

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO
3 8 16 22 35
Meganumber: 17
Jackpot: \$16 Million

FANTASY 5
10 12 19 21 39

DAILY 3
Daytime: 4 1 4
Evening: 9 9 3

DAILY DERBY
1st: 05 California Classic
2nd: 08 Gorgeous George
3rd: 10 Solid Gold

RACE TIME: 1:49.28
Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site: <http://www.calottery.com>

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

In this year's Maccabiah Games in July in Tel Aviv, historically open only to Jews and Israelis, the 84-kg. weight class of Greco-Roman wrestling was won by Mohammad Babulfath, an Iranian-born Muslim who wrestles out of Sweden. Maccabiah authorities attribute their admission error to the inartfulness of their announcement on a wrestling Web site, phrased as an "invitation" to Maccabiah, which led Babulfath and two non-Jewish teammates to believe that they had been formally invited to compete. Once they showed up, Maccabiah officials decided to let them wrestle.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 235th day of 2005.
There are 130 days left in the year.

On Aug. 23, 1927, Italian-born anarchists Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti were executed in Boston for the murders of two men during a 1920 robbery. (Sacco and Vanzetti were vindicated in 1977 by Massachusetts Gov. Michael S. Dukakis.) In 1926, silent film star Rudolph Valentino died in New York at age 31.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"No matter what accomplishments you make, somebody helps you."

ALTHEA GIBSON
AMERICAN TENNIS CHAMPION (1927-2003)

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SM Place plans are out of fashion

BY RYAN HYATT
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE — Plans to re-develop Santa Monica's downtown indoor shopping mall have been put on hold until the fate of one of its fashion retailers is revealed.

The owner of Santa Monica

Place mall recently announced it will postpone plans to re-construct its downtown retail establishment until an agreement is made allowing planners to incorporate the closure of Robinsons-May into the design scheme.

Representatives from Macerich, Inc., the national mall operator which owns Santa Monica Place, would not speculate when new proposals may come forward. As a result of its Aug. 8 announcement, however, the first public look at any re-development proposals will likely not come forward in September, as originally planned.

The news follows a July 28 announcement that Federated Department Stores, Inc., a national retailer which owns Macy's, will sell 68 "duplicate" stores in malls occupied by both Macy's and Robinsons-May as result of a merger. Federated representatives said the local Robinsons-May store will likely be sold off in 2006.

Santa Monica Place, located between Second and Fourth streets and Broadway and Colorado avenues, is anchored by dual department stores Macy's and Robinsons-May, the latter occupying 137,000 square feet of retail space.

See MALL STALL, page 6

LOCAL

Two teenagers shot, suspects at-large

By Daily Press staff

PICO NEIGHBORHOOD — Two teenagers suffered minor injuries when they were shot Sunday night while standing on the sidewalk at 20th Street, between Michigan Avenue and Pico Boulevard.

At 9:12 p.m., Santa Monica Police responded to the 1800 block of 20th Street regarding a call of shots fired. Arriving officers located two victims — the first, a black male, sustained a gunshot wound to his lower right leg, while the second victim, a Hispanic male, sustained a grazing wound to his back. The victims, both of whom are Santa Monica juveniles, were transported to local hospitals with non-life threatening injuries.

The suspects are described as two male Hispanics in their 20s. The suspects' vehicle is described as an older model dark Chevy Astro or Ford Aerostar van with rear tinted windows.

It's unknown whether the shooting was gang-related, said SMPD Lt. Frank Fabrega, adding the investigation is ongoing.

Anyone with information is encouraged to contact the robbery/homicide unit of the SMPD at (310) 458-8451 or the watch commander's office at (310) 458-8426. Callers who wish to remain anonymous, yet still become eligible for a reward, also may call the WeTip national hotline at 1-800-78-CRIME (27463).

Shots fired



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Rubin Rodas, a sixth-grader from Hawthorne Middle School, took first place in the 11- to 13-year-old category in the Santa Monica Elks Club's Annual Soccer Shoot-out, staged Monday at the Santa Monica Boys and Girls Club.

Airing their hang-ups about life in the 424

BY ROBERT FATURECHI
Special to the Daily Press

State officials are considering adding a new Westside area code to meet high consumer demand, an imminent change leaving many dialers feeling disconnected.

When the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) votes on the new 424 area code on Thursday, officials will be left to decide which of two area code tactics will suit the 310 area better — a geographic split or a triggered overlay.

A split, which the CPUC leaned toward in 2000, would create a

new 424 area code south of the Imperial Highway, leaving the rest of the 310 region untouched.

An overlay, preferred by the major telephone companies, would create new 424 lines within the same region as existent 310 lines — a change that could result in residents having to dial 11 digits to call even a neighbor.

While existing numbers would maintain their 310 prefix in the case of an overlay, numbers requested following the transition would take on the new 424 area code.

Opponents of the overlay are working to block the efforts of T-Mobile, Nextel of California,

Verizon Wireless, Sprint, SBC and other major phone companies.

