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Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

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Evening: 8 3 0

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

Even though India now has 80,000 licensed dentists, nearly 100 "street dentists" continue to operate in dusty, open-air "offices," performing extractions and "fitting" used dentures for, typically, 1 percent to 2 percent of what a licensed dentist would charge. One patient of practitioner Mahender Singh, observed for a June dispatch from Jaipur in The New York Times, was "spitting streams of blood into the gutter" after removal of an incisor that, said Singh, "was not working right" and "kept turning left and right when he ate." Singh uses anesthetic but said some patients still pass out from the pain.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 221st day of 2005.
There are 144 days left in the year.

On Aug. 9, 1945, three days after the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japan, the United States exploded a nuclear device over Nagasaki, killing an estimated 74,000 people.

In 1930, a forerunner of the cartoon character Betty Boop made her debut in Max Fleischer's animated short "Dizzy Dishes."

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The man who makes no mistakes does not usually make anything."

EDWARD JOHN PHELPS
AMERICAN LAWYER AND DIPLOMAT

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Alphabet soup keeps eateries alert

Santa Monica kitchens shine in comparison to LA

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE — Eating at your own risk in Santa Monica is safer than most communities within Los Angeles County, a recent survey of restaurant health ratings found.

Dubbed one of the "shining stars" of the Los Angeles County Health Department's grading system, Santa Monica's kitchens are cleaner than most, according to Terrance Powell, chief environmental health specialist for LA County.

The Los Angeles County Health Department serves as the watchdog for the public in making sure that the people who handle food are doing it safely, cleanly and properly. Based on unannounced visits from health inspectors, food establishments are measured on a unique grading system that deducts points for infractions.

The system was devised to allow the public a way to gauge for themselves whether it's clean

See **KITCHENS**, page 8



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Sushi chef Eiji Hirose (right) restocks at the Lighthouse Buffet restaurant. The eatery recently scored a perfect 100 grade from the Los Angeles County Health Department.

Group says drivers not in good hands

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN LA — A Santa Monica-based consumer rights group has stepped up efforts to stop auto insurance companies in their tracks, alleging they overcharge motorists tens of millions

of dollars for coverage.

The Foundation for Taxpayer and Consumer Rights filed a response on Monday in the California Court of Appeals against Safeco Insurance Company, which recently asked judges to throw out a lawsuit against the auto insurer.

The lawsuit, filed in 2002, is

still being hashed out in Superior Court. In it, the FTCR wants Safeco and other auto insurance companies to refund tens of millions of dollars to those who were charged extra for being first-time policy holders. The Foundation's

See **INSURANCE**, page 6

Wood chuck: Council to pay for Pier boards

(Editor's note: This is part of an ongoing series that tracks the city's expenditures which appear on the upcoming Santa Monica City Council consent agenda. Consent agenda items are routinely passed by the city council with little or no discussion from elected officials or the public. However, many of the items have been part of public discussion in the past.)

By Daily Press staff

CITY HALL — Elected leaders are expected to approve the spending of more than \$2 million tonight, on such items as furniture for the new library, radios for firefighters, repairs to the Santa

Monica Pier and soil contamination cleanup at the airport.

A total of \$2,071,115.43 is expected to be approved, close to half of which will go toward repairing the Santa Monica Pier.

The night's largest expense — if approved — would set aside

more than \$1 million for the venerable pier, a project City Hall hopes will improve access for emergency vehicles.

The \$1,071,378 will go toward repairing and replacing the pier's

See **CONSENT**, page 7

GABY SCHKUD

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Whip out the door, Gem

Santa Monica Daily Press



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





ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Some of the recent brouhaha subsides, happily. With a steady approach, you'll find solutions. Others have many valuable suggestions. Why not listen and perhaps integrate different thoughts? Strength comes in numbers. Tonight: Out among the crowds.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You might be a bit of a stick in the mud at times, but you do have the quality of solidity and you don't make many errors. Some of you might be considering a home office. Your ability to get the gist of a problem is key. Tonight: Fit in some exercise.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You are very playful, and because of that attitude, others often don't get how very serious you are. Sometimes you need to be a bit sterner. The fact that you have a humorous perspective on life helps, but not everyone understands. Tonight: Whip out the door and add more fun to living.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You need to maintain a solid grasp on just how much you want to put into your home or another investment. If you are honest with yourself, you might see that you need to change your lifestyle in order to be happier. Tonight: Mosey on home.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Figure out what might be going on with people around you by asking diplomatic and insightful questions. Others might have much more on their mind than you realize. Your gentle style helps open doors. Tonight: Chat away, but also listen well.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Your smile might make a big difference when dealing with others. Remember, money isn't the only type of asset. There's also your personality, presentation and innate talents. Use your skills to the max, but don't overdo it. Tonight: Pay bills.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ With the Moon in your sign, you might be able to break into a fortress. Understanding your goals is the first step to achieving success. Follow through and face what is happening with a friend who might need a nudge or two. Tonight: You choose.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Step back and listen to the words of an authority figure. You might not understand what is going on with a loved one or someone you care about. You will need to observe and listen. Believe me, this person is grumbling. Tonight: Do your thing.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You will have to take the high road and not get caught up in others' stuff. You discover that if you encourage others to work as a team and look at the objectives, you'll succeed. Don't allow yourself to get into anything petty. Tonight: Hook up with a pal.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Investigate what might be going on with a boss or an older friend or relative. You might find that he or she is quite touchy with you. Watch how this person interacts with others, and you might see that there is something muddling his or her mind. Tonight: Out late.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Don't let others clutter your mind. How you see matters could be quite different from the way others do. Convincing a reticent associate might not be worth the effort. Just understand where he or she is coming from. Tonight: Put on your headphones.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You must deal with others individually if you are going to come out ahead. Others often wonder how you can be so patient with certain people. Let out your frustration rather than keep it in. Tonight: Follow another's lead.



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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

City officials looking for a banner year in '06

By Daily Press staff

City Hall is looking for qualified artists to redesign the banners that will hang over Santa Monica's busiest shopping district — the Third Street Promenade.

Officials have announced that \$10,000 is available for the chosen artist to create the new banners.

The city of Santa Monica Arts Commission and the Bayside District Corp. are seeking a professional artist or artist team to create large scale art banners to enliven and enhance the world-famous Promenade. The highly-visible banners will replace the existing ones at 18 locations along the central spine of the retail district.

Opened in 1989, the Promenade hosts more than 40,000 thousand visitors daily. The Promenade's assortment of shops, theaters and restaurants make it a key destination for locals as well those visiting Southern California, as well as a highly desirable location for movie and television filming.

The selected artist(s) will design two sets of 18 banners. The two sets must consist of different designs. Banner sets will be rotated to allow for cleaning and repair, but there will be one set of banners on display throughout the year. Banners may be no larger than eight feet, three inches wide by nine feet, eight inches tall. In addition, the two sets must be designed so that they can be fabricated per the Bayside District's specifications for a total cost of no more than \$25,000.

The competition is open to professional artists living or working in Santa Monica. Artists may work alone or collaborate as a team. The selected artist(s) must be available to meet with city staff and several advisory boards and commissions throughout the course of project development. The artist(s) also must be available to oversee the fabrication of the banners by a manufacturer to be selected.

It is a two-stage competition, which will result in one artist or team being selected to design new original art banners for the Third Street Promenade. In the first stage, artist qualifications are being requested. A panel will select up to three finalists who will receive a fee of \$500 to develop a two-dimensional proposal. Finalists must be available to present to the selection panel in early November. Based on the proposals, the panel will then select one artist(s) to be approved by the Santa Monica Arts Commission and the Bayside District Corp.

The deadline for applications is Sept. 19. Call (310) 458-8350 for information.



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

CORRECTION — In the Aug. 5 edition, there were inaccuracies in the story about the fire at the City Yards. Only the trash trucks ignited. The natural gas filling station immediately shut off and no natural gas burned. Big Blue Buses were not involved. Five trash trucks were completely destroyed. Garbage and recycling pick-up throughout the city was temporarily delayed over the past few days, but are currently back on schedule.

Todd Sheets is this week's mystery photo winner. Sheets accurately described that this photo was taken at 1415 Sixth St. and is called the 'Johanna Jordan Sculptor.' Sheets has won a free "I got issues" Daily Press hat. Check out the Monday edition for the next mystery photo contest.



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SURF REPORT

Tuesday is looking bleak with barely any surf to be had.

Expect low clouds and fog in the morning, then partly cloudy with highs in the upper 60s to mid 70s.

Today the
water is:

72°

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	5:56	0.3	5:50	2.1	12:24	4.3	11:41	4.9
TUESDAY	6:19	0.7	6:39	2.1	12:51	4.5	12:20	4.3
WEDNESDAY	6:41	1.2	7:40	2.0	N/A	N/A	1:21	4.6
THURSDAY	7:03	1.7	9:04	1.9	1:10	3.6	1:59	4.8
FRIDAY	7:24	1.9	9:42	2.3	1:59	4.8	N/A	N/A

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The Q Line

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Owners of the Robinsons-May store in the Santa Monica Place Mall recently announced they plan to sell off the 137,000-square-foot location in 2006. This announcement comes at the same time that plans for redeveloping the entire mall are in the works.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "What would you like to see move into the large hole that will be left when Robinsons-May closes up shop?"

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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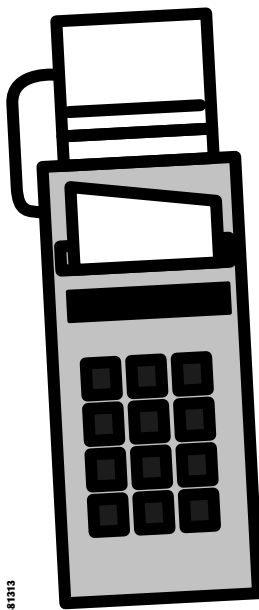
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Brentwood no safer than anywhere else

Editor:

Sunday was such a pretty day. As my friend and I sat outside of her apartment building on Darlington in Brentwood you could hear birds chirping and people laughing. What we didn't hear was the strung-out homeless man running up from behind us bending down and stealing my purse in broad daylight, booking towards San Vicente Boulevard. That's right, my purse was stolen at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday in Brentwood. The police who responded almost an hour after my 911 call were unable to do anything and seemed very uninterested in persuing the suspect.

