

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

While Congress and the sports world are busy condemning the use of steroids as "cheating," golfer Tiger Woods and other athletes have already artificially enhanced their natural abilities with impunity through Lasik eye surgery (improving vision to 20/15 or 20/10). More ominously, according to a Wired magazine story in March, the time will soon come when perfectly healthy baseball pitchers and other athletes choose so-called "Tommy John surgery" (until now performed only to repair ruptured arm ligaments), which can make an elbow even stronger than it naturally was, allowing pitchers to achieve higher velocity than ever. Other predicted enhancements include the removal, re-engineering, and re-insertion of leg, arm and shoulder muscle cells to add strength.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 186th day of 2005.
There are 179 days left in the year.

On July 5, 1865, William Booth founded the Salvation Army in London.
In 1811, Venezuela became the first South American country to declare independence from Spain.
In 1830, the French occupied the North African city of Algiers.
In 1935, President Roosevelt signed the National Labor Relations Act, which provided for a National Labor Relations Board, and authorized labor to organize for the purpose of collective bargaining.
In 1940, during World War II, Britain and the Vichy government in France broke diplomatic relations.
In 1946, the bikini made its debut during an outdoor fashion show at the Molitor Pool in Paris.
In 1947, Larry Doby signed a contract with the Cleveland Indians, becoming the first black player in the American League.
In 1975, Arthur Ashe became the first black man to win a Wimbledon singles title as he defeated Jimmy Connors.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The real drawback to 'the simple life' is that it is not simple. If you are living it, you positively can do nothing else. There is not time."

KATHARINE FULLERTON GEROULD
AMERICAN WRITER (1879-1944)

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Level playing field sought in tourism trade

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — Elected officials have asked a local tourist group supported by tax dollars to reconsider its leadership selection process, due to fears business interests may soon unfairly influence the organization.

Some members of the Santa Monica City Council last week supported an invitation for the Santa Monica Convention & Visitors Bureau, whose board members are appointed both by the Chamber of Commerce and City Hall, to reconsider its selection method for its leaders now that the



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

The Santa Monica Visitor's & Convention Bureau has new digs on Main Street.

chamber has become increasingly engaged in electoral politics.

The move was approved (5-2), with City Councilmen Bob Holbrook and Herb Katz voting

against it.

The bureau is a non-profit group which supports tourism

See CVB page 6

Visitor's center settles down on Main Street

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

MAIN STREET — Add the local tourism bureau to the growing list of tenants leaving the aging Santa Monica Place Mall, which for the past few years has experienced a steady exodus of business.

The Santa Monica Convention & Visitor's Bureau (CVB) has moved its visitor center from the second floor of the mall to a storefront on Main Street. The bureau also moved its administration offices from an office building in downtown Santa Monica to the Main Street location, where its seven full-time staff members will be

See NEW DIGS, page 6

Look Ma, one hand!



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

A beach-goer does a hand stand at Santa Monica Beach over the holiday weekend. Beaches were packed with people, despite the June gloom weather.

Border crossing into U.S. still a free for all

(Editor's note: This the second article in a three-part series that shows signs of vulnerability along U.S. borders after the Sept. 11 attacks. An Associated Press' probe follows border activity in three countries. Today, a report on activities found at the Texas-Mexico border. On Wednesday, a look at the lack of security surrounding the Canadian border.)

BY PAULINE ARRILLAGA

AP National Writer

HARLINGEN, Texas — Several times a day, a chain-link gate rolls open and dozens of illegal immi-

grants stroll out of the U.S. Border Patrol station here, blinking into the hot Texas sun as they look for taxis to the bus station and a ticket out of town.

Each holds a piece of paper that

Spanish-speakers call a "permiso" — permission, courtesy of the U.S. government, to roam the country freely.

See BORDERS, page 14

City OK's \$3M to start refurbishing Davies Estate

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

SM BEACH — Elected officials last week authorized \$3 million in grants to restore a historic estate on the beach built in the 1920s by newspaper giant William Randolph Hearst.

The Santa Monica City Council voted in favor of allocating \$3 million to Pankow Special Projects to create design plans to rehabilitate the Marion Davies Estate located at 415 Pacific Coast Highway. The allocation, recommended by city staff, is part of \$21 million granted to City Hall this past December by the Annenberg Foundation in order to refurbish the five-acre property.

The move to allow Pankow Special Projects, Ltd., a Pasadena-based design firm, to handle the

See ESTATE, page 7



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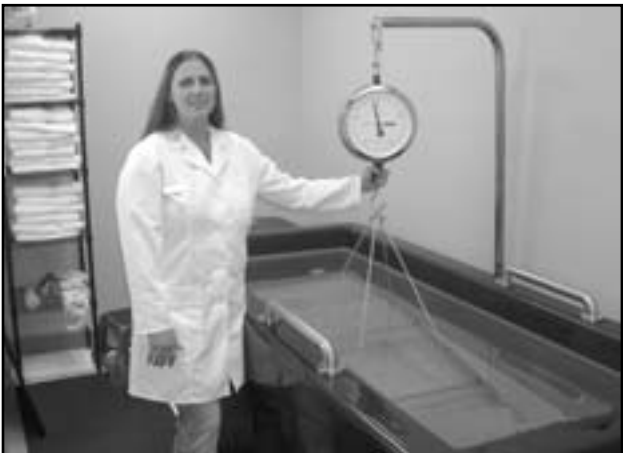
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Cocoon at home, Aries

Santa Monica Daily Press



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



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ After the recent celebrations, you are thrilled to return to your regular pace. Others are in the mood to relax. You might need to get people focused on handling the task at hand. They might be having too good of a time. Tonight: Cocoon at home.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ You have a lot to say and do. Others stream through your door, happy to see you but also needing your time. Your good humor helps you accomplish what you must. You might need to screen calls and prioritize. Tonight: Still catching up on calls!



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ You have a devil-may-care attitude that attacks your checkbook and willingness to take risks. Be reasonable, and you won't cause yourself any damage. You don't need to do everything you think of. Tonight: Use your imagination.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ You naturally go to emotional extremes, sometimes causing yourself trouble. At this point, you go up and down like a rubber ball. Remember that there will be reactions to your behavior. Choose to take the high road. You will be happy. Tonight: Smile away.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★ You act like the cat that swallowed the bird. In truth, you are keeping a secret or have something special going on. Your attitude and upbeat behavior reflect your good feelings. Take some downtime or take a walk to chill out. Tonight: Do your thing.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ A meeting enhances your ideas. Much can be said about teamwork. You also find a new way to increase your income. Just put limits on spending, if possible. You might be on a spending spree, which is unusual for you. Tonight: Friends are where it's at.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ You charge spirit, vivaciousness and good will wherever you go and no matter what you do. Others are prone to say yes and work with you. Demonstrate your efficiency. Others also admire your sensitivity. Tonight: Out late.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Do your own research and avoid hearsay. Your intuition is telling you that something is off. Detach and don't trigger. Simply find experts and ask questions. You might need some time to consider conflicting information. Tonight: Your mind needs a break.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Someone wants to do something for you, which could be an enormous help. Financially or emotionally, this person can make big waves in your life. Don't worry — you are heading down the right path. Tonight: Follow another's lead.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Right now, you can do no wrong — nearly. Know your limits with partners, friends and loved ones. You will encourage others to express themselves more often. Your public or professional image makes you a star. Tonight: A must appearance.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Your ability to understand others encourages many associates to open up. In fact, you might feel more like a counselor than who you really are. Others confide in you. Sometimes you hear too much. Tonight: Get some exercise.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Your playful manner draws many to you. You are able to come up with solutions. Others find you easy to talk to. As a result, your company is frequently sought out. Make plenty of time for your significant other. Tonight: Act like a kid again.



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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Red Cross adds new faces

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica chapter of the American Red Cross added five new members to its board of directors at its annual meeting held last month. The new directors for six-year terms are:

■ Julie Pomfret is a financial advisor for Morgan Stanley in downtown Santa Monica. Pomfret recently moved to Santa Monica from Boston, and brings an extensive background in the money management, financial and investment fields to the chapter's board.

■ Eric Faber, a Santa Monica resident and the founder and CEO of the Faber Group/Packaging Resources. He is on the boards of a number of community, educational and charitable organizations.

■ Luis Ramirez is an assistant principal with the Santa Monica/Malibu Unified School District. He was the 1995 SMMUSD "Teacher of the Year" at John Adams Middle School. His strengths in education and youth work will be a great asset to the chapter's extensive youth program, officials say.

Two Crossroads High School students were approved as full voting members of the board of directors. Students are elected annually and serve a one-year term.

■ Andrea Paglian is a junior at Crossroads School and lives in Pacific Palisades with her family. She is a National Freedom Award winner. She is active in a wide range of activities at her school and has demonstrated exceptional leadership ability in her various endeavors, officials say.

■ Sidney Kump is a student at Crossroads School and lives with her family in Santa Monica. She is photo editor of the Crossroads school yearbook and has received academic recognition from the California Interscholastic Federation.

In other action, Ann Greenspun was elected chairperson of the board of directors. Greenspun is a long-time Santa Monica resident and has been active with various activities such as the Chamber of Commerce, community groups, charities and numerous other causes. She brings a wealth of local knowledge and contacts, as well as a solid business background to the board, officials say.

Two new employees have joined the chapter's work force and were introduced at the annual meeting. They are:

■ Jan Rice has been appointed director of resource development. She has a long and varied history in fundraising and financial support for nonprofit organizations. She is the founder of the National Health Foundation, and was the recipient of the Private Sector Initiative award in 1985 and received the accolade from President Ronald Reagan. Rice is a long-time Santa Monica resident and also is on the board of directors for the Santa Monica Symphony.

■ Anna Kiedrowski is the chapter's new development associate. She is a life-long Santa Monica resident and has been associated with the Santa Monica chapter since she was a youth. Kiedrowski also has volunteered for St. Monica Catholic Church, Turning Point and the YMCA.

The American Red Cross of Santa Monica is a publicly supported, nonprofit corporation that provides health and safety education, youth services, CPR and first aid training and local disaster awareness and disaster relief efforts.

For additional information, contact American Red Cross of Santa Monica, 1450 11th St., or call (310) 394-3773, or online at www.redcrossofsantamonica.org <<http://www.redcrossofsantamonica.org>>.



SURF REPORT

Tuesday the 5th into Wednesday the 6th is when our next SW swell is due, but that's not saying much either. This is from a small system that formed below New Zealand about a week ago. Not a whole lot of energy is expected out of this system; however, south facing breaks can expect to see some knee to possibly waist high surf on the 5th

Today the water is:

62°

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

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
MONDAY	3:33	-0.6	2:15	2.7	10:19	3.5	8:34	6.1
TUESDAY	4:08	-0.7	2:53	2.7	10:55	3.6	9:09	6.1
WEDNESDAY	4:41	-0.7	3:28	2.6	11:27	3.6	9:43	6.0
THURSDAY	5:13	-0.6	4:04	2.6	11:58	3.6	10:17	5.9
FRIDAY	6:02	-0.5	4:57	2.2	12:48	3.2	11:09	5.4

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This past weekend, hundreds of cyclists took to the road as part of an awareness effort. The group that organizes the monthly rides, "Critical Mass," aims to get more people out of their cars and onto other forms of transportation. They also want better planning for alternative transportation.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "Does Santa Monica have adequate streets and routes for bicyclists? Do you feel safe riding your bike here?"

