

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

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DAILY 3

Daytime: 5 0 7

Evening: 1 8 6

DAILY DERBY

1st: 06 Whirl Win

2nd: 02 Lucky Star

3rd: 07 Eureka

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Joseph Kubic Sr., 93, was hospitalized in Stratford, Conn., in 1999 after he tried to punch an additional hole in his belt by hammering a pointy-nosed bullet through it. The bullet fired, ricocheted off a table and hit him in the neck. And four months after that, a 19-year-old man was hospitalized in Salt Lake City after undertaking a personal investigation into the question of whether it is possible to "fire" a .22-caliber bullet by placing it inside a straw and striking it with a hammer. Answer: sometimes (including this time; it went off and hit him in the stomach).

■ Tim Ekelman, 33, was hospitalized in Hamilton, Ontario, in 1998 with a collapsed lung, a sliced throat and voice-box damage after he, believing there was nothing to it, attempted to swallow a friend's 40-inch-long sword. (A professional sword swallower interviewed by the Hamilton Spectator said he would never stick a sword down his throat without first dulling the edges.) Said Ekelman's girlfriend, "I love him with all my heart, but what a jerk."

■ From time to time News of the Weird has reported on the fluctuating value of the late Italian artist Piero Manzoni's personal feces, which he canned in 1961, 30 grams at a time in 90 tins, as art objects (though, over the years, 45 have reportedly exploded). Their price to collectors has varied from about \$28,000 for a tin in 1998 to \$75,000 in 1993. In June 2002, the Tate Gallery in London excitedly announced it had purchased tin number 004 for about \$38,000. (The price of 30 grams of gold at that time was a little over \$300.)

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Monkey see, monkey do



Nicky Five Aces/Special to the Daily Press
As part of a weekly contest, the first person to accurately describe where this photo was taken will receive a prize. E-mail answers to sack@smdp.com.

Hedging their bets: Residents rise up to fight City Hall

Recent hedge controversy shows growing disconnect between politicians and citizens

BY JOHN F. MULLER

Special to the Daily Press

When Bobby Shriver found out that the inspector who cited his hedges photographed them at 6 a.m. two days before Thanksgiving, he decided City Hall had gone too far.

It was that kind of method of operation that incensed Shriver enough to consider running for local office. After mobilizing a group of homeowners and meeting with City Council members, as well as city planning officials, Shriver is still considering a run for City Council to challenge a government he says is keeping its residents down.

"I was bullied in this thing," said Shriver, who is the brother-in-law of California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and nephew of Sen. Ted Kennedy. "And

I'd like to go in there and find out who the bullies are and have them pick on someone their own size."

"What kind of police state are we creating?"

— HERB KATZ
City Councilman

Shriver is one of a group of local homeowners and residents who say the focus on illegal hedges is a symptom of a larger problem — a City Hall that has grown increasingly out of touch with its citizens.

In a community that has been dominated by one political party for 25 years, some residents and city officials think that the dominance of a single group has left elected leaders unaccountable for their

See HEDGE, page 6

New restaurants to feed cash into city coffers

BY SHRADDHA R. JAISWAL

Special to the Daily Press

SM PIER — The pier's slow simmering revitalization projects are finally set to boil as two new restaurants promise to infuse new life into Santa Monica's historic attraction.

For years, buildings that were once bustling restaurants have stood vacant on the Santa Monica Pier. And as a result, it has meant

lost rent for City Hall, fewer options for visitors and lost sales tax revenue.

But that's all about to change. Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. is moving closer to demolishing the old Boathouse restaurant on the north side of the pier. Across the way, plans are underway to open a new restaurant where at least two other establishments have recently failed.

City Hall expects to bring in



hundreds of thousands of dollars in additional revenue if both restaurant locations are occupied.

The building previously home to the Ashgrove and Arcadia nightclubs, which has been empty for at least four years, could be occupied by a vintage family style restaurant.

Representatives of the Old Pier Inn said they believe their business model will work because it's geared toward families and is solely a restaurant as opposed to a nightclub.

See PIER, page 7

City Council to make the bed for tax hike proposal

By Daily Press staff

CITY HALL — Elected leaders tonight may officially attempt to get an additional \$3.5 million a year from visitors who stay in Santa Monica hotels.

The City Council is expected tonight to approve placing an initiative on the November ballot that

asks local voters to approve increasing the bed tax from 12 percent to 14 percent. Called the "Transient Occupancy Tax," the tax is paid by hotel guests and the revenue goes straight into City Hall's coffers.

The estimated \$3.5 million is pivotal in balancing City Hall's

budget and will support many services, including police, fire, parks, libraries, parks and recreation, the environment and schools, officials said.

If the City Council doesn't approve the ballot measure, the revenue projected for the last half of the fiscal year will have to be

reduced about \$1.6 million, which is what is estimated to be raised through the tax hike, officials said. The same amount in expenditures will have to be reduced as well.

It's unclear what effect the hike would have on business. Some cities, like Los Angeles, West

See BED TAX, page 7

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Leo, hook up with pals

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)

*** Stay subtle and anchored, which really isn't your style. For now, assume that profile. You will want to toss yourself into a situation or be a player. Work on a softer approach, and others will respond. Listen well. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

***** You might be absolutely serious about what you are saying, but before you know it, you'll lighten up and relax. Perhaps clearing the air will help you let go. Be careful just how much you treat yourself and others. Tonight: Follow a friend's suggestion.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

*** Your solemn attitude draws many to you. If you would like to get a point across about risk-taking and spending, you'd do it best by setting an example. Still, you expect a lot from those in charge. You charm your way into whatever you want. Tonight: A must show.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

**** Try to comprehend where someone else is coming from. Understanding comes from many levels. Try walking in his or her shoes. Carefully check out someone you meet today. This person might not be all that he or she seems to be. Tonight: Follow your imagination.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

***** Others run with the ball, and you don't like it at all. You can mope or have a close discussion with a loved one. Perhaps he or she will understand where you are coming from. Working together gains good results. Tonight: Hook up with those you enjoy.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

***** A friend could be difficult and demanding. You understand what needs to be done to get the end results desired. Support a boss, and you will be appreciated. Those in charge understand you better. Ask for what you need from superiors. Tonight: Accept an invitation.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

***** Your ability to get the job done awes others. Understand what needs to be done in order to clear out work. Soon others will be seeking you out. You will want to socialize. A long-distance call makes you happy, whether you make it or receive it. Don't stand on ceremony. Tonight: Mow the lawn. Get some exercise somehow.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

***** A serious missive sets you back. Find others who will give you help and feedback that you understand. A partner is instrumental in helping you see the silver lining in a cloud. Lighten up and don't feel depressed. Tonight: Play with different ideas.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

*** Where you thought you had an arrangement, you find out otherwise. Demonstrate your ability to flex and move with change. Partners and friends seem to need to verbalize the opposite position. Tonight: Keep to yourself.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

**** Work with the unexpected, and you'll come out on top. Charge in where others fear to go. You can make sense out of chaos. Some of the information you are being fed is incorrect. Verify and get your own facts. Tonight: Hang with friends.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

*** Keep close tabs on a money matter, and you will gain. Remember: What you choose and how you spend your money is a reflection of who you are. Don't let a nagging partner get to you, but do listen to his or her side or opinions. Tonight: Pay bills.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

***** Claim your power, but don't be surprised if others are reactive. Realize more of what you need. Inadvertently, you create a lot of flak. Listen and evaluate, though ultimately you will do what you want. Tonight: What would make the Fish happy?

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Saint John's completes construction of pavilion

By Daily Press staff

Saint John's Health Center has finished construction of its new North Pavilion, a four-story, 150-bed inpatient facility and is now beginning its transition to the new building.

The completion of the 200,000-square-foot pavilion is the culmination of the first phase of an extensive rebuilding plan after the 1994 Northridge Earthquake severely damaged the original hospital. The replacement hospital will be the only hospital on the Westside with a state-of-the-art base isolation system that will allow it to remain fully operational immediately following earthquakes with magnitudes of up to 6.8 on the Richter scale, hospital officials said.