After the police report, shock, and a few tears, my friend took me to lunch on Third Street. And guess what? A homeless man had the gall to ask me for money. You can only guess what my response was.

This encounter only further proves that the cities of Los Angeles and Santa Monica do not have their priorities straight. How can such an upper class neighborhood be so unsafe at 12:30 in the afternoon?

Homelessness is a severe problem, not just in Santa Monica, but in Los Angeles. It is out of control. I encourage groups like Santa Monicans for Sensible Priorities to fight to end homelessness not just on a local level, but a regional one as well. Please, help make the streets safe.

And to all the women out there, please use extreme caution when around the homeless.

Melissa Romley
Brentwood

The irony of it all

Editor:

The marquee in front of the Unitarian Church at 18th and Arizona says that last Sunday's sermon was about "dealing with life's irrationalities." How ironic!

It's completely irrational that the Planning Commission unanimously allowed this church to nearly double in size without adding one parking space.

It's irrational that two of these Planning Commissioners who were married in this particular church refused to recuse themselves despite this obvious conflict of interest.

It's irrational that after obtaining the property next door, the church sold another adjoining property instead of using it as a parking facility.

And it's irrational that the neighbors on 17th, 18th and 19th streets around Arizona, who are already overrun with Santa Monica/UCLA Medical Center's staff and clients and four car dealerships' employees parking in our neighborhood, will have to absorb even more frequent and larger evening and weekend events at the Unitarian Church.

Will Sunday's sermon tell me how to reconcile all of these irrationalities?

Evelyn Jerome
Santa Monica

Bauer's facts are wrong

Editor:

In response to Bill Bauer's column (SMDP, Aug. 1, page 4). It is unfortunate that Mr. Bauer did not visit the Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Santa Monica before he wrote his column excoriating it's proposed expansion project. What he would have found is a facility truly in need of repair and, yes, expansion just to

continue to provide the service it does for the community. The administrative office is two rooms that also serve as meeting space for volunteer groups and as the nursery room on Sunday mornings. The classrooms upstairs are awkwardly shaped and less than adequate in size — six of seven are less than 200 square feet. There are inadequate and non-accessible toilets. The exiting from the second floor is non-conforming and unsafe. There is a lack of storage space and the kitchen needs to be refurbished.

If he had studied the proposal he would know that it retains one of the oldest residences in the area, something the neighborhood wants to have happen. It is scheduled to become the offices of the church. Imagine, separate offices for the office manager, the religious education director and the finance director.

If he had studied the proposal he would know that it would allow the current wing housing the offices and the minister to become part of the sanctuary to more comfortably house the members of the church on Sunday mornings. The renovation would complete the historic space and provide for accessibility to all its components.

If he had studied the proposal he would know that the addition along the alley would provide classrooms that would adequately serve the religious education program and add only one additional classroom.

If he had studied the proposal he would know that an elevator and code compliant exiting would be provided for the church members, their children attending classes and those groups who have used the church facilities for group meetings for many years.

If he had studied the proposal he would know that the Unitarian Universalist Church of Santa Monica is an integral part of Santa Monica, provides services to many of its residents, and wants to continue that tradition.

Certainly there are parking issues in the area around the Unitarian Church on 18th and Arizona, but they are there for many reasons, the least of which is the church. There is the hospital a few blocks away and many underparked apartment buildings and retail and auto dealerships nearby. If he had studied the proposal and talked to the church members he would know that they are interested in working with the neighbors to try and mitigate the ongoing parking issues. They have a long-standing agreement with Santa Monica Hospital to utilize its parking structure on Sunday. They have instituted a program notifying all the groups meeting there of the neighbors' concerns and to work on carpooling and bus use.

If he had studied the proposal and talked to church members and neighbors he may have used his bully pulpit to help bring these neighbors together to solve a problem that has existed for a long time.

Instead, based on poor facts, he is working to divide the neighbors, to accuse the group that provides service to all who ask of being the source of the problem and is suggesting that the group with the least resources and the best of intentions should solve a pervasive problem.

Additionally, Mr. Bauer got his facts wrong from his sources about what occurred at the end of the hearing. Commissioner Dad and I did have a short conversation in the hall. But there was no hug (definitely not her style) and no congratulations and her comment was a query as to if there were any issues between Commissioner Pugh and myself, since he had been so aggressive in his questioning. I assured her that Commissioner Pugh was just expressing his strong convictions and that he and I have been on good terms for as long as I can remember. Years ago we even taught a few classes together in the science magnet at John Adams Middle School.

In the end all I can I guess it is reporters and not always columnists who do appropriate research before they write.

Ralph Mechur
Santa Monica

Holy hypocrites: Church abandons offspring



WHAT'S THE POINT?

BY DAVID PISARRA

"You can fool with your brother — But don't mess with a missionary man."
— The Eurythmics

Evidently Stephanie Collopy had never heard that song prior to her meeting with a young seminarian named Arturo Uribe.

It was 1991 and she reputedly had a seven-month affair with the young Uribe, which resulted in the birth of child. No great news there. Young men are hardly known for restraint in all matters sexual.

What makes this newsworthy is the way in which the Catholic church responded. Ms. Collopy sued for child support. A natural and understandable action on behalf of her newborn child.

The church turned the lawsuit over to their risk assessment lawyers for defense.

They responded with several defenses, claiming negligence on her part, in that she was engaging in unprotected sex and should have known better. Just to make it a delicious irony, they had the nerve to suggest that she should have used contraception in order to prevent the birth.

The Catholic church is staunchly opposed to contraception, even in the face of a vast health crisis. It claims that it is an infallible moral law that contraception is a mortal sin. A mortal sin is one that is against God's or Divine law.

Irony abounds in this case. This child was created by a man who was so enamored with the love of Christ and God that he was studying to be a Catholic priest.

The church entered into a settlement agreement to provide child support. The Catholic church, which would rank in the middle of the Fortune 500 if it were a business, took in \$8 billion in 2003 from parishioners. This vast enterprise, with its orders from Christ to "give to the poor" in John 12:5, agreed to a \$323 a month for a child with chronic asthma and other health problems, with no health insurance.

Father Uribe has never seen his child, therefore one can safely presume that this single mother has had to provide daycare of some sort, and has not had any sizable relief from the burdens of child rearing.

Last month, Ms. Collopy took the father back to court, seeking an increase in her support, and health insurance for her child. Father Uribe has taken a vow of poverty as part of his priestly vows, which means that the church provides all his food and lodging, and gives him \$100 a month.

As a consequence of the low income, and his vow of poverty, the judge was unable to order an increase in the child support. Where are the loud and vociferous cries for Traditional Family Values, a child needing a father and a mother?

Well, in the Catholic church, when you are an Archbishop, and one of your charges causes a scandal, the church does the only logical thing it can — the Archbishop in charge during the 1994 lawsuit was promoted, and is now the prefect of the Vatican's congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith — the same post that was occupied by Pope Benedict XVI,

when he was Cardinal Ratzinger.

This action is highly reminiscent of Cardinal Bernard Law, who was conveniently transferred to Rome, after that little scandal in Boston caused such a stir. I'm not saying the Christians are the problem. Same goes for the Jews, the Muslims, the Hindus, the Bahai, the Druids, the Wiccans, the Mormons, the Scientologists and even the Elvis faithful.

The problem is the hypocrisy. The arrogant smugness of those who "know better" for everyone.

I wouldn't mind it so much if they had the internal fortitude to live by the standards they want everyone else to live by, but they don't. They pontificate, and then they prevaricate, and when they are exposed for their own shortcomings, they hide behind a smokescreen of "Jesus Saves," or "I'm not perfect — just forgiven." What a crock! They should exercise more of their forgiveness and less self-righteousness.

(David Pizarra can be reached at dpisarra@pizarra.com or (310)664-9969.)

COMMENTARY



For your consideration: Locals in spotlight



ANY DAY IN LA

BY HEIDI MANTEUFFEL

As you may have read in The Hollywood Reporter, Daily Variety and any other paper that mentions the word "television," Emmy consideration season is in full bloom. Cult shows like "Arrested Development" survive solely because of efforts like the Emmys (and of course, Fox) recognizing the talent the rest of the nation finds hidden.

Some celebrities are surprised to have even been nominated, and others like Eva Longoria in "Desperate Housewives" are left wondering why they are left out.

But don't cry for me, Eva, you're not the only star people have forgotten about. I think there are great efforts by people right here in Santa Monica that completely fall under the Emmy radar.

Sure, they may not have television shows yet, but watching their performances can be just as entertaining and emotionally touching. How the committee could leave out all these residents of Santa Monica and greater LA is beyond me.

That's why I decided Santa Monica/LA needed some award recognition of its own. Here are the nominees in the following categories:

In the category of sound:

1. Garbage truck/recycling bin pickup at eight in the morning.
2. Daily rummaging of broken glass in the trash cans by bicycling man.
3. Horn beeping of a woman who illegally parked and was then upset when someone else parked illegally behind her.

For music, the nominees are:

1. The Adelphia cable man playing

"It's Alright" disco music in my alleyway.

2. "I believe I can fly" by performer No. 3 on the Third Street Promenade.

3. Show tunes such as "Hello Dolly" and "Oklahoma!" heard near the 53-decibel mark by unaware neighbors at bedtime.

For choreography considerations:

1. Japanese tourists walking perfectly in a row.

2. The chorus (flood) of people trying to cross the Promenade every Saturday and Sunday.

3. The rollerblading guitar performer on the Promenade. Please tell me you know whom I'm talking about.

Lead Performer in a Primetime Show:

1. Twelve-year-old boy cruising Westwood in his mini car. Beep beep.

2. The Asian man with the two-foot tall toy drum set that plays "Rock, Around, the Clock To-night."

3. The beat poet that rhymes about her period.

Lead Performer in a Daytime Show:

1. The high-pitched construction worker chronically talking on his cell while drinking an iced latté.

2. The comedic homeless man who says "Keep your money. I wouldn't give it to me either."

3. Man who gives out K-Mart coupons but doesn't know where it is.

Best Ensemble Performance

1. The girls at the Beck show in tube tops primping for their chance to meet him.

2. The boys at the Beck show in tube tops primping for their chance to meet him.

Costumes

1. Flock of Seagull's haircut boy with his red Mick Jagger/Ronald McDonald

pants.