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

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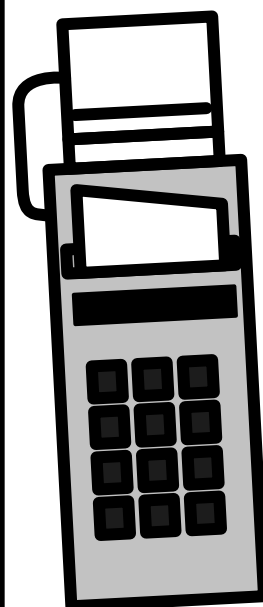
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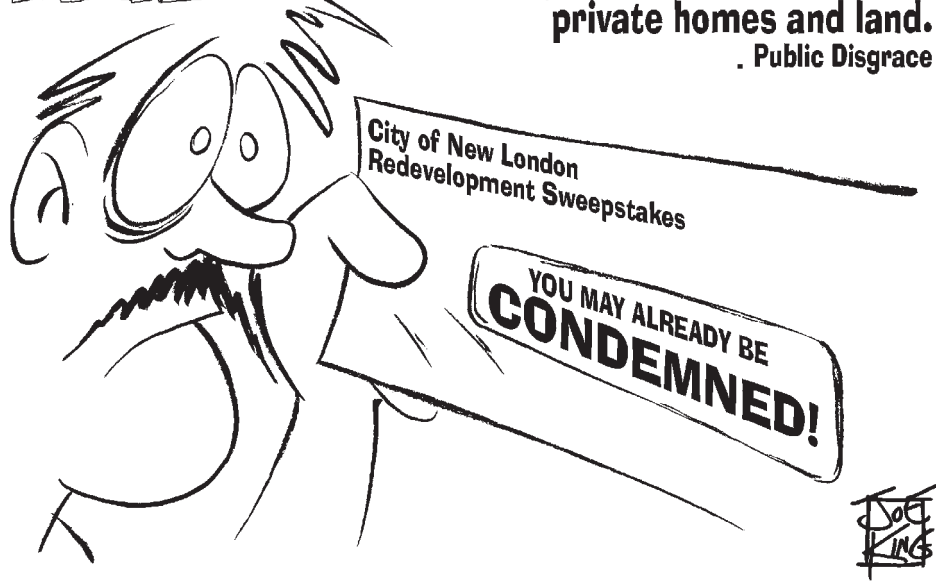
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Get over it, Heidi

Editor:

I live and work in Santa Monica, and thus read your paper every day. I find myself drawn to one of your semi-regular contributor's column "Any Day in L.A."

The reason I am drawn to it is not a positive one. Honestly, I can't understand why literally every single column is dedicated to slamming Santa Monica, Los Angeles and its inhabitants.

Why would anyone live here if they find the "LA way" so distressing? The columns are filled with biting sarcasm dedicated to undermining those of us that love our city.

Heidi, if you find our city to be all that you proclaim in your articles, then please feel free to go back to Wisconsin, or wherever it is that you are from. We need the housing and a better attitude from those that live in our fair city.

Born and raised in Santa Monica and proud.

Winnie Kessler
Santa Monica

A pier ramp up is what we need

Editor:

I appreciate Ryan Hyatt's piece on pier access ("City Hall ramping up for easier pier access," SMDP, June 29, page 1) and commend it.

Anything that moves the process along is terrific. The proposed bridge modifications and the ramp together are a win-win-win situation. Together, they will significantly improve safety of pedestrians going to the pier, will greatly benefit traffic flow, particularly for people leaving the pier and heading out of Santa Monica — which makes life easier for those of us who live here, too — and will assist persons with disabilities in accessing the pier. They will, in general, benefit the citizenry.

Add in the other things being considered by hard-working executive director Ben Franz-Knight, the PRC Board, staff at resource management and the City Council, including modifications that would allow docking of fishing boats and a marine exploration boat for kids, improvements to the aquarium, a better entertainment profile and some good food for families, and you have quite a package.

And, particularly given that, I hate to quibble especially when any reportorial confusion is no doubt my fault, but it would be unfair to the many people who have participated in and continue to participate in the design of the proposed ramp to claim credit for things I didn't do. I suggested a modification only to the engineering design of the single lane of the auto ramp down to the 1550 lot. That modification was approved by the PRC and seemed to be the most popular choice in general. I get a kick out of that mostly because I'm just a lawyer — I know about as much about engineering as I do about the weather on Pluto. If the bridge and ramp ever get built, a lot of people will deserve a lot of credit.

And, as they say, "May it happen soon, in our generation."

Michael S. Klein
Santa Monica

Another day in the People's Republic

Editor:

Each Saturday, the city garbage trucks are supposed to empty our cans. Each Saturday, the driver picks up the trash from the cans on the east side of the alley and invariably, his truck fills up and he heads back to the dump to unload. Unfortunately, he doesn't return to finish emptying the cans on the west side of the alley. Therefore, condo and apartment building owners who are paying the city more than a private contractor would charge, are getting only one pick-up a week instead of the two they pay for. Of course, trash cans tend to overflow before the Wednesday pick-up.

And of course, we read in the Daily Press the city is increasing its fees. As part of their rationale, they cite increased labor costs. Oh boy. We now get to pay 40 percent more for less service and the drivers make more for not doing their job. The People's Republic still thrives.

Kevin Skoglund
Santa Monica



OPINION

You can't judge a man by the bible



WHAT'S THE POINT?

BY DAVID PISARRA

"The path of the righteous man is beset on all sides by the inequities of the selfish and the tyranny of evil men. Blessed is he who, in the name of charity and good will, shepherds the weak through the valley of the darkness. For he is truly his brother's keeper and the finder of lost children. And I will strike down upon thee with great vengeance and furious anger those who attempt to poison and destroy my brothers. And you will know I am the Lord when I lay my vengeance upon you."

— Ezekiel 25:17

I recently watched the documentary called "We are Dad" on HBO/Showtime. It is about a pair of gay white men who were pediatric AIDS nurses in the Godless state of Florida who take in five AIDS babies that no one else will. The Godless state of Florida, of course, is willing to pay for the children to be raised by these gay men so long as they are HIV+ and "unadoptable" by a "suitable and normal" family.

The twist here is that one of the kids turns out to not be HIV+ after living with these two men for years. They are the only family he has ever known. So, after having raised this child for his entire life, the men are informed by the state, that because he is now adoptable, the state will look for a "suitable" home. That of course means a happily married straight couple, willing to adopt a young black man that was raised by someone else for their first 15 years of his life.

This was not a great comedy, nor a great drama. It did make me cry when you realize the depth of the hypocrisy and ignorance and pure evil that parades itself as devout Christianity in this Godless state of Florida, and this country.

I recommend it not as an escapist hour, but as a window into the black abyss called fundamentalist Christianity, and the culture war that is being fought by the quiet masses of unsung heroes who are just trying to live their lives.

This comes on the heels of the latest gay marriage breakthroughs in Canada and Spain. If a devoutly Catholic country like Spain can see its way through to a new age of equality and freedom (some might argue that marriage is most definitely not either, but that's beside the point), it's a stark reminder of just how parochial our country really is.

We know today that the first Supreme Court nomination of the current president is soon to happen. Opinions are many on how he should pick his nominee, Congress and the media are gearing up for a bruising battle over whomever the unlucky person is.

The new composition of the Supreme Court is likely to be a more conservative body, which can be a good thing or a bad thing, depending on which issue you want to look at, and at what angle.

That's really the central problem with

tackling difficult decisions. There's always another side, and it likely has some good points.

Conservative judges are likely to avoid tinkering too much with those rights enumerated in the Constitution, but by the same token they are just as likely not to want to expand them greatly, which could mean that they put the majority of the limits on what the state can do.

Liberal judges are likely to expand and extend civil rights, but at the cost of one's sense of security and financial stability. When a liberal judge lets a criminal go, because the state has made an error, that's a good thing. It's not a popular thing, or one that I particularly like, but at the end of the day, I'd rather be living in a society that puts limits on the state, rather than limits on its citizens.

It is at this point that the line between liberal and conservative becomes blurry. It is really all a matter of where you are standing that decides whether the decision being rendered is liberal or conservative. These terms have come to hold certain meanings in the minds of the electorate but the fact is that for most people it all boils down to, "I agree with the ruling," or "I disagree with the ruling."

Words are flexible. They depend upon context and interpretation to carry a message. The difficulty is that the speaker or writer doesn't know how the recipient is going to understand a particular word.

For example, "righteous" to some means leading a strictly defined, morally focused existence. To others, it means to come to a reasoned and supportable conclusion.

Which brings me back to the movie "We Are Dad." The state has said that gay parents are not suitable to be adoptive parents, but they are perfectly acceptable for the warehousing of the unwanted. The hypocrisy of their position is crystal clear to me, but obviously not to the gray-haired, religious right, Christian fundamentalists who are running that strip of mosquito infested swampland who seem to have missed that Biblical quote up top.

On the one hand a morally-righteous court may view the situation that gays are unacceptable, and that they should not be allowed near children at all. I would accept that. I'd disagree but at least it is logically consistent.

On the other hand, a reasoned and righteous court may look at the situation and determine that if they can warehouse the kids, they can adopt them.

What rankles most people is the convenience factor of the religious right. They are righteous when they lack moral superiority and claim moral superiority when they aren't righteous.

When the new Supreme Court Justice nominee is announced I can't say that I want a liberal or a conservative, a strict Constitutionalist or a "living document" devotee. What I can say is that I hope and pray that whoever it is, they are judge righteousness rightly.

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

COMMENTARY



The grinch who stole the Fourth of July



ANY DAY IN LA

BY HEIDI MANTEUFFEL

If the Fourth of July was made for the people celebrating it and not the other way around, then why does it include uncontrollable masses and two-hour traffic jams? As you can tell, I'm not a big holiday person.

Sure, I like lighting things on fire as much as the next person, but why does there have to be so much celebrating that I can't get up the California Incline on a Monday night?

Just as in winter (in other states) no snowflake is like the other, so in summer there are many different types of Fourth of July's.

You can try the poor camping version where fireworks entail crunching a wintergreen lifesaver and watching it spark. You might even engage in personal firework celebration, lighting roman candles, small rockets and dashing away from them as fast you can.

Living in LA, however, limits the festivities to the observing fireworks put on by the city persuasion. Not that I'm complaining about sitting on a cliff in Malibu

and watching three surrounding cities' fireworks, one of which includes Tom Hank's personal firework bonanza.

What bothers me is how on your one day off you end up being more agitated by the masses of humanity honking and rear-ending on PCH than you were before you left work on Friday.

And now someone has the guts to make up new holidays that no one bothers to tell you about ahead of time.

Last week I picked my mom up from her convention in Santa Barbara to drop my luggage at her hotel and get a quick bite to eat. When I went to make a left onto State Street, though, the road was blocked off for a parade.

"I thought the Fourth of July was next week," my mom mumbled.

"That's OK," I said. "We'll just try the next street. OK, maybe the one after that..." Fourteen blocks later the parade was still pushing through.

Needless to say, we ended up dumping my car at a parking garage and moving it three hours later when the festivities were finally finished. Apparently it was their "Summer Solstice Parade," an event some mime made it up to celebrate his own birthday.

Ironically how mimes like to have loud, thundering drunk college kids with them on their birthdays.

I noticed an article in The Wall Street

Journal that commented on how this generation is less patriotic than the last one. I'm sure it's true we have more and take more things for granted, but I don't know how patriotic my grandparents would be if they got stuck in 405 traffic on their way home from the festivities.

Yes it's true, I have freedom, and I should be thankful and celebrate this great day in our country's history. And I did.

And if I'm around, I'll do it again next year. But is there anyway we can do it with less people involved?

God bless the quiet neighborhoods and moving LA system. That would be my version of the patriotic song, and boy would it be a land that I love.

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

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LOCAL

City Council seeks a more balanced SM tourism board

CVB, from page 1

efforts in the community and therefore is considered part of the local economic engine. Currently, five of the bureau's 11 board members are appointed by the chamber of commerce. The remaining five are appointed by the City Council, with the city manager serving as a permanent member.

The bureau, with an annual budget of \$2,087,900, has been asked to find an alternative method for making its five appointments from the business community, all of whom are selected by the chamber.

One method the City Council has suggested would be for the bureau's board to recruit among tourist trade associations, instead of the chamber.

The City Council asked bureau officials to develop a new plan within 120 days. The City Council also indicated at its June 28 meeting that should a new appointment method be approved, it would re-appoint all current board members for the rest of their terms.

The decision to change the process was suggested in April by City Councilman Ken Genser, who applauded the work of the bureau, while emphasizing fairness of the selection process

"The chamber has become active in partisan politics," Genser said. "The bureau is supported by tax dollars, and the city cannot be supporting a political organization."

In the last council election, the chamber took positions on ballot items and endorsed council candidates.

The candidates included current Councilman Bobby Shriver and Katz.

"I have not heard of any abuse or scandal," Katz said, who felt the bureau's organization was adequate and its operations translucent. "It is a business group with a business intent."

Shriver supported Genser's request, noting a change in the bureau's line-up seemed fair and reasonable.

