raised political dollars? Yes. Will it waste the ridiculous sum of \$30 million of your tax dollars that we can't afford if it passes? Yes.

Is it an abuse of the process? I don't think so.

Politics has become a contact sport in the past decade or so, with the cheerleaders more like jeerleaders. Think about how those smirks at Jimmy Carter in the '70s became vitriolic hatred towards the Clintons in the '90s. Think of the generation that Rush Limbaugh told it's OK to call the President a liar and a traitor.

And unfortunately, the right wing does not have a corner on political venom. Think of how many times you've read my column and cursed me, calling me stupid or a Neanderthal.

True conservatives would have accepted the loss and waited four years, not putting our nearly bankrupt state through the possible \$30 million expenditure of running an election. I don't think the recall effort has the support of

true conservatives who know this. It's supported instead by a vindictive bunch of sore losers.

But no matter how much you disagree, the democratic process gives them the right to petition a recall. Let them gather signatures while we solve the bigger problem: California's mammoth budget deficit. A balanced budget will speak louder than a bullhorn.

(Evelyn Jerome is the founder and principal of Strategic Communications, a communications consulting firm. She is the past president of the Los Angeles County Young Democrats and a Santa Monica homeowner. To respond or to reach her, e-mail evelyn_thinktwice@yahoo.com.)



Todd Flora

"hot" news?

The recall effort is NOT healthy democracy in action. Hiram Johnson, father of the initiative and recall system and respected California Governor, ushered in the initiative and recall with the turn of the century Progressive Era. The reforms were meant to put power in voters' hands to check that of railroad barons

and other special interests. Now, we're witnessing nothing more than a partisan power grab extending from the politics of personal destruction made popular during the endless campaign to bring down President Clinton.

Apparently, it's not good enough to win an election anymore. Now we have to spend the next two, four, or six years of politicians' terms trying to bring them down politically and distract them from the job voters hired them to do. I mean is four years really that long to wait to mount a legitimate primary campaign?

Never mind that a special recall election would cost some \$30-35 million to administer. Never mind that a new governor might be elected with 11 to 26 to 34

percent of the popular vote in a recall — depending on the number of hats thrown into the ring. How is any of this helping a state with a \$38 billion shortfall?

Speaking of which, when Davis warned of a pending \$35 billion state deficit, Republican leaders mocked him, claiming we couldn't have more than a \$22 billion shortfall. Now that they appear to be \$16 billion off the mark — to Davis' \$3 billion — the California GOP has turned around to argue Davis is worthy of recall for hiding the true value of the deficit. Is it me? It's them, right?

Ironically, the self-professed "boring" governor was never so exciting than in his current role as potential recall victim. Every statewide elected Democrat has

refused to put his or her hat in the ring if the recall qualifies. The recall will even allow Davis to — gulp — raise money again. The state GOP better watch what it wishes for. They may end up with a State Democratic Party united behind Davis, when most held their nose to re-elect him just eight months ago.

While Davis is certainly deserving of some scorn, only one thing is certain. Hiram Johnson is rolling in his grave.

(Todd Flora is a professional communications and issues manager. He can be reached at junkfood6@aol.com and encourages readers to contact him and Evelyn with suggestions for weekly writing topics.)

LOCAL



Los Angeles jury still out on plane crash verdict

TRIAL, from page 1

The split-second theory is critical. California law doesn't allow punitive damages in wrongful death cases unless there is a "survivor's action," or theoretical damages or injury which occurred before death. Nine of the 12 jurors hearing the case also would have to agree that Avjet acted with "malice and oppression" to award exemplary damages in the case.

The families of 11 other passengers on the plane accepted settlements before trial. But two families pressed further, including the parents of Fox 11 researcher Marissa Witham, who was killed in the crash. Both her father and brother were pilots for Continental Airlines. Witham used to work for CityTV, Santa Monica's independent news channel 16.

Panish, representing the Withams, portrayed Avjet as reckless. The company put customer service before safety, he argued. The company didn't adequately check the backgrounds of the pilots before hiring them, created an atmosphere in which they put themselves under pressure to beat the Aspen landing curfew, and allowed the pilots to be pressured into a fatal approach into a swirling, potentially blinding, snow storm, the lawsuit alleges.

The argument is familiar for Panish. He represented a 28-year-old woman rendered a quadriplegic by a 1996 tire tread separation on her way from Los Angeles to Las Vegas. The case, against Continental General Tire, produced a \$55.32 million jury award in April 2001 and was later settled.

"The trial proved Continental General placed profits above safety," proclaimed the law firm of Greene, Broillet, Panish & Wheeler in celebrating its victory.

Panish also represents families involved in the January 2000 crash of Alaska Airlines flight 261, an MD-83 which plunged into the Pacific off Point

Mugu, Calif. after a tail-stabilizer failure. He was pitted for a time against Rose, the defense attorney in the Avjet case, until Rose's client got out of the case.

Panish, who claims the National Law Journal's designation of one of the top 10

See TRIAL, page 6



File photo

The scene of the Aspen plane crash that killed 18 people.

Merchant to stand trial

MERCHANT, from page 1

1980s, admitted responsibility for the leak but said it was a mistake. Since he was alerted to the problem, he has cemented the drain shut at Stripper Herk, lined the work areas with galvanized steel and hauled 20 unmarked barrels of the chemical off his property.

"Everything has been fixed and settled and done," Miller said Monday. "As soon as they've said, 'do this' — I've done it, immediately."

Miller doesn't think the charges will hold up in criminal court because he didn't mean to let the chemical run into the sewer.

Miller faces two counts of dumping toxic chemicals and one count of illegally storing hazardous waste barrels.

If convicted on all three counts, Miller faces a maximum penalty of 15 years in federal prison, said Thom Mrozek, a spokesman for the U.S. Attorney's office, who added that no determination has been set on what penalty to push for.

Mrozek characterized the charges as uncommon and said the violation is severe. He said the leak almost killed Valenzuela, who came in contact with the chemical while crawling through the 36-inch-wide sewer.