2. Blue, fluffy, pimp-hat lady with candy-pink botox lips that looked like Barbie from the series "Goodwill."

3. Top hat boy and his jean/spandex pant rocker friends.

So many people put so much time and effort in all these categories, so I'm sorry that I had to leave some out in the consid-

eration process. Nevertheless, I feel that acknowledging even a few of these fine performers is a move in the right direction.

(To vote and/or add additional nominees for consideration, e-mail Heidi at anydayinla@gmail.com. The winners will be announced on the Tuesday column following the Emmy Awards show Sept. 18. Feel free to vote early and often.)

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LOCAL

McFly by seat of their pants



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Hundreds gathered at the Santa Monica Pier last Tuesday to view 'Back to the Future' on the big screen. The movie was the first in a series for the Santa Monica Drive-In, which runs weekly through September. On tap for tonight: 'Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery' starring Mike Myers. Movies begin at dusk.

Petition marks third try to change decision

INSURANCE, from page 1

lawsuit also charges Safeco with failing to disclose its practices to the insurance commissioner, an additional violation of the law.

Lawsuits involving possible surcharge violations are also pending against other insurers, most of which occurred during the tenure of Chuck Quackenbush, former head of the CDI, who resigned his post in 2000 amid reports that he abused his office to favor insurance companies in exchange for kickbacks.

Safeco, meanwhile, has asked the court of appeals to rule that consumers, such as those the FTCR is representing in its case, can't sue the insurance company regarding rate schemes.

Safeco maintains in its petition that rates are approved by the California Department of Insurance under Proposition 103. Authorized by the consumer and taxpayers union, Proposition 103 is a voter-approved ballot measure which went into effect in November of 1988, requiring the CDI to approve rates for auto and other types of insurance. As such, the insurance companies cannot be responsible for the rates the CDI administratively approves.

Safeco's petition, however, marks the third time in as many years auto insurance companies have asked the court of appeals to judicially repeal a provision of Proposition 103, which allows "any person" to take an insurance company directly to court to challenge violations of its reforms, said Harvey Rosenfield, an attorney who authored the ballot measure and is working on the case.

"The insurance companies are asking for a license to steal," Rosenfield said. "If they can't be sued for ripping people off, nothing will stop them from doing it."

Representatives from Safeco did not comment. In its petition, Safeco states that if insurance companies were to follow the "restrictive statutory language" of Proposition 103, insurers would not only have to file their rates with the CDI, but also with the courts, to ensure they are doing so within legal means and successfully be able to thwart lawsuits from customers.

Safeco's petition states, "this was never envisioned by Proposition 103, and it makes little sense."

The FTCR contends that Safeco is distorting how the law would be enforced.

Last year, two judicial panels from the court of appeals issued separate decisions upholding the Proposition 103 authority and rejecting the arguments made by Mercury Insurance and State Farm. By using their legal powers to petition, Safeco and other insurance companies are trying to get yet another judicial panel to come to a different decision, Rosenfield said.

"The voters made clear that consumers could sue insurance companies to force them to obey Proposition 103's reforms, and to refund illegal surcharges when they break the law," Rosenfield said. "They are trying to win in court what they lost at the ballot box and in the very same court just last year."

"These endless legal challenges waste taxpayers' money and undermine public confidence in the integrity of the legal system."



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LOCAL



Yeast defection



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

LAYING THE FOUNDATION: Workers spread freshly-poured cement into the subterranean portion of the former Pioneer Boulangerie Bakery building on Main Street. The site will soon be developed into luxury apartments and retail stores.

Stick in the mud: Park cleanup to cost \$250K

CONSENT, from page 1

wooden deck boards and stringers — the second phase of a three-part pier repair plan.

The plan — expected to cost more than \$6.5 million in its entirety — was approved by the City Council during the 2003-03 fiscal year.

The contract for phase two of the plan was awarded to John S. Meeks Construction, Inc., which just completed other pier repairs in Santa Monica and has led similar projects at municipal piers in Newport Beach and San Clemente.

Past clients said the company finished projects efficiently, according to a City Council staff report.

Currently, emergency vehicles are forced to drive single-file across the pier, with at least a 50-foot gap between each vehicle.

Pier repairs would allow emergency vehicles to deploy more rapidly, according to a City Council staff report.

HAVE A SEAT

The City Council is also expected to approve \$692,612 for workstations, seats and tables for the new Main Library, set to open this fall at Sixth Street and Santa Monica Boulevard.

The purchase, which was contracted out to three separate groups, would be made at discount rates ranging from 40 to 60 percent, according to a city staff report.

CAN YOU HEAR ME, NOW?

Local firefighters should expect a boost in their communications technology, as councilmembers are expected to tuck away nearly \$65,000 of city money and earmark it for new hand-held and mobile Motorola radios.

Though the purchase rounds out to more than \$215,000, a federal grant will cover 70 percent of the costs.

The Santa Monica Fire Department

hopes the 31 hand-held radios and 16 mobile radios bought with city and federal money will improve emergency communications, according to a city staff report.

PARK'S DIRTY SOIL WILL COST \$250K

Councilmembers also will consider shelling out almost \$243,000 for the cleanup of contaminated soil along an 8-acre plot of land at the Santa Monica Airport. The plot — which City Hall hopes to transform into a park — was found in June to be contaminated.

Though toxins including arsenic, chromium-6 and hydrocarbons were discovered, any contaminated soil will be removed before the park's opening, according to Voneelya Simmons, associate project manager for the airport park project.

The project's lowest bidder — Waste Management, Inc., which has worked with the city of Anaheim and the port of Los Angeles on similar projects — was awarded the cleanup contract, though the second-lowest bidder complained, to no avail, that WMI filled out a faulty bid package.

GIVING IT UP

Councilmembers will also consider allowing the Santa Monica Parent Teacher Student Association to hold its annual college fair at the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium for free.

The October event — currently held at the Santa Monica High School gymnasium — allows students and parents to meet with representatives from more than 150 colleges and trade schools.

The call for a new location comes after years of growing pains, as the event's growth forced students to wait in long lines outside the high school gym.

If approved, an estimated \$8,800 of rental and parking fees would be waived.

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Diners can log on before eating out

KITCHENS, from page 1

or safe enough to eat somewhere.

MAKING THE GRADE

At the end of the past fiscal year, which ran from July 2004 to June 2005, 91 percent of Santa Monica businesses received an "A" rating, 9 percent better than the county average of 82 percent. In each of the three previous years, Santa Monica remained well above the county average, Powell said. In Santa Monica, the health department in 2004-05 graded 657 businesses, 122 of which are restaurants and 136 are markets.

"I think the merchants in Santa Monica should be proud," Powell said of the results.

During the past fiscal year, there were a total of 1,483 inspections in Santa Monica, with 1,350 of them resulting in "A" grades, or 91 percent. There were 118 "B" ratings (8 percent) and 13 "C" grades (.9 percent) in 2004-05. Only two inspections resulted in less than a "C" grade, which accounted for .1 percent.

Those grades that result in less than a "C" are serious violations in health department officials' view. Restaurants whose grades drop below a score of 70 are usually shut down. But oftentimes, restaurants will be closed temporarily even if they have a grade above a "C."

Countywide, there were 1,048 closures, or 1.5 percent of all restaurants. That's up from the average of 1.2 percent, Powell said.

"Closures are a big deal for us," Powell said. "We only close facilities if there is an endangerment to public health."

He added that a lack of hot water is a top reason for closures, which is usually noticed first by front-line employees like dishwashers. It's up to management to stay on top of those issues.

"It's a matter of being attentive," he said.

TEMPORARILY OUT OF SERVICE

Although it's unknown how many restaurants were closed in Santa Monica during the last fiscal year, a review of recent closures on the health department's Web site shows that there were 11 restaurants temporarily out of service in Santa Monica within the past three months.

In all of the cases, either the presence of rodents or insects — including cockroaches, a lack of potable water or hot water, or sewage issues forced the restaurants to shut down. Each has since reopened, but not all them have received a healthy report card.

For instance, the upscale Buffalo Club, 1520 Olympic Blvd., still has a "C" score of 75 points after it was shut down on July 25 because of rodent infestation. The restaurant opened back up on July 30.

The health department also forced the following restaurants to close since May:

■ Acadie, 213 Arizona Ave. Closed on May 10 and reopened on May 10 with a B

rating. Reason: No potable water supply or hot water. Current grade: A.

■ Big Bowl, 1916 Lincoln Blvd. Closed on July 5, reopened on July 7. Reason: Prevention of entrance and harborage of vermin. Rodent infestation. Current grade: B.

■ Broadway Deli, 1457 Third Street Promenade. Closed on May 20, reopened on May 20 with a B rating. Reason: Sewage. Current grade: A.

■ Busby's, 3110 Santa Monica Blvd. Closed on May 26, reopened on May 28 with a C rating. Reason: Prevention of entrance and harborage of vermin. Insect infestation. Current grade: A.

■ El Taxate Restaurant, 316 Pico Blvd. Closed on July 13, reopened July 17. Reason: Prevention of entrance and harborage of vermin. Cockroach infestation. Current grade: B.

■ Hot Dog On A Stick, 1633 Ocean Front Walk. Closed on May 12, reopened on May 12 with an A rating. Reason: No potable water supply or hot water. Current grade: A.

■ Magicopolis, 1418 Fourth St. Closed on May 4, reopened on May 10. Reason: Prevention of entrance and harborage of vermin. Rodent infestation. Current grade: B.

■ Nu Wilshire, 1314 Wilshire Blvd. Closed on July 21, reopened on July 21. Reason: Prevention of entrance and harborage of vermin. Vermin infestation. Current grade: A.

■ Tom's, 2350 Pico Blvd. Closed on July 19, reopened on July 22. Reason: Prevention of entrance and harborage of vermin. Vermin infestation. Current grade: B.

■ Ukraina Delicatessen, 1207 Wilshire Blvd. Closed on July 18, reopened on July 18. Reason: Sewage. Current grade: A.

THE REPORT CARD IN SCALE

On the health department's Web site, which is about four week's behind current inspections, it shows that of Santa Monica's 657 businesses which handle food, 631 of them have "A" grades; 25 have "B" grades and one has a "C." None have less than a "C" grade. The Web site shows that 20 businesses have a perfect score of 100.

"That's pretty high," Powell said. "Santa Monica traditionally has always had a high level of performance."

But what does the letter mean to the average consumer?