While the transition takes place, patients will continue to be treated in the original hospital. Services at the new pavilion, which include critical care, labor and delivery, neonatal intensive care and general surgery, will be open and available for patients in the fall.

Features of the new facility include hotel-like patient rooms including convertible sofa beds and 42-inch plasma TVs with network programs, video-on-demand and Internet access. The facility also contains a wireless data network on each floor.

The second phase of the construction plan — a four-story, 275,000-square-foot diagnostic and treatment facility to be build on the site of the original hospital — is scheduled to be completed in 2008.

Grocery store bucks up for kids

By Daily Press staff

A corporate grocery store plans to give back to the Santa Monica community later this month by donating a portion of a day's sales.

On Aug. 18, it will be "Virginia Avenue Project 5 Percent Day" at the Whole Foods Market at 2201 Wilshire Boulevard. Whole Foods will donate 5 percent of their sales to help fund the project.

The Virginia Avenue Project is 12 years old, and has been serving the children of Santa Monica's Pico corridor by using the performing arts to help them discover their full potential, city officials said. The result for children is better school experiences, and more productive relationships with peers, family and the community, they added.

The project's community partner is the Santa Monica Police Activities League (PAL), where workshops, classes and academic enrichment programs are offered for school-aged children. In addition, the project presents five shows each year at professional theaters throughout Los Angeles, showcasing the work created by project kids and their adult/artist mentors.

Kids, parents, volunteers, and staff will be at the Whole Foods on Aug. 18 to pass out information about the project.

Elks host drug awareness program

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica Elks last month hosted 74 at-risk boys and girls at a drug awareness program. The boys and girls consumed more than 100 hot dogs and buns, and 130 bags of chips. They were given several pamphlets on how and why to avoid drugs.

For the past 17 years, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States has emphasized the importance of drug awareness education. Lis Meinhart has conducted numerous programs over the past three years as the chairman of the Santa Monica program.

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SURF REPORT

Today we'll see a mix of leftover SSW tropical swell, fading SE Southern Hemi swell (150-160), and building SW swell (205-220) and some small NW wind swell. Most spots see fairly small surf off the swell mix, mainly waist-high and below. Best S/combo breaks through Orange County see waves in the chest-shoulder high range on the best sets.

Expect 2-3 foot, knee- to waist-high, occasionally 4 feet and fair conditions.

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

Today the water is:

68°



LOW TIDES

HIGH TIDES

	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	8:31	2.1	11:11	1.5	3:14	3.3	3:34	4.9
SUNDAY	9:23	2.6	—	—	5:30	3.0	4:34	5.0
MONDAY	5:26	-1.1	5:05	1.7	11:53	4.7	11:10	6.4
TUESDAY	6:04	-0.6	5:59	1.8	(12:32)	4.8	11:57	5.6
WEDNESDAY	6:41	0.1	6:59	1.8	—	—	1:12	4.9
THURSDAY	7:16	0.8	8:08	1.9	12:48	4.8	1:55	4.9
FRIDAY	7:52	1.5	9:35	1.8	1:48	4.0	2:41	4.9

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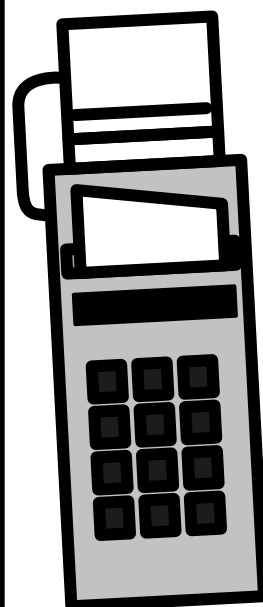
The QLine

Nearly two dozen local veterinarians, pet groomers, animal rights activists and cat lovers descended on City Hall last week to ask elected leaders to draft a law making it illegal to de-claw cats. Some say de-clawing cats leads to behavioral spats, an adversity to litter boxes and extreme paw pain. Council members voted 3-3 on the proposal to draft a law, with one absent. While some said de-clawing cats was inhumane and cruel, others agreed more infor-

mation needed to be gathered to make a balanced, objective decision. Supporters are expected to raise the matter again.

So this week, Q-line wants to know, "Do you think de-clawing cats should be outlawed in Santa Monica? Why or why not?"

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



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OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hedge laws no laughing matter

Editor:

Regarding the city's attempt to enforce code restrictions on front yard hedges, some misleading statements have been made, and a clarification is in order.

There are lots of code restrictions on the front yard of residences. Generally, the front of the house must be set back 20 feet from the sidewalk. The owner's use of that space is further restricted in many ways: You can't park cars on the lawn, you can't raise poultry or livestock, etc. The notion that a restriction on hedge height is some kind of exceptional infringement on property rights is clearly wrong, as is the notion that code restrictions should be enforced only if someone complains. The only thing exceptional about the restriction on hedge height is that the law has not been fully enforced for many years, and some people are surprised to learn that such a restriction exists. That is hardly justification for continued violation of the law.

Like many other code restrictions, the limit of hedge height in front yards is not just as capricious and silly exercise in bureaucracy. It is part of a broader attempt to impose certain aesthetic standards on the neighborhood. Whether this particular standard is appropriate and desirable is certainly subject to debate, but that debate should be on the merits of the rule. Many of us who live in the area think it is a good rule and should be enforced. We like the open vistas and neighborly feeling provided by our ability to see each other, rather than being enclosed by a wall of high hedges.

So let's have a debate about the rule on front yard hedges, but let's recognize that there are some benefits to the present rule and that many of us favor it. Implying that it is a silly rule, uniformly abhorred by everyone, is wrong.

Giles Smith
Santa Monica

A jab at the jibs

Editor:

JibJab.com may be the satiric touchstone of a nation now, thanks to the Spiridellis' animated Woody Guthrie parody (SMDP, July 27, page 1), but does anybody else find it disheartening to see their (John) Kerry "I've won three purple hearts" character blowing up Vietnamese friendlies by the river? JibJab may have "no political agenda," according to Evan Spiridellis. So is it just me being too p.c.?

P.S. Attention Hitchcock fans: The two hippies pictured by the tent bear a strong resemblance to our local jib jabbers.

Henry Rosenfeld
Ocean Park

Pet owners need to learn a few things

Editor:

What are the local laws regarding pet (dog) ownership and the responsibilities of such owners when walking their pets in public? All too often I see dog owners who let their animals wander all over the place off leash, especially up and down Main Street.

I understand that these owners already have adequate public spaces set aside for just such a use, but that they choose to stretch the rules and tolerance of others by misbehaving as they do. I feel that owning an animal is a big responsibility and that their not abiding by the law is intolerable. Are there animal enforcement officers who can be contacted?

Don Krok
Santa Monica

T'd off about anti-golfing law

Editor:

I see that City Hall is, as usual, looking out for my best interests as a taxpaying citizen, trying to live and survive in (what should be) a clean, safe and secure city. Not.

Let's see, this week's hedge police type trash legislation is going to make it illegal for me to work on my golf skills because I might disturb a picnicker? (SMDP, July 28, page 1). For the life of me, I cannot remember when the last time was that I saw a picnicker amongst the crowd of sleeping, smelly, transients, specifically at Reed Park. How was I supposed to practice my swing when I can't even find an open spot because the homeless are two feet apart on the entire grass area? They are congregated in groups (gangs) now, sitting in their beach chairs, harassing anyone walking by.

Should (or when) I have the courage to take my metal club to Reed Park to practice, it's far more likely that I will/would be using the club as a defensive device. I need to carry the club because when I walk through the grassy area, I am bombarded with the rude, drunken, filthy, crazy losers that continue to cost this city millions of dollars a year.

Ms. Polahcek sites that the new anti-golf legislation is due to citizen complaints. Has anyone pointed to the citizen complaints about the ever-growing and resource-draining transient problem? Please log my complaint into your system.