Valenzuela was revived by paramedics and transferred to UCLA Medical Center and later to the Grossman Burn Center, where he was treated for third-degree

burns covering 60 percent of his body.

Miller questioned Valenzuela's injuries, saying the substance that ran into the drain was heavily diluted rinse water. Miller's five employees, who work with the substance in a more concentrated form, testified in May that they have never had a bad reaction to it.

As to the 20 barrels, Miller said the waste came mostly from the byproduct of one large paint-stripping job. He delayed having the 50-gallon drums hauled away because it costs \$500 per barrel, he said.

"Generating waste is what I do," Miller said Monday. "I strip stuff. It looks bad, but that's what I do. Every piece of furniture I strip, the waste has gone into those drums."

The case will be heard by United States District Judge R. Gary Klausner at the U.S. District Court in downtown Los Angeles.

Santa Monica Deputy City Attorney Carol Kurtz said the city also may pursue Miller to recover some of the costs it incurred when investigating the leak.

In the meantime, Miller said prosecutors had not made a plea offer. But even if there was one, Miller said he probably wouldn't accept it.

"I can discount 95 percent of it before we even get started," he said. "But I've got to put the whole thing in a pile on my coffee table, see what they've got and talk to them about it."

"I want to get this over with," he added. "I don't like living with the FBI up my butt."



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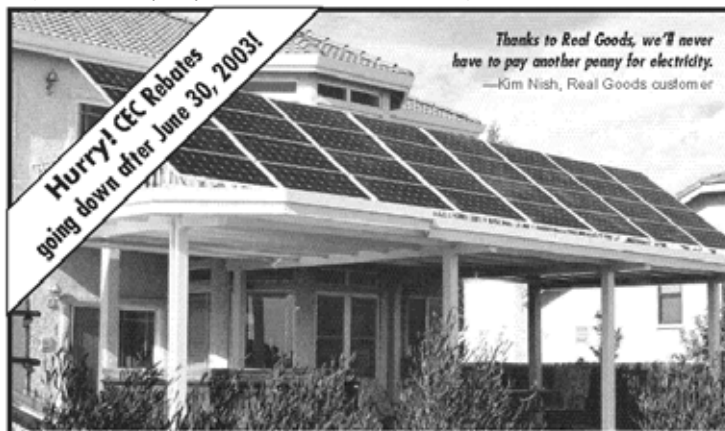
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For further information regarding the survivor's reception and lap, contact survivor chairperson Judy La Patka at (310) 579-7100 or judylapatka@aol.com Tracey Mayer at the American Cancer Society (310) 348-0356 option 3/ext. 246 or tracey.mayer@cancer.org.

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STATE

Internet helps court users

RECORDS, from page 1

to courthouses to find records in cases they are interested in," she said.

California was one of the first states to adopt an online courthouse policy, and now offers a variety of features on its Web site, including opinions by the state Supreme Court and its six appellate courts. An online self-help center even offers advice for litigants without lawyers, including how to obtain restraining orders.

But the state still prohibits its trial courts from posting criminal case files, divorce cases, guardianship cases and mental health files — many of which are publicly available at the courthouse — online.

California Chief Justice Ronald M. George said the main reason is the fear that names of victims, including rape victims, could be widely disseminated.

And as courts begin using more computer images, First Amendment advocates also worry that citizens won't have access to many documents that by law are public records because there may not be paper versions of those documents in courthouse files.

George promised that there will still be paper records of all open records available at the courthouse — at least in California. "For essential documents, there will be a parallel paper process," George said. "I say that, because as a dinosaur, I push paper."

Some individual counties across the nation are trying to offer on the Internet the same types of court records that are available for review at the courthouse. The trial court in Maricopa County, Arizona, is one, but clerks there must abide by Arizona rules forbidding Internet postings of restraining orders, Social Security numbers and pre-sentencing reports, some of which are available in the paper records.

Jennifer Greene, a policy analyst for the Arizona Administrative Office of the Courts, said people seeking online court records must also obtain a password to access them, as a protection against identity theft and harassment of witnesses.

"Anything you looked at would be recorded in the event that something was misused," Greene said.

The federal judiciary allows the Internet posting of bankruptcy and civil lawsuits, but only a few federal districts do so.

The New York legal community is in the thick of the online records debate, which is now before the New York State Commission on Public Access to Court Records.

"Protecting our Social Security numbers, bank information, credit card numbers and related information will make us more secure from identity thieves and other scam artists," Kenneth Dreifach, chief of the New York Attorney General's Internet Bureau, told the commission in May.

In an interview, Dreifach said other sensitive information may also merit keeping off the Internet, including sensitive medical, personal or family information found in class actions and other litigation.

At the same hearing, Charlotte A. Watson, executive director of the New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, said Internet access to domestic violence cases could make it easier for offenders to track down their fleeing spouses.

"What did the framers of the Constitution mean when they said public records?" she asked in an interview. "Traveling from a neighboring state to a local courthouse would have been an impossible burden back then. Who is going to be the next domestic abuse victim tomorrow?"

Bob Port, a New York Daily News investigative reporter who also testified at the hearing, reduced those concerns to "paranoia, paranoia, paranoia."

While Port and others are concerned that courts are sealing paper versions of records that should be publicly available, "You would think every ex-boyfriend is going to hunt down every ex-girlfriend if they put this online," he said.

Much of the debate over online court records is just that — debate. States are grappling with some of their biggest budget shortfalls and don't have the resources to address the issue.

Karen Salaz, a spokeswoman for the Colorado Judicial Department, said that state's court system is laying off staff, so putting court records online is a low priority.

Instead, Colorado's courts have focused on merging its databases with law enforcement's, so that officers can be notified immediately about newly issued restraining orders and arrest warrants.

"That is where our focus has been," Salaz said.

Families ask for \$14 million

TRIAL, from page 5

U.S. trial lawyers in 2001, also is involved in the 2000 Taiwan crash of a Singapore Airlines plane, as well as the mishap which killed the singer Aaliyah.

His partner, Kevin Boyle, represents the grandmother of two brothers killed in the Aspen crash. He argued the split-second theory to the jury Friday in Superior Court in downtown Los Angeles.