"I think the overlay is a very bad thing. It would force people to dial 11 digits even when they were calling their next-door neighbor," said City Councilman Ken Genser. "The choice is between an overlay and a split, and I think a split would be much better."

Each option has its pros and cons.

While an overlay would force Westside residents to dial an area code when making local calls, it would allow existing business

See SPLIT DECISION, page 6

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Work overtime, Scorpio

Santa Monica Daily Press



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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Your ability to adjust separates you from the majority. If you see the logic in a situation or in a very different concept, you can go with it. Use your assets (not necessarily money) to the max, and you, as well as those who are fortunate enough to be around you will gain. Tonight: Slow your hectic pace.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Take today for what is offered to you. A partnership reshapes itself slowly but surely. Realize your limits within the present framework. Get ready to take action in the near future. Listen to suggestions. Tonight: Get extra rest; you are going to need it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Your spirit is remarkable, even in the face of adversity. You have the unique ability to turn situations around because of your listening skills, ingenuity and willingness to pitch in. Organize yourself, as well as others. Tonight: Go to a baseball game or get into a group sport.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Others find your ability to work with the ebb and flow of different situations remarkable. You might need to take on the role of troubleshooter at work or with a key project. Look for better and more efficient ways to accomplish what you must. Tonight: Burn the candle at both ends. Try to come in early.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Take an overview, if possible. Not everyone will agree with you. Your creativity plugs into your problem-solving ability. You find answers while others start a commotion. Stay on your chosen path. Tonight: Sometimes impulsiveness is good.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ A partner whispers information in your ear. You, as a result, might need to revamp your ideas, or at least your approach to a situation. Work with this person, for now. You might decide to go on your own very soon. Tonight: Chat with a confidant.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Working with others can challenge you right now. If you cannot make your point using your normal conversational style, try another way. Words mean different things to different people. Be creative. Tonight: Accept an invitation out.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Adjust your budget to your present financial situation, not to what you wish it was or what you project it to be. Work with hard facts. Your imagination is one of your greatest assets, but not with money and your budget. Tonight: Work overtime or clean up a project.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You twist and turn in different directions trying to solve a situation. You have the creativity and intelligence to come up with dynamic and powerful ideas. Harness your fiery spirit and come up with answers. Tonight: Ever playful.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ A domestic matter or a real estate involvement needs to be revisited or updated. At the same time, new ideas demand another mindset. Dig within and use that ability to revise your thinking. Tonight: Happy at home.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Your style of expressing yourself brings a reversal with someone who's key to the quality of your life. You laugh, and someone else responds. Look to a meeting where you can help present a different point of view. Tonight: Turn in early.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You might need to listen more carefully to a boss or a respected confidant. He or she has the answers, whether you want to hear them or not. Revise your thinking in order to work with a higher-up, or consider a change. Tonight: Your treat.

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PUBLISHER Ross Furukawa ross@smdp.com	ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE Rob Schwenker schwenker@smdp.com	NIGHT EDITOR Michael Tittinger .. somechum@smdp.com
EDITOR Carolyn Sackariason editor@smdp.com	ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE Stewart O'Dell stewarto@smdp.com	CLASSIFIEDS SALES MANAGER Annie Kotok anniek@smdp.com
STAFF WRITER Ryan Hyatt ryanh@smdp.com	TRAFFIC MANAGER Connie Sommerville ... connies@smdp.com	CIRCULATION Keith Wyatt
SANTA MONICA PARENTING Nina Furukawa nina@smdp.com	PRODUCTION MANAGER Alejandro Cesar Cantarero II alex@smdp.com	CIRCULATION Glenn Bolan
ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER Robbie P. Piubeni rob@smdp.com	NIGHT EDITOR Lori Luechtefeld lori@smdp.com	SPECIAL PROJECTS Dave Danforth dave@smdp.com
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Fabian Lewkowicz		MASCOT Maya Furukawa maya@smdp.com

LOCAL



Flex appeal



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Nationally ranked bodybuilder Bee Smith strikes a pose at Venice Beach this past weekend. The 41-year-old Smith, who weighs 150 pounds and stands five feet tall, is prepping herself for the national bodybuilding competition on Nov. 18 in Atlanta.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Singing group serves up ice cream

By Daily Press staff

It will be an old-fashioned event at a local church next month when a barbershop quartet will serve up some ice cream.

The Santa Monica Oceanaires Barbershop Chorus will give free ice cream at

See BRIEFS, page 7



SURF REPORT

Overall, southerly periods are averaging 16 seconds from 180 degrees, and NW periods are running 8 seconds from 305. In SoCal, south-facing breaks are doing best with waist-high surf, chest-high at times at standouts. West-facing breaks are running waist-high.

Today should still have some southerly energy left, with sets running waist- to chest-high at breaks with good southerly exposure.