Ms. Polachek says "it sounds goofy, but there's a safety concern in the parks." There is nothing "goofy" about thousands of people peeing and pooping all over the parks and this city. If the city doesn't want anyone to get hurt, why don't they

See LETTERS, page 5

Twenty-seven meetings for the 'best interests of the Santa Monica community'



LEGAL NEWS & VIEWS

BY DAVID PISARRA

The official calendar of the City Council calls for 27 meetings this year, four of which are directly budget related. That leaves 23 meetings to handle the rest of the city's business, including the endless litigation this city is engaged in, and will always be subject to, all of which is to be done, "in the best interests of the community."

At an average of six hours a meeting, that means that the city is run on about 162 hours worth of council time. That doesn't include the off hours that the members put in on their own. That of course would be dependent upon each member's ability and desire to work on city business.

Basically, they have roughly three and a half work weeks out of the year in which they have to accomplish all of the city's business. And they have to do it as a committee, essentially.

For this, they are paid roughly \$1,000 a month, plus health insurance.

A yeoman's task to be sure.

So why do they do it? Is it the glory? The power? The influence? The immediate respect they receive? The desire to serve? The recognition as they walk down the street? The abuse by their opponents? The hatred and anger spewed on them by those who disagree? Probably all of the above.

Should we be grateful that people are willing to step up and do such a daunting task, a task that opens them up to hatred and ridicule from everyone who disagrees with them? Should we be resentful of those who won't step down and let others take up the reins of leadership? Should we be jealous that they get benefits and respect for doing so little? Or should we honor them for being overworked and underpaid? Should we wonder why they fight so hard to stay in power?

Yes to all of these questions.

Government service should have the emphasis on the "service" part. It should not be a lifetime position. There should be a rotation of leadership. More people need to be involved to take up the workload. The benefits should equal the job.

The candidates are people who fashion themselves as leaders. Champions of the underdog. The speakers for the unspoken for.

Such lofty and romantic language is used to couch themselves in the best light possible, so that they may return to their seats on the council by convincing enough of the voting public that they have the "best interests of the community" at heart. And therein lies the key to how the council is elected, and how they perform

their jobs. Their community. Their base.

Anyone who lives in the city and can get enough signatures can run, if they are of legal voting age. Once they have "pulled papers," a term used to announce you are running during the window of opportunity to put your name on the ballot, they can start stumping and speaking in broad terms of how they are going to act in the "best interests of the community."

"Community" is a term that is overused by many and understood by few. It is defined by Websters as "a unified body of individuals: as a) state, commonwealth b) the people with common interests living in a particular area; broadly: the area itself." It is a term that has been used to describe the homosexual community, the African/American community, the Hispanic community, the environmentalist community, the rental community and any other division of society one wishes to identify and marginalize.

It strikes me that in trying to find a word to unify us, we have found ways to divide ourselves. In Santa Monica, historically it was renters versus owners. This coming election already is being set up as residents versus the Chamber of Commerce.

The Santa Monicans for Renters Rights convention was held this past weekend, and as reported in this paper, Mayor Richard Bloom was wielding fliers from a newcomer to the political fray — the Chamber of Commerce, and decrying their "divisiveness." He was quoted as saying "this is about two Santa Monicas — not one Santa Monica."

Isn't it ironic that a man who was seeking the endorsement of the SMRR group, a group that historically has put its designated hitters on the council by using an "us versus them" theme of pitting renters against homeowners, now wants to revert to "one Santa Monica" when there is a new political player in town.

It is amazing at the way rhetoric is manipulated to suit the times. It is an old debater's trick to call the other guy a "blank" before he calls you that. This year the buzzword will likely be "divider."

I haven't been privy to the chamber's political action committee goals. I don't know who they are endorsing as candidates, or what their strategy is, and it remains to be seen if they have now made this a three-way race between renters, owners and business owners.

But one thing is certain — this election is about acting in the "best interests of the community." The question though, is "whose community?"

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

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

OPINION



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LETTERS, from page 4

address the intimidating homeless loitering in the parks, along with the sanitation problems they create?

The article goes on to state that selling and distributing food is illegal in the parks. So, here we go with selective enforcement again. I can't practice my golf swings, but it's OK that Palisades Park is full of 150-plus homeless people, being fed while an ordinance is in effect that the police and the city will not enforce? I guess it's going to become a new useless rule that I can't practice my putting, but feeding the bears, (oops) I mean bums, in the parks will continue, unregulated and un-policed. I will get a ticket and they will get a sandwich.

Since I can't stay up past about 10 p.m. to attend the City Council meetings, (because I have a real job), I want to know if I can still carry my club with me for protection? If I don't have a golf ball or a tee with me, I can't be cited, right? If I carry a wooden club, rather than a metal one, or if I practice with a hockey stick or baseball bat, am I exempt from prosecution relating to the golf legislation? When I practice in an area next to an oversized hedge abutting the park property, who gets the bigger ticket, me or the resident who hasn't trimmed his bushes? Is the city going to put up new signage warning potential golfers of the law and fines? If I get hit in the head with a golf ball (as an innocent picnicker), can I sue the city?

Ms. Polachek closes the article with "we apply all of our park use rules consistently, regardless of whether someone has a house or doesn't have a house, etc." Blah, blah, blah.

No you don't, and no you won't. You and your co-worker city officials need to stop lying and spewing untruths about how the laws are enforced in this slum by the sea. Laws that protect citizens when it comes to transients are not enforced. They have never been enforced, and we all know, it's par for the course.

Lori Emerson
Santa Monica

DNC coverage trivial

Editor:

Your entire coverage (Reporter's Notebook) of the Democratic National Convention last week was a disgrace to both your reader's intellect and your paper's reporting capabilities.

Lara Brown's gossiping, err I mean reporting, is obviously more interested in the superficial aspects of the week rather than any substantive ideas or thought. Who knows, perhaps she was forced to enjoy the trivialities in Boston due to the lack of any sensible ideas or dialogue.

Reading Ms. Brown's childish clubbing escapades seem so out of place where adults gather to discuss the future of our country — not Mayor Newson's GQ party, where Ben Affleck sleeps, burnt pizzas or hot bars. It was clear she was more star-struck than being at a routine movie premiere — perhaps a result of the new Hollywood-ized Democratic Party. For thoughtless commentary as such, I can watch Extra! or buy a People Magazine to be enamored by "big donors," "VIP parties," "squid satay" and "Ralph Lauren decor."

Next time around, your paper would be better served by sending a qualified reporter, not a gossip columnist who is intent on communicating substance to your audience. Lucky for you, the RNC is right around the corner and you get a second chance at quality reporting.

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LOCAL

Residents, businesses challenge status quo at City Hall

HEDGE, from page 1

actions and distant from large blocks of voters.

'OH MY GOD, HERE WE GO AGAIN'

Many residents on Adelaide Drive, a street lined with multi-million dollar homes overlooking Santa Monica Canyon and the Pacific Ocean, received letters this spring threatening fines of up to \$25,000 a day and criminal proceedings if they did not comply with city regulations on hedge heights.

The residents quickly converged on City Hall, which has decided to stop enforcing the hedge ordinance until it is rewritten. Tim McCormick, the head of City Hall's building and safety department, said the city won't have it ready for 10 months at the earliest.

The 1948 ordinance dictates local hedges be kept at or below 42 inches in front yards, while more recent updates set the limit to eight feet in side yards and back yards. Because City Hall has substantially altered its policies on hedge law enforcement over the past five years, City Hall sent educational materials to 435 residents in "focus areas" two years ago said Suzanne Frick, the city's director of community planning and development. Santa Monica has 20,551 parcels, she said.

Shriver said he hadn't heard about the ordinance in his 27 years as a Santa Monica resident.

Hedge activists have voiced frustration on issues ranging from how City Hall chose to enforce the hedge law to the ordinance itself. A group made up predominantly of homeowners began canvassing the city two weeks ago, collecting 700 signatures in three days. The group has been lobbying city officials to remove all hedge height restrictions.