"The evidence showed that this was a wild ride, not a mere bump," he said of the moment after the plane's left wing clipped the ground as pilots desperately tried to power up and start a missed approach procedure after losing sight of the Aspen runway.

Rose, to believe Panish, is a Texas sharp-shooter whose specialty involves traveling around the country defending aviation firms in the types of cases Panish and Boyle bring. Indeed, Rose's law firm boasts a mantle as "trial lawyers for business people." In one wrongful death aviation case, his firm's offer of \$2 million at mediation was turned down by a plaintiff

demanding \$7 million. The case settled for \$1 million on the eve of trial, according to the history of Rose's firm.

Rose has argued that Avjet is no where near the rogue outfit portrayed by Panish and Boyle in the case. The mishap was a "terrible tragedy" and Avjet admits liability, Rose notes.

"Experienced people err in judgment, but it's still an accident," Rose argued, adding that pilots Bob Frisbie and Peter Kowalczyk didn't intend to hurt anyone.

If jurors don't conclude that they need to punish Avjet, they can compromise by awarding high compensatory damages. Panish asked for \$3,500 per day for the remaining life expectancy that each Witham parent will be without their daughter, or a total of about \$14 million. Boyle asked another \$5 million for his client, the Mexican grandmother of crash victims Jose and Joseph Aguilar.

Rose suggested a total of \$2 million at his closing argument. The jury is deliberating this week in the case.

NATIONAL



One of last stars from Hollywood's Golden Age, dies at 96

BY DONNA TOMMELLEO

Associated Press Writer

OLD SAYBROOK, Conn. — Her backyard acting blossomed into a career for the ages: Four Academy Awards, 12 nominations, 60 years of stage and screen brilliance, a lifetime of feisty independence.

But Katharine Hepburn always thought she could do more.

"I could have accomplished three times what I've accomplished," she once said. "I haven't realized my full potential. It's disgusting."

That perfectionism was balanced by grace and sheer joy in being alive.

"Life's what's important," she once said. "Walking, houses, family. Birth and pain and joy — and then death. Acting's just waiting for the custard pie. That's all."

The lights on Broadway will dim at 8 p.m. on Tuesday in honor of Hepburn, who died surrounded by friends and family Sunday at her childhood waterfront home in Old Saybrook. She was 96.

Hepburn, who had been in declining health in recent years, died of old age, said Cynthia McFadden, a close friend and executor of her estate.

"Through her films generations to come will discover her humor, her grace, her keen intelligence," McFadden said in a statement from the family at a news conference near Hepburn's home. "She was and always will be an American original. She died as she lived, with dignity and grace."

Her mark of 12 Academy Award nominations stood as a record in the acting categories until Meryl Streep surpassed that total in 2003. Her Oscars were for "Morning Glory," 1933; "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner," 1967; "The Lion in Winter," 1968; and "On Golden Pond," 1981.

An icon of feminist strength and spirit, Hepburn brought a chiseled beauty and patrician bearing to such films as "The Philadelphia Story" and "The African Queen."

"I think every actress in the world looked up to her with a kind of reverence and a sense of 'oh boy, if only I could be like her,'" actress Elizabeth Taylor said in a statement.

Hepburn, the product of a wealthy, freethinking New England family, was forthright in her opinions and unconventional in her conduct. She dressed for comfort, usually in slacks and sweater, with her red hair caught up in a topknot.

She married only once, briefly, and her name was linked to Howard Hughes and other famous men, but the great love of her life was Spencer Tracy. They made nine films together and remained close companions until Tracy's death in 1967.

She was born in Hartford on May 12, 1907, one of six children of Dr. Thomas N. Hepburn, a noted urologist and pioneer in social hygiene, and Katharine Houghton

Hepburn, who worked for birth control and getting the vote for women.

Her father built a theater in the family's back yard, where young Katharine's career took root.

"My parents were much more fascinating, as people, than I am," the actress once said. "Mother was really left of center; women's suffrage was her great cause, and I remember appearing at all the local fairs carrying huge flocks of balloons that said 'Votes for Women.' I almost went up with them."

Young Kate was educated by tutors and at private schools, entering Bryn Mawr in 1924. After graduating, she joined a stock company in Baltimore.

She made her New York debut in "These Days" in 1928, the same year she married Philadelphia socialite Ludlow Ogden Smith. She divorced him in 1934 and later remarked, "I don't believe in marriage. It's bloody impractical to love, honor and obey. If it weren't, you wouldn't have to sign a contract."

But she also lauded "Luddy" for opening doors in New York for a raw young actress. She berated herself as behaving like "a pig" toward him.

"At the beginning I had money; I wasn't a poor little thing. I don't know what I would have done if I'd had to come to New York and get a job as a waiter or something like that."

Her Broadway role in "Warrior's Husband" brought a movie offer from RKO, and she went to Hollywood at \$1,500 a week to star opposite John Barrymore in the 1932 film "A Bill of Divorcement." The lean, athletic actress with the well-bred manner became an instant star. The voice Tallulah Bankhead once likened to "nickels dropping in a slot machine" became one of Hollywood's most-imitated.

Hepburn's third movie, "Morning Glory," brought her first Oscar. A string of parts followed — Jo in "Little Women," the ill-fated queen in "Mary of Scotland," the rich would-be actress in "Stage Door," the madcap socialite of "Bringing Up Baby," the shy rich girl in "Holiday."

A theater chain owner branded her and other stars "box-office poison" after a series of flops, and her film career waned.

Undaunted, Hepburn acquired the rights to a comedy about a spoiled heiress, and, after it was rewritten for her, took it to the New York stage. "The Philadelphia Story" was a hit.

She returned to Hollywood for the 1940 film version, which featured James Stewart and Cary Grant. Once again she was a top star, with a contract at MGM for "Woman of the Year," "Keeper of the Flame," "Sea of Grass," "Dragon Seed," "Without Love," "State of the Union," "Pat and Mike" and "Adam's Rib."

Her first film with Tracy was "Woman of the Year," in

1942. Legend has it that when they met she commented, "I'm afraid I'm a little big for you, Mr. Tracy." His reply: "Don't worry, I'll cut you down to size."