Genser said that because of the chamber's new political posturing, allowing bureau board members to be appointed by chamber members would be the equivalent to City Hall allowing the Rent Control Board to be appointed by Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights, a group long embroiled in partisan politics for its active stance on housing issues.

"Even though I think (SMRR) would do well (on the Rent Control Board)," Genser joked.

Genser, along with Mayor Pam O'Connor and Councilman Richard



Fabian Lewkowicz/Special to the Daily Press

Vincent Green, a temporary employee of the Santa Monica Convention & Visitor's Bureau, steps out to stretch and take a 10-minute break at the new offices on Main Street.

Bloom were endorsed by SMRR in the last election. They also approved the invitation for the bureau to re-evaluate its leadership selection process.

Councilman Kevin McKeown — who recently dropped out of the Green Party to protest an accounting scandal that the group

is involved in — also supported the request.

It was City Manager Susan McCarthy who summed up the current status and board selection process at the bureau.

"The bureau is prohibited from using city funds for political activity," McCarthy said.

New tourism visitor's center strategically placed

NEW DIGS, from page 1

headquartered.

CVB president and CEO Misti Kerns said the bureau will save thousands of dollars by combining the offices and the walk-in center.

Some local observers never understood the rationale behind putting the CVB's visitor's center tucked in the corner of the mall's second floor. But it made sense to bureau officials, since the idea was to capture tourists who load and unload from tour buses in front of the mall's Second Street entrance. And the bureau got a good deal on the rent, although officials wouldn't disclose the price, saying it was a "confidential lease agreement," with the Macerich Co., which owns the mall.

But as fewer people came to the mall and its sales continued to dwindle in the past few years, the CVB started looking for a more visible location. Late last year, plans were unveiled to redevelop the mall, leaving many tenants and the future business of Santa Monica's retail hub in limbo.

"When they stopped doing any marketing, we just couldn't stay there," Kerns said.

In hindsight, Kerns said the CVB visitor's center probably would've fared better in a different location.

"It was difficult," she said. "If we'd been on the first floor, I would be saying something different."

Rob York, a retail consultant who works with downtown and city officials, said the visitor's center location in the mall worked well a few years ago but not anymore.

"I think with the mall, there was some logic to it ... I know they needed an attractive deal and there were trade-offs with the second floor but with the mall in limbo and not a lot of traffic on the second floor," it was time to move, he said.

But for the three years the CVB was at the mall, it developed a strong relationship with Macerich Co. in marketing Santa Monica as a shopping and tourism destination.

"I think at the time of that relationship (with Macerich Co.) it was good," customer service for visitors, Kerns said.

While the Main Street location is built out for a storefront, CVB has stationed its visitor's center at a kiosk in the middle of the mall.

"Our traffic has literally doubled," Kerns said, adding the old location saw about 1,000 visitors a month.

The CVB also has visitor's center at a kiosk on Ocean Avenue in Palisades Park and another on the Third Street Promenade, where tourists can go to get information about local attractions and directions to area shops and restaurants.

The CVB's new location is part of a long-term strategy to be in the middle of a high traffic area. The visitor's center, located at 1920 Main St., is on a section of the street that's being revitalized with two new buildings which will house luxury apartments and retail stores. And to the north, the Civic Center area will be redeveloped at a cost of more than \$120 million, which will serve as a connector between the Third Street Promenade, the new Santa Monica Place and Main Street.

"It feels good to be here," Kerns said.

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CHECK OUT THE COMICS ON PAGE 16!



Davies site has been out of commission since '94 quake

ESTATE, from page 1

design plans to renovate the site was approved 6-1 on June 28, with Councilman Bobby Shriver voting against it.

Shriver said he disapproved of the staff's recommendation because he felt a better effort should have been made to recruit Santa Monica talent for the project.

"I am not voting against (the design firm that was selected), I am voting against the process by which they were selected," Shriver said. "With a project of this magnitude, I think we could have done a better job to adapt to our usual (recruitment process) and get (our own world-class talent) involved."

Shriver referred to Thom Mayne, Santa Monica resident and winner of the 2005 Pritzker Prize. The Pritzker Prize, supported by the Hyatt Foundation, is known as the most prestigious award in architecture.

The proposed contract amount includes the contractor's pre-construction services and all design fees through completion of the design process and development at a guaranteed maximum price. Compliance with environmental regulations and approval of the final project, including review by several city groups, is expected in coming months.

The estate was built for Davies, Hearst's mistress. The lavish compound once had dozens of rooms with expensive, detailed furnishings. In 1959, City Hall took control of the property and leased it to the private Sand and Sea Club, an arrangement which lasted from 1960 to 1990. Then the site was open for public events, such as barbecues and weddings, until it was severely damaged in the 1994 Northridge Earthquake and had to be closed down.

The estate, once the splendor of the rich and famous, has since been neglected and prone to trespassing and vandalism, some say.

Pankow Special Projects has completed a number of projects of "greater magnitude and complexity" than the Davies estate, according to a city staff report. The firm's resume includes historical elements, making it "keenly familiar with the issues associated with preservation and



File photo

The Marion Davies Estate is in need of repair.

restoration," the staff report said.

Frederick Fisher and Partners, the team's design architect, is an internationally-recognized architecture firm based in West Los Angeles. The award-winning firm specializes in art related design, historic building rehabilitation and residential work. Its projects include the restoration of the A. Quincy Jones Studio, adaptive reuse of the Santa Monica Bay Telephone Company Building for the headquarters for the Broad Art Foundation, among others.

A city staff report indicated that a notice inviting bids for design-build services for 415 PCH was published on Feb. 10 and 12 in a metropolitan newspaper. An invitation to apply was sent to more than 90 design, engineering and construction firms.

Of those outreach efforts, only three firms applied and only two were worth an interview, according to city staff.

Shriver questioned the quality of the outreach process, based on what he believed was a poor response.

"The fact we have had that many unanswered (invitations) doesn't make me feel we've had the massive enthusiasm for the project I hoped for," Shriver said.

Barbara Stinchfield, the city's cultural services director who oversaw the selection process, explained to the City Council that Wallis Annenberg, who oversees the Annenberg grant, called earlier that day to say she was pleased Prankow Special Projects had been selected for the renovation design.

"She is extremely enthusiastic with the project," Stinchfield said.

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NATIONAL

Government releases details of sick cow’s last days

BY LIBBY QUAID
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Texas cow infected with mad cow disease was sold through a livestock market and taken to a slaughterhouse where it was dead on arrival, the Agriculture Department said.

The cow wasn’t unloaded or presented to the slaughterhouse because it was dead, the department said. Instead, it was shipped to a pet food plant in Waco, Texas, that took brain samples for testing. The 12-year-old cow was a yellow or cream-colored Brahma cross, the department said.

Officials released the information about the cow’s last days as part of its ongoing investigation into the animal’s history.

The department is trying to find offspring born in the past two years and herd mates born within one year of the infected cow’s birth, but officials said they don’t expect to find another case.

“If world experience is any indication, it’s very rare that you get a second case out of the same herd,” Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns told reporters last week.

The cow was sold Nov. 11 through the market, where at one point there was a report that it was a “downer,” unable to walk. It was shipped with a load of other cows on Nov. 15 to the slaughterhouse, where it was dead on arrival, and then to the pet food plant later that day.

Initial screening indicated the presence of the disease, but results from more sophisticated tests were negative, and the department declared the animal to be free of mad cow disease.

The agency’s internal watchdog ordered another round of tests last month that came back positive, and a laboratory in England confirmed the results on June 24. It is the first native case of the brain-wasting disease. The only other case was confirmed in December 2003 in a Canadian-born dairy cow that had been shipped to Washington state.

The government is also tracing the herd’s feed history. The only known way for cows to get the disease is by eating brain and other nerve tissues of already-infected cows. Ground-up cattle remains from slaughtering operations were used as protein in cattle feed until the U.S. banned the practice in 1997.

The department said that given the Texas cow’s age, it probably was infected before the ban. Most of the nation’s cattle herd was born after the feed ban, according to estimates from the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association. However, the government does not maintain data on the 96 million U.S. cattle. Officials are planning to establish a nationwide livestock tracking program by 2009.

The cow was born and raised on a single Texas ranch; officials have not identified the ranch or the owner. State officials have confined the herd while the investigation is under way.

Mad cow disease is the common name for bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or BSE. Eating infected tissue from cows has been linked to a rare but fatal disease in humans called variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, which is blamed for the deaths of 150 people in Britain, where there was an outbreak in the 1980s and 1990s.

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Sun Valley airport plan to give moguls’ jets priority

BY CHRISTOPHER SMITH
Associated Press Writer

BOISE, Idaho — When the world’s richest titans of entertainment and industry fly into the Idaho mountain resort of Sun Valley for an exclusive retreat on Tuesday, their corporate jets won’t get the special landing priority that airport officials originally planned.

Instead, their Gulfstreams and Learjets will have to wait in line with the unwashed masses of single-engine aircraft waiting to use the one runway surrounded by 8,000-foot-high mountains.

A national pilots organization persuaded the Federal Aviation Administration to overturn temporary flight rules that would have restricted Sun Valley’s airport to pilots authorized to fly using only instruments — rather than by visual navigation — during the peak arrival and departure times of the annual media retreat sponsored by New York investment bank Allen & Co.

Visual navigation is commonly used by small plane pilots.

Now in its 23rd year, the gathering of the world’s business elite to play bridge, golf, ride horses and haggle over multimillion-dollar deals regularly attracts such luminaries as Oprah Winfrey, Bill Gates, Ted Turner and Rupert Murdoch.

Anticipating a crush of private aircraft at the small Friedman Memorial Airport in the Sun Valley community of Hailey, Airport Manager Rick Baird said he had received FAA approval to close the airport to pilots whose licenses have only “visual flight rules” ratings from noon to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday and from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on July 10, the day after the retreat ends.

The airport would be open during those hours only to pilots rated for instrument flight rules, usually aircraft that are flown in cloud cover or at high altitudes without the need to see other planes or landmarks below to navigate.

Because the retreat’s opening day is the same day for peak airport departures after the Fourth of July holiday,

Baird expects 600 to 800 takeoffs and landings.

“It doesn’t take a mathematician to understand we could be overwhelmed,” he said. “The FAA had supported us in attempting to close to small fliers for a period of time so that we have control over what happens.”

But the FAA overturned the visual flight rules closure this week after the 405,000-member Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association complained in a letter and a statement posted to its Web site that the restrictions were intended to accommodate “bigwigs” who “don’t appreciate much delay or inconvenience.”

“We felt this would be discriminating against a class of pilots, which is against FAA regulations,” said Kathleen Roy, spokeswoman for the association headquartered in Frederick, Md. “We had a lot of members tell us they were potentially at risk of being grounded.”

The FAA is now requiring all pilots planning to use the Sun Valley airport on Tuesday or July 10 to go online and reserve a takeoff or landing time slot from the FAA’s Air Traffic Control System Command Center in Herndon, Va.

“This airport receives federal funding and the FAA requires that airports do not discriminate on pilots based on their rating,” Allen Kenitzer, regional FAA spokesman in Renton, Wash., said Friday. “We had concerns over runway, taxiway and parking availability, so we felt this slot reservation system is a safe and expeditious way of meeting the needs of all airport users.”

Baird said the pilots association has made “self-serving, condescending and inaccurate” claims about the flight restrictions and is responding not to a legion of Cessna and Piper pilots, but to a handful of charter pilots who were fearful they wouldn’t be able to ferry clients to Sun Valley on short notice.

“This isn’t about the little guy, it’s about the guy who’s hired to fly someone from Las Vegas to Sun Valley on short notice and who wanted to make sure he still got a paycheck,” said Baird. “Even with this reservation system, we think there are going to be times when we can’t accommodate all airport users on those days.”

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NATIONAL



Lake Tahoe water clarity improves slightly from year ago

BY SCOTT SONNER

Associated Press Writer

RENO, Nev. — Lake Tahoe's clarity improved slightly last year, resuming a nearly decade-long trend toward clearer waters after declining the year before, scientists said Thursday.

A white plate called a "Secchi disk" could be seen at an average depth of 73.6 feet last year, the new figures show.

That's about a 4 percent improvement from 2003 when the disk could be seen at depths of 71 feet and a 15 percent improvement from 1997 when it hit a record low and visible only as deep as 64 feet.