"When the hedge thing came up, it was like, 'oh my god, here we go again,'" said Leah Mendelsohn, a homeowner who lives North of Montana Avenue and is planning to run for City Council this fall. "Why are they wasting their energy, money and time on hedges and not dealing with the bigger issues that affect everyone in this city, like the homelessness, the traffic problems, the crime throughout the city, and the problems in the schools?"

MOUNTING OPPOSITION

Mendelsohn said the hedge issue provided people long frustrated with local policies a reason to mobilize and forget the failures of previous efforts. In 2002, for example, a ballot initiative that would have created voting districts and replaced the city's seven-at-large council members with district representatives was defeated.

"I really think it's an ideology of theirs that they want to have control over us," Mendelsohn said. "I think that's part of why there is so much emotion and people are getting more organized this time. It's been a big build-up for years and hedges are directly affecting people that have been disenfranchised for decades. It's a symptom of the greater problem."

Jacob Samuel, an Ocean Park resident who along with Shriver has discussed the hedge issue with Frick, said the situation has garnered support from Santa Monica residents of all different political, social and economic walks of life.

"It's been nice finding one thing that the people of this city unite on," he said. "I never knew how much we had in common. Homeowners, tenants, low income housing, north of Montana, Sunset Park, Ocean Park ... everyone seems to feel that this is something where we have a common ground and a common interest. Almost everyone we've talked to has given unconditional support."

Individual residents like Mendelsohn, Shriver and other hedge activists aren't the only ones challenging City Hall's status quo.

The Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce will be endorsing candidates for the first time this year, as will a political action committee made up of city employees. A group of local teachers and a coalition of living wage supporters already announced their picks.

The Santa Monica's for Renters' Rights (SMRR) group has faced little opposition since 1979. More than 300 members voted to endorse City Council candidates this past Sunday, which included two incumbents and two newcomers. The endorsements have been almost tantamount to elections for 25 years.

POLICE STATE?

City Councilman Herb Katz, an independent who is up for reelection this fall, said Santa Monica officials are out of touch with many residents because they

don't need to fear the responses of large blocks of voters. Katz said he believes there should be limits on hedges, but that City Hall should not have gone about the process in such an unfriendly manner.

"A lot of SMRR candidates are pro-enforcement no matter what it is," he said. "If they have that attitude, I think they're wrong. They're too dictatorial, and I'm not just speaking to hedges ... What kind of police state are we creating?"

"I don't believe one opinion or one group should have domination on the City Council," he added. "We're sitting basically with a 5 to 2 council. That's not healthy. It needs to have greater diversification."

City Councilman Ken Genser, who is seeking reelection and recently received SMRR's endorsement, said City Hall had simply handled the issue poorly, adding that he would consider removing limitations on hedge heights. Genser said city staffers had not paid enough attention to the City Council's directions.

"The letters that went out to the people with hedges were inappropriate," he said. "The council has made it clear that we expect the first contact to be educational and not threaten people with fines or litigation. Unfortunately, the city staff didn't follow that directive and sent out very threatening letters. I think that shouldn't have happened. I also think it would have made sense to bring the law to the council to see if it wanted to make any changes."

'FIX IT' TICKETS ON SHRUBS?

Frick said violators have always been given a warning letter before fines have been threatened. She stressed that officials did nothing out of the ordinary with regard to the recent hedge citations. But hedge enforcement had recently spiraled out of control because of actions taken by the public.

City Hall only responds to hedge, fence and wall violations on a complaint basis. Until 1999, City Hall didn't have enough staff to enforce the hedge law, Frick said. However, an influx of complaints pushed city officials to start looking into the issue, she added.

When city surveys found a large number of violations, City Hall hired more enforcement officers and set the fine for hedge violations at \$2,500 a day in 2002. Frick said the \$25,000 figure came from a city planning department form letter delivered as a part of all compliance orders — those in which residents may be

fined daily until the infractions are fixed.

The department used to enforce the code by giving violators a single fine and telling them to fix the infraction, but City Hall found that residents would often just pay the fine and ignore their code violations, Frick said. She added that when a complaint is received, City Hall now has to look into the entire block on which the property is located because of earlier complaints of selective enforcement.

As to why the City Council didn't think about making changes when it set the fine at \$2,500 in 2002, Genser said the changes were in a list of hundreds of possible violations.

"I don't think anyone paid attention to that particular violation," he said.

EYES TOWARD NOVEMBER

Denny Zane, a co-founder of SMRR and a co-chair of the group, flatly disagreed with the idea that SMRR has grown out of touch with the community, though he said he'd been largely surprised by the emergence of the issue.

"No one on the council had any inkling that there was a hedge controversy brewing," he said. "Certainly, I think they were all surprised. My guess is the council as a whole feels somewhat embarrassed."

Zane was confident that SMRR isn't losing any of its clout.

"In the Santa Monica that I've known for about 30 years, there are always new organizations and efforts making their voices heard, and that's what we love about democracy," he said. "The way a pluralistic democracy works is that these groups, they're not all fighting with one another. SMRR is just as they are. The big difference for SMRR is that it's sustained itself in a groove over the years because the issue that formed its core was an issue that was at the very core of the community and its health."

Robert Stern, the president of the Center for Governmental Studies and a former Santa Monica resident, wasn't so sure. He said the weakening of SMRR is only a matter of time.

"Any organization that's been in power for so long is going to see some splinter groups," he said. "The only question really is how long SMRR can continue to dominate Santa Monica politics like it has. It can't do it forever. How long? We may know after November."

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LOCAL



Family theme will be the name of the game at pier

PIER, from page 1

It's unknown when the restaurant will open — lease negotiations between the restaurant's representatives and the Pier Restoration Corp. are ongoing. The PRC is a nonprofit organization funded partially by the city to manage and operate the pier. "It'll be family oriented," said Josh Needle, attorney for the Old Pier Inn. "Our design concept is based on traditional craftsman architecture because that's part of Santa Monica history. We expect to cover our walls inside with vintage photographs of the pier and of Santa Monica."

With menu items like rotisserie chicken, ribs and a large salad bar, restaurant officials are hoping to help make the pier a place to eat for the 3 million people who visit each year.

"(Businesses on the pier) are looking forward to it, and we're looking forward to working with all of the tenants and all the other restaurants to make the pier a place where people come to eat," Needle said. "We think the pier has a great future."

Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. is banking on that future.

After almost five years of jumping through necessary hoops to secure permits and entitlements, the Bubba Gump Shrimp Co.'s 15th U.S. location will open next summer on the site of the pier's old Boathouse restaurant. The new dining place will offer its patrons a view of the ocean and sandy beaches of Santa Monica, as well as every kind of shrimp imaginable.

"We always hope that (the restaurants) will be a positive addition that will not only enhance visitors' experience, but also the experience of businesses on the pier," said Ben Franz-Knight, executive director of the PRC.

The young restaurant chain, inspired by the 1994 movie "Forrest Gump," will have its new location just below the pier ramp. The family oriented 9,000-square-foot restaurant and bar will feature two floors of outdoor seating and 314 indoor seats with great views, officials said.

"It's a wonderful place for the Bubba Gump Shrimp Co.," said Howard Laks, architect for the Santa Monica Bubba Gump and for the pier's Lobster restaurant.

"Bubba's will actually draw people to the pier who wouldn't normally come to the pier. That's going to be a real plus."

— LINDA SULLIVAN
PRC board member

"I think it's going to be good for the local economy, and I do feel that a new restaurant is going to activate activity on the Santa Monica Pier."

Although a definite start date for the demolition of the 50-year-old Boathouse has not been slated, Laks expects construction to start some time near Labor Day weekend. City Hall and the restaurant's officials have created plans to avoid negatively affecting the other businesses on the pier, which hasn't seen any new commercial construction in eight years.