An "A" rating means the establishment has between 90 and 100 points. A "B" rating indicates the place has between 80 to 89 points and a "C" rating gives between 70 and 79 points. If an establishment falls below a "C," it is deemed unsafe to operate and will be shut down until the violations have been corrected.

Starting with a score of 100, points are knocked off based on the seriousness of a given infraction.

"High-risk" violations carry six-point deductions and range from everything

from unsafe food temperatures to a lack of employees washing their hands, or evidence that rodents, cockroaches or flies pose an immediate risk. A restaurant could be shut down for any violation in this category.

Inspectors have special flashlights that can detect whether rodents have been crawling on food. "Moderate-risk" violations carry four-point deductions that also address food temperatures in thawing meats, or if the food is being prepared in an inappropriate place.

"Low-risk" violations carry one-point deductions and mostly address operational procedures like employees not wearing hair restraints, structural problems in the building or inappropriate storage of food and supplies.

WINDOW DRESSING

The health department requires that every establishment hang its dirty laundry in the front window for all to see.

It's no problem when the sign says the restaurant has an "A" rating, but when it slips to a "B" or a "C" a customer may think twice before eating there.

Many restaurant managers will tell customers that the establishment fell to a "B" or a "C" because one minor infraction was found, like a towel was left on the floor. But in reality, it may have been several violations that led to the downgrade because the score is cumulative.

For example, an employee not wearing a hair net accounts for a one-point deduction.

"That might not be a big deal for the county but for someone who once found a hair in their food, it might be," Powell said. "That might be the deal-breaker (on whether they eat at the establishment)."

The public can ask to see the health department's report because the restaurant is required to provide the details if asked.

The health department requires that signs be posted in all food establishments that tell the public that they can request on the spot a copy of the latest inspection report. By looking at the report, the consumer will be able to see whether or not the restaurant's employees didn't wash their hands, the place has rodents or it isn't handling food properly.

Consumers also can log onto the health department's Web site at www.lapublichealth.org/rating to read inspection reports on any restaurant in the county.

"The public is not savvy, not informed enough to know what the grade means," Powell told the Daily Press in 2002. "The key here is to be transparent and we are going to tell people what we found."

Powell did acknowledge, however, that consumers in Santa Monica are more savvy than many citizens in LA County. As a result, grades tend to be higher here because people eat out more frequently, have access to the Internet and are more affluent.

"Santa Monica has an informed consumer demographic," Powell said. "They are more choosy."

Powell notes that the restaurant rating portion of the health department's Web site was the most active of the county's system. A study conducted by the health department a few years ago found that diners who eat out at least twice a week use the grading system to make their decisions on where to go.

"I believe it has become part of the dining experience," Powell said.

DIRTY KITCHENS EXPOSED TO PUBLIC

The rigorous grading system was instituted in 1998 after a Los Angeles television news station went undercover into restaurants and found egregious behavior in kitchens throughout the county.

Public concern turned into political outrage, and a month later, a grading system went into effect and mandatory public education was required. Now, every owner has to pass a test for food handling.

Since Santa Monica adopted the grading system in 1999, the amount of restaurant closures and dirty, unsafe kitchens has been reduced significantly.

Inspectors show up unannounced and during the restaurant's busiest time to get the best picture of how an operation is run day-to-day. Critics say it only gives the health department a "snapshot" of what's going on in the kitchen. Powell disagrees.

"How we find you is how you operate," he once said. "We try to change habits and change behavior. Grading and coming unannounced tends to change people's habits and teach them that they have to be diligent and prepared all the time."

Six months after the grading system was established, the health department created a voluntary program that allows food establishment operators to initiate their own inspections up to 10 days after an inspector showed up unannounced and handed them a grade. The health department decided to allow the program after the industry responded to the grading system, arguing unannounced visits from inspectors didn't represent how the operators performed overall.

The operator can call the health department within three days of receiving a grade, pay a fee within seven days and an inspector will come out within 10 days, Powell said.

"We'll come out as if we've never been there before," he said. "It's their ace in the hole and most places improve."

Operators can use the program once a year. Health department inspectors will typically come back to the establishment within 30 to 60 days unannounced.

"In order to keep the integrity of the program intact, we'll come back," Powell said. "That's to overcome that they got dressed up for the occasion."

During the 2004-05 fiscal year, 68 operators in Santa Monica used the voluntary program. Countywide, 2,464 establishments used the program last year.

"I am really pleased that Santa Monica is responding and is using the program," Powell said.



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STATE



Some eye-popping cash for dueling drug plans

BY BETH FOUHY
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — The soaring price of prescription drugs has led federal and state lawmakers to seek ways to ease the burden on uninsured residents. But in California, the land of direct democracy, drug companies and consumer groups are going straight to the voters with dueling initiatives in one of the costliest campaigns in U.S. history.

Both measures on California's Nov. 8 special election ballot would cover uninsured residents of all ages who are not eligible for Medicaid, the federal health program for the poor. But they differ on how many people would be eligible and whether drug companies would be forced to participate.

Proposition 79, backed by a coalition of consumer groups and unions, would offer prescription drug discounts to uninsured individuals and families making up to four times the federal poverty level - up to \$37,000 for an individual and \$75,000 for a family of four. It would discourage any companies that refuse to provide discounts from participating in the state's \$4 billion Medicaid program, and would allow residents to sue drug companies for "illegal profiteering."

"Proposition 79 is the wrong proposition for the people of California," said Jan Faiks, vice president for government affairs at the Washington-based Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers Association of America. "We will spend as much as it takes to educate the voters. It is that important to us."

PhRMA has made good on that promise. Since June, the California Initiative Fund, an industry-controlled account, has collected more than \$59 million, according to campaign finance reports released this past week, a figure that should rise significantly. Drug companies

including Pfizer, Merck & Co. and Glaxosmithkline each made identical contributions of nearly \$8.4 million to the fund.

By contrast, the pharmaceutical industry spent a total of \$9.4 million to affect federal elections in 2004, according to the Washington-based Center for Responsive Politics.

At this pace, drug companies' spending will easily surpass the previous record for a state initiative campaign, of \$66 million, spent by Indian tribes in 1998 to legalize casino gambling on tribal land in California.

"The amount they've collected is breathtaking, and it shows how scared they are and how much trouble they think they're in," said Anthony Wright of Health Access California, a consumer group backing Proposition 79. "Is this a David and Goliath fight? Yes. But there are lots of Davids out there who are suffering through high drug costs - and remember, David won."

The drug industry's alternative is Proposition 78, based on legislation supported last year by Arnold Schwarzenegger, who as governor has received over \$377,000 in contributions from drug companies.

It would allow drug companies to voluntarily participate in a plan offering discounts to uninsured residents earning three times the federal poverty level - up to \$28,000 for an individual and \$56,000 for a family of four.

Many states, including California, have programs that provide drug discounts to senior citizens and the disabled, but only Hawaii, Maine and Michigan have programs that cover people of all ages. Arkansas, Maryland, Montana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Rhode Island have recently passed laws creating low-cost drug programs for uninsured of all ages, but none have yet launched.

But as the nation's most populous state, California

presents more of a threat to the drug companies' bottom line, and the idea of allowing people to sue over "illegal profiteering" has mobilized industry lobbyists like never before.

A statewide Field poll released last month showed voters favoring both initiatives, with 64 percent saying they support the industry initiative and 54 percent supporting the consumer measure.

That deeply concerns both sides. Under state law, voters can say yes or no to either or both of the initiatives - and if both pass the measure with the most votes becomes law.

Both sides have tried to negotiate a way out of this political war. The obstacle, both sides say, is that the propositions can't be removed from the ballot.

That means that even if a compromise were reached, it would have to be placed on the ballot as a third alternative to compete with the other two - a recipe for even more voter confusion.

State Sen. Deborah Ortiz co-sponsored the industry-backed bill last year. She said a legislative solution could have been reached that would have eliminated the need for an expensive ballot showdown, but "heavy handed" campaigning by opponents got in the way.

"What's really unfortunate is, all this aggressive opposition really had to do with politics, not policy," Ortiz said. "Shame on all of them."

Sofya Rubinshteyn, 58, who lives in San Francisco with her husband on a combined income of about \$30,000 per year, cares less about politics than about getting help - and soon. She takes three separate medications to control her high blood pressure. Her husband, a diabetic, takes numerous drugs every day.

"We need whatever it takes to reduce the cost of medication - it's a necessity to survive, it's not just a luxury," Rubinshteyn said.

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DEAR DORIE

A lack of focus worries mom

Dear Dorie,
I've noticed that my 3-year old son doesn't like to try new things. He seems really set in his routine and slow to warm-up with playdates and things like that. Is this normal?

— Watching and Waiting

Dear Waiting,
Toddlers love set routines. The more safe and secure they feel in a given environment, the more comfortable and confident they will behave in their exploration and play. This is critical for their development and, take a deep exhale here, not a warning sign of antisocial behavior.
That said, a reluctance to play with a new friend or a refusal to get in the car to go to the park for example, can be frustrating to a parent. Here are a few suggestions: Make sure you allow plenty of time to transition from one setting to the other. Offer a 20-minute notice for the end of an outing, rather than the usual five-minute warning. Lay out tomorrow's agenda during your bedtime ritual (e.g. "tomorrow after breakfast, we're going to Johnnie's house to play," and provide transition objects in the car or stroller like your son's favorite books or small toys — these items shouldn't be taken into places, but used to soften his nerves during the transition.
Finally, if it ain't broke don't fix it. If he's happy with something, allow him ample time to experience it. Re-read favorite books again and again, play with the same toys and luxuriate in your son's ability to stay focused. Good luck.

— 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).



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Don't trip! Guidelines for parents bringing home baby

By Daily Press staff

You have to take lessons and pass a test before you can drive a car, but every day, first-time parents without any experience take their new babies home.
Taking care of a baby can be complex. Below are some tips from local doctors that are designed to make the first few days with baby a little less frightening:

Holding your baby
Babies cannot hold their heads up for several weeks. Always support your newborn's head and neck. There are several ways to safely carry a baby:
■ Hold your baby against your chest, with his head resting on your shoulder. With one hand, support his head and neck, and with the other hand, support his bottom.
■ Lay your baby across one arm, resting his head in the crook of your elbow and supporting his bottom with one hand. Your other arm offers additional support.