One critic compared them to "the high-strung thoroughbred and the steady workhorse."

Tracy never divorced his wife, who outlived him by 15 years; Hepburn, though she led a PBS tribute to Tracy in 1986, rarely mentioned their private relationship.

"I have had 20 years of perfect companionship with a man among men," she said in 1963. "He is a rock and a protection. I've never regretted it." In another interview, she discussed their special screen magic, saying they represented "the perfect American couple."

"The ideal American man is certainly Spencer — sports loving, man's man, strong-looking, big sort of head, boar neck and so forth. And I think I represent a woman. I needle him, and I irritate him, and I try to get around him, and if he put a big paw out and put it on my head, he could squash me. And I think that is the romantic ideal picture of the male and female in this country."

After leaving MGM in 1951, Hepburn divided her time between the stage — she appeared in Shaw's "The Millionaire" and Shakespeare's "As You Like It" — and film. She coolly braved a jungle for "The African Queen" and did her own balloon flying in the low-budget "Olly Olly Oxen Free."

She co-starred with Taylor and Montgomery Clift in "Suddenly Last Summer," with Jason Robards Jr. in "Long Day's Journey into Night," with Laurence Olivier in the TV movie "Love Among the Ruins" and with Henry Fonda in "On Golden Pond," which won both of them Oscars.

She coaxed the ailing Tracy back onto the set for their roles as wealthy, liberal parents faced with the interracial marriage of their daughter in "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner." Tracy died before the film's release.

Though an early appearance in "The Lake" promoted Dorothy Parker's famously scathing remark that Hepburn "ran the gamut of emotions from A to B," she worked as tirelessly on stage as in movies.

Though an early appearance in "The Lake" promoted Dorothy Parker's famously scathing remark that Hepburn "ran the gamut of emotions from A to B," she worked as tirelessly on stage as in movies.

Hepburn nearly lost a foot in a car accident in late 1982 and spent almost three weeks in a hospital. But by the end of the year she was back before the cameras, co-starring with Nick Nolte in "Grace Quigley."

Hepburn is survived by a sister, Margaret Hepburn Perry; a brother, Dr. Robert Hepburn; and 13 nieces and nephews.

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Santa Monica

A weekly look at events and program

The pinks and blues of being a new mommy

BY JULIE MORET
Special to the Daily Press

While the days of June Cleaver are long gone, we still live in a society that perpetuates myths for new moms that are straight out of La La Land. As a doula, certified birth assistant, I've become clear about two things. The first is that new moms love their babies. The second is that being a new mom is hard.

Aside from that being a colossal understatement, it's an ugly truth rarely spoken in the light of day and, unfortunately, even more rarely spoken between new mothers.

Between 80-90 percent of all new moms experience some degree of postpartum (after birth) blues. Given these outrageous statistics, isn't it time we as a society support our new mothers?

Recent tragic events of postpartum depression brought light to this situation. However, there is a vast area of postpartum emotional distress that is not clinical or medical depression, but does need attention. This area is sweetly referred to as the "baby blues," yet for the suffering mother it is anything but.

The baby blues usually begin between the

third and 14th day after birth. The symptoms include lack of sleep, energy or appetite. Emotionally there may be anxiety, worry, confusion, sadness, being overwhelmed, over sensitivity or uncontrollable weeping.

These symptoms last a few hours or a few weeks. Naturally, if any intensify or become chronic, medical support is advised.

The best way to diminish or prevent the baby blues is to prepare ahead of time. Get a support system in place. In generations past, community members would gather around new parents supplying food, childcare and cleaning.

Honor those close to you by asking for specific support. Make a schedule and arrange help ahead of time. Perhaps one friend can bring dinner on a certain night, another might baby-sit while you bathe or nap. Sometimes people don't do anything because they don't know what to do. Reaching out lets others know they are important to you. Their assistance and your willingness to receive it deepens your sense of connection and community. This added benefit will prove invaluable over the course of your family's life.

The first few weeks with a newborn are a perfect time to load up on self care. Hire some-

one to clean your home, give you a massage or pedicure. Acupuncture, yoga, meditation and hypnosis are excellent resources for returning to emotional and physical balance.

The Chapman Family Center offers postpartum doulas who care for new mothers and families. For two weeks worth of nutritious, tasty meals at a reasonable cost, contact FuseFoods@aol.com. And never doubt the benefit of a listening ear, whether it's a close friend or a professional service like, Mothercare, an in-home counseling with licensed clinical psychotherapists.

The greatest gift a mother can give her child is a healthy, happy mom. So get your support system in place, take a deep breath and receive. And the next time you're invited to a baby shower, how about holding off on the Bloomingdales booties and instead send over a doula for a day or lunch for a week.

It does take a village to raise a family. Be the village right here in Santa Monica.

(Julie Moret Ph.D, recently featured on the Lifetime Channel, provides counseling and personalized self hypnosis tapes. Contact her at (310) 434-9700 or JulieMoret@aol.com).

Mamas will gather to learn, bond and celebrate

Upcoming Events

BY NINA FURUKAWA
Daily Press Mommy Page Editor

Hundreds of mothers and families from all over the United States and beyond will converge on Los Angeles this month for a weekend of potluck, workshops, planning and sisterhood.

The Mama Gathering is a conference and "celebration of mamas whose parenting and/or lifestyle choices set them apart from the mainstream and who want to connect with others who consider the same parenting and social issues," organizers say.

The event is being produced by a small group of mothers interested in building on a community experience that began on the internet.

"Many of the people involved in the gathering became acquainted with one another on various online bulletin boards created by and for mothers who don't quite fit the mainstream," says Mama Gathering's publicity

coordinator Sarah Caudle. "We're trying to create an opportunity for these mamas to come together in person to stimulate new ideas and to relate to each other on a more personal level.

The conference includes a feminism and popular media panel and discussion, creative writing workshops by acclaimed mama writers, presentations on peaceful parenting and political activism, and more. All workshops will be held Saturday, July 12 and childcare is available. Other events include a potluck and book preview on Friday, July 11 at a Westside park, and a Saturday night dinner and party featuring musical performances by parents, a reading by the original hip Mama, Ariel Gore, and speakers such as modern feminist icon Inga Muscio.