Today the water is:

67°

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	5:45	-0.1	6:06	1.0	N/A	N/A	12:04	5.4
TUESDAY	6:19	0.6	7:08	1.0	N/A	N/A	12:43	5.5
WEDNESDAY	6:53	1.4	8:23	1.1	1:05	4.2	1:25	5.4
THURSDAY	7:27	2.1	9:59	1.1	2:25	3.4	2:16	5.2
FRIDAY	7:55	1.8	10:27	0.9	3:05	3.1	2:50	4.9

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The Q Line

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Santa Monica has received more than \$700,000 in federal funding as part of a \$10 million nationwide pilot program designed to get chronically homeless people off the streets. Santa Monica officials, who hope the grant will help put 30 people in housing, estimate 90 percent of the money will go toward rent for some of those who have been on the streets the longest.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "What has to be taken into consideration by local officials to make this pilot program as successful as possible?"

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.

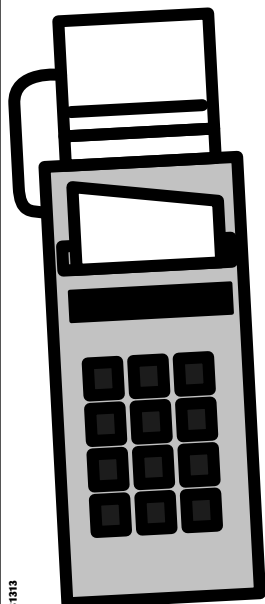
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Nice digs for the down-and-out

Editor:

While I am generally supportive of services for the homeless, I was amazed to read in "Wishes granted for alcoholics, chronic homeless" (SMDP, weekend edition, Aug. 20-21, page 1) that the HUD funds will be used to place them in "market-rate housing," and later that the homeless people have been placed in one-bedroom apartments in Santa Monica.

We all know this is an extremely high-rent city. Unless these are women with children, how can the city explain placing the homeless in one-bedroom apartments when many people who work here cannot afford those apartments? Could some of that money not be used to provide other services?

Sara Chesluk
Santa Monica

Seniors quite capable of being culpable

Editor:

The letter writer Hanna Levinson (SMDP, Aug. 5, page 4), per the Farmers' Market tragedy on July 16, 2003, seems to me to intimate that senior citizens are incapable of committing violent crimes and, worse, deserve to be excused from receiving condign justice in the event that they do.

Some months before Mr. Weller's "mishap" at the Farmers' Market, in fact, another senior citizen was found guilty by due process in a court of law in Santa Monica of deliberately running over a pedestrian who had "flipped him out," i.e., digitus impudicus. He dragged the pedestrian under his car for several blocks, flaying him and killing him while, according to eyewitness accounts, singing "Whoopie!"

Cease and desist the foolishness. An aircraft piloted by someone nasty or disgruntled could be substituted for a car to wreak havoc on the Santa Monica Farmers' Market, or any other municipality market anywhere else. There is no "barrier" under the sun sufficient to curb a "runaway" vehicle of any sort. The city of Santa Monica is totally and incontrovertibly innocent.

William Cook
Santa Monica

Fare play: Citation a small price to pay

Editor:

I was driving east along Montana Avenue, just after 1 p.m., Aug. 1, toward the end of my third week in Santa Monica. At 16th Street and Montana Avenue, my eye caught the flashing lights of an officer's motorcycle and I picked out the whine of the motorcycle siren.

I know the stretch from 13th to 18th along Montana well. My wife and I had stayed for three weeks on 17th Street, between Washington and Montana. Each day of our visit, we stopped at the Montana branch of the library. We shopped at Wild Oats, had muffins and coffee at Via Dolce, picked up the Daily Press at corner boxes. We even knew the UPS driver on the route. We stopped our rented Ford at all intersections when a pedestrian crossed.

The officer cited me for not stopping as a pedestrian began to step off the curb into westbound traffic. I was in the eastbound far right lane. The officer reported he usually did not cite out-of-towners but a man, he said, had recently been struck at the site.

Later that day, at the court I found I owed \$146. I could contest the citation but had to first pay the full amount. If successful contesting, I would receive a refund of the penalty.

I don't know if my contesting will succeed. If I fail, I prefer to consider the \$146 fee a fair price for the smiles, good nature, high quality service, and rich ambiance of the Montana Street branch library, where an even playing field for all, residents and visitors, homeowners and homeless, prevails.

Howard Sage
New York City, NY.

Insurance plan just what the doctor ordered

Editor:

Bravo to Sen. Shelia Kuehl for taking on our tortured, twisted and uneven method of delivering health care, (SMDP, Aug. 16, page 1).

Her well researched and practical bill should be given a good hard look by citizens and media alike who would do well to approach the bill with positive support and constructive suggestions.

To not build on this amazingly sound and innovative bill, SB921 would mean missing out on an opportunity of major importance and urgency for our state. Ultimately, it could well prove to be a model for the country over all.

Mary Kay Gordon
Santa Monica

We all have crosses to bear, for Christ's sake



WHAT'S THE POINT?