Burping your baby
Babies hate having gas. It's uncomfortable and they have no way to help themselves burp. Try some of the following burping methods:
■ Sit your baby upright on your lap. Lean him forward over one hand and gently pat his back with the other.
■ Hold your baby upright with his head against your shoulder. Gently pat his back with your other hand. (Bonus: Many babies are soothed by the close body contact and may drift off to sleep.)
■ Lay your baby face down on your lap and gently pat his back.

Bathing your baby
Babies only need two or three baths a week. Over-bathing can dry out their skin and cause discomfort. However, if your baby loves being bathed, you can bathe him more frequently if you avoid using any soap or shampoo.
■ Until the umbilical cord stump has fallen off — usually in the first week — give your baby sponge baths. Lay him in a portable tub or on a dry towel and gently bathe him using a warm, wet sponge.
■ When your baby is ready to use an infant tub or regular bathtub, fill the tub with only an inch or two of water. Gently lay your baby on his back and wash him with a warm washcloth or sponge.
■ Wash your baby's face first, moving on to his arms, legs and trunk, and finishing with his diaper area.
■ Never leave your baby or toddler unattended in the bath. Not even for a second. If the phone rings or someone knocks on the door, wrap your baby in a towel and take him with you. You can finish the bath later.
■ It's a good idea to set your water heater's thermostat no higher than 120 degrees. Hot water can easily scald your baby's sensitive skin.

(Jeffrey Penso, M.D., a pediatrician at Saint John's Health Center in Santa Monica provided information for this article. To find a pediatrician like Dr. Penso (or any type of physician), log onto the Saint John's Web site at www.stjohns.org. Select "Find a Physician" and respond to the computer prompts. Browsers can choose from a wide range of specialists, which are then sorted by location, gender and language. The service instantly refers patients to one of Saint John's experienced and caring physicians.)

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Don't miss your chance to join a parent/child group at the nationally renowned Early Childhood Parenting Center. Enroll now for fall classes – parent/infant and parent/toddler. Classes meet weekly and are led by trained child development specialists. Located at the Quaker House in Santa Monica. Call 281-9770 for more info.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 11
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 enjoy the Latin Alternative Music Conference with Plastilina Mosh and Nortec Collective. Parents 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.

SAT. & SUN., AUG. 13 & 14
GARDEN CONCERT for KIDS at the GETTY – 4:00 p.m.
Linda Tillery and the Cultural Heritage Choir present a percussive concert exploring African-American roots music. FREE! \$7 parking, 1200 Getty Center Dr., 440-7300.

SAT., AUG. 13
WATER FESTIVAL at KIDSPACE – 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Dance in a fountain, create a water drop and join in a water race as kids explore the scientific and artistic properties of water. Bring a towel! Free with admission of \$8. Kidspace Children's Museum, 480 N. Arroyo Blvd., Pasadena, 626-449-9144.

BIG! WORLD! FUN! FAMILY SERIES at the FORD – 10:00 a.m.
Today's performance features the Lulu Washington Dance Theatre presenting a glimpse into the African-American experience through music and dance. Ages 4 -11, \$5. John Anson Ford Theatre, 2580 Cahuenga Blvd., Hollywood, 323-461-3673, www.ford-damphitheatre.org

SUN., AUGUST 14
KIDS CREATE at HOLLYWOOD & HIGHLAND – 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
This new program in conjunction with the Children's Museum of LA encourages artistic expression. Today's theme is "Sink or Float" in which kids learn about buoyancy by creating a 3-D sculpture and testing it to see if it floats. FREE! Hollywood and Highland Center, 323-467-6412.

TUESDAY

MOMS Club of Santa Monica Playgroup – 11:00 a.m., for children born 1/04 – 9/04. Call or email Alison at 393-4481/riversalison@hotmail.com for more info. All moms welcome!

Movies for Moms! 11:00 a.m., 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/reelmoms 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 thru Aug. 30.
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. 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 – Baby IBY (6 weeks to pre-crawling) – 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. With Khefiri Riley at Ocean Oasis, 1333 Ocean Ave. Register at www.khefiri.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.

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-998-1981 - no pre-reg required, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

MOMS Club of Santa Monica Playgroups – 4:30 p.m., separate groups for children born in 2000 and 2001. Call or email Alison at 393-4481/riversalison@hotmail.com for more info. All moms welcome!

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. Current session thru 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 thru 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.
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.

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-998-1981, 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

MOMS Club of Santa Monica Playgroup – 3:30 p.m., for children born 3/03 – 12/03. Call or email Alison at 393-4481/riversalison@hotmail.com for more info. All moms welcome!

Storytelling

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.
Youth Chess Club – 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. All levels welcome.
Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.
Toddler Story Time – 10:15 a.m., for 2 year olds, current session thru 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. 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.

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-998-1981 - 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 born from 10/04 to present. Meet for conversation, support and playtime. All new Moms welcome! Call or e-mail Alison at 393-4481, riversalison@hotmail.com for 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.

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.

Other

Baby Attuned - Fridays, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., A new program promoting sensitive parenting and developmental awareness. 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., 9:45 – 10:45 a.m., \$15 per class; Parent Enrichment once per month , 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.santamonica yoga.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.

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.
Barney Madness at the Santa Monica Playhouse
Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m, thru Sept. 25; \$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
Magiopolis – 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
Magiopolis – 2 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$15. Call 310-451-2241 for info.
Barney Madness at the Santa Monica Playhouse
Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m, thru Sept. 25; \$12 adults, \$10.50 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 2 for reservations, www.santamonicaplayhouse.com, 1211 4th St.
Family Funday at the Will Geer Theatre Botanicum – 11:00 a.m Live music and theatre for all ages. \$8, 1419 N. Topanga Canyon Blvd., Topanga, 455-3723, www.theatricum.com.

Breastfeeding

Working Mother's Support Group
The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd. - Call 998-1981 for more info.

MONDAY

MOMS Club of Santa Monica Playgroup – 9:30 a.m., for children born 1/02 – 2/03, Call or email Alison at 393-4481/riversalison@hotmail.com for more info. All moms welcome!

Storytelling

Main Library – Lap Time at Joslyn Park, Craft Room, 9:30 a.m. A series for babies up to two years old, ("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., 310-998-1981 - 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
Itsy Bitsy Yoga – TOT IBY (crawling – 2/3 years) – 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. With Khefiri Riley at TURNOUT Performing Arts Center, 12113 Santa Monica Bl., St. 201. Register at www.khefiri.net or call 323-549-5383.
Yoga Garden, - Restorative yoga for pre/postnatal – 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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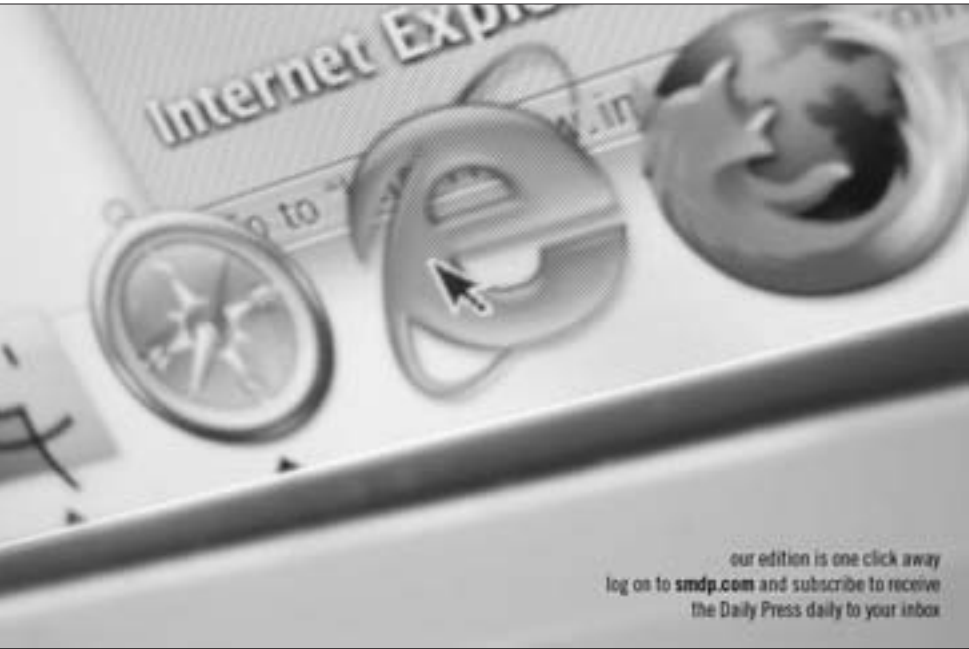
STATE

Getting a job in LA is worker's best shot

GET A JOB, from page 1

ic activity.
In the report, Los Angeles County had 235,000 businesses, followed by Cook County, Ill., with 128,000 and Manhattan, also known as New York County, with 103,000.
In 2003, businesses in Los Angeles County hired 3.8 million workers who earned \$147 billion. Meanwhile, Cook County had 2.4 million employees who

made \$102 billion and New York City had 2 million workers with a payroll of \$148 billion.
Among the nation's most populous counties, Manhattan had the highest average annual salary per worker at \$73,000 while the lowest was in Riverside County at \$29,000.
Rounding out the top five counties with the highest number of businesses are Harris County, Texas with 86,000 and Orange County, Calif., with 83,000.



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STATE BRIEFS

The skies have it: High-rise boom intended for housing

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A high-rise building boom, the fourth since World War II, is taking shape downtown in a growth spurt to meet the demand for housing rather than commercial space.
Nearly two-thirds of towers 20 stories or more built nationwide from 1986 to 1992 were for office use, but McGraw-Hill Construction economist Jennifer Coskren said the trend “has really flipped” with a trend toward residential high-rises.
McGraw-Hill, which tracks projects nationwide, said about 84 percent of new towers in the past three years were for residential, multifamily use.
The trend will change the downtown Los Angeles skyline. The last new high-rise was the 750-foot, 52-story Two California Plaza, completed in 1992.
Some 32 towers are planned or under construction downtown.
Two residential towers are already under construction near Staples Center and they will be joined by a 55-story hotel and condominium complex breaking ground this year. Near the Walt Disney Concert Hall, at least five skyscrapers are planned, including a 40- to 50-story building, and there’s a 33-story loft building at 9th and Flower streets.
“The most vigorous market for new buildings is residential,” said Carol Willis, founder and director of the Skyscraper Museum in New York City. “And that’s just because the prices are phenomenally high.”
“It’s more profitable, and it reverses the historical trend” that most tall structures should be office buildings, she said.