John Reuter, associate director of the Tahoe Environmental Research Center at the University of California-Davis, said the recent improvement is encouraging.

"But we should not confuse that with the trend over many years, which is that there is a decline in the clarity of the lake," he said about the degradation that occurred over the past three to four decades.

As recently as 1968, the plate was visible at 102 feet. The clarity declined from 99 feet in 1970 to about 81 feet in 1980 and about 73 feet in 1991 before hitting the low point in 1997. More recent readings in the lake known for its cobalt blue and azure hues were:

- 1998, 66 feet
- 1999, 69 feet
- 2000, 67.3 feet
- 2001, 73.6 feet
- 2002, 78 feet

"You look at those numbers, it looks like the last five or six years there is a flattening of the (downward) curve at the very least," said Geoff Schladow, director of the research center at UC-Davis.

The 193-square-mile lake that straddles the California-Nevada line in the high Sierra is 1,636 feet at its deepest point. It contains enough water to cover the state of California to a depth of 14.5 inches.

A number of factors have contributed to its loss of clarity over the years, ranging from air and water pollu-

tion to soil erosion and nutrients that fuel algae growth, scientists say.

Reuter and Schladow said a relatively dry winter leading into the spring of 2004 — 23 inches of precipitation compared with 32 inches the year before — likely contributed to the clearer waters by slowing the rate of sediment entering the lake.

"Probably the largest factor in the year-to-year variation has to do with what the weather was over that year," Schladow said.

"Typically, drier years tend to have higher clarity and wetter years with more snow and rain mean lower clarity," he said.

As is the case with the release of each annual reading, the scientists cautioned against concluding that recent gains made in protecting the lake are responsible for the improved clarity.

"While this year's clarity number is encouraging, the annual measurements remind us how crucial it is to stay the course in our efforts to restore Lake Tahoe and to preserve it for future generations," said Julie Regan, spokeswoman for the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.

Restoration efforts include new drainage systems along roads to decrease runoff polluting the lake and banning watercraft with two-stroke engines that dump fuel in the water.

The federal government, Nevada and California also have helped slow erosion by buying lots that might have been built upon, part of a strategy the agencies call "Pathway 2007."

"What everybody is looking for — ourselves included — is to start seeing some evidence or some result of a lot of projects that have been done in the basin to improve clarity," Schladow said.

"Right now, the record is too short to see how much improvement is due to the projects and how much is just due to the weather," he said.

"It may be in the next couple of years we may be able to say that it has improved and what we are doing is a part of it. But scientifically, we couldn't justify saying that now."

Tahoe Clarity Year-by-Year

RENO, Nev. — Following is a list of average annual clarity measurements in feet at Lake Tahoe made by the University of California-Davis Tahoe Research Group since 1968. Every seven to 10 days, the group measures the clarity at fixed locations by observing the visible depth of a white, dinner-plate-sized disk called a "Secchi disk."

1968	— 102.4
1969	— 93.7
1970	— 99
1971	— 94.3
1972	— 89.9
1973	— 85.5
1974	— 89.2
1975	— 85.6
1976	— 89.8
1977	— 91
1978	— 85.1
1979	— 87.6
1980	— 81.4
1981	— 89.8
1982	— 79.7
1983	— 73.4
1984	— 74.8
1985	— 79.4
1986	— 79
1987	— 80.9
1988	— 80.9
1989	— 77.5
1990	— 77.5
1991	— 73.6
1992	— 78.4
1993	— 70.4
1994	— 73.9
1995	— 70.4
1996	— 76.9
1997	— 64
1998	— 66
1999	— 69
2000	— 67.3
2001	— 73.6
2002	— 78
2003	— 71
2004	— 73.6

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Dear Dorie,

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— New Local

Dear Local,

At 9:30 a.m. on Monday in the Joslyn Park craft room, families gather for a Santa Monica Public Library “Laptime” session followed by an informal set-up for networking. While there is no drop-off policy, many parents take turns watching each other’s children for errands and appointments. There is also a lovely outdoor play area — the only one in the city that is entirely fenced and gated — should you have an active toddler or climber.

Tuesdays are lively at the Fairview Branch library on Ocean Park Boulevard, or back at Joslyn if you’re interested in a Spanish-speaking gathering of parents and caregivers.

Wednesdays join a vivacious group at Memorial Park for a “Spanish Baby & Me” class.

Thursdays head to the Ocean Park Library for another “Laptime” session and then straight to the beach for a nice group of parents with young children.

One of my favorites is the Los Angeles Contemporary Museum of Art (LACMA) where they have a large, interactive room devoted to children.

— Dorie

(Dorie Meek is director of the Infant & Family Support Program, provided by Saint John’s Health Center in partnership with the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. Meek answers questions concerning children ages birth to 5 years old. Submit your questions to “Dear Dorie” at meek@smmusd.org, or call (310) 452-6132; fax (310) 452-6392).

The art of child rearing: Making rules that they will surely follow



How Much Is Enough?

By David J. Bredehoft, Ph.D.

When I was growing up one thing was very clear: My mother and father had rules, and I was expected to follow them. This only seemed natural, because not only did my parents have rules, but I also soon discovered that my school, my church, my city, and my state had them too, and I was expected to follow all of them.

Looking back I now see that my parents, John and Elsie, were good rule makers. Oh, not overly harsh rules, or too wishy-washy rules, just good middle-of-the-road rules. You see, there needed to be rules in a household that at one point included two parents, two elderly grandparents, four children, and Snowflake, our dog.

I didn’t always appreciate or understand it then, but I now know the rules helped with many things. Sometimes the rules helped to bring order out of chaos. Sometimes the rules protected me. Sometimes the rules acted like a road map showing what was expected of me. And at times the rules helped me to learn many of life’s most valuable lessons. Teaching children the rules begins when they are young and continue as they grow.

Consider the story of twins named Jamie and Josh.

Fourteen-month-old Jamie and Josh are busily exploring their world. Regularly, Mom lets them scoot across the kitchen floor to a cabinet, open it up, and noisily pull out each pot and pan. “What a wonderful game you two are involved in,” Mom says. “I love the way you are learning about your world.”

The next week Mom and Dad, Jamie and Josh go to visit friends. As the friends chat in their living room, Jamie and Josh scurry around the living room floor. Before long they open the built-in buffet and begin to pull out all of its contents. As the host-couple look nervously on, not knowing what to do, the twins’ mother says, “Aren’t they cute? They are just a bundle of ener-

gy,” then she and her husband ignore the twins and continues with the adults in conversation.

Mom’s response to the twins at home seems appropriate and is not a form of overindulgence. However, to allow the twins to do the same thing at a friends’ house is a form of overindulgence called “soft structure.” The twins are robbed of an opportunity to learn the important lesson of which behaviors are appropriate at home and which are not appropriate in other places.

Not too soft and not too hard

Being too soft is not the answer. Desperate parents who are too soft on structure sometimes flip to the other side of the continuum thinking the answer lies in being hard, rigid, or inflexible. Being too hard is not the answer either. The answer is in the middle, in balance — a combination of effective nurture and structure.

What can parents do instead?

There are many ways that parents can find middle ground. Some of them are:

- Have a reasonable set of rules.
- Be consistent in enforcing your rules.
- Have age appropriate rules adjusting the rule to each new level of child development.
- Set reasonable expectations about chores.
- As children demonstrate greater responsibility, increase their level of freedom.
- Show appreciation to your children for how well they follow rules.

To participate in a new study on overindulgence and relationships log onto www.overindulgence.info.

(David J. Bredehoft Ph.D., Jean Illsley Clarke Ph.D., and Connie Dawson Ph.D., are co-authors of “How Much Is Enough? Everything You Need to Know to Steer Clear of Overindulgence and Raise Likeable, Responsible and Respectful Children — From Toddlers to Teens. David is chair of the Social and Behavioral Sciences Department at Concordia University — St. Paul and can be reached at bredehoft@csp.edu. To read more about overindulgence go to www.overindulgence.info.)

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SPECIAL EVENTS

THURSDAY, JULY 7
TWILIGHT DANCE SERIES – 7:30 p.m.
Enjoy the 21st season of this great musical event on the pier presented by LACarGuy.com.
This week features a Tex-Mex Mix of Little Joe y la Familia with Cannibal and the Headhunters. Families with small children – I recommend bringing a picnic to the beach just south of the pier where the kids can run around and you can still enjoy the music. This is truly one of Santa Monica's best events. For more info visit www.twilightdance.org.

FRIDAY, JULY 8
RHYTHMS...MUSIC, POETRY and ART PERFORMANCE – 7:00 – 10:00 p.m.
Open mic performance for youth with proceeds benefiting after-school arts programming for middle-school youth. Suggested donation \$5 adults, \$2 youth. Inside Out Community Arts, 2210 Lincoln Blvd., Venice, 397-8820.

PARENTS NIGHT OUT at CHILDPLAY – 6:00 – 11:00 p.m.
Kids get a night of supervised fun with pizza, games and more, while parents have a night out. Ages 3 – 10, \$9 hour, \$7 siblings, 3 hour minimum. Reservations required. 470-4997, 2299 Westwood Blvd., LA.

SATURDAY, JULY 9
PADDLE for a PURPOSE – 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Sailing and kayaking lessons for children with special needs and their friends. All ages, FREE! Mother's Beach, Palawan Way, Marina del Rey, 720-9610.

SING-A-LONG SOUND of MUSIC at the HOLLYWOOD BOWL!
Doors open at 6:00, movie starts at 8:00 p.m. This fun family event features audience members in costume, special guests including members of the Von Trappe family, a crystal clear print of the movie (digitally restored for last year's event) and host Melissa Peterson. Visit www.hollywoodbowl.com for more info.

WILD WONDER SLUMBER at the LA ZOO – 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 a.m., July 10
Meet birds, mammals and reptiles of Africa at an overnight camping experience complete with tents, dinner, breakfast and s'mores. \$85 adults, \$60 kids. Reservations required, 323-644-4224, 5333 Zoo Dr.

SATURDAY and SUNDAY, JULY 9 & 10
ALICE and the WONDERFUL TEA PARTY at the Santa Monica Playhouse
12:30 & 3:00 p.m. This zany family musical follows Alice as she falls head over heels into a new set of Wonderland adventures. \$12 adults, \$10.50 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 2 for reservations, www.santamonicaplayhouse.com, 1211 4th St.

LOTUS FESTIVAL – noon – 9:00 p.m. Sat., noon – 8:00 p.m. Sun.
Celebrate Asian and Pacific Island cultures at the largest lotus bed in the U.S. during this two day festival. Activities and entertainment include Chinese Dragon Boat racers, paper cutting, scroll painting and a free Children's Courtyard for arts and crafts, live music and stories. Nighttime fireworks finish off the day. Echo Park Lake, Park Ave. between Glendale Ave. and Echo Park Dr. Free shuttles and parking available. 213-485-1310, www.laparks.org.

SUNDAY, JULY 10
FAMILY FUNDAY at the WILL GEER THEATRICAL BOTANICUM
This week's program features Dan Crow. All ages, \$8. 1419 Topanga Canyon Blvd., Topanga, 455-3723.

JULY 9 – AUG. 27
SUMMER YOUTH TRIATHLON PROGRAM – Saturdays, 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.
SoCal Jr. Elite presents this program to introduce more youths to the sport of triathlon. Designed for ages 9 – 18, no previous triathlon experience is required. For info and application visit www.socaljrelite.com or email questions to socaljrelite@adelphia.net. Space is limited. Crossroads School Pool, 1715 Olympic Blvd. (not affiliated with Crossroads Summer Camps – do not call the school)

TUESDAY



Movies for Moms! July 5 - 11:00 a.m. – War of the Worlds starring Tom Cruise, Dakota Fanning and Miranda Otto; directed by Steven Spielberg. Science Fiction, Rated “PG-13.” Loews Cineplex Broadway Theatre, 1441 3rd St. Promenade – for Moms and babies newborn – 1 year old. Doors open early for socializing and getting comfortable. Visit www.enjoytheshow.com/reelmons for details.

Storytelling

Main Library – held at Reed Park, corner of 7th and Wilshire.
Toddler Storytime; 10:00 a.m. For 2 year olds with adult.
Preschool Story Time; 10:30 a.m.; for ages 3-5.

Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.
Cuentos Para Pequenos – 10:00 a.m., six-week series in Spanish for 24 – 36 month olds.
Lap Time – 11:00 a.m., six-week series for babies 0-24 months, co-sponsored by the SMMUSD Infant & Family Support Program. Current session June 21 – Aug. 9 for both.
Twilight Story Time -7pm – an ongoing program for 3-5 year olds.

Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.
Family Story Time – 7:00 p.m., all ages.
Summer Activity Program – 2:30 p.m., thru Aug. 16, ages 4 and up.

Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St. – 310-392-3804.
Toddler Storytime, 10:00 and 10:30. Music, rhymes and stories for 2 to 3 year olds. Current session June 7 – July 12; July 13 register for next session.

Tiny Tuesday Storytime at Storyopolis
For ages infant to 3. 11:00 a.m. 116 North Robertson, Plaza A, LA. 310-358-2500, www.storyopolis.com
Barnes and Noble at the Grove
Storytime for ages 2 – 6. 10:00 a.m. 189 Grove Drive, LA, 323-525-0270

Classes

YWCA – A Place for Parents –Toddler & Me Class - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. – walkers to 3 years, (Mon – Fri); Infant & Me Class – 10:45 – 11:45 a.m. and 1:30 – 2:30 p.m., 0 – 12 months; 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.
YWCA – Attachment Parenting Classes - 2:00 – 3:30 p.m., 1332 Sixth St., 393-2721 (ask for Shelana Philip-Guide or Audrey Meyer). This new class for mothers/dads and babies up to 12 months is presented by Karol Darsa, PsyD, a licensed psychologist with extensive experience working with children and families. Fees: Members – 1 class - \$40, 5 class pass - \$180; Non-members - \$50, 5 class pass - \$200.
BREAKTHROUGH PARENTING CLASSES – 7:00 – 9:30 p.m.

An advanced 10-week parent education course. Culver City/Westchester, \$30 per class/\$40 materials. Also Thursdays, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m., West LA, \$40 per class/\$40 materials. Continuous enrollment. For info call Jayne A. Major, Ph.D., Breakthrough Parenting Services, Inc., 310-823-7846, jm@BPinAction.org.

Yoga & Exercise

Prenatal Aqua Aerobics at the Santa Monica YMCA
10:00 – 11:00 a.m and 7:30 – 8:30 p.m; Free for members, non-members \$90 for 10 classes. (also Thursday nights 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.) 393-2721. ext. 117 for more info.

Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:40 p.m., \$15. Mommy and Me – 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.

Mommy Care – at the Dance Factory, 11606 San Vicente Blvd., Brentwood, 310-394-6711. Combined Pregnancy/Recovery Exercise Group – 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.. (babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)
Itsy Bitsy Yoga – Tots (crawling to 24 months) – 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Baby (6 weeks to pre-crawling) – 11:00 – noon. With Khefry Riley at Ocean Oasis, 1333 Ocean Ave. Register at www.khefry.net or call 323-549-5383.
Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.
Kids' Yoga Circle – Yoga for ages 4 -7, 4:00 – 5:15 p.m. (Students may be dropped off at 3:30 for indoor play, song and snacks). \$18 drop-in, discounted multiple week passes available, reservations required. 1814 14th St., #208,

260-2736

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-826-5774 - no pre-reg required, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Storytelling

The Talking Stick Coffee Lounge – 1630 Ocean Park Blvd., 450-6052
10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4 at this neighborhood coffee shop.
Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.
Toddler Story Time – 9:30 a.m., for two year olds.

Preschool Story Time – 10:30 a.m.; six-week series for 3-5 year olds with adult.
Next session June 22 – Aug. 10 for both.
Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.

Lap Time – 10:15 & 11:15 a.m., ages 0-2. Current session June 1 – July 6, then July 20 – Aug. 24.
Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St. –392-3804.

Preschool Twilight Story Time – 7:00 – 7:30 p.m. Parents/children ages 3-5.
Summer Activity Program – 2:30 p.m., thru July 27, ages 4 and up, tickets required.
Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion – 2 pm – ages 2-5 – 310-475-4144
Border's, Westwood – 11am – 310-475-3444.

Classes

Rhythm Child Parent & Me Rhythms, Santa Monica Studios, 3025 Olympic Blvd., 9:30 – 10:15 a.m. Children explore rhythms through drum play. Ages 6 mos. – 3.5 years; \$100 for 8 weeks. Call 204-5466 or visit www.rhythm-child.net for more info and session dates.
YWCA – A Place for Parents –Toddler & Me Class - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. – walkers to 3 years; (Mon – Fri); 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45pm, \$15
Fitness for Moms – Babies Welcome! Step Aerobics, 10:30 a.m. at the YMCA, 393-2721, ext. 117 for more info. Free for members, non-members pay \$90 for 10 classes.
Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.
Kids' Yoga Circle – Mommy and Me Yoga (ages 4 -6), 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. and 2:00 – 3:00 p.m Includes 15 minutes of indoor play and song. \$165 for an 8 week session, \$75 for additional sibling.

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Other

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

THURSDAY

Babystyle, 1324 Montana Avenue, 434-9590 10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4.

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

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

Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.
La Hora Del Cuento – 7:00 p.m. Spanish stories, songs and rhymes for all ages. Summer Activity Programs – 2:30 p.m. thru Aug. 4, ages 4 and up.
Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.

Toddler Story Time – 10:15 a.m., for 2 year olds, next session July 21 – Aug. 25.
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 and 10:20. Ages 0 – 2. Current session thru Aug 11.

Classes

YWCA – A Place for Parents –Toddler & Me Class - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. – walkers to 3 years; (Mon – Fri); 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.
BREAKTHROUGH PARENTING CLASSES – 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.
An advanced 10-week parent education course. West LA, \$40 per class/\$40 materials. Also Tuesdays, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., Culver City/Westchester, \$30 per class/\$40 materials; Continuous enrollment. For info call Jayne A. Major, Ph.D., Breakthrough Parenting Services, Inc., 310-823-7846, jm@BPinAction.org.

Yoga & Exercise

Prenatal Aqua Aerobics at the Santa Monica YMCA
7:30 – 8:30 p.m; Free for members, non-members \$90 for 10 classes. (also Tuesdays at 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.) 393-2721. ext. 117 for more info.
Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:40 p.m., \$15. Mommy and Me – 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.
Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.
Kids' Yoga Circle – Yoga for ages 6 - 10, 4:00 – 5:15 p.m. (students may be dropped off at 3:30 for indoor play, song and snacks). \$18 drop-in, discounted multiple week passes available, reservations required.
Family Yoga, 5:15 – 6:30 p.m., includes 15 minutes of indoor play and song. 8-week series for parents and 1 child, \$250, \$100 each additional child.
1814 14th St., #208, 260-2736

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-826-5774 - no pre-reg required, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 4-8 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

MOMS Club of Santa Monica – New Mother Group – for new moms with babies ages 0-6 months. Meet for conversation, support and playtime. All new Moms welcome! Call Cassandra at 451-1827 for time, location and more info.

Parent's Night Out at Child's Play, 2299 Westwood Blvd., 6:00 – 11:00 p.m.
Kids get a night of supervised fun with pizza, games and more while parents go out. Ages 3-10, \$9 per hour, \$7 siblings, 3 hour minimum. Reservations required, 470-4997. www.child-splayonline.net
La Leche League of LA/Mar Vista – meets the 2nd Friday of each month at 10:00 a.m. Call 310-390-2529 for info.
Planetarium Show at SMC's John Drescher Planetarium, 7:00 p.m. – Night Sky Show, 8:00 p.m. – featured program. \$5 adults, \$4 children. Pico and 17th St., 434-3000.

Classes

YWCA – A Place for Parents –Toddler & Me Class - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. – walkers to 3 years; (Mon – Fri); 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.
Mommy and Me Dance– celebrate the wonderful world of imagination Fridays at the Electric Lodge. 9:45 – 10:45 a.m. ages 14 - 24 months; 10:45 – 11:45 a.m. ages 2 – 4.

6 classes for \$75 or \$14 per class. First class free! 1416 Electric Ave, Venice, 306-1854.

Yoga & Exercise

Fitness for Moms – Babies Welcome! Indoor Cycling, 10:30 a.m. at the YMCA, 393-2721, ext. 117 for more info. Free for members, non-members pay \$90 for 10 classes.
Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45 p.m., \$15.
Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.
Kids' Yoga Circle – Yoga for ages 8 - 11, 4:30 – 5:45 p.m., includes 15 minutes of indoor play and song, \$18 drop-in, discounted multiple week passes available, reservations required. 1814 14th St., #208, 260-2736

Other

Baby Attuned – Fridays, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., A new program promoting sensitive parenting and developmental awareness. Parent-completed developmental screening, with review and feedback from a licensed clinical developmental psychologist and experienced pediatric nurse practitioner, Eileen Escarce, PhD, MSN. (PSY 18819). Introductory fee: \$15 per screening with feedback. 1137 2nd Ave, Suite 213. By appointment only 310-367-1155.

SATURDAY

Storytelling

Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade – Kid's Story Time – 10am, 310-260-9110
Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion – 10:30am – ages 2-5, 310-475-4144.
Children's Book World, 10580 1/2 Pico Blvd, LA - 10:30 a.m., 310-559-800K.
Village Books, 1049 SwarthmoreAve, Pacific Palisades – 10:30 a.m., 454-4063.
826LA, 685 Venice Blvd, 2nd Floor, Venice – 10:30 – 11:30 a.m., ages 3-6, RSVP to info @825LA.com or 310-314-8418. (826LA is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting students with their creative and expository writing skills, and to helping teachers inspire their students to write).

Classes

YWCA – Toddler & Me every other Sat. (July 9 & 23), 9:45 – 10:45 a.m., \$15 per class; Parent Enrichment once per month (July 23), 11:00 a.m. – noon, \$15 per class, \$25 per couple.

Yoga & Exercise

Santa Monica Yoga – Pre- & Post-Natal Yoga, Saturdays – 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.
1640 Ocean Park Blvd, 396-4040, www.santamonicyoga.com
Mommy Care – at the Dance Factory, 11606 San Vicente Blvd., Brentwood, 310-394-6711. Combined Pregnancy/Recovery Exercise Group – 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.(babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)
Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:00 a.m., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.
Kids' Yoga Circle – Yoga for ages 6 -10, 9:45 – 10:55 a.m., includes 15 minutes of indoor play and song; Yoga Girls (ages 12 and up), 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. \$18 drop-in, discounted multiple week passes available, reservations required. 1814 14th St., #208, 260-2736

Other

Emerging Artists Family Workshop - 10:00 a.m. – noon.
Program varies, ages 6 and up, \$12. Santa Monica Museum of Art, 2419 Michigan Ave,

586-6488, ext. 32.
Alice and the Wonderful Tea Party at the **Santa Monica Playhouse**
Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m, July 9 & 10; \$12 adults, \$10.50 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 2 for reservations, www.santamonicaplayhouse.com, 1211 4th St.
Puppetolio – 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested
Magicopolis – 2 and 8 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$20 for evening, \$15 for matinee. Call 310-451-2241 for info.
Precious Prints – Ceramic Heirlooms for a Lifetime
Second Saturday every month at The Pump Station, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Contact Kristan Ritchie at 310-802-8013 or visit www.preciousprintsstudios.com for more info.
Lakeshore Learning Stores “Free Crafts for Kids” – Saturdays, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., 8888 Venice Blvd., 559-9630.

SUNDAY

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.
Alice and the Wonderful Tea Party at the Santa Monica Playhouse
Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m, July 9 & 10; \$12 adults, \$10.50 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 2 for reservations, www.santamonicaplayhouse.com, 1211 4th St.

Breastfeeding

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

MONDAY

Storytelling

Main Library – Lap Time at Joslyn Park, Craft Room, 9:30 a.m. A series for babies up to two years old, June 6 – July 25. (“Family Connections” is on summer break.)
Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main Street, 310-392-3804.
“Spanish for Little Ones”, 11:15 a.m., July 11 – Aug. 15.
Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade – Toddler Story Time – 10am – 310-260-9110

Classes

YWCA – A Place for Parents –Toddler & Me Class - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. – walkers to 3 years; (Mon – Fri); 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-826-5774 - no pre-reg required, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45pm, \$15
Yoga Garden, - Restorative yoga for pre/post-natal – 6:30 p.m., 310-450-0133. www.yogagardenstudios.com
Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

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NATIONAL

Infamous Nevada brothel back in business

BY TOM GARDNER

Associated Press Writer

RENO, Nev. — The Mustang Ranch, the best-known little whorehouse in the West, is back in business at a new location. The gaudy pink stucco buildings and the working girls are there. The only thing missing is the name.