BY DAVID PISARRA

I had lunch last week with a friend of mine, who is a doctor. She comes from a very Democratic family, very liberal in their thought. And, with me being a lawyer, there's a natural competition between the two of us with tinges of playful animosity. We like to engage in intellectual word games and philosophical stand-offs. One of the nice things about this banter is that it breeds further understanding and insight on both our parts.

She comes from a relaxed Jewish background. Her family is not extremely devout but she is married to a very devout person. My background is pretty much religious mutt. I am the spawn of a fallen Catholic father, a wayward Protestant mother, with strong influences from a Lutheran next-door neighbor. I worked at a Jewish day camp in high school. So when it comes to discussing religion (i.e., Christianity versus Judaism versus Islam), I don't necessarily have a great deal of academic expertise.

At our lunch the topic was the profound shift in America towards fundamentalist Christianity. The discussion wandered into why we don't see or hear about Jews trying to push agendas when it comes to social issues.

In digging into what are the reasons why there don't seem to be Jewish activists, it was pointed out to me that one is traditionally Jewish by birth and there is no history of proselytizing in the Jewish faith. Consequently they don't solicit the publicity or the headlines of a Jerry Falwell or a Fred Phelps.

I find that basic difference to be very telling. Not only in interfaith relationships but in relationships in general. In all of our relationships the most relaxed, the most easy going and enjoyable relationships have an ease and comfort about them. Look to your best friend. How often do we spend time sitting in judgment of our best friend?

Generally our best friends are those whom we are willing to forgive their flaws. We accept their quirks, and let them be late, or forgive them if they show up too early, because we love them. And because of that, the relationship flows much more smoothly.

Those people we judge the least are generally ones we get along with the best. And they, in turn, accept us, which allows the relationship to grow. And it might not grow into a "best friend" relationship, but it allows for a smoother social intercourse. But then the principle halts when we push it to our wider circle of our acquaintances, whether they be co-workers, neighbors, bosses or that jerk with the bald head.

I think that's why we all try so hard to fit in, to be liked and to be like others. In similarity is comfort. If you and I share the same social values, and material values, there's a greater likelihood that we're not going to be judging each other, which is why all those little Stepford communities in Orange County look alike, and the people dress alike and everyone acts alike. The problem is that it creates an "us versus them" mentality. We who all fit in

versus those who don't.

On the one hand, orthodox Jews are probably the most accepting, in that it is an objective fact to them, who is born Jewish versus who is not. If you are Jewish great, if you're not, well, your loss. It is probably smug, but they do it behind closed doors or in their own communities, and frankly I find that a lot more palatable. It is a matter of simple respect — respect for my right as a human being to lead a life that is separate and apart from someone else's.

I don't find that same respect present in fundamentalist Christians. They choose to lecture and try to convert others to their belief system. For example, in Kansas the schools are now approved to teach evolution and the "new" Biblical theory of intelligent design.

"We think this is a great development ... for the academic freedom of students," said John West, senior fellow of the Discovery Institute, which supports intelligent design theory. The Discovery Institute has a very professional Web site that looks much like one would expect National Geographic to look like.

That is, until one delves deep and sees "SCIENTISTS, TEACHERS, AND STUDENTS ARE UNDER ATTACK FOR QUESTIONING EVOLUTION — HELP US HELP THEM." Things like this always make me think of that warning about wolves in sheep's clothing.

What is being hailed as a "great development for the academic freedom of students" by this Phi Beta Kappa Ph.D. is the watering down of the teaching of the scientific theory of evolution. These would be the same fundamentalists that don't believe that sex education should be taught in schools, nor contraception distributed because those are parental responsibilities.

Why isn't teaching a biblical theory of sprouting out of the nothingness 6,000 years ago, a parental responsibility which should be taught in the home? The Christian soldiers argue that teaching basic contraception and human reproductive biology is not acceptable because that is a moral issue, which should be taught in the home, but using the Bible as an academic text is acceptable in giving the history of man. How this makes sense is beyond me.

My point here is that you don't see orthodox Jews up in arms about the teaching of evolution in public schools. You don't see the Ba'Hai demonstrating for teachings of their fundamental belief system. When was the last time someone saw a Hindu protesting the serving of hamburgers in school cafeterias? None of these groups set themselves up as the moral arbiters of what is right or wrong for others. They might do it for themselves, and that's fine, that is their prerogative. But they are not telling any other people how to live, what to read and what should or not be taught in public schools. They do in private schools.

Christians like to play the perfect victim. In fact, they set themselves up for it. It's a neat little trick. They throw themselves into the fight, and then get upset when they are bruised and battered. To quote my mother, "I wish they'd get down off the cross, we need the wood."

(David Pizarra can be reached at dpizarra@pizarra.com.)

COMMENTARY



Break through, accept your place in the world

ANY DAY IN LA

BY HEIDI MANTEUFFEL



I'd been looking forward to "The 40-Year-Old Virgin" all week.