Carjack retaliation leaves one man dead

By The Associated Press

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. — Two men shot three people, killing one of them, before firebombing a Bloomington home in apparent retaliation for an attempted carjacking, a relative and investigators said.
Larry Troy Howell, 47, a 43-year-old woman and a 17-year-old girl were shot inside a house about 2 a.m. Sunday by two men who then threw a Molotov cocktail into the home, said Cindy Beavers, spokeswoman for the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department.
Two boys, ages 12 and 13, escaped the home unharmed.
Howell’s half sister Patty Lair, 45, of Rialto and neighbors said they were convinced the attack was retaliation for an attempted carjacking on Saturday night that backfired on the assailants.
The men wanted to get even with a man staying in Howell’s home because the man’s girlfriend, the intended carjacking victim, stabbed her attacker, Lair said.
“They said, ‘Your boy (messed) up,’” Lair said.
Howell, the woman and the girl were in a back bedroom when the shooting began, Beavers said. Howell was killed and the woman and teenager, whose names were withheld, were hospitalized.
There were no arrests.
“They have some pretty solid information and also some possible suspect information,” Beavers said.

Pit bull attacks have controllers up in arms

By The Associated Press

PALMDALE, Calif. — Twenty-two pit bull attacks so far this year in the Antelope Valley have led animal control officials to hire more officers and crack down on irresponsible dog owners.
Pit bull attacks have climbed dramatically this year, including the March attack of a 47-year-old woman who was dragged around her yard by a neighbor’s pit bull mix that chewed off pieces of her arms, prosecutor Kelly Cromer said.
There were only six pit bull attacks in the Antelope Valley last year, which is about average for the desert area, said Kaye Michelson, a spokeswoman for the Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control.
“People shouldn’t own dogs who are basically bred to attack,” Cromer said. “If the dogs are not properly trained and socialized, it’s not the dogs’ fault. It’s the owners’ fault.”
As a result of the March attack and subsequent pit bull encounters, the county Board of Supervisors approved spending \$245,000 to hire four more animal control officers and a shelter aide to combat the growing problem.
Michelson said the problem could stem from the recent population boom in the Antelope Valley.

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NATIONAL



Bush signs on for energy bill; no quick price relief in sight

BY NEDRA PICKLER
Associated Press Writer

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — As crude oil prices hit a new high Monday, President Bush signed a bill that will give billions in tax breaks to encourage homegrown energy production but won't quickly reduce high gasoline prices or the nation's dependence on foreign oil.

"This bill is not going to solve our energy challenges overnight," Bush said in a speech shortly before he signed the 1,724-page bill at the Sandia National Laboratories. "Most of the serious problems, such as high gasoline costs or the rising dependence on foreign oil, have developed over decades. It's going to take years of focused effort to alleviate those problems."

In the near term, the new legislation will extend daylight-saving time, give tax breaks to drivers who buy cars with fuel-efficient technologies and try to jump-start the construction of new nuclear power plants.

Supporters say that in the long run, the new law will refocus the nation's energy priorities and promote cleaner and alternative sources of energy.

"The bill recognizes that America is the world's leader in technology, and that we've got to use technology to be the world's leader in energy conservation," Bush said.

Environmental groups and other opponents say the bill amounts to a gift to energy companies that does nothing new to promote renewable energy.

The bill's price tag - \$12.3 billion over 10 years - is twice what the White House had first proposed. It does not include Bush's desire to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil exploration. Drilling advocates, however, have a backup plan that is expected to unfold in mid-September.

The measure funnels billions of dollars to energy companies, including tax breaks and loan guarantees for new nuclear power plants, clean coal technology and wind energy.

Before signing the bill, Bush toured the Energy

Department's national solar thermal test facility, which was built in 1976 in response to the oil embargo and energy crisis. Bush walked in a field of mirrored solar panels, wearing shirt sleeves and sunglasses to ward off the bright midday sun.

For consumers, the bill would provide tax credits for buying hybrid gasoline-electric cars and making energy-conservation improvements with better windows and appliances in new and existing homes. Also, beginning in 2007, the measure extends daylight-saving time by one month to save energy, starting three weeks earlier in the spring, and adding a week in the fall.

Bush traveled from his Texas ranch to sign the bill in the home state of Republican Sen. Pete Domenici, the chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Domenici was the driving force in ending a four-year standoff in Congress and getting the measure passed with bipartisan support last month.

New Mexico Sen. Jeff Bingaman, the Energy Committee's top Democrat, praised the passage of the bill but said more must be done to tap the potential of renewable energy, address global warming and use less oil from overseas.

The bill did not "markedly reduce these imports," Bingaman said in a statement. "We need to build a consensus around effective steps to use less oil in our transportation sector, which is the basic cause of our increasing reliance on oil imports."

Shortly before Bush signed the law, crude oil rose to a record high of more than \$63 a barrel, reflecting market fears over the U.S. embassy closure in Saudi Arabia due to security threats and concerns that shutdowns of U.S. oil refineries would reduce supply.

Deb Callahan, president of the League of Conservation Voters, said the bill will do nothing to improve the environment, reduce dependence on foreign oil or bring down gas prices even in the long term.

"They did as little as they possibly could in order to have a nice talking point," she said.

Residents skeptical terror camp could have existed without notice

BY JEFF BARNARD
Associated Press Writer

GRANTS PASS, Ore. — Even in a town as small and out of the way as Bly, Ore., local folks find it hard to believe that Islamic militants might think they could train with assault rifles on a sheep ranch without anyone noticing.

"Ridiculous," said Marilyn Thomas, who runs the Pit Stop convenience store in Bly, a tiny ranching community in the high desert of south-central Oregon.

"I'm from Chicago, where I didn't even know my neighbors," she said Monday in a telephone interview. "Here they know what you're going to do before you do it. And if you don't do it they get mad."

A six-page complaint unsealed in a New York court alleges that Haroon Rashid Aswat, 30, a British-born citizen of Indian descent, spent a month at a sheep ranch outside Bly in December 1999 as a representative for a religious leader in London to see if it would serve as a base for training Islamic militants from London and the United States to fight in Afghanistan.

A fax outlining a recruiting brochure for the camp said people could train in "archery, combat, martial arts and rifle and handgun," according to the complaint.

Authorities have said the camp never materialized beyond a dozen people taking target practice in a cinder pit. Even that was abandoned, for unknown reasons.

Aswat is the fourth person arrested in connection with the camp. The complaint does not identify the religious leader who sent him from London or his contact in Seattle, but closely tracks charges brought against Muslim cleric Abu Hamza Al-Masri and James Ujaama of Seattle. Ujaama pleaded guilty to lesser charges and authorities have said he agreed to cooperate in the investi-

gation.

Aswat is accused of violating a federal law prohibiting conspiracies and preparations for killing, kidnapping and maiming people or damaging property in a foreign country.

Bly is an unincorporated town of a few hundred people located 50 miles east of Klamath Falls. Its name comes from the mispronunciation of an Indian word for a place where two rivers come together. The high school closed in 1968, and the town has been struggling to survive since a lumber mill shut down about 20 years ago.

Though a few miles outside town, the ranch is near a highway and surrounded by scattered rural homes, making it unlikely that sustained assault rifle fire could go on without someone taking notice, Bly residents said. They took notice in 1999 when people in Middle Eastern dress living at the ranch came to town.

An unidentified witness cooperating with prosecutors who was promoting the training camp idea to an unidentified religious leader in London described Oregon in a fax as a state that supported militia activity and firearms, and "looks just like Afghanistan," according to the complaint.

Aswat was taken into custody in Zambia last month, where he had been detained in connection with the July 7 bombings in London. British officials want to question him about 20 phone calls reportedly made on his South African cell phone to some of the four suicide bombers who killed 52 people in the attack.

He was brought back to London over the weekend, and a judge on Monday ordered him to remain there until Thursday pending an extradition request from U.S. authorities. His lawyer has proclaimed Aswat's innocence.

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NATIONAL

Jennings, face of ABC News, succumbs to cancer

BY DAVID BAUDER

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — Peter Jennings was the face of ABC News.

The urbane Canadian-born broadcaster delivered the nightly news to Americans over five decades. He was there for every big story, be it war or weather.

Jennings, who announced in April that he had lung cancer, died Sunday at his New York home, ABC News President David Westin said in a statement. He was 67.

“Peter has been our colleague, our friend, and our leader in so many ways,” Westin said. “None of us will be the same without him.”

With Tom Brokaw and Dan Rather, Jennings was part of a triumvirate that dominated network news for more than two decades, through the birth of cable news and the Internet. His smooth delivery and years of international reporting made him particularly popular among urban dwellers.

“Peter was born to be an anchor,” Brokaw said Monday on NBC’s “Today.” He said he met Jennings in 1966 covering Ronald Reagan’s campaign for California governor and “we had an instant friendship.”

“Peter, of the three of us, was our prince. He seemed so timeless. He had such elan and style,” Brokaw said.

Rather, appearing on ABC’s “Good Morning America” tribute to Jennings, noted that beneath Jennings’ polished exterior was a fierce competitor.

“If Peter was in the area code, I didn’t sleep,” Rather said.

Jennings dominated the ratings from the late 1980s to the mid-’90s, when Brokaw surpassed him. He remained a Canadian until 2003, when he became a U.S. citizen, saying it had nothing to do with his politics.

“He was a warm and loving and surprisingly sentimental man,” said fellow ABC anchor Ted Koppel.

Jennings deeply regretted dropping out of high school, and he would have wanted that lesson passed along, Koppel said. He made up for it by becoming a student of the world, studying cultures and their people for the rest of his life.

“No one could ad lib like Peter,” said Barbara Walters. “Sometimes he drove me crazy because he knew every detail. ... He just died much too young.”

Jennings was wherever the big story was. He logged more than 60 hours on the air during the week of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, offering a soothing sense of continuity during a troubled time.

“There are a lot of people who think our job is to reassure the public every night that their home, their community and their nation is safe,” he told author Jeff Alan. “I don’t subscribe to that at all. I subscribe to leaving people with essentially - sorry it’s a cliché - a rough draft of history. Some days it’s reassuring, some days it’s absolutely destructive.”

Jennings’ announcement four months ago that the longtime smoker would begin treatment for lung cancer came as a shock.