In a recent article on the Mothering Magazine Web site, Gathering producer Dori Lanni said the gathering is a conference, planning and group therapy session all in one.

"Of course we'll talk about parenting and the politics of motherhood, but we are also focused on feminism, reclaiming family and

reproductive health from the medical industry, fighting racism, alternatives to mainstream education and media and how to take all of these ideas and concepts back home to apply to our own communities," she said.

The Mama Gathering Web site said the event is organized by unpaid mama volunteers and funded entirely by registration fees and donations, with no corporate sponsorships. Families, dads and male partners are welcome. Participants must pre-register as space is limited. The deadline to register is July 7. For more information and to register, visit the Web site at <http://www.mamagathering.com>

(As the editor of the Santa Monica Mom page, Nina Furukawa plans to start bringing readers news of upcoming family events in the area. If you know of any such events or are planning them yourself, please contact her via e-mail at nina@smdp.com or by faxing the information to her attention at (310-576-9913.)

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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.

Also, Yoga Baby Studio is closed until July 7. Pre and post-natal and Mommy and Me yoga classes will resume then.

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 old.

Santa Monica Avenue Branch – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081

NEW – Summer Activity Program – Tuesdays thru August 5, 2:30 p.m. – ages 3 and up.

July 1 – "Soar into the Library" – Wildlife Wendy's Tropical Birds

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

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

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.

NEW – Craft Program for 6th – 12th graders – July 3, 17 and 31 at 2:30 p.m.

July 3 – Tie-dye. Bring cotton socks or t-shirt to tie-dye.

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

FRIDAY

"Cinderella" – 6 p.m., Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th St, Admission: Adults \$12, kids 12 and under \$10

MONDAY

Storytelling
Main Library (programs for the Main

Call 310-394-9779 for info.

Magicalopolis – 8 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$20

Call 310-451-2241 for info.

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

Other

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

"Cinderella" – 6 p.m., Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th St, Admission: Adults \$12, kids 12 and under \$10

Call 310-394-9779 for info.

"Mary, Mary Quite Contrary" – 12:30 and 3 p.m., Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th St. Admission: \$10, under 12 years \$9. Call 310-394-9779 for info.

July 5 – Nature Walk (Children's Nature Institute) – Solstice Canyon (Malibu) -10am

Reservations required - 310-998-1151 or www.childrensnatureinstitute.org

July 5 – Nature Walk (Children's Nature Institute) – Solstice Canyon (Malibu) -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

"Cinderella" – 6 p.m., Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th St, Admission: Adults \$12, kids 12 and under \$10. Call 310-394-9779 for info.

"Mary, Mary Quite Contrary" – 12:30 and 3 p.m., Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th St. Admission: \$10, under 12 years \$9. Call 310-394-9779 for info.

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

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

Get out there!

Have a favorite outing with your child? Share ideas with other parents by sending in a brief description to the Santa Monica Mommy page editor. Be sure to include your name and your child's name and age, phone number and e-mail. Submit ideas to nina@smdp.com or by fax to (310) 576-9913, attention Nina.

"My 1-year-old son loves animals and water. A fun day for us is driving up the Pacific Coast Highway and stopping off at the Malibu Feed Bin, located at the intersection of PCH and Topanga Canyon Road. They have goats, sheep, pigs and rabbits in the back. We then continue on to Malibu Lagoon State Beach (from PCH, go left on Cross Creek Road) where the cove provides a safe beachfront for my son to play."

— Sheila and Will (13 months)

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

Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45pm, \$15

Yoga Garden, 310-450-0133, www.yoga-gardenstudios.com Restorative yoga for pre/postnatal – 6:30pm

Other
July 7 – Nature Walk (Children's Nature Institute) – Temescal Canyon (Pacific Palisades) -10am. Reservations required - 310-998-1151 or www.childrensnatureinstitute.org

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

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WORLD BRIEFLY

U.S. troops make massive sweep in Iraq

By The Associated Press

CAMP BOOM, Iraq — A massive sweep that has already netted at least 60 suspects in 20 lightning raids across central Iraq entered its second day Monday, as U.S. forces tried to capture Saddam Hussein loyalists and curb a wave of attacks on American soldiers.

The raids by the 4th Infantry Division and Task Force Ironhorse troops began early Sunday. On Monday, planners of the Fourth Infantry Division — the most high-tech unit in the army — used an array of electronic tools to plan out further raids on militant supporters of the deposed regime.

The operation, dubbed “Sidewinder,” is taking place across an area of central Iraq stretching from the Iranian border to the areas north of Baghdad, and is expected to last for several days, according to military officials in Camp Boom, near Baqouba, 35 miles northeast of Baghdad.

U.S. forces in central Iraq have been plagued by sneak attacks on their positions and patrols. On Sunday night two M-1 tanks patrolling a section of Baqouba were attacked by rocket-propelled grenades. The near-impenetrable tanks were undamaged and the crews unhurt, but the patrol failed to find the attackers.

Israeli troops withdraw

By The Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Israeli troops and tanks withdrew from part of the Gaza Strip after leading Palestinian groups declared a limited cease-fire, boosting chances for a U.S.-backed peace plan plagued up to now by unrelenting violence.

Early Monday, Palestinian security forces took control of Beit Hanoun, setting up three checkpoints inside and controlling the entrance and exit to the northern Gaza town.

On Sunday, the militant Islamic Jihad and Hamas

groups called a three-month cease-fire, and the mainstream Fatah followed with a six-month truce declaration. The cease-fire declarations apply to settlers and soldiers in the West Bank and Gaza as well as to Israel, a key Israeli demand.

However, Israeli officials were skeptical of the prospects for a breakthrough toward settling the conflict that has bloodied and battered both sides for nearly three years.

Israel was not a party to the truce and refused to guarantee that it would stop military operations against Palestinian militants, while demanding that the groups declaring the truce be dismantled and disarmed.