"Both restaurants are more casual, family dining restaurants with a theme that is really reminiscent of the historic pleasure pier," said Elana Buegoff, senior administrative analyst for the city. "I think that most concepts are really in keeping with the pier spirit, and they will absolutely benefit the community and other tenants on the pier."

Bubba Gump is expected to pay City Hall \$10,417 in base rent a month, plus \$1,889 annually for common maintenance. Also, the city will receive 2.5 percent of the restaurant's food, beverage and retail gross sales. If sales in Santa Monica are anything like they are in Bubba Gump's Monterey or San Francisco locations, City Hall can expect a cut of restaurant sales anywhere from \$6.5 million to \$7.5 million, or more.

Officials also expect the new projects to attract more visitors and residents to the pier.

"Bubba's will actually draw people to the pier who wouldn't normally come to the pier," said Linda Sullivan, a PRC board member. "That's going to be a real plus."

Bed tax to be floated past voters

BED TAX, from page 1

Hollywood and Beverly Hills already charge 14 percent while other nearby communities charge less than Santa Monica.

Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach and Redondo Beach have kept their bed tax at 10 percent, which is where Santa Monica's was until it was upped to 12 percent in 1989. But while the South Bay cities may not be direct competitors, some closer neighbors are. Marina Del Rey charges 13 percent and Malibu holds at 12 percent.

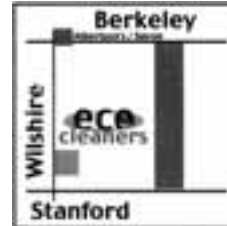
Some officials say raising the tax could turn away some potential business — especially travel agents, who buy package

deals in bulk. Those agents often will choose Santa Monica because the bed tax is lower here than in surrounding areas, including Beverly Hills, Marina Del Rey and West Hollywood.

The bed tax was expected to generate \$18,550,000 for City Hall this past fiscal year — the most since the 2000-2001 year, when \$19,218,221 was raised.

If approved, members of the City Council will be authorized to submit arguments and rebuttals on the measure. The City Attorney then will prepare an impartial analysis, showing the measure's effect on the existing law, city staff said. The deadline for submitting arguments is Aug. 17 and rebuttals is Aug. 27.

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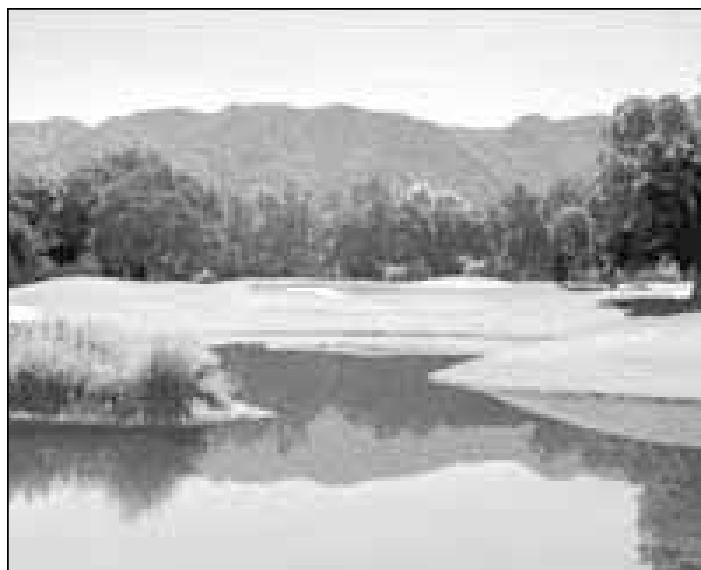
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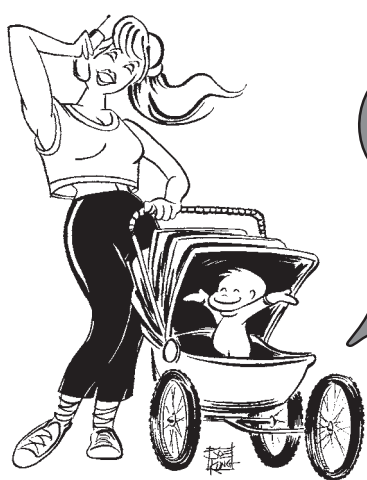
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There are limits to a child's 'wants'



How Much Is Enough?

By Connie Dawson

"We don't have the money," is a standard response from a parent attempting to curb their child's desires.

But what if you do have the money?

When my children were young and wanted me to buy something, I knew the one response that worked every time. "We don't have the money." End of story. No more pressure. They knew I was telling the truth.

Then we began making more money. How would I refuse to buy something I could obviously afford? I needed to be truthful but I also needed to feel I wasn't always just shooting from the hip. For the good of my kids and for my own good, I wanted to identify the real reason I said "yes" and "no."

FIRST THINGS FIRST

Bottom line, I wanted them to be safe and I wanted them to be healthy.

Translation: I wouldn't be paying for anything or any activity I wasn't convinced was good for my child. I wouldn't be giving them permission to do something I wasn't pretty sure they could handle. If I didn't think the object of their desire was good for their bodies and if I was worried that their health would be jeopardized, I would say "no."

I might add, "When you are 8, you can ..." or "Honey, when I am sure you can handle that responsibility, it will be yours."

If the child could make a case for something that was well thought out, made good sense, and was safe, I would be willing to negotiate. But all negotiation would stop whenever I felt we reached the limits of safety and good sense.

My 10-year-old son asked, "Why can't we have the kind of equipment the kids across the street have?" He was referring to every electronic whizbang known to man.

"Do they have a cabin at the lake?" I asked. "Do you like spending the summers there?" I knew he did. He could see where this was going. "Your father and I decided that having the cabin takes priority over spending money on the latest gizmo," I told him. "I know they look good, but we have enough of what we need in that department right now."



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endless chances to make decisions about what is best for their children.

Can I have some candy?

Can I play at Jesse's?

Buy me clothes like (current pop star) wears.

I want to take trumpet lessons.

My friends and I want to go to the mall, OK?

My friends' parents are paying for them to go to spring break. Will you pay my way?

Can I live at home until I get on my feet?

Will you co-sign for my loan?

Being clear about what we value makes deciding much easier. We can construct a simple screening device to use to decide "yes," "no," or "more information is needed," like: Is it safe? Can my child handle this? Does it fit with what our family believes is important?

HAVING MORE MONEY IS NOT THE ONLY CULPRIT

Adults in our study who were overindulged as children said the overindulgence their parents did was not all about the money they had. Actually, 43 percent said their families made about the same amount of money as other families and 33 percent had more.

In addition to being allowed too much stuff, the adults overindulged as children said they were the "victims" of parents who:

■ Let them have too much freedom and didn't require much of them.

■ Did things for them they could do for themselves and protected them from experiencing the consequences of their decisions.

Tips:

■ Discuss your beliefs and values with partners, spouses and trusted friends.

■ Draw the lines between "yes" and "no" so you are satisfied that you are being both loving and responsible.

■ If you are vulnerable to frowns, anger and whining, talk to grandmothers whose grown children have thanked them for "holding the line" when it was the right thing to do.

■ Remember the secure and loving feelings that were behind your own frowns, anger and whining as a child.

■ If you experienced the poor judgment and the irrational fears of your parents, resist the urge to do the opposite. Read about the structure and nurture charts in the book mentioned below.

To participate in a new study on overindulgence and parenting styles, log on to our Web site at www.overindulgence.com.

(Connie Dawson, Jean Illsley Clarke and David Bredehoft 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, Toddler's to Teens." Connie can be reached at cdawson@whidbey.com).

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12:30 – 1:15 p.m. Meet the new school on the block! The Delphi Academy is sponsoring a free storytime for children ages 3-8, featuring quality children's books and a craft activity. Parents can join their children or take advantage of the EARLY READING WORKSHOP for PARENTS in the room next door. 1610 Broadway, 526-2700.

THURSDAYS thru SEPT. 2 – TWILIGHT DANCE SERIES

The Santa Monica Pier's "Twilight Dance Series" is back for its twentieth year. This week's artists are Janis Ian and Richie Havens. 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 6th and 13th, 11:00 – 11:45 a.m.