Not that it would be incredibly fun to be one or hang out with one, but it was overwhelmingly entertaining to watch. Ever since his role as Brick in "Anchorman," where he invited co-workers to the pants' party, I've been a huge fan of Mr. Steve Carell.

I've never seen someone with so much chest hair, or when having it ripped off yell "Kelly Clarkson." That alone I think was worth the price of admission.

As I was coming out of the theater, though, my roommate of four days pulled me aside and told me that she feels like she's still visiting LA.

Sure we roomed together at Pepperdine, but living two years in Manhattan, New York can make a person feel like a newcomer all over again.

I wanted to reassure her by saying something helpful-sounding and trite. But as we continued to walk down the Promenade toward our car, I had to admit that many days I feel like I'm still visiting too.

It would be one thing if this was my first year out here and I was just getting acclimated. But as I sit down and actually calculate it, I've been in LA for nearly six years.

And considering that I've spent more than half a decade here, that makes me wonder just how much longer it will take to say that LA is my home.

Sure, the scenery of neverending ocean and silicone becomes more familiar. And you soon forget that people actually watch The Weather Channel in other U.S. cities.

But when do you walk down an alley that smells like disinfectant and human urine and say "ahhh, there's no place like home?"

For many people the act of buying a

house, i.e. something that is theirs, makes the move official. In LA, all I can say is good luck with that.

Maybe it's when you trade in your "Show-Me-State" or "First in Flight" license for a California plate. No, for some reason the DMV never puts a warm feeling in my heart either.

Sometimes it's the neighborhood you live in that can help in this area. But around this time of year, just when I start to feel at home, we get four brand new neighbors.

Some with crying babies, some with baby pugs, and some, in the case of the 40-year-old who lives with his mother, just plain babies.

I think making LA your home is like any relationship. You spend half your twenties nit-picking the guys you dated. Drew was too short for group pictures, and Joey was too shy to say hello to me half the time. Jason making homemade bread with his mom is a little too cute, and Terrance constantly waiting three days to call is too "Swingers"-esque. Brian was too much of a vandal and Troy smelled like Huggy fabric softener.

Yes, those scenarios all happened to me. And no I'm not retarded, I did change their names, a little.

But finally, I think you get to the point in your life when you realize that every city, like every person, will have its faults. It's up to you to look past the chanting grandmother neighbor, and decide if morning hmm-ing trumps being with that person. You get over the minutiae, look at the whole picture and say "yes, Santa Monica is my city/boyfriend, and I plan to stick it out with them through thick and thin."

I don't want to be a 40-year-old city virgin all my life. Especially when I'm 40. I admit, like everyone else I would like to find a city to call my home. And even when I walk down a Santa Monica alley with all its natural aroma, I want to be able to say, "ahh yes, that's my city, and isn't he wonderful."

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

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LOCAL

What's in store for mall? Rob-May deal is key

MALL STALL, from page 1

Randy Brant, senior vice president of development leasing for Macerich, said that until Federated announces what will

replace the Robinsons-May store, plans to move forward on the mall's re-development will have to wait.

"Macerich has no choice but to stop all work on a plan that may not be viable if

Rob-May is sold to another retailer and is not willing to work with us on what was being considered as a result of our community outreach program," Brant said.

Brant did not speculate on what may occur once the fate of Robinsons-May is known, including how it might affect the public process that has taken place so far to help "reimagine" Santa Monica Place.

During that public process, staged in the spring, nearly 2,000 residents responded to a questionnaire — and 300 took part in community workshops — in which they outlined what they would like to see replace the mall.

To help expedite the process, Macerich is working with Federated to see if it might be able to acquire the Rob-May site.

"Macerich is interested in controlling in our portfolio all that is planned to be closed as a result of the Federated Rob-May merger," Brant said.

According to Brant, the indoor shopping mall needs to be re-developed because it was based on an old, out-dated suburban model that does not compete well with shops on the Third Street Promenade.

The question of what kind of development should replace Santa Monica Place is one the city has been grappling with in recent years.

The City Council scrapped a proposed development to replace Santa Monica Place last year due to controversy about the height of high-rise buildings that were slated for the site. If implemented, the project would have demolished the existing mall and erected three 21-story residential towers, an eight-story office building and an eight-story apartment building. Those buildings were to be built on top of a new outdoor mall, which developers described as a natural extension of the Third Street Promenade.

Macerich has culled public comment from the workshops, surveys and other outreach in order for consultants to come up with proposals to help re-configure Santa Monica Place.

Assistant City Manager Gordon

Anderson said City Hall has been authorized by the City Council to spend in the range between \$150,000 and \$250,000 to hire Moore Iacofano, and another consulting firm, Keyser Marston Associates, to facilitate the creation of a project that falls within nine council-directed guidelines intended to better satisfy the public's vision for the Santa Monica Place site.

These replacement concepts will eventually be presented to the City Council and the public for final approval, Anderson said. Macerich, the developer, will then reimburse the city for the costs of the consulting services.