“I will continue to do the broadcast,” he said, his voice husky, in a taped message that night. “On good days, my voice will not always be like this.”

Although Jennings occasionally came to the office between chemotherapy treatments, he never again appeared on air.

“He knew that it was an uphill struggle. But he faced it with realism, courage, and a firm hope that he would be one of the fortunate ones,” Westin said. “In the end, he was not.”

Broadcasting was the family business for Jennings. His father, Charles Jennings, was the first person to anchor a nightly national news program in Canada and later became head of the Canadian Broadcasting Corp.’s news division. A picture of his father was displayed prominently in Jennings’ office off ABC’s newsroom.

Charles Jennings’ son had a Saturday morning radio show in Ottawa at age 9. Jennings never completed high school or college, and began his career as a reporter at a radio station in Brockville, Ontario. He quickly earned an anchor job at Canadian Television.

Sent south to cover the Democratic national convention in 1964, the handsome, dashing correspondent was noticed by ABC’s news president. Jennings was offered a reporting job and left Canada for

New York.

As the third-place news network, ABC figured its only chance was to go after young viewers. Jennings was picked to anchor the evening news and debuted on Feb. 1, 1965. He was 26.

“It was a little ridiculous when you think about it,” Jennings told author Barbara Matusow. “A twenty-six-year-old trying to compete with Cronkite, Huntley and Brinkley. I was simply unqualified.”

Critics savaged him as a pretty face. Using the Canadian pronunciations for some words and once misidentifying the Marine Corps’ anthem as “Anchors Aweigh” didn’t help. The experiment ended three years later.

He later described the humbling experience as an opportunity, “because I was obliged to figure out who I was and what I really wanted to be.”

Assigned as a foreign correspondent, Jennings thrived. He established an ABC News bureau in Beirut, Lebanon, and became an expert on the Middle East. He won a Peabody Award for a 1974 profile of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat.

On the scene at the Munich Olympics in 1972, Jennings was perfectly placed to cover the hostage-taking of Israeli athletes by an Arab terrorist group. He and a crew hid in the athletes’ quarters for a close-in view of the drama.

Jennings returned to the evening news a decade after his unceremonious departure. In 1978, ABC renamed its broadcast “World News Tonight,” and instituted a three-person anchor team: Frank Reynolds based in Washington, Max Robinson from Chicago and Jennings, by then ABC’s chief foreign correspondent, from London.

Following Reynolds’ death from cancer, ABC abandoned the multi-anchor format and Jennings became sole anchor on Sept. 5, 1983. Brokaw became solo anchor at NBC just days later. Rather had taken the CBS anchor job in 1981.

Starting in 1986, Jennings began a decade on top of the ratings. His international experience served him well explaining stories like the collapse of European communism, the first Gulf War

and the terrorist bombing of an airplane over Lockerbie, Scotland. He took pride that “World News Tonight,” as its name suggested, took a more worldly view than its rivals. Fans responded to his smart, controlled style.

“When it’s clearly an emotional experience for the audience, the anchor should not add his or her emotional layers,” Jennings said in an interview with the Minneapolis Star Tribune.

Two-thirds of local broadcasters responding to a 1993 survey by Broadcasting & Cable magazine said Jennings was the best network anchor. Washington Journalism Review named him anchor of the year three straight years.

With Americans looking more inward in the mid to late-1990s, Brokaw surpassed Jennings in the ratings. ABC was still a close No. 2. When Brokaw stepped down last December, followed shortly by Rather, ABC began an advertising campaign stressing Jennings’ experience.

Jennings’ cancer diagnosis came only a month after Rather left the anchor chair.

Restlessly curious, Jennings pushed ABC News to use the turn of the century for a massive historical study. He co-wrote a book, “The Century,” with Todd Brewster and anchored a marathon 25-hour special ending Jan. 1, 2000. Jennings and Brewster also traveled the backroads to write “In Search of America.”

Jennings also led a documentary team at ABC News, which struck a chord in 2000 with the high-rated spiritual special “The Search for Jesus.”

“I have never spent a day in my adult life where I didn’t learn something,” Jennings told the Saturday Evening Post. “And if there is a born-again quality to me, that’s it.”

Like Rather and Brokaw, Jennings wasn’t entirely comfortable stuck to a studio. He traveled around the world to cover stories and, when he didn’t journey to Asia to cover the aftermath of the tsunami less than four months before his cancer diagnosis, it was noticed.

He is survived by his wife, Kayce Freed, and his two children, Elizabeth, 25, and Christopher, 23.

Dig team looks to Colorado for clues on dinosaurs’ extinction

BY BILL VOGRIN

Associated Press Writer

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — A team of scientists and volunteers will descend on Colorado Springs this month to search for evidence of a monster asteroid they believe smashed into Mexico’s Yucatan Peninsula about 65.5 million years ago.

Many scientists believe the asteroid caused an eruption of ash that blanketed the planet and created an environmental holocaust that wiped out most life on the planet, including dinosaurs.

The ash, with its unique space dust, crystals and soot from global fires, is said to have eventually compressed into a layer of clay that circled the Earth and now lies buried beneath 65 million years of sedimentary rock.

A team from the Denver Museum of Nature and Science says it has found evidence of the clay and its asteroid ash in Colorado Springs and the surrounding region. They hope a three-day dig this month will produce more proof.

“We are studying all the rock underly-

ing the city,” said Kirk Johnson, chief curator of paleontology at the Denver museum.

Scientists believe the asteroid was about six miles in diameter and moving at 20,000 mph.

When the asteroid hit, scientists believe, the impact was catastrophic, superheating the Earth’s atmosphere and incinerating all large forms of animal life including dinosaurs, large mammals and 50 percent of all insect and plant life.

“It really kind of wrecked the planet,” Johnson said.

The asteroid’s impact left a crater upward of 100 miles wide. Scientists believe they have discovered the crater 200 miles west of Cancun beneath millions of years of sediment on the tip of the Yucatan Peninsula and in the waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

The impact also caused an eruption of ash and debris that, according to theory, swept across the Earth, eventually choking out sunlight, lowering the global temperature, contributing to acid rain and other dramatic climatic changes.

It’s only a theory; many scientists dis-

miss it in favor of a theory that volcanic eruptions are to blame for the cataclysmic loss of animal and plant life and disruption of the global climate.

But Johnson believes it was an asteroid, and he’s among a large number of scientists who search the globe for the layer of clay with its unique space dust, quartz crystals fractured by massive force and soot from fires that resulted from the impact.

That’s what Johnson and a team of a dozen or so scientists, students and volunteers will be searching for in Colorado Springs.

The key is finding the layer laced with iridium, an extremely rare metallic chemical element similar to platinum.

Two sources of iridium exist. It is found in the Earth’s core, brought to the surface in eruptions of certain types of volcanoes. And it is found in space rock, like meteors and asteroids, and the cosmic dust that constantly showers Earth’s atmosphere.

The theory is difficult to prove because, generally, the layer of clay is buried deep below the Earth’s surface - except in Colorado Springs and other

places where the Earth’s crust has been disturbed by uplift and erosion.

Here, the clay can be found at the surface or just below. It’s often unearthed by construction of roads, buildings and homes.

That’s because the uplift that created the Rocky Mountains pushed layers of prehistoric rock to the surface. Colorado Springs’ topography gives scientists access to rock as deep as the Pierre Shale formation, which dates to 70 million years ago, and Fox Hills, a layer of ancient beach deposits from a time when Colorado was covered by an ocean.

Then comes the distinctive iridium-laced clay, which is 65.5 million years old and separates the Cretaceous period - the last age of dinosaurs - from the Tertiary/Paleocene, when mammals became the dominant species on Earth.

Above those layers are the Laramie and Dawson formations, which are only about 55 million years old.

In recent years, Johnson’s team discovered the clay in an outcropping east of Kiowa in Elbert County.

INTERNATIONAL



Sandstorm delays Iraqi political meetings on constitution

BY BASSEM MROUE
Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A blinding sandstorm in Baghdad Monday forced the postponement of marathon negotiations between Iraqi political leaders working to overcome obstacles blocking agreement on a new constitution, with only a week before a deadline to complete it.

Saddam Hussein's family, meanwhile, said it has dissolved his Jordan-based legal team and appointed Iraqi lawyer Khalil Dulaimi as the "one and sole legal counsel." The move was seen as reorganizing the defense ahead of Saddam's upcoming trial.

At least six Iraqis were killed in scattered ambushes Monday in Baghdad. U.S. forces also clashed with insurgents in the volatile city of Ramadi, 70 miles west of Baghdad, but no casualties were reported, Iraqi police said.

President Jalal Talabani hosted a first round of constitutional talks at his Baghdad home Sunday, but a second meeting, originally scheduled for Monday evening, was canceled as the storm reduced visibility in the capital to near zero. Kurdish leader Massoud Barzani had planned to attend, but was stranded in northern Iraq since the storm grounded aircraft.

Participants said the 2 1/2-hour meeting Sunday produced no breakthroughs with the Aug. 15 deadline looming, and Sunni Arabs repeated their opposition to transforming Iraq into a federal state.

Saleh al-Mutlaq, a Sunni Arab, said the leaders did manage to prepare a "working program" for a second session Monday

afternoon. He would not elaborate.

With divisions deep on key issues like the role of Islam, federalism and national identity, Talabani acknowledged that agreement would not come quickly. Some Iraqi politicians said intense American pressure would be required to bring all sides together.

Before the meeting, U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad urged all the parties to make compromises so Iraq "will serve as a democratic model" for the Middle East and "take its proper place in the international community."

Talabani, a Kurd, said the leaders recognized the gravity of the challenge facing them and would exert all efforts to meet the deadline.

"After this meeting, we're going to have continuous meetings and I'm optimistic that we will reach, God willing, positive results," he said. The Bush administration hopes a new constitution will build political momentum and, over time, lure many Sunni Arabs away from the insurgency, which is rooted in that once-dominant but now discontented minority.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said the insurgency in Iraq was losing steam as a political force.

"If you think about how to defeat an insurgency, you defeat it not just militarily but politically," Rice said in an article appearing on Time magazine's Web site.

Once parliament ratifies the constitution, voters will deliver their verdict in an Oct. 15 referendum. Passage would lead to national elections in mid-December.

If all goes according to plan, the United States envisions being able to begin

pulling out some of its 140,000-strong military force in Iraq starting next year.