THE MAGIC OF MUSIC for CHILDREN at THE DELPHI ACADEMY Children will share in the fun as they create music with Academy Award nominated David Spear. 526-2700, 1610 Broadway.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 7th – KIDTRIBE DANCE PARTY

6:30 – 9:00 p.m., Santa Monica Place Mall Community Room (3rd floor) Kids dance, socialize and make friends in a healthy safe environment. Ages 5-11, \$18 per child, \$32 for two, 455-0580, www.kidtribe.org.

SUMMER SOUNDS at the HOLLYWOOD BOWL

Monday- Friday, 10:00 and 11:15 a.m. shows. This program introduces kids to a variety of musical styles and cultures. Ages 3 – 10. Shows: \$5 per person, \$30 a series. After the performance, kids can get creative in the Fine Arts Outdoor Studio - \$3 per child. 2301 Highland Ave., LA, 323-850-2000, www.hollywoodbowl.com

SUMMER CAMPS, SWIM and COMMUNITY CLASSES offered by the City of Santa Monica. The city provides children of all ages with a variety of recreation enrichment activities including camps, sports, dancing, crafts and yoga.

SPECIAL NOTE – Yoga Baby Studio in Venice is operating on a limited schedule for Mommy and Me and pre-natal classes. Call 306-9381 for a current schedule

TUESDAY

Movies for Moms!

"The Manchurian Candidate" starring Denzel Washington, Meryl Streep and Liev Schreiber. Rated "R". 11:00 a.m., Loews Broadway, 1441 3rd St. Promenade – for Moms and babies newborn – 1 year old. Doors open early for socializing and getting comfortable. www.enjoytheshow.com/reelmoms.

Storytelling

Main Library

Toddler Storytime at Reed Park; 10:00 & 10:30 a.m. thru August 17. For 2 year olds with adult.

Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.

Cuentos Para Pequenos – 10:00 a.m., June 22 – Aug. 10. Six-week series in Spanish for 24 – 36 month olds with adult.

Lap Time – 11:00 a.m. June 22 – Aug. 10. Six-week series for babies 0-24 months, co-sponsored by the SMMUSD Infant and Family Support Programs.

Twilight Story Time -7pm – an ongoing program for 3-5 year olds.

Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.

Family Story Time – 7:00 p.m., all ages. **Ocean Park Branch Library** – 2601 Main St. – 310-392-3804.

Toddler Storytime, 10:00 and 10:30. Music, rhymes and stories for 24-36 month olds with adult. Next session is July 27 – Aug. 31, required registration begins July 14th.

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

Summer Activity Programs at the Montana Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave.

Tuesdays thru August 10th at 2:30 p.m. (no program Aug. 3rd). Programs are approximately 45 minutes, appropriate for ages 4 and up.

Yoga & Exercise

Prenatal Aqua Aerobics at the Santa Monica YMCA

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

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

Tots (crawling to 24 months) – 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.; Babies (6 wks. to pre-crawling) – 11:30 – 12:30 a.m. On-going 6-week series; \$120. Pre-register at 458-8190; visit www.khefri.net for more info or contact khefri@earthlink.net.

Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:40 p.m.,

\$15. Mommy and Me – 1:45 – 3:00 p.m. Mommy Care – 11870 Santa Monica Blvd, at the Dance Factory, West LA, 310-394-6711. Pregnancy Exercise – 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.; Post Partum Exercise – 10:15 – 11:15 a.m. (babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)

Breastfeeding Group

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

WEDNESDAY

Storytelling

The Talking Stick Coffee Lounge – 1630 Ocean Park Blvd., 450-6052

10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4 at this neighborhood coffee shop.

Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.

Preschool Story Time – 10:30 a.m., June 23 – Aug. 11; six-week series for 3-5 year olds with adult.

Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.

Lap Time - 10:00 & 10:30 a.m., for children ages 0-2.

Toddler Story Time – 11:15 a.m., for 2 year olds.

Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St. –392-3804.

Preschool Twilight Story Time – 7:00 – 7:30 p.m. Parents/children ages 3-5.

Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion – 2 pm – ages 2-5 – 310-475-4144

Border's, Westwood – 11am – 310-475-3444.

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45pm, \$15 Ocean Oasis Day Spa, 1333 Ocean Avenue, 458-8190. Pre/Post Natal Yoga/Gentle Flow – 5:30 – 6:45 p.m.

Breastfeeding Group

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

Other

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

THURSDAY

Storytelling

Babystyle, 1324 Montana Avenue, 434-9590

10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4.

Main Library – Reed Park

Toddler Storytime at Reed Park; 10:00 a.m.; thru Aug. 19th. For 2 year olds with adult.

Preschool Story Time at Reed Park; 10:30 a.m.; thru Aug. 19th. For ages 3-5.

Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.

Toddler Story Time – 10:30 a.m.; June 24 – Aug. 12; for ages 2 –3.

La Hora Del Cuento – 7:00 p.m. Spanish stories, songs and rhymes for all ages.

Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.

Toddler Story Time – 10:15 a.m., for 2 year olds.

Preschool Story Time – 11:15 a.m.; for 3-5 year olds.

Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St. – 310-392-3804.

Lap Time – 9:20 & 10:20 a.m. ,next session July 8 – Aug. 12. 6-week series for babies 0-24 months, co-sponsored by SMMUSD Infant & Family Support Program.

Yoga & Exercise

Prenatal Aqua Aerobics at the Santa Monica YMCA

7:30 – 8:30 p.m.; Free for members, non-members \$90 for 10 classes. (also Tuesdays at 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.) 393-2721. ext. 117 for more info.

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

Mommy Care – 11870 Santa Monica Blvd, at the Dance Factory, West LA, 310-394-6711. Pregnancy Exercise – 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.; Post Partum Exercise – 10:15 – 11:15 a.m. (babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)

Breastfeeding Group

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

Other

Twilight Dance Series thru Sept. 2 – free concert on the Santa Monica Pier. 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

La Leche League of LA/Mar Vista – meets the 2nd Friday of each month at 10:00 a.m. Call 310-390-2529 for info. (next meeting May 14)

Yoga & Exercise

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

Ocean Oasis Day Spa, 1333 Ocean Avenue, 458-8190. Pre/Post Natal Yoga/Gentle Flow – 10:30 – 11:45 a.m.; Yoga for Fitness – noon – 1 p.m.

Prenatal Breath and Movement – a Continuum Movement and Yoga-based program designed to support women through various sound and movement explorations that celebrate pregnancy and labor as powerful rites of passage. 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. With Deborah Raoult at the Continuum Studio, 1629 18th St., #7. For more info call 625-3739, www.openskymovement.com. \$108 for a six-week session.

SATURDAY

Storytelling

Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade – Kid's Story Time – 10am – 310-260-9110

Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion – 10:30am – ages 2-5 – 310-475-4144.

Children's Book World, 10580 1/2 Pico Blvd, LA - 10:30 a.m., 310-559-B00K.

Village Books, 1049 SwarthmoreAve, Pacific Palisades – 10:30 a.m. – 454-4063.

Yoga & Exercise

Santa Monica Yoga – Pre- & Post-Natal Yoga, Saturdays – 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

1640 Ocean Park Blvd, 396-4040, www.santamonicaayoga.com

Mommy Care – 11870 Santa Monica Blvd. at the Dance Factory, West LA, 394-6711; Pregnancy Exercise – 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.; Post Partum Exercise – 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. (babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)

Ocean Oasis Day Spa, 1333 Ocean Avenue, 458-8190. Pre/Post Natal Yoga/Gentle Flow – 10:30 – 11:45 a.m.; Yoga for Fitness – noon – 1 p.m. Private sessions available; call Kate Thomas, RN – 408-1717

Other

Snowwhite, a brand new musical for kids of all ages, at the **Santa Monica Playhouse**

Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m. thru Sept. 26, \$12 adults, \$10 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 1 for reservations, www.santamonicaaplayhouse.com

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

Magicopolis – 2 and 8 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$20 for evening, \$15 for matinee. Call 310-451-2241 for info.