The infamous brothel reopened Friday east of Reno with the generic name "World Famous Brothel" six years after the government shut it down and auctioned off its buildings and contents.

The Mustang's old parlor ceiling has been replaced with a dome, painted in fences, shrubs and flowers. Special lighting effects gradually change the ceiling from sunrise to sunset.

"We have raised the bar on brothel elegance and operation in Nevada," said Susan Austin, the madam who also directs another bordello on the same property. "There is nothing else in the state that can compare with the pleasant, warm decor and atmosphere in two separate and competing bordello operations." Prostitution is illegal in Nevada's largest cities but is allowed in 12 of the states 17 counties.

Austin said the decor pays homage to Joe Conforte, the original owner of the brothel, while toning down his garish pinks and purples.

Conforte's image in leaded glass greets visitors enter-

ing the parlor, where the working girls line up. But Conforte's red flocked wallpaper and threadbare carpet have been replaced by earth tones and an Italian motif.

"Joe Conforte is Sicilian. I wanted to pay homage to Joe Conforte. He made prostitution legal in Nevada," Austin said.

Conforte, who delivered his taxi passengers to prostitutes in the San Francisco Bay area in the 1960s, took over the 104-room brothel in 1967 when prostitution was illegal in Nevada. In 1971 it became the state's first legal bordello.

Conforte ran into tax problems with the IRS, which prevailed after nearly three decades of legal wrangling. He was accused of owing \$13 million in back taxes and fled to Brazil.

The government seized the Mustang Ranch in 1999 after guilty verdicts against its parent companies and manager in a federal fraud and racketeering trial.

But the U.S. Bureau of Land Management was uneasy about owning a brothel and put it up for grabs on eBay. Bordello owner Lance Gilman snapped it up for \$145,100, then spent \$4 million to carve up the buildings into sections and move them to his Wild Horse Resort & Spa brothel five miles east of the old Mustang site.

Gilman contends he assumed ownership of the name when he bought the buildings in 2003.

But rival brothel owner David Burgess claims he acquired the trademark after the government abandoned

the name while the brothel was under its ownership.

Burgess owns the Old Bridge Ranch, next to the former Mustang Ranch site. A sign at the entrance calls his brothel the Mustang Ranch.

Gilman says he's content to wait until the dispute is resolved in federal court. He's allowed to call one building housing memorabilia "The World Famous Mustang Ranch Museum."

At the World Famous Brothel, as with the original Mustang, the wings with the working girls' rooms spoke out from the octagonal parlor. Fifty rooms and two VIP suites are planned. At the moment, 18 girls are working.

For one, who calls herself Salaizia, it's a job the life-long Reno resident has longed for.

"I used to see Joe Conforte on television. I'd see the flashing lights, the beautiful women. It was a glamorous world," she said.

But the Mustang shut down the week she turned 18. So she worked at other brothels in northern Nevada until recently signing on with the new Mustang.

"My dream came true," she said. "I like Susan's house. It's more family-like."

Austin said she has a list of 300 applicants on call for the new Mustang and the Wild Horse, a \$5 million, 24,000-square-foot brothel that opened just three years ago as an eight-room brothel in what's now known as the "little house."

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Forest Service denies access to four Colorado 'fourteener' peaks

By The Associated Press

ALMA, Colo. — The U.S. Forest Service has stopped issuing access permits to hikers hoping to reach the top of four 14,000-foot peaks in Colorado because the trails cross private land.

The agency this week began distributing fliers warning hikers to keep off trails to Mount Democrat, Mount Lincoln, Mount Bross and Mount Cameron in Park County unless they have permission from landowners who acquired the land through old mining claims.

"The bottom line is there is no public access to those peaks," Sara Mayben, head of the Forest Service's South Park Ranger District, told The Denver Post. "We can't stop the public from trespassing, but we will take steps to make it clear that they are."

Interest in Colorado's "fourteeners" has soared in recent years, with roughly half a million people climbing at least one each year. These four peaks' proximity to Denver and their relatively low skill level have made them among the most popular of the state's 54 mountains taller than 14,000 feet.

Terri Gifford drove from Illinois to climb the four peaks in the Mosquito Range. She was surprised to learn they were off-limits.

"Are we not supposed to be up there?" Gifford asked as she rummaged for a map in her van at a trailhead. "It's in all the guidebooks."

Maury Reiber, one of the landowners in the area, said he's concerned he will face lawsuits if someone falls into one of the mine shafts that dot the slopes.

"We're trying to keep an open mind about different solutions, but these issues need to be addressed," Reiber said. "If we have to be hard-nosed and say 'no one goes up there,' that's the way it's got to be."

Local officials have formed the Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative, which among other goals is seeking to work out access agreements with land owners.

"We have a compelling economic interest in seeing that these peaks remain open," said Richard Hamilton, a former county planner.

Access to at least two other fourteeners — Culebra Peak in the Sangre de Cristos and Wilson Peak near Telluride — is at issue because of the 1872 Mining Act, a Civil War-era law meant to develop the mineral wealth of the West, said T.J. Rapoport, executive director of the Fourteeners Initiative. The original claims were patented, meaning they were transferred to private ownership.

NATIONAL



Hotels targeting guests who want to take the experience home

BY TANYA BRICKING LEACH

Associated Press Writer

HONOLULU — Like that curved shower rod in your hotel bathroom? The embroidered pillow on the bed? The martini glasses you saw down at the bar?

The latest vacation souvenirs may be as close as a hotel Web site, because these days just about everything in the room can be bought — for a price.

Designers call it “hotel-at-home” decorating, pioneered five years ago by Westin Hotels & Resorts’ heavily marketed “Heavenly Bed,” which was supposed to bring a little bit of luxury to travelers who wanted nothing more than a good night’s rest.

But the trend has become about more than selling people the bed they just slept in.

It’s about selling the feeling of bringing the vacation home.

“When we did the Aston Waikiki Beach Hotel, we used a beaded curtain with a traditional Hawaiian hula dancer on it as the closet partition, and guests loved it,” said Holly Boling-Ruiz, associate senior designer at Philpotts and Associates, a Honolulu design firm whose clients include hotels.

Vacationers at Hawaii resorts want to know where they can get poolside everything from chairs to coconut shell dishes.

“In the old days, hotels put up signs that said, ‘If you really like this robe, it’s for sale in the gift shop,’” said Robert Mandelbaum, who researches hotel industry trends for PKF Consulting in Atlanta. “Anymore, it’s not just robes. Hotels are becoming more residential in feel, and guests can afford to pay a premium to bring that concept of comfort home.”

Take, for example, the Heavenly Bed, a cushy, 12 1/2-inch pillow-top mattress that the Westin, owned by Starwood Hotels & Resorts, sells fully loaded for more than \$3,000.

It has become such a craze that more than 6,000 consumers have plunked down the bucks for feather-filled comfort.

And hotel designers say consumers are asking for more.

“Hotels have sold their wares openly, or not so openly, for many years,” said Ariane Steinbeck, senior vice president of The Gettys Group, a Chicago-based firm that specializes in hotel design. “The American consumer is much more sophisticated these days.”

Guests don’t just ask for bathrobes and shampoo bottles, she said. They want area rugs, flooring and accessories.

At The Ritz-Carlton in Kapalua, Maui, guests have been known to spend thousands on bronze sculptures and tropical landscapes like those in the hotel, spokeswoman Shelby Taylor said.

And at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel on Oahu’s famed Waikiki Beach, anything pink is popular, including the ceramic candle holders that decorate tables at the beachside Mai Tai Bar.

At the Kahala Mandarin Oriental Hawaii, an upscale Oahu beachfront hotel with rooms that feature four-poster canopy beds, guests rave about the coconut bath salts on the bathroom counters.

Travelers notice the details, from hand-held sandalwood fans to the 300-thread count Egyptian combed cotton duvet covers — all for sale, Kahala Mandarin spokeswoman Marie Cazaux said.

She even e-mailed one guest pictures of the hotel restaurant’s bamboo floor because the woman wanted the same floor designed for her own home.

At the Halekulani, a Waikiki resort whose name means “house befitting heaven,” the hotel’s turnaround service leaves such trinkets as chocolates and shells. Room amenities include the hotel’s own line of bath products and even sunscreen.

Guests are free to inquire about how to order anything, including retro glass lamps and a lavender sofa just like those in the new Vera Wang suite, a designer that goes for about \$4,000 a night, spokeswoman Joyce Matsumoto said.

But more often, she said, guests ask where to find fixtures such as those in the bathroom showers, where the water temperature automatically turns on at 105 degrees.

And sometimes their requests are more unusual, she said, such as the man who liked the smell of the hotel’s

detergent so much he began ordering his own the same way the hotel did: in 55-gallon drums.

“Anything that creates creature comfort, that’s what people want to take home,” said Robin Ware, co-owner of the Hotels at Home, a New Jersey company that works with hotel chains such as Starwood and Wyndham to make their designer items available to the average Joe through catalogs and web sites.

“The bestseller is always the pillows,” she said, “because it’s an affordable thing for everyone.”

And if retail is too much to pay, there’s always eBay.

That’s where one of Mark Flaharty’s Heavenly Beds ended up after he and his wife decided to turn a guest room into an office and get rid of one of their luxury beds.

Flaharty, 37, of Chicago, first discovered the bed when his job on the sales side of advertising for Yahoo took him on the road, and he was always looking for a good night’s sleep.

When his wife tried the bed out, it was like the story of the Princess and the Pea. They were hooked.

“We own three of these things,” Flaharty laughed. “It was so revolutionary when they first came out. We just liked the bed. So we bought one and then another one and another one.”

This summer, Westin’s signature Heavenly Bed line is for sale at 50 Nordstrom stores nationwide, a move that could make the hotel retail market a real fairy tale for the upscale hotel industry.



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NATIONAL

‘OTMs’ remain in United States

BORDERS, from page 1

Since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, more than 118,000 undocumented migrants who were caught after sneaking over the nation’s borders have walked right out of custody with a permiso in hand.

They were from Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Brazil. But also Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, Yemen — among 35 countries of “special interest” because of alleged sponsorship or support of terrorism.

These are the so-called OTM, or “Other Than Mexican,” migrants too far from their homelands to be shipped right back. More than 70,000 have hit U.S. streets just since this past October.

The Border Patrol is catching them, riding inner tubes across the Rio Grande or trekking through farm fields. But the government has no place to put all the “OTMs” while they await deportation hearings, so they are released with a notice to appear in immigration court.

Many don’t show — disappearing, instead, among the estimated 10 million undocumented migrants living in America.

In the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2001, 5,251 non-Mexicans were freed on their own recognizance from Border Patrol custody, according to statistics the agency provided. In fiscal year 2002, that rose to 5,725. Fiscal 2003: 7,972. Fiscal 2004: 34,161.

Last year’s number included at least 91 illegal immigrants from “special-interest” countries.

Releases have soared again this year. With four months left in the fiscal cycle, 70,624 OTMs have been released on their own recognizance — or 70 percent of all non-Mexicans apprehended by the Border Patrol. That includes 50 undocumented migrants from “special-interest” countries, Border Patrol spokesman Salvador Zamora says.

Authorities stress that apprehended illegal immigrants are routinely screened, and any determined to be a risk are detained. Individuals from “special-interest” nations aren’t necessarily more likely to be terrorist threats than others, they note.

Still, front-line officers voice concern that so many who break the law to enter the country are systematically set free.

“I absolutely believe that the next attack we have will come from somebody who has come across the border illegally,” says Eugene Davis, retired deputy chief of the Border Patrol sector in Blaine, Wash. “To me, we have no more border security now than we had prior to Sept. 11. Anybody who believes we’re safer, they’re living in Neverland.”

Outside the Harlingen patrol station, an agent grumbled recently that he’d dislocated his shoulder while catching one group — then, in no time, they walked free.

The afternoon is quickly fading, and 20 illegal immigrants sit under a hackberry tree near the Rio Grande.