Bill gains steam off the Gulf Coast

By The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Tropical Storm Bill gained pace as it churned toward the Gulf Coast, causing emergency officials across an already saturated south Louisiana to brace for the prospect of flooding.

Forecasters at the National Hurricane Center in Miami issued a hurricane watch for the Louisiana coast. The storm was producing winds of about 50 mph but forecasters said winds could speed up to 74 mph by the time Bill made landfall Monday.

Tropical storm warnings were also issued from High Island, Texas, to Pascagoula, Miss. Warnings mean tropical storm conditions are expected in the area, generally within 24 hours.

U.S. ‘unprepared’ for another attack

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Nearly two years after the Sept. 11 attacks, the United States remains “dangerously unprepared” to handle another catastrophic attack, according to a study by the Council on Foreign Relations.

The government says it already has done some of what the council suggested and is working on other rec-

ommendations.

The report said the main problem is that emergency responders on the front lines — police, fire, public health and other officials — are drastically underfunded and lack the equipment or training they need.

The council, a New York-based private world affairs advocacy organization, recommended spending \$98 billion beyond the \$27 billion it said the federal government planned to spend on first responders over the next five years.

Gordon Johndroe, a spokesman for the Department of Homeland Security, said Sunday that the conclusion that an additional \$98 billion is needed for first responders is “grossly inflated.” He said officials already have implemented or are in the process of putting in effect others of the report’s suggestions.

Bush starts push for re-election

By The Associated Press

CRAWFORD, Texas — President Bush has a two-pronged aim as he heads to Florida to push his re-election: completing an initial \$30 million fund-raising drive and promoting efforts to help older Americans pay for prescription drugs.

Adding a drug benefit to Medicare has long been a demand of a powerful voting bloc, the millions of elderly enrolled in the health care program.

With the White House aiming to tie success on the issue directly to Bush’s prodding, the president was to visit a senior center in Miami’s Little Havana neighborhood on Monday to urge lawmakers to quickly reconcile the differences between Medicare bills passed last week by the House and Senate.

If Congress produces Medicare legislation for Bush to sign, it would likely become a prominent feature of his re-election campaign. Perhaps even more important, it could remove a potent weapon from the Democrats’ election-season arsenal.

Bush’s Medicare event was added to an already busy day of 2004 campaign fund raising in Florida. He was to appear at a \$2,000-a-plate luncheon at a Miami airport hotel and a more upscale — though priced the same — dinner across the state at the Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay.

Whether arson or accident, people start most wildfires

BY SARA THORSON

Associated Press Writer

PHOENIX — From careless campers to opportunistic arsonists, people start most of the wildfires that rage in the United States each year, fire officials said.

Investigators now say the 39,000-acre Aspen fire, which burned hundreds of homes in a mountaintop community near Tucson, was no different. Though they’re still investigating how and why that blaze started, officials said most fires begin because of carelessness, not malice.

Investigators usually look for six possible causes to determine if a fire was caused by people, said Rich Padilla, special agent for the Southwest region of the U.S. Forest Service.

Burn patterns and witnesses help them determine whether a fire started because of arson, fireworks, children with matches, debris-burning, welding torches or vehicle exhaust, he said.

Padilla said some people who start fires are pyromaniacs or are looking for an insurance payoff. Others — sometimes people who make money fighting fires — start them for profit.

Padilla said he’s also seen “grudge fires.”

“We’ll have someone who feels they were done a wrong, and they feel the way to get back at someone is to start a fire,” he said.

Paul Steensland, a senior special agent for the Forest Service, said public education has helped keep more people from carelessly starting fires, but some still start by freak accident.

“We’ll have someone who feels they were done a wrong, and they feel the way to get back at someone is to start a fire.”

— RICH PADILLA

U.S. Forest Service special agent

Steensland said he remembered a human-caused wildfire that started with the help of a marauding bear.

The bear kept charging a man’s houseboat and to deter the animal, the man shot it with a flare gun. The bear took off with the flare embedded in its backside.

Steensland said witnesses told fire investigators what happened next: “Every few feet going up the slope, the bear would squat and drag its rear end to put the still-burning flare out.”

Whatever their reason, people started 84 percent of

last year’s wildfires, according to the National Interagency Fire Center.

Officials said that number is typical. So far this year, almost 1,000 wildfires started by people in the Southwest have burned almost 60,000 acres. More than 600 lightning-caused fires have burned about 30,000 acres.

Some of the largest ever fires in the Southwest have been ignited by people.

Last summer, the Rodeo-Chediski fire started as two different parts before it merged burning 469,000 acres in Arizona.

Leonard Gregg, the man accused of starting the Rodeo part of the fire, was a part-time firefighter who hoped to earn more money working on a fire crews, investigators have said. He still faces federal felony charges.

Valinda Jo Elliott, 32, of Phoenix, started the Chediski portion of the devastating blaze as a signal fire when she became lost in eastern Arizona.

The largest wildfire in Colorado state history was also human-caused.

Terry Barton, a former Forest Service employee, is serving a six-year federal sentence after pleading guilty to starting the 137,000-acre Hayman fire last year. A state judge recently ordered her to pay restitution to people who lost their homes in the blaze.

Barton has said she started the fire while burning a letter from her estranged husband.



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SPORTS

SPORTS IN BRIEF

By The Associated Press

OLYMPICS

■ **PRAGUE, Czech Republic** — Russian cross-country skier Larissa Lazutina was stripped of her remaining medals from the 2002 Olympics due to positive drug tests.

The International Olympic Committee executive board Sunday took away two silver medals and wiped out a fourth-place finish after Lazutina lost a series of appeals for her doping suspension.

Lazutina, one of the most decorated athletes in Winter Olympics history, had already been stripped of her gold medal in the 30-kilometer classical race after testing positive for the banned endurance-enhancer darbepoetin.

She had not been disqualified from other events because she had passed drug tests after those races.

After the Olympics, it emerged that Lazutina had also tested positive for darbepoetin months earlier. The international ski federation ruled she should have been ineligible to compete in Salt Lake City and banned her for two years.

Lazutina will lose silver medals in the 15K free mass start and 5K free pursuit. Her fourth-place finish in the 10K classical race has also been removed from the record books.