Rob York, a financial analyst familiar with downtown business issues, said it would be in Macerich's best interest if it purchased Robinsons-May because it would allow Macerich to be able to manage and control the process.

Diana Gordon, spokeswoman for the Santa Monica Coalition for a Livable City (SMCLC) — a non-profit group of residents suing City Hall to better understand what re-development plans might be underway — said that the postponement will benefit residents and may provide further opportunities for discussion.

Gordon said Santa Monica Place could be incorporated into the city's two-year, ongoing overhaul to its general plan, called "shape the future."

Currently, the Santa Monica Place site has been dealt with as a separate issue from the general plan, which Gordon said may not be appropriate.

"The city is asking residents to envision the future of Santa Monica, and at the same time, it was essentially giving Macerich a green light to proceed without regard to what that process would be, and the two should be intertwined," Gordon said. "Macerich and the city have been asking residents to re-imagine Santa Monica Place, but now it's their turn, because, depending on what happens with (Rob-May), there are new re-configurations for a smaller site.

"This project should not come online for approval until the general plan updates are done."

CPUC's split decision has callers a bit anxious

SPLIT DECISION, from page 1

owners to avoid reprinting office stationery and business cards, according to the CPUC.

Existing phone lines for Santa Monica businesses and homes would maintain the 310 area code, as the beachside community lies north of the Imperial Highway cut-off.

Because a split would not affect local businesses, the City Council passed a resolution against the proposed overlay, Genser said.

"People (in Santa Monica) would have the same area code. People wouldn't have to dial 11 digits every time they make a local phone call," Genser added.

On the other hand, a split would allow callers the convenience of dialing the standard seven digits when making a nearby call.

Regardless of which option the CPUC decides on, an area code transition will be made after telephone companies run out

of 310 numbers, according to the commission's Web site.

Currently, there are 381,000 available phone numbers, according to the CPUC.

The new 424 area code debate was born in 1999, when the CPUC considered an overlay to meet rapidly growing demand. Talk of overlay translated into a public outcry, which swayed the commission to instead implement number-conservation measures.

While the CPUC's efforts served as a temporary remedy, growing demand in the 310 area returned the issue to the forefront.

One conservation method used was "pooling," which allowed telephone companies to obtain only 1,000 phone numbers at a time rather than the usual 10,000, according to the CPUC.

Before "pooling" was used, carriers often bought out large blocks of numbers, without having enough customers, leaving some numbers to go unused for a length of time.

Box-office smash



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

The driver of a Jeep Cherokee drove into the side of the Vidiots video rental building at Third Street and Pico Boulevard on Monday afternoon, resulting in minor injuries and damage. The Jeep, traveling eastbound on Pico, struck a another car before veering into the building.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Photo courtesy

HERE'S THE SCOOP: The Santa Monica Oceanaires Barbershop Chorus are: (left to right, back row) Alan Hansen and Dick Keagy, (front row) Earl Gauger and Marty Mitnick.

BRIEFS, from page 3

their annual "old-fashioned ice cream social" on Saturday, Sept. 10 at the First United Methodist Church in Santa Monica, 1008 11th St., two blocks north of Wilshire Boulevard.

Under the direction of Bob Heron, the Oceanaires will perform a variety of American tunes, along with showcasing some of the group's quartets and a guest quartet.

Admission is \$10 for kids and seniors, and \$15 for adults.

Tickets can be purchased at the door, but advanced reservations are recommended.

Free parking is available across the street from the church.

For further information and advanced ticket sales, contact Jerry Walker at (310) 202-1380 or jwalker@usc.edu.

The Santa Monica Oceanaires Barbershop Chorus is a registered chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, the world's largest male singing society.

Some WISE meetings for the senior sect

By Daily Press staff

Are your affairs in order in the event you die?

To help improve the quality of life for aging adults, WISE Senior Services is providing monthly private estate planning consultation. There is no cost for the half-hour sessions, but they are available by appointment only.

Initial dates for sessions are Tuesday, Sept. 13; Tuesday, Oct. 11; and Tuesday, Nov. 8; between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Attorney Fred J. Marcus from Freeman, Freeman, & Smiley, LLP and chairman of WISE Senior Services endowment committee will advise in all areas of estate planning including setting up a plan, reviewing already existing plans, estate and probate taxes, beneficiary designations and assistance in philanthropic planning.

For more information, or to set up an appointment on the scheduled dates, call Linda Stracher at (310) 394-9871, ext. 431.

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STATE

Bush backers hitting the road to counter Sheehan

BY KATHLEEN HENNESSEY
Associated Press Writer

VACAVILLE, Calif. — A caravan proclaiming support for U.S. troops began a tour through California on Monday and stopped in the hometown of Cindy Sheehan, the anti-war mother who gained national prominence during a vigil outside President Bush's Texas ranch.

Conservative activists and military families embarked on a tour they are calling "You don't speak for me, Cindy!" and are planning rallies in several California cities before heading to Crawford, Texas.