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

Precious Prints – Ceramic Heirlooms for a Lifetime

Second Saturday every month at The Pump Station, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Contact Kristan Ritchie at 310-802-8013 or visit www.preciousprintsstudios.com for more info.

Aug. 7th - **Nature Walk (Children's Nature Institute)** – Solstice Canyon, 3455

Solstice Cnyn Dr., Malibu, 10a.m. Reservations - 998-1151, www.children-snatureinstitute.org

Breastfeeding

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

SUNDAY

Snowwhite, a brand new musical for kids of all ages, at the **Santa Monica Playhouse**

Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m. thru Sept. 26, \$12 adults, \$10 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 1 for reservations, www.santamonicaaplayhouse.com

Main Street Farmer's Market – 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., corner of Main St. and Ocean Park Blvd. Pony rides, live music, lots of vendors and great family socializing.

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

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

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

MONDAY

Storytelling

Main Library – Lap Time at Joslyn Park is on break. Check back here for the next session dates.

"Family Connections" is on summer break. Check back here for the fall start-up date.

Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main Street, 310-392-3804.

"Spanish for Little Ones", 11:15 a.m., next session is July 12 – August 16.

Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade – Toddler Story Time – 10am – 310-260-9110

Breastfeeding Group

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

Yoga & Exercise

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

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

Ocean Oasis Day Spa, 1333 Ocean Avenue, 458-8190. Pre/Post Natal Yoga/Gentle Flow – 10:30 – 11:45 a.m.; Yoga for Fitness – noon – 1 p.m.

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BY MICHELLE LOCKE
Associated Press Writer

“We know that the date is late for many of these students to reconsider their plans for the coming year,” said UC spokesman Hanan Eisenman. “But we’ll do everything we can to encourage students to consider what UC has to offer.”

The community college diversion was part of the agreement, although it proved less than popular. Only

Said De La Rosa, "It's a little late. But better late than never, I guess."

Lt. Dennis Carter of county Animal Care and Control said he sent animal control officers to Scottsdale 10 times in July and not one dog was rounded up.

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NATIONAL



Presidential candidates compete for voters' attention

BY WILL LESTER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — President Bush and John Kerry are competing for the support of a relatively few undecided voters, many of whom are preoccupied with work and family.

Others are just plain suspicious of campaign promises.

Getting the attention of these "persuadable" voters is critical. A solid majority of voters have already made a firm decision on their Nov. 2 choice and just two in 10 say they are likely to switch to a different candidate.

Last week's Democratic National Convention gave Kerry and running mate John Edwards their best chance to sell their message to voters.

That message never got to Democrat Debra Edwards, a 49-year-old homemaker

from Lakemoor, Ill., who is leaning toward supporting Kerry.

"I didn't see the convention," said Edwards, who is busy raising grandchildren.

"I heard from a buddy, who was major, major impressed with Kerry's speech. I think Kerry's all right, but I don't care who they put in there. I just want Bush out," she said.

Only one-fifth of the public said before the convention they planned to watch a great deal of the event.

An estimated 24.4 million Americans watched Kerry's acceptance speech, according to Nielsen Media Research. That compares with 21 million people who watched Al Gore's speech in 2000.

Retired union electrician Doyle Moreland of San Antonio said Kerry did not overwhelm him.

"I watched the speech, I thought it was

OK, but that's just talking," said Moreland, who leans toward supporting Kerry. "I don't care who they are, they're all going to say what they're going to do."

Some voters who preferred John Edwards beforehand said after the convention they were still happy with the choice.

But Democrat Terri Buchanan, a 36-year old bookkeeper from Tampa, Fla., said she has some doubts.

"Oh well ... he seems like another Dan Quayle," she said, referring to the Indiana senator who was George H.W. Bush's running mate in 1988. "He looks like he's too young to be in office."

One Republican voter who is not firmly committed to Bush said he watched the convention off and on.

"I'm still pondering," said Joel Potts, 34 of Monroe, Wis. "I'm just interested in hearing details of their different plans. If

they were explaining how they're going to do these things, I missed that point."

A Newsweek poll released Saturday showed Kerry and Edwards leading Bush and Vice President Cheney 49 percent to 42 percent. Ralph Nader had 3 percent in the poll of 1,000 registered voters taken Thursday and Friday.

Bush's job approval was at 45 percent in the poll, and 53 percent said they would not like to see Bush re-elected.

Other polls in coming days will give a more complete picture of any surge for Democrats since the party convention in Boston. It sometimes takes several days after an event like the convention to pick up changes in public opinion.

Bill Clinton got a 16-point boost after his convention in 1992, according to Gallup polling. Al Gore got an 8-point increase in his support. George McGovern got nothing in 1972.

Forensic expert joins Billy the Kid inquiry in New Mexico

By The Associated Press

LINCOLN, N.M. — One of the nation's leading forensic scientists has joined the effort to determine if the saga of Billy the Kid is backed by science.

Henry Lee, director emeritus of the Connecticut State Police Forensic Science Laboratory, has worked on the O.J. Simpson murder trial and the Jon Benet Ramsey case.

Lee arrived at the old Lincoln County courthouse Sunday afternoon.

Lincoln County Sheriff Tom Sullivan, joined by deputy and Capitan Mayor Steve

Sederwall and DeBaca County Sheriff Gary Graves, launched a probe last year into the Kid's escape from the courthouse in early 1881 and then-Sheriff Pat Garrett's slaying of the outlaw later that year.

The investigation aims to clear up questions about the Kid's fate.

Over the last century, at least two men surfaced claiming to be Billy the Kid. Those stories presuppose that Garrett killed the wrong man in Fort Sumner and lied about it and that the outlaw isn't buried in a Fort Sumner cemetery.

On Saturday, Lee and Calvin Ostler, an investigator for the Utah medical examiner, performed tests on a bench that Sederwall believes to be the one the Kid's body was laid on after Garrett gunned him down.

Preliminary results indicated trace evidence of blood, but Lee said that without further testing it's not certain whether the blood is human.

Lee and the investigators also examined a washstand that was purportedly struck by a bullet when Garrett shot the Kid.

In his memoir, "The Authentic Life of

Billy the Kid," Garrett said he was sitting on the edge of a bed in the dark, asking about the Kid's whereabouts when the Kid entered with a revolver in his right hand and a knife in his left.

Lee and the investigators used laser technology to determine the bullet's trajectory as it entered the washstand and exited the right at a downward angle.

Given the washstand's likely location in the room, the investigation has already cast some doubt on Garrett's account of the event, Sederwall and Ostler said.