BASKETBALL

■ **MILWAUKEE** — The Milwaukee Bucks released general manager Ernie Grunfeld from the final year of his contract Sunday, allowing him to immediately pursue other jobs in the NBA.

Grunfeld has been rumored as a candidate for president of basketball operations with the Washington Wizards. The Washington Post reported Saturday that Grunfeld could head to Washington as early as Tuesday.

The Wizards declined comment, spokeswoman Nicole Hawkins said Sunday.

The Bucks named assistant general manager Larry Harris, 40, as acting general manager.

■ **MILWAUKEE** — Milwaukee Bucks owner Herb Kohl has decided not to sell the team to Michael Jordan.

Kohl said Sunday that he had extensive negotiations with Jordan and was pleased with Jordan's time and money commitments to a proposed sale, but that he didn't want to part with the team right now.

Previously, Kohl had said he was willing to sell the team he bought for \$18 million in 1985, with the stipulation that any new owner must agree to keep the team in Milwaukee.

AUTO RACING

■ **NUERBURGRING, Germany** — Ralf Schumacher led a Williams-BMW 1-2 finish at the European Grand Prix on Sunday, claiming his first victory of the year and fifth of his career.

Five-time series champion Michael Schumacher became the first Formula One driver to surpass 1,000 career points. He was bumped off the track in the 43rd lap, but rallied to finish fifth.

Ralf Schumacher started third and beat Juan Pablo Montoya by 16.9 seconds for his first win since the Malaysian Grand Prix in March 2002.

GOLF

■ **TOLEDO, Ohio** — Bruce Lietzke began the day with a four-shot lead and held off Tom Watson to win the U.S. Senior Open on Sunday.

Lietzke shot a 2-over 73 and finished with a 7-under 277, two shots better than Watson, who had an even-par final round.

It was Lietzke's first major championship in 53 tries.

Argentina's Vicente Fernandez, who shot a 64 in the second round, was one shot behind Watson in third at 280. With Lietzke, they were the only golfers in the 156-player tournament to finish below par.

■ **MEMPHIS, Tenn.** — David Toms shot a 7-under 64 and won the St. Jude Classic by three strokes for his second victory in eight weeks.

Toms, who won the Wachovia Championship in May, picked up his ninth PGA Tour victory.

Toms separated himself from the pack with an eagle, eight birdies and three bogeys for a 264 total.

Nick Price tied his career-low round with a 62 to finish second at 267.

■ **GALLOWAY TOWNSHIP, N.J.** — Angela Stanford won the ShopRite LPGA Classic, her first championship as a pro.

Stanford, who led or shared the lead after all three rounds, shot a 6-under par 65 to finish at 16-under par, three shots ahead of late-surging Becky Morgan.

Annika Sorenstam, who came into the final round four shots off the pace, was unable to mount a challenge, finishing with a 72.

■ **VERSAILLES, France** — England's Philip Golding birdied the final hole for a 3-under-par 69 and a one-stroke victory at the French Open.

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-Vanity Fair, April 2002



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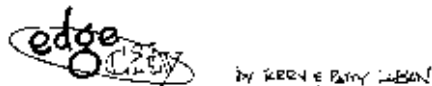


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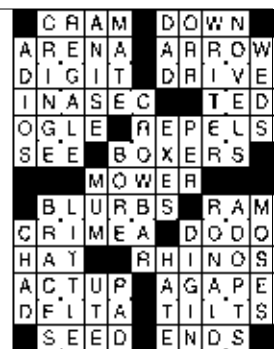
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ACROSS

- 1 Facing the pitcher
- 6 Underneath
- 11 Pursuit
- 12 San Antonio attraction
- 13 "X-Men" actor
- 15 Road curve
- 16 Inquire
- 17 Bible boat
- 18 Advice
- 20 Rodeo rope
- 23 Kind of bear
- 27 Lustrous gem
- 28 Car with a meter
- 29 Produce
- 31 Kind of paper
- 32 Court event
- 34 Paid player
- 37 Crumb bearer
- 38 Homer's dad
- 41 "X-Men" actor
- 44 Orlando attraction
- 45 Gave a PG to
- 46 Hearty dishes
- 47 Locales

DOWN

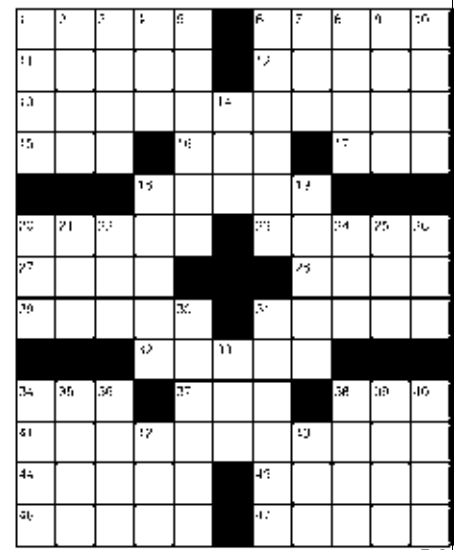
- 1 Throb
- 2 Hence
- 3 Does a checkout chore
- 4 Fire remnant
- 5 Selena's music
- 6 Hard disk copy
- 7 Moose's cousin
- 8 Tibetan monk
- 9 Actor Epps
- 10 Policy expert
- 14 Egyptian snake
- 18 Key
- 19 Add up



Yesterday's answer

- 20 High hit
- 21 Subject for Jane Goodall
- 22 Droop
- 24 Not strict
- 25 Chopping tool
- 26 Free
- 30 Bits of land
- 31 Singer Ethel
- 33 Pen fill
- 34 Diner desserts
- 35 Enthralled
- 36 Formerly
- 38 Choir member
- 39 Sugar source
- 40 Concludes
- 42 Cut the hay
- 43 Track circuit

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Obituaries

MARCILE SULLIVAN, nee Hack, 87, was born September 7, 1915 to Earl and Dorothy in Cullom, Illinois. She was raised on a farm and rode the family horse to a one-room school. Her independent and adventurous spirit led her to Santa Monica, California in the 1930's. She worked hard, danced to the big bands, lived in an apartment over the Santa Monica Pier carousel and met her husband, Jim, during WWII.