The approach of the charter deadline has brought hardened political positions. Shiites insist Islam be declared the main source of legislation, which is opposed by Kurds and many female activists fearing a rollback of their rights. Sunni Arabs, meanwhile, strongly oppose the key Kurdish demand for federalism.

With some of Saddam's more than 22-lawyer strong defense team criticized for past comments deemed damaging to the defense, a statement by Saddam's family, and signed by his oldest daughter Raghda, said the family was "obliged to rearrange the legal defense campaign given the unique nature of the case."

The statement did not elaborate on the reasons. But a person close to the family with knowledge of the case said they were angered by statements issued by various lawyers and wanted only one legal voice to speak on Saddam's behalf. The person spoke on condition of anonymity to avoid upsetting the family.

One of the Iraqi judges who have interrogated Saddam also accused the ex-leader's lawyers of making up stories of ill-treatment in hopes the trial will be moved outside Iraq.

In an interview Sunday, Judge Munir Haddad, an Iraqi Kurd, told Associated Press Television News that Saddam's first trial will begin "within 45 to 50 days." The first trial will involve Saddam's alleged role in the 1982 massacre of Shiite Muslims in Dujail north of Baghdad.

Haddad denied recent claims by al-Dulaimi that the former president was

attacked during a court appearance in late July and said such stories were an attempt to get the trial moved to Europe, where the death sentence is banned.

Also Monday, Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari, seeking to stem unrest after about 1,000 protesters clashed with police in riots over shoddy utility services, sent a government delegation to the riot-torn city of Samawah, about 230 miles southeast of Baghdad. One person was killed and 75 others injured in the clashes Sunday in the Shiite city where Japanese troops are based.

The city was generally calm, despite earlier rocket-propelled grenade attacks targeting the offices of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, the country's largest Shiite group that was widely blamed for the shoddy services. Demonstrators also damaged the governor's office.

The U.S. command said Sunday that two Army soldiers and a Marine died in two bombings the previous day. At least 1,828 U.S. military personnel have died since the Iraq war began in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

In other developments Monday:

■ An employee of the Trade Ministry, another from the Environment Ministry and a translator were killed in three separate shootings in Baghdad.

■ Two civilians and a former Baath Party official were gunned down in separate ambushes in the capital.

■ Two bodies of handcuffed men who had been shot in the head were discovered in Numaniya, 110 miles southeast of the capital, police Col. Qassem Hamza said.

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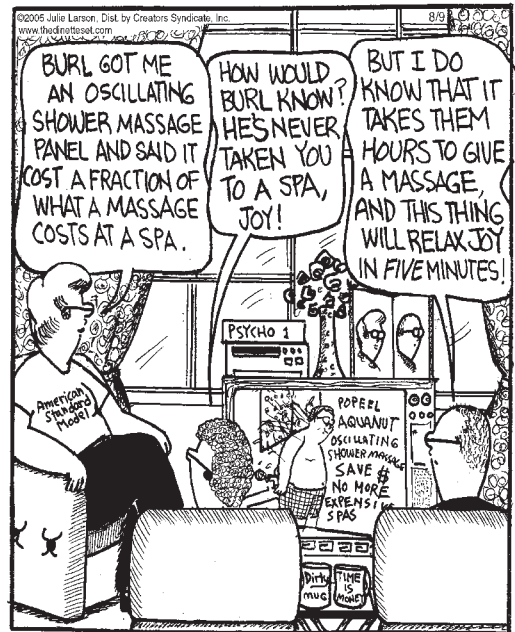
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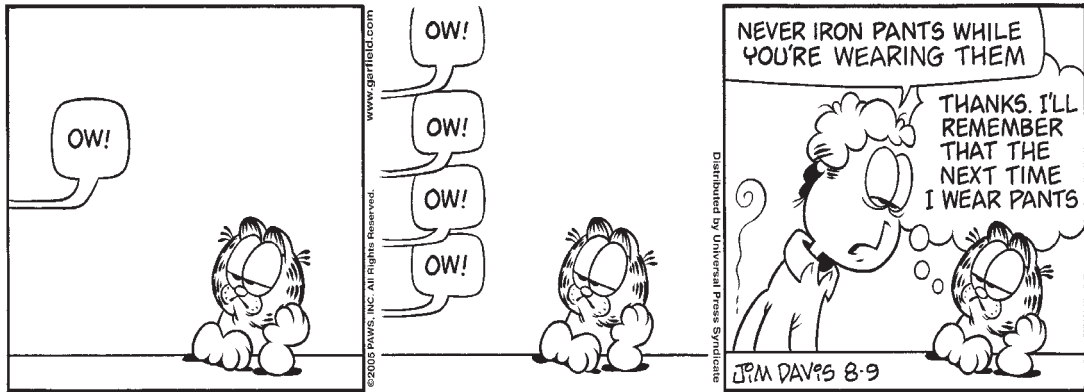
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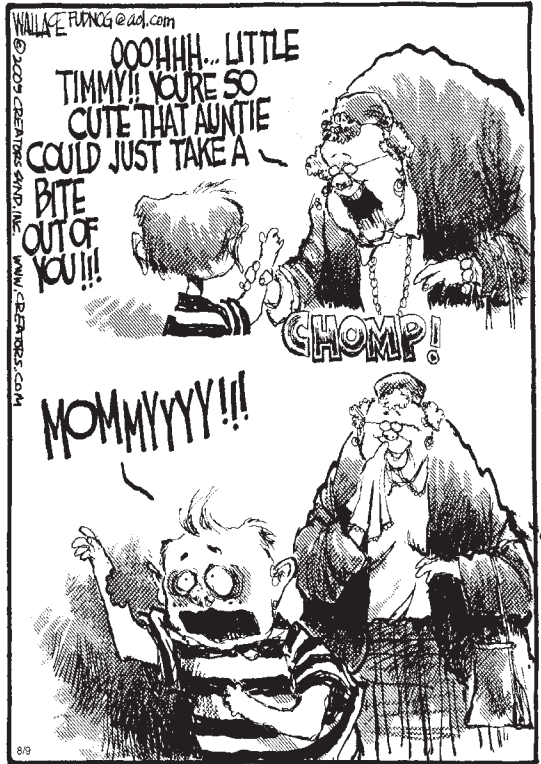


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 - 32 Joined (together)
 - 34 Nabokov book
 - 35 Fake locks
 - 36 "The Motorcycle Diaries" subject
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 - 40 Labor group
 - 41 Jeer at
 - 42 Transmits
 - 43 Cribbage needs

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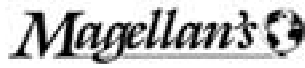
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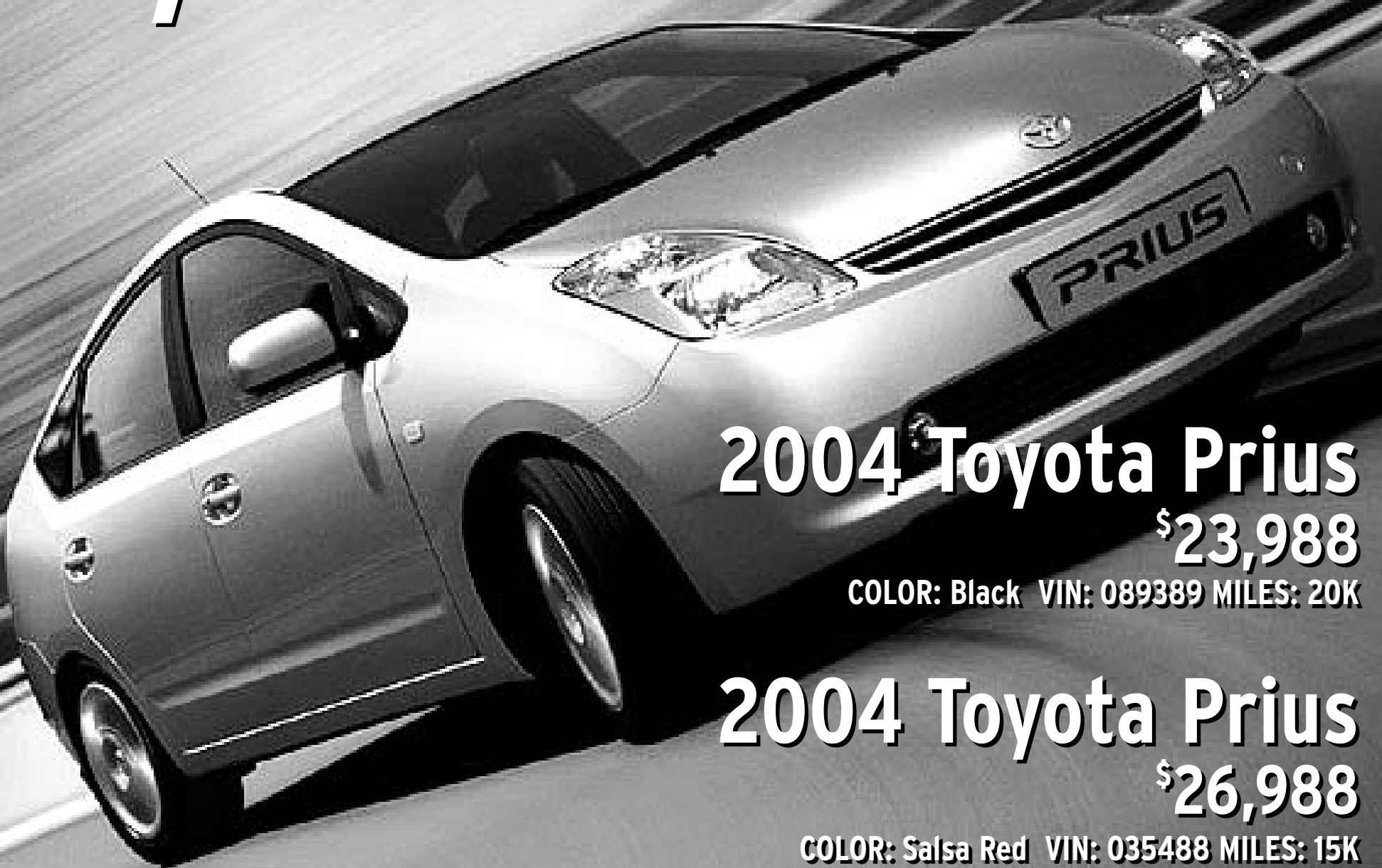
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