"It's time to lay down the anger. We need to continue to uphold those people over there, to uphold those men and women with their boots on the ground," said Deborah Johns, head of the Northern California Marine Moms, who helped organize the caravan.

"That's not the message being made" by the mother of the fallen soldier, Johns said during a rally in Sheehan's hometown, where about 30 Bush supporters gathered outside the Vacaville Reporter newspaper.

Vacaville was among several stops for the caravan, which is being sponsored by

Move America Forward, a Bay Area-based group. Other rallies Monday were scheduled in San Francisco, Sacramento, Fresno and Bakersfield.

A verbal confrontation erupted when the caravan arrived in Sacramento outside radio station KFBK-AM, where it was met by anti-war protesters chanting "Bring them home."

Tempers flared when Sheehan supporter Dan Elliott, 71, confronted caravan members by waving a sign reading "Death is not support" and heckling Johns as she addressed the crowd.

"You are ruining the morale over there," responded Greg Parkinson, a Bush supporter who said he was on leave from the Army after serving seven months in Iraq. "You don't understand."

Members of the caravan called the anti-war protesters communists and said they were "aiding and abetting the enemy." Those comments enraged Sheehan supporter Dee Ann Heath of Sacramento, who said she has two sons serving in Iraq and another preparing to leave.

"I don't support the war, but I support my sons," she said. "I simply want them to come home."

The pro-Bush caravan plans to join fellow supporters who have set up their own camp in downtown Crawford as a reaction to the Sheehan-inspired vigil.

Several people traveling with the caravan said they have family members serving in the military, and some said they knew Sheehan and her son, Casey.

Toni Colip, 50, of Vacaville, said her son, David, went to high school with Casey Sheehan and is now in the Marines, although not in Iraq. She said her son opposes Sheehan's activities and has asked her to support his military service even if he is injured or killed.

"He said, 'Don't dishonor me. Don't walk on my grave,'" Colip said.

Sheehan's 24-year-old son, Army Spc. Casey Sheehan, died last year in Iraq. She began a protest vigil Aug. 6 on the road leading to Bush's ranch, an act that has encouraged anti-war activists to join her and prompted peace vigils throughout the country.

She vowed to remain until Bush agreed to meet with her or until his monthlong

vacation ended, but she flew to Los Angeles last week after her 74-year-old mother had a stroke.

The pro-Bush caravan plans to join fellow supporters who have set up their own camp in downtown Crawford as a reaction to the Sheehan-inspired vigil. Bush was in Salt Lake City on Monday, where he spoke to a national veterans group to rally support for the war.

Several of those in the caravan said they understood Sheehan's anger but disagreed with her protest.

"This is not the way to honor her son," said Lori Judy, 49, of Vacaville, whose son, Tim, served in Iraq.

Drivers waved flags as the caravan left Vacaville on its way to Sacramento, led by a recreational vehicle and a moving van covered with a sign reading, "Cindy Sheehan does not speak for me."

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STATE BRIEFS

The tribe has spoken: Another Indian hotel in works

By The Associated Press

RANCHO MIRAGE — Another Indian high-rise hotel could break ground along Interstate 10 early as January.

Some 20 miles east of the Morongo Casino hotel tower, the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians wants to build a 16-story hotel with up to 400 rooms alongside its Agua Caliente Casino in an effort to create a destination resort two hours from Los Angeles.

The hotel would include a 100-seat coffee shop, 40-seat swimming pool bar and meeting rooms. The casino would be expanded with plans calling for a 2,000-seat showroom and another parking structure.

The tribe, recognizing a growing competitive threat, released an environmental report giving details of the hotel plan. Construction could begin as early as January, if the environmental impact report is approved by the Indian Planning Commission and Tribal Council.

“Market research has demonstrated the need for expansion of the existing casino in order to remain competitive with other casinos in the region offering enhanced facilities such as hotel, retail, conference and entertainment,” the report said.

The Morongo resort and other casinos in Indio offer such amenities.

The report complies with the Aqua Caliente’s Tribal Environmental Policy Act calling for details about the project’s impact on and off the reservation, tribal planning officer Tom Davis said.

Phase 2 of the project proposes a 350,000-square-foot retail center would be built on 40 acres of land west of Bob Hope Drive. A pedestrian bridge would be built to tie all the developments together.

Smoke screens: Businesses need license for cigarettes

By The Associated Press

RIVERSIDE — In an effort to curb teenage smoking, businesses selling cigarettes may soon be forced to get a license from Riverside County that includes a \$350 annual renewal fee.

The proposed ordinance will be considered by the Board of Supervisors next month.

“Riverside is poised to join the ranks of municipalities getting tough on the illegal sales to children,” said Paul Knepprath, a spokesman for the American Lung Association of California.

Retailers caught selling tobacco products to underage customers would face harsh penalties, including steep fines and license suspension or revocation.

The California Grocers Association opposes the proposal, however, calling it an unnecessary burden. Existing laws do a good enough job and retailers are already paying too much for other fees, association spokesman Gilbert Canizales said.