She was an avid reader and gardener. Extremely intelligent, she was always knowledgeable about local and global issues and events. She had a dry sense of humor that often caught you by surprise. She was as at ease in a friendly poker game, bargaining in a flea market or in a heated political debate (as a staunch liberal) Through good times and bad, she remained strong and courageous. She was always there for others. Family and friends turned to her for guidance and comfort. A loving mother, she and her daughter, Teresa, became best friends and she was always a fierce protector of her blind and autistic daughter, Michele.

All who knew her were touched by her wisdom, compassion and grace. She died at home on June 28, 2003. She will be missed beyond measure by many. She was preceded in her death by her daughter, Michele and by her brother, Donald. She is survived by her husband, Jim (separated for 30 years but never estranged), her loving daughter, Teresa Sullivan; sister, Phyllis (Hack) Goff; aunt, Florence (Stahl) Plank; nieces, Cathy Hendricks, Patricia (Hack) Hardisty, and Sandra (Hack) Eshelman; nephews, John Wooden, Jim Wooden, and Richard Hack: her "grandchildren" Roxy, and Ginger and numerous other relatives.

A celebration of her life will be held on:

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BACK PAGE

Marion Knight back in trouble for parole violation

By The Associated Press

■ **LOS ANGELES** — Rap impresario Marion "Suge" Knight reportedly has been arrested a second time this year for allegedly violating parole.

Police arrested the 37-year-old founder of Death Row Records Friday evening, the Los Angeles Times reported Monday.

Calls to the police and the district attorney weren't immediately returned Monday.

The Times reported that Knight was jailed without bail, but the county jail inmate information Web site didn't show a booking. Knight's lawyer, Robin Yanes, said Sunday he wasn't notified that his client had been arrested.

Knight completed 61 days in jail earlier this year after a state prison board found that he'd associated with a known gang member in violation of his probation.

At the height of its success in the mid-1990s, Death Row Records, now called Tha Row, had rap superstars such as Tupac Shakur, Dr. Dre and Snoop Dogg on its roster. But it lost its luster in the late '90s when Shakur was gunned down on a Las Vegas street, and Knight was sent to prison on a probation violation for brawling in the hours before Shakur's death. He was released from prison in 2001.

■ **NEW YORK** — Reese Witherspoon says her new movie, "Legally Blonde 2: Red, White & Blonde," is about more than just stylish clothes and cute puppy dogs.

"It's bigger in theme than that," the 27-year-old actress tells Teen People magazine for its August issue. "It's about the rights of all people, the rights of anyone living in a democracy to stand up and be heard, whether it be at your school or in your community or government."

In the sequel to the summer 2001 hit "Legally Blonde," Witherspoon is back as the blond, Bel Air, Calif.-bred Elle Woods. This time, she's using her Harvard Law School education to fight for animal rights in Washington.

The actress acknowledges, however, that she shares

her character's love of fashionable footwear.

"I collect shoes. I have them organized by color," she says. "I just like looking at them — I don't even wear them that much."

■ **MOBILE, Ala.** — California's Andrea Finch won the 46th America's Junior Miss competition and a \$50,000 scholarship — but many television viewers missed the crowning moment.

The program was broadcast live Saturday night on PAX TV, but a thunderstorm at the cable channel's West Palm Beach, Fla., master control disrupted the satellite feeds just before the second runner-up was announced, Junior Miss officials said.

People watching the show live in the Eastern and Central time zones missed the big announcements. PAX and Junior Miss officials repackaged the final segment for viewers in the Mountain and Pacific time zones watching on tape delay.

A Junior Miss spokesman said phone calls came flooding in, particularly from New York viewers who were anxious to see whether their representative, Kelly Bit, had won.

Bit was the first runner-up behind Finch, 18, of Indio, Calif., and won a \$15,000 college scholarship. Indiana's Courtney Wolfson got a \$10,000 scholarship as second runner-up.

Alabama's Elizabeth Crockett and Connecticut's Lisa Warner each received \$2,500 in scholarships as the other two finalists.

■ **DAYTON, Ohio** — Jerry Springer says his fame could help revitalize the Democratic Party if he's elected to the U.S. Senate next year.

"I could be an incredible voice in the Senate," Springer said Saturday at a meeting of the Ohio Young Democrats. "Why? Because the media will cover me every single day."

The former Cincinnati mayor, best known for his television talk show in which guests frequently throw

chairs and spew obscenities, acknowledged his fame isn't always an asset. The program's outrageous reputation would make the race difficult to win, he said.

Springer said his supporters are trying to help him take the focus off the "clutter" of the show and his decision to run will be influenced by the success of those efforts.

He said the decision would be made by the end of July.

State Sen. Eric Fingerhut of Cleveland, who also spoke at the event, has declared himself a candidate in the Democratic primary next spring. The winner would face incumbent Republican Sen. George Voinovich.

A February Ohio Poll, conducted by the University of Cincinnati, found 71 percent of those surveyed — the highest such number in the poll's history — had an unfavorable opinion of Springer.

Saying the nation's "elite" are making no sacrifices for the country, Springer criticized his own party for not offering people "anything to get excited about."

■ **ANAHEIM** — Johnny Depp joined about 1,500 guests at Disneyland for the premiere of his new action adventure film "Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl."

"This is surreal," Depp said as he arrived on a 900-foot-long red carpet Saturday to the screams of fans. He was joined by producer Jerry Bruckheimer and co-stars Orlando Bloom, Geoffrey Rush and Keira Knightly.

The movie is named after Disneyland's Pirates of the Caribbean water ride and the premiere was the first ever held at the theme park.

"This is where the idea of the movie originated, this is where the inspiration came from and this was the right place for the premiere," said Richard Cook, chairman of Walt Disney Studios.

The film was shown on a giant screen on Tom Sawyer Island.

Olympic ice skating champion Michelle Kwan, comedian Tommy Smothers and former TV child star Danny Bonaduce also attended the premiere.

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