“I betcha dollars to doughnuts that there’s a bunch of OTMs in there,” Border Patrol agent Eddie Flores says, swinging his SUV to a stop. He’s right: This group consists of one Honduran, six Brazilians and the rest Costa Ricans, all unfazed at being apprehended by immigration officers. One Brazilian woman smiles, even, then fires off something in Portuguese.

Agent Julio Garcia translates: “They’re depending on me.”

They’re depending on the very system charged with capturing unlawful entrants to help them go free. Nowadays, OTMs often flock to Border Patrol agents rather than fleeing them.

Of the 834,731 apprehensions made by the Border Patrol so far this fiscal year, 100,142 were non-Mexican arrests. That’s a 137 percent increase from the 42,167 non-Mexicans arrested in the year of the Sept. 11 attacks.

The so-called “catch and release” arrangement happens most frequently in Texas’ Rio Grande Valley, where 91 percent of non-Mexicans caught by Border Patrol agents are then freed, statistics show.

Most of those arrested in the region are from Brazil, Honduras and El Salvador, though arrests of illegal immigrants from the 35 “special-interest” countries doubled from two dozen in fiscal 2003 to about four dozen in fiscal 2004, according to internal Border Patrol statistics obtained by The Associated Press.

Nationally, Zamora says, 644 migrants from “special-interest” countries were apprehended by Border Patrol in

fiscal 2004; more than 450 have been nabbed so far this fiscal year.

Congress in the past two years funded 19,444 immigration detention beds nationally, says Manny Van Pelt, spokesman for Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE. An extra 1,950 bed spaces were approved in May.

The Border Patrol, as it checks apprehended entrants’ names against terrorist watch lists and crime databases, contacts ICE’s Office of Detention and Removal to see if there’s holding space. Unless the entrant is a convict or on a watch list, the answer is often no — and migrants are cut loose.

“It’s creating an environment in which people can go around unnoticed,” says James Edwards Jr. of the conservative Hudson Institute think tank. “They can easily obtain false identities. ... That’s a mighty big risk to take.”

Zamora says only 91 of the 644 undocumented “special-interest” migrants arrested by Border Patrol in fiscal 2004 were released, and that the others were turned over to ICE for detention. However, the Border Patrol refused to provide the AP with a country-by-country breakdown of undocumented migrants released on their own recognizance.

Migrants from terror-watch countries are vetted not only by Border Patrol agents and criminal database checks but also federal Joint Terrorism Task Force investigators, says Russ Knocke, a spokesman for the Department of Homeland Security.

“An alien from a special-interest country who presents absolutely no risk — is that someone you’re going to detain? Or are you going to detain a drug dealer or a child predator from a country that’s not on the special-interest country list?” he says.

Authorities point out that a new “expedited removal” program, focusing on the quick return of non-Mexicans to their home countries, has resulted in 7,000 deportations. Still, word is out among migrants that if they can make it across the border, they might get walking papers.

“I had 46 of them standing there at the side of the road. That’s the first thing they ask me, ‘Immigration?’” says Joe Serna, one of two police officers in La Grulla, 65 miles west of Harlingen. “Best we can do is check them for weapons.”

Homeland security officials say spotting would-be terrorists is the No. 1 priority of border guards. But veteran line officers note databases can’t always detect whether a migrant is using a fake name. And while they’re processing OTMs, other illegal entrants are getting by.

Pakistani Farida Goolam Mahomed Ahmed was arrested last July at the McAllen, Texas, airport as she tried to board a plane to New York. She carried \$7,300 in various currencies and a passport with pages missing. Agents later learned she waded across the Rio Grande. She was deported in March.

In February, the reputed leader of the Mara Salvatrucha, or MS-13, gang was arrested after he crossed from Mexico into Texas. Ever Anibal Rivera Paz was found 100 miles north of the Rio Grande, hiding in the trunk of a car. He had escaped from a Honduran prison where he was charged with masterminding a deadly bus attack. He is jailed in Houston.

Others who are caught, and then released, fail to show up for immigration hearings.

The Harlingen Immigration Court, one of 53 nationwide, incurs more no-shows than any other: 87 percent of migrants failed to appear and were ordered deported “in absentia” in fiscal 2004. Nationally, that failure-to-appear rate stands at about 22 percent.

ICE estimates a cumulative 465,000 undocumented immigrants — visa overstays, illegal entrants and others unlawfully in the States — have received final orders of removal but remain at-large.

The list now includes four of the six Brazilians Flores and Garcia apprehended under the hackberry tree.

Twenty-four hours after they were caught, the group walked out of Border Patrol custody. A shuttle operated by the Harlingen bus station provided a ride to the terminal. There, after presenting a clerk with their “permisos,” the Brazilians each purchased \$25 one-way tickets to Houston, where they planned to get connecting flights. They boarded the 10:30 p.m. bus, smiling.

Only two returned for their June 9 court date. The four no-shows were ordered deported “in absentia.”

‘Catch and release’ efforts battled around

By The Associated Press

The Bush administration and Congress have offered proposals to address the flow of illegal immigrants over the nation’s borders. Where the ideas stand:

EXPEDITED REMOVAL:

Last August, the Department of Homeland Security announced plans to expand a program meant to speed the deportation of illegal immigrants. The so-called “expedited removal” process, which has been used at official entry points since 1997, was extended to the land borders between these points.

The procedure allows undocumented immigrants apprehended within 100 miles of the Mexican or Canadian borders within 14 days of their entry into the United States to be ordered returned to their home country by border agents as soon as circumstances allow. They are not provided a hearing before an immigration judge unless they have a credible fear of return to their country.

The program aims to cut down on the number of migrants released on their own recognizance or bond while awaiting court hearings — many of whom fail to show up for those hearings.

EXTRA MANPOWER:

In December, President Bush signed into law an overhaul of U.S. intelligence-gathering, which included several measures addressing border security. For one, the bill called for hiring 2,000 more Border Patrol agents a year over five years — nearly doubling the agency’s size.

Bush’s proposed budget for 2006 provided only enough money to hire 210 new Border Patrol officers, though in May the president signed an emergency spending bill that would pay for 500 more agents.

About 11,000 agents patrol the nation’s land and coastal borders.

DETENTION SPACE/ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION:

Over the past two years, Congress has provided funding to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement for 19,444 detention bed spaces. In May, Bush signed an emergency spending bill providing money for an additional 1,950 bed spaces, for a total of 21,394.

Even the expanded bed space falls far short of the administration’s stated goal of adding 8,000 detention beds every year through 2010 — a total of 40,000 additional bed spaces. The president’s 2006 budget request includes enough money for 1,920 additional beds.

BARRIERS:

In May, Bush signed into law a bill that allows the Homeland Security secretary to build border barriers, including the remainder of a fence along a 3 1/2-mile stretch just north of Tijuana, Mexico. The spot is known as Smuggler’s Gulch, a favorite crossing point for illegal immigrants and drug runners.

More than 10 miles of the border between the Pacific Ocean and inland hills have already been fortified with fences, lights, motion sensors and beefed-up patrols. Barriers have also been erected along other parts of the border, including Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument in Arizona.

Obstructions are less popular along the 4,000-mile northern border.

IMMIGRATION POLICY:

Many believe the tremendous flow of illegal immigrants won’t slow until the nation’s immigration policies are changed.

Under a proposal, illegal immigrants would get three-year visas that could be renewed once. After completing six years of work, the immigrants would be eligible to “get in the back of the line” to apply for permanent legal residency.

Last year, Bush suggested a guest-worker program that would be open to illegal immigrants and other foreigners. Bush supports giving workers legal status for three-year renewable periods, but wants them to return to their home countries when their job is done. The White House never submitted a written proposal to Congress.

NATIONAL



Bottleneck of migrants continues in San Diego jails

BY ELLIOT SPAGAT

Associated Press Writer

SAN DIEGO — To understand why undocumented immigrants from countries other than Mexico often are freed soon after being caught sneaking across the border, look at the bottleneck in San Diego's immigration jail.

For reasons both bureaucratic and practical, the 850 inmates filling the beds are likely to stay months, weeks or even years. As a result, there's just no room left.

Long-term residents include a 48-year-old Polish man locked up since November 2000 who refuses to sign a document that would put him on a plane home. Authorities have all but given up trying to deport him.

A 22-year-old Chinese man detained since December won't fill out paperwork the Chinese government requires for anyone deported. A Tongan man has waited four months for his government to send travel documents promised long ago. Even the quick turnarounds — Guatemalans, Hondurans, Salvadorans — stay two or three weeks.

U.S. officials must navigate legal and logistical roadblocks to deport non-Mexicans, often forcing protracted negotiations with foreign governments and even airlines. The consequence: Border Patrol agents release many of the non-Mexicans they catch.

With only 19,444 beds nationwide, immigration jails are picky about whom they accept.

Under federal guidelines, anyone with a record of violent crimes including murder and rape must be jailed. Those from 35 so-called "special-interest" countries

linked to terrorism also get a close look.

Mexicans, who accounted for 94 percent of the U.S. Border Patrol's 1.1 million arrests last year, rarely go to jail — unless they are serial offenders or have criminal histories. Typically, they are fingerprinted and immediately sent home on a bus as "voluntary returns."

Non-Mexicans, however, were jailed an average of 89 days last year, Wesley Lee, acting director of detention and removal operations at U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, told a Senate panel in June. In an effort to lower numbers of non-Mexicans released, the Border Patrol introduced an "expedited removal" procedure that lets authorities deport people without a hearing before an immigration judge. Under that program, non-Mexican detainees were jailed an average of 32 days.

The U.S. Supreme Court has sharply limited the power to keep inmates indefinitely, ruling in 2001 that they must be freed if their deportation is "no longer reasonably foreseeable."

In San Diego, the jail has deported inmates from 65 countries this year, almost all caught crossing the border by land in California. The jail is one of the nation's busiest, accounting for 12,878 of the 161,676 inmates deported last year. The jail sits amid barren hills about a mile from the Mexican border.

Just nine deportation officers are assigned to arrange return travel for deportees.

They occupy a windowless office at the jail, spending their time negotiating with consular officials for travel documents and arranging one-way trips on U.S. government or commercial flights.

It is a well-traveled bunch. One flew to China in April to accompany an inmate on a commercial flight; another went to Lebanon three times.

Deportation Officer Yadira Avalos gets some of the trickiest cases, including Cubans, Vietnamese and others whose governments don't have full diplomatic relations with the United States.

She started a recent day by updating files on a Cuban who was released after the Department of Homeland Security determined there was little chance Cuba would ever accept him. His U.S. criminal record included convictions in 1992 for attempted murder and selling drugs in 1999.

One of her cases is the Chinese inmate who refuses to fill out a questionnaire asking about job prospects and family in the United States. "He figures that if he doesn't cooperate, we're not going to be able to deport him," said Avalos, who will continue to recommend to superiors that he stay in jail.

Avalos walks upstairs, where about 100 inmates are lunching on baloney, beans and cole slaw. She tells a Vietnamese inmate who was convicted for stealing a car a few years ago that he is scheduled to be released in July. After that, he will be required to check in occasionally with a deportation officer. The man shows little emotion as he offers fingerprints and signs a release form.

Deportation Officer Glen Beck is working on a 27-year-old Armenian whose criminal record includes a 1993 conviction for assault with a firearm. The tattooed Armenian, whose file identifies him by the nickname "Little Sniper," was born in the Soviet Union and failed to seek Armenian citizenship. A telephone conversation with his attorney ends with a promise from the lawyer to translate documents from Armenian to English.

"The question is whether Armenia will issue a passport," said Beck.

Deportation Officer Ken Smith gets Central American detainees, some of whose governments insist on face-to-face meetings before they issue travel documents. The Honduran government, in a pilot project aimed at speedier deportations, has agreed to interview people by video-conference.

In May, the San Diego jail flew 52 inmates to Florence, Ariz., where they caught three U.S. government flights to Guatemala and two flights each to El Salvador and Honduras. Two additional flights that month — one to Guatemala and one to Honduras — were full.

On one recent day, Smith met an official of the Guatemalan consulate in Los Angeles, who arrived at the jail to interview 31 inmates.

"I'm exhausted," said Vice Consul Milton Alvarez, noting that he had just interviewed 120 detainees over several days in Arizona.