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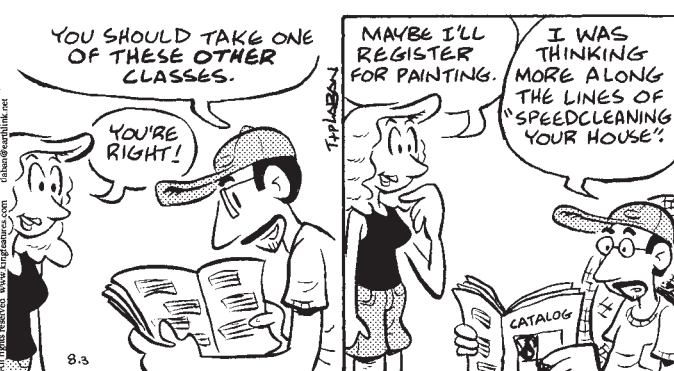
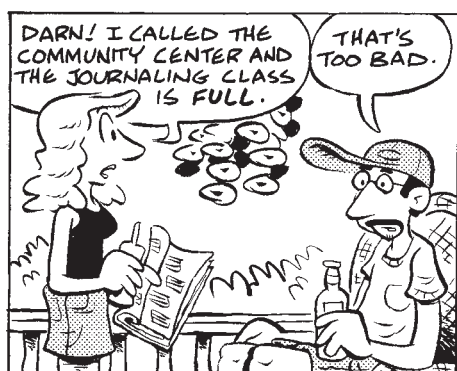
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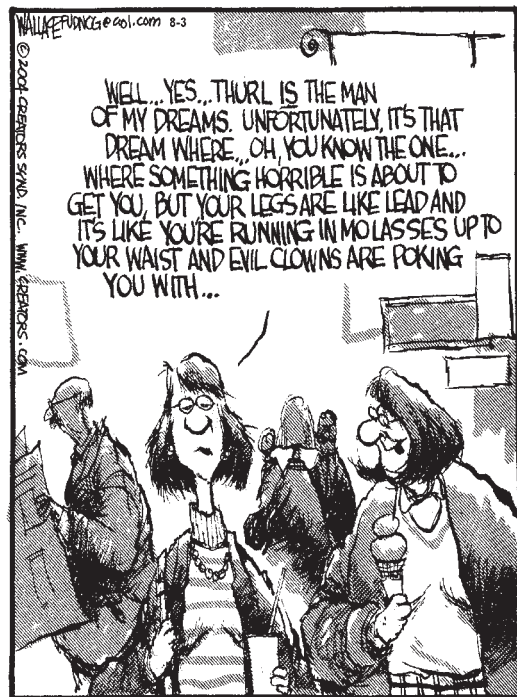
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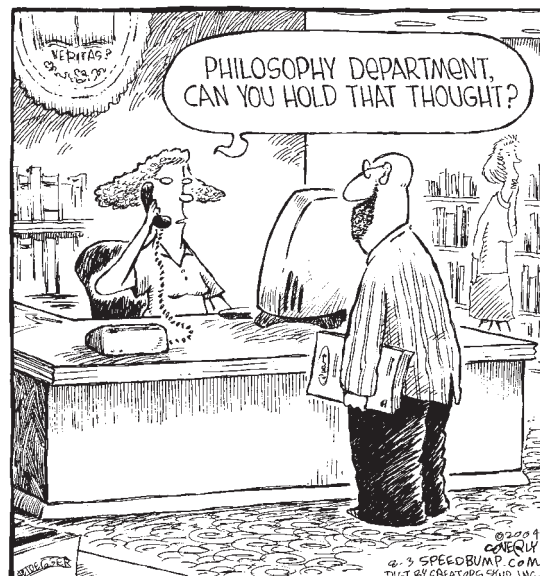
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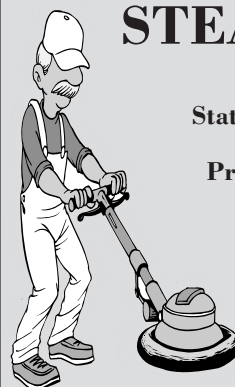
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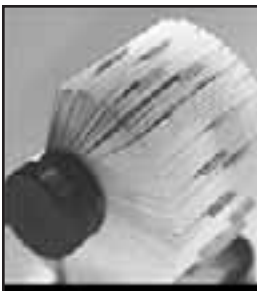
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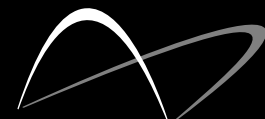
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Halle Berry far from perfect, but easy on the eyes

By The Associated Press

LONDON — It's not easy being gorgeous. Halle Berry should know.

"Beauty? Let me tell you something — being thought of as a beautiful woman has spared me nothing in life," she said. "No heartache, no trouble. Love has been difficult. Beauty is essentially meaningless and it is always transitory."

At a news conference Monday to promote her new movie, "Catwoman," the 36-year-old Berry criticized the obsession with beauty and youth that she said prompted some to get plastic surgery.

"Personally, I'm really saddened by the way women mutilate their faces today in search of that," said Berry, who won an Oscar for "Monster's Ball." "There is this plastic, copycat look evolving and that's frightening to me. ... It's really insane and I feel sad that's what society is doing to women."

"Catwoman" co-star Sharon Stone said she and Berry, who have both recently split with their husbands, found while working together that they had a lot in common.

"In life it's not important how you fall, but how you get up," she said. "I think both of us have fallen in public and both gotten up in public. Neither of us have tried to pretend we're perfect."

AUSTIN, Texas — John Kerry wears one. President Bush has one, too. So do several celebrities.

It's the "Live Strong" yellow wristband produced by the Lance Armstrong Foundation, the cycling superstar's cancer-fighting organization.

Since the fund-raising effort began in May, the charity has sold 7 million of the rubber wristbands for \$1 each, with plans for 1.8 million more. Nike donated the first \$1 million, and proceeds go toward programs for young people with cancer.

Sales easily surpassed the \$6 million the foundation initially hoped to raise. The wristbands can be pur-

chased at <http://www.wearyellow.com>.

"It's been an overwhelming experience," foundation President Mitch Stoller said Friday. "I think everybody, from average Americans to celebrities, are getting the message of courage and hope."

Foundation spokeswoman Michelle Milford said celebrities who have been sighted wearing the bands include Bono, Alec Baldwin, Bruce Willis, Robin Williams, Matt Damon and Ben Stiller.

Armstrong, the winner of a record six consecutive Tour de France titles, overcame advanced testicular cancer that had spread to his lungs and brain. He has linked himself to the traditional yellow jersey worn by the Tour leader and champion.

Kerry, the Democratic nominee for president, wore his wristband while campaigning last week and at the Democratic National Convention. He had a cancerous prostate removed in February 2003. His father, Richard, died of complications from the disease in 2000.

White House spokesman Taylor Gross said Bush also has a wristband and supports the Armstrong foundation.

Milford said the group appreciates the candidates' support but will avoid any political debate. "The way we fight cancer is a bipartisan issue," she said. "We want support from everybody."

LONDON — Eric Clapton is helping to freshen up an historic gentlemen's outfitters that he saved from closure.

The 59-year-old musician, who bought a half-share of Cordings on London's famous Piccadilly in December, is now helping update the store, spokeswoman Melanie Cable-Alexander said Monday.

"I wanted to help preserve Cordings for myself so I could continue to shop there," Clapton said in an interview with the British news agency Press Association.

A Cordings client since 2002, Clapton said he'd been "a big fan of English traditional tailoring and have always been intrigued by the balance between functionality and style in the development of men's fashion."

Founded in 1839 as a specialist in clothing for country sports, Cordings was the originator of the checked Tattersall shirt and made riding boots for the Duke and Duchess of Windsor.

The store will launch its first women's collection next month.

"Cordings had been about to go bankrupt, but now its accounts are in the black for the first time in seven years," said Cable-Alexander. "Without Eric, the shop would have gone bankrupt."

Guy Ritchie used one of Cordings' jackets in his 2000 movie, "Snatch," and there are drawings by Damien Hirst and Rolf Harris in the visitors' book.

Cable-Alexander said the shop had been hurt by the depressed tourist market after the 2001 terrorist attacks, the congestion charge now levied on drivers in central London and poor decisions by some previous managers.

AUBURN, Wash. — Farm Aid will be doing its musical fund raising west of the Rockies this year, holding its annual concert at the White River Amphitheatre.

Farm Aid 2004, featuring Willie Nelson, Neil Young, John Mellencamp, Dave Matthews and others, will be held Sept. 18 in Auburn.

"The farthest west we've ever been is Nebraska," said Farm Aid Executive Director Carolyn Mugar. "We have a chance to reach a whole new audience and a whole new group of people."

Nelson, Young and Mellencamp started Farm Aid in 1985, in response to small farmers losing their land because of debt. The first concert took place in Champaign, Ill. The organization has raised \$26 million to promote the preservation of family farms and locally controlled, sustainable agriculture.

"Seattle is a perfect example of how a city might embrace the philosophy of healthy food, from the farm to the table," Matthews said in a statement. "The success of Seattle's consumer awareness to demand quality food from farmers who care should inspire us all."

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