Along the border, sister cities cope with Mexican violence

BY ABE LEVY

Associated Press Writer

LAREDO, Texas — Laredo resident Beatriz Palacios used to cross into Mexico to go shopping in Nuevo Laredo. But those days are over.

"The way I heard it in the news, they kill people left and right in the middle of the day," she says. "Every day tops the other one. It sounds like a Bruce Willis movie. I would never go there _ not now."

Drugs and murder threaten the historic bonds between this Texas border town and its sister city in Mexico, Nuevo Laredo.

More than 70 people have been murdered in Nuevo Laredo this year, compared with 65 for all of 2004, in a spasm of violence blamed on Mexican crime organizations fighting to monopolize the drug trade.

The bloodshed has Laredo worrying about a spillover of the violence and struggling to protect its own image.

"We have to remember that what's happening is happening in another country," Laredo Mayor Betty Flores said earlier this month. "We keep having to prove to people we are part of the United States."

At the same time, Flores has asked Texas Gov. Rick Perry for help for Laredo, and he responded by sending extra state troopers and promising to speed approval of a \$1.2 million grant for a new 911 communications system.

Whether the recent bloodshed has spilled over into Laredo is a matter of dispute. The mayor, in her letter to the governor, said it has, and the sheriff agrees. But Laredo police have said that the spillover is no worse than usual.

Since January, Laredo has had 14 homicides compared with 15 for all of 2004. Laredo police said that in only two cases were there any suspicions the slayings were connected to the Nuevo Laredo drug trade. And those suspicions proved unfounded in one of those cases, while the evidence was inconclusive in the other, police said.

Laredo and its sister city in Mexico sit on the banks of the Rio Grande River, about 150 miles south of San Antonio. The U.S. side has about 200,000 people, the Mexican side more than 500,000.

The two cities flew the same Spanish flag some 250 years ago, and to this day, many residents have relatives,

conduct business and attend social events on the other side of the river.

"Laredo has always had a tumultuous past, simply because it's on the border," said Jerry Thompson, history professor at Texas A&M International University in Laredo. "But certainly this is a new chapter and a more violent chapter than in recent decades."

Police on both sides of the border assure residents that the violence is limited to the warring drug gangs. But residents fear they may be victims of collateral damage.

Flores said she is confident the violence will subside because of the Mexican government's efforts, which have included sending federal forces to take over for the police in Nuevo Laredo.

The livelihood of people like Alfredo Ferrera depends on law enforcement's success.

The 43-year-old driver of a horse-drawn buggy was offering tourists \$10 rides along the main plaza in Nuevo Laredo but had no customers by midday and was nowhere near meeting his normal income of \$200 a week.

"Maybe I'll be a waiter," he said.

Other tourist spots in Nuevo Laredo have been suffering. Senor Frog's, a popular eatery, closed earlier this month. Across the street, El Dorado Bar and Grill is considering its options, said manager Julio Cesar Arreola.

"There are generations of families who come here," he said from behind an empty bar overlooking a vacant dining room. "Six months ago this restaurant used to be full."

Laredo commerce, especially its stores and its healthy trucking business, has been mostly unaffected so far. But the hotel industry has taken a hit, with weekend stay-overs dropping by half in recent weeks, said Fernando Mendiola, president of Laredo's hotel-motel association.

Flores, who grew up in Laredo, would rather people identify Laredo with things like the Miss Texas USA Pageant, which culminated last weekend with both Laredos serving as its hosts.

This year, the two cities have celebrated their shared birthday of 250 years together with events that recall the days when the river, national allegiances and the drug trade did not divide them. A dove-shaped bumper sticker has been popping up on cars with Mexican and U.S. license plates.

In Spanish it says, "Peace in the two Laredos."

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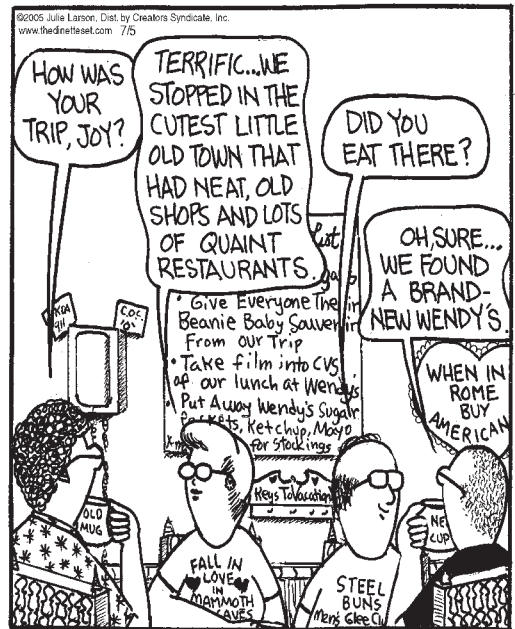
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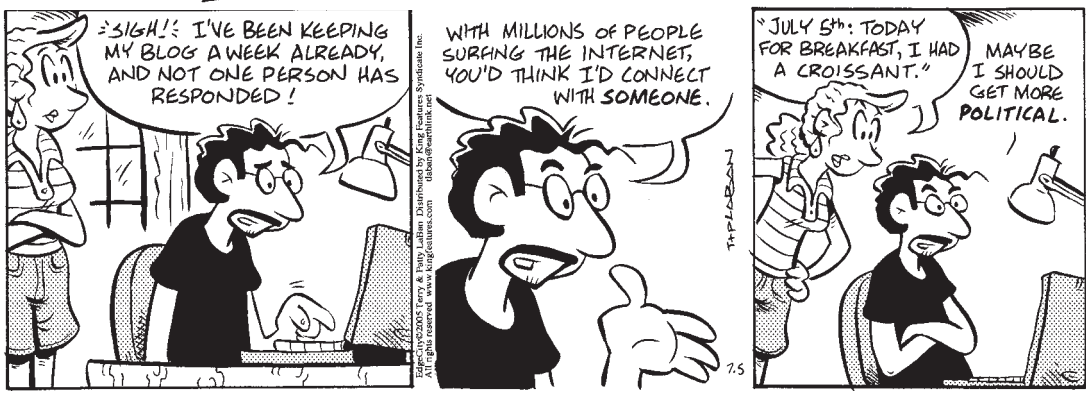


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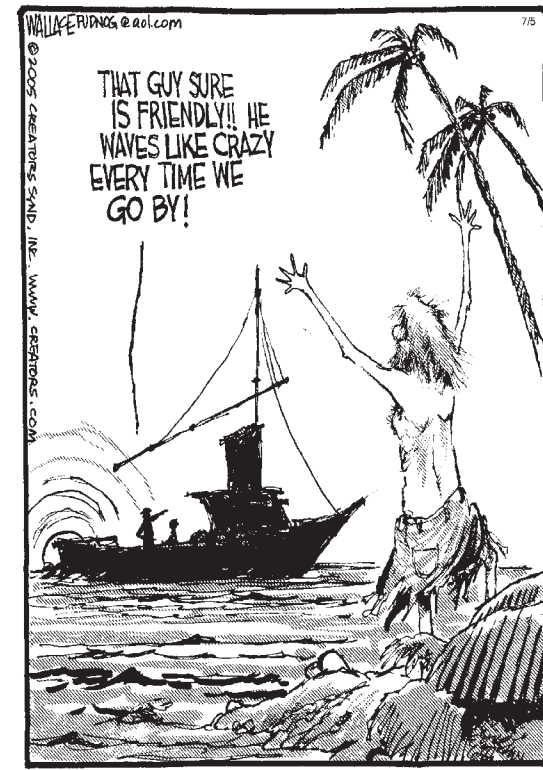


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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 1225560 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Classique Design, 12353 Garber Street, Pacoima, CA 91331. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Armand S. Sablad, 12353 Garber Street, Pacoima, CA 91331, Josephine S. Clark, 4915 West Berteau Ave., Chicago, IL 60641, Paulino C. Pagtalunan, 11150 Glen Oaks Blvd., Unit 3, Pacoima, CA 91331 This Business is being conducted by, a general partnership. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: Armand S. Sablad, Josephine S. Clark, Paulino C. Pagtalunan

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 5/25/05. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 6/21/2005, 6/28/2005, 7/5/2005, 7/12/2005

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Children take part in making poverty history

By The Associated Press

■ **DUNBLANE, Scotland** — Actor Ewan McGregor called for international action to help children afflicted by poverty, saying G-8 leaders meeting this week have the power to make a difference.

"These eight leaders are going to have at their fingertips the power to make extraordinary changes in the world, truly to make poverty history for these people," McGregor said Sunday, launching a three-day workshop run by the U.N.'s children organization, UNICEF.

The program, UNICEF's first C8 Children's Forum, will be held July 3-5 in Dunblane.

"Now it's time to hear the voices from the developing world, especially young voices," said McGregor, who starred in the film, "Star Wars: Episode III — Revenge of the Sith."

Children from eight of the world's poorest countries and the G-8 nations — Britain, the United States, Japan, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Russia — are taking part in the UNICEF program, and will draw up a list of recommendations they hope to present to G-8 leaders.

According to its Web site, UNICEF estimates that more than 1 billion children suffer from severe deprivations associated with poverty — lacking such basics as shelter, sanitation, safe water, nutrition, and access to school or health care.

■ **SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y.** — David Cassidy has raised thoroughbreds since the 1970s, when he rose to fame playing Keith Partridge on "The Partridge Family."

Now, the entertainer and former teen idol will share his enthusiasm for the sport when he delivers the keynote address at the induction ceremony for the National Museum of Racing's Hall of Fame.

"It's one of the highlights of my entire adult life and

career to be asked to speak at the induction ceremony and articulate my passion for racing," Cassidy said Thursday. Two-time Kentucky Derby winning trainer Nick Zito will enter the Hall of Fame at the Aug. 8 ceremony in Saratoga Springs.

Other inductees include: trainer Sidney Watters Jr., jockey Thomas Walsh and five-time champion horse Lonesome Glory.

Cassidy bought his first thoroughbred in 1973 and currently has ownership in 28 horses. His 3-year-old colt, Mayan King, was preparing to resume training after an injury.

■ **LONDON** — California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is urging governments — including that of President George W. Bush — to face up the reality of global warming.

"The debate is over," he wrote in Britain's Independent on Sunday newspaper. "We know the science. We see the threat posed by changes in our climate. And we know the time for action is now."

Schwarzenegger, a Republican, did not mention Bush by name, but called on "governments everywhere" to join action to combat climate change. He contradicted Bush's claims that taking action will damage the U.S. economy.

Climate change is one of the major issues expected to be discussed at the upcoming Group of Eight summit at the Gleneagles resort in Scotland.

Schwarzenegger has vowed to make California a leader in the battle against global warming, calling on the state to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases while increasing use of renewable energy.

"Global warming threatens California's water supply, public health, agriculture, coastlines and forests — our entire economy and way of life," Schwarzenegger wrote.

■ **TRENTON, N.J.** — Actress Brooke Shields has an ally in her war of words with Tom Cruise over her use of prescriptions drugs to treat postpartum depression: New Jersey's acting governor.

"Tom Cruise knows as much about postpartum depression as I do about acting, and he should stick to acting and not talk about women who need help," said Richard J. Codey, whose wife, Mary Jo, has struggled with the illness.

Cruise criticized Shields for taking antidepressants, and became particularly passionate about the issue in an interview on "Today." Cruise is a follower of Scientology, which teaches that psychiatry is a destructive pseudo-science.

Cruise said there was no such thing as chemical imbalances that need to be corrected with drugs, and that depression could be treated with exercise and vitamins. Shields has called that "a disservice to mothers everywhere."

Mary Jo Codey, 49, a kindergarten teacher, has openly discussed her struggles with postpartum depression, speaking about the ordeal that started when she was diagnosed 28 years ago.

During a public appearance last fall, Mary Jo Codey told of driving to a pharmacy four towns away from her home to fill a prescription for antidepressants. She said she "wore dark sunglasses and prayed really hard to God that no one would see me."

■ **LOS ANGELES** — Multiplatinum singer Pink is reportedly getting married.

The 25-year-old proposed to her boyfriend of nearly four years — motocross racer Carey Hart — during a race in Mammoth Lakes, Calif., Us Weekly reported.

The singer, whose real name is Alecia Moore, reportedly wrote "Will you marry me" on a pit board, which Hart saw while he was racing.

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