But Knepprath said existing laws, including the state’s tobacco-sales license with a one-time \$100 fee, are ineffective at policing retailers.

County Department of Public Health director Susan Harrington — her agency proposed the ordinance — said something more must be done to reduce teen smoking.

Five million packs of cigarettes are sold illegally in Riverside County each year and illegal sales to minors have tripled over the past five years, according to a health department report.

The ordinance would generate an estimated \$875,000 in revenue from 2,500 tobacco sellers, which would pay for administering the fee and enforcing the law through inspections and sting operations.

Licensed retailers caught selling tobacco to minors would face fines ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000 and suspensions ranging from one day to as long as five years.

Villa Park wants to go from ‘zero’ to hero

By The Associated Press

VILLA PARK — One of Orange County’s smallest but wealthiest cities feels insulted.

The 43-year-old city of Villa Park — a postage stamp-sized community of 6,500 residents spread out over 2.1 square miles — has a “zero sphere of influence” and should be absorbed in the city of Orange, the Orange County Local Agency Formation Commission said.

"We’re not going anywhere. The reason we’re a city and will be a city is because people call this place home,” said City Manager Ken Domer, who wants the City Council to send a letter to LAFCO protesting the “zero influence” label and disincorporation suggestion.

State law established local agency formation commissions to oversee creation and expansion of cities and the Legislature in 2000 asked LAFCOs to examine government services in their counties and determine if those services were being delivered efficiently.

The Orange County commission’s zero designation for Villa Park, which refers partly to the degree to which it is self-sufficient, means it would make sense for the city to be absorbed by Orange, which surrounds it.

Orange has nearly 140,000 residents over 23.6 square miles.

Villa Park contracts most city services through outside agencies, including the Orange County Sheriff’s Department and the Orange County Fire Authority.

County Supervisors Chairman Bill Campbell, who lives in Villa Park, doesn’t like the disincorporation idea.

“This came out of left field,” he said. “I’m afraid that what it means is that every time someone sells a home, they’re going to have to disclose that LAFCO thinks the city shouldn’t exist.”

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SANTA MONICA

A WEEKLY LOOK AT EVENTS AND PROGRAMS



DEAR DORIE

Mother calling out the shots

Dear Dorie,
Can you tell me why my preschool wants me to test my 3-year-old for TB? Do I have to do this? I understand the vaccination thing, but this seems a little silly.

— Having TB Test Trauma

Dear Traumamom,
As a vaccinating mom, the idea of yet another needle going into my child, perhaps unnecessarily, seemed utterly ridiculous. I empathize with your feelings.
So why do they make us do it? Good question. When I asked my circle of early childhood professionals your question, they all had the same response: the group. Your child will be spending a few hours a day with a large group of children and adults. Should any one of these members be infected, the other members are at risk. You wouldn't want your little one to get TB or give it to someone else, thus the test. FYI, most schools have a TB waiver if your child does not have any risk factors present. Contact your school and health professional for more information about that option.
In the meantime, hang in there for the shots and the paperwork. Your little preschooler will be entering into a whole new wonderful world of friends and fun. It's well worth it.

— Dorie

READER UPDATE: Wednesday, Sept. 7, is the first day of school. If you have a 4-year-old (or a child that will be 4 by Dec. 2), it is not too late to enroll in preschool. The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District has openings in a variety of preschool programs throughout the city. Call 310-399-5865 for enrollment information.

(Submit your questions to "Dear Dorie" at meek@smmusd.org, or call (310) 452-6132.)

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Drive-thrus allow moms to keep up to speed with society

GUEST COMMENTARY

BY AMY PERRITT

The other day I drove into a Starbucks parking lot and pulled up next to a woman standing beside her car wiping her shirt with napkins. A Starbucks cup was lying on the ground nearby, her drink a puddle next to it. The back door of the car was open so I could see that her toddler was sleeping in a car seat.

It was a scene pretty easy to figure out.
"Can I grab you another one?" I said, getting out of my car. My daughter also was sleeping in her seat in the back but my husband was right behind me in his car, ready to stand watch while I ran in to get my much-needed grande non-fat chai tea latte. After a moment of polite hesitation, she agreed and suggested I let the Starbucks employee know it was for "Andrea."

So I did. And sure enough, the extremely courteous employee not only gave Andrea her vente soy latte (I think) for free but her response to me while doing so went something like this: "Oh, I know who you're talking about. I wanted to help her but I couldn't."

I walked outside and handed Andrea her drink and she proceeded to hug me — a complete stranger — but as she put it: "I don't know you but I just have to hug you." And, I got to thinking. Not about how I had done a good deed (wouldn't you have done the same?), but that the world needs more drive-thru establishments.

Not for perfectly-healthy people too lazy to get out of their car and walk into a restaurant to pick up a coffee, a sandwich or a burger. And not for the people who are always in a hurry and can't take the time to park and get out of their car. You know the ones I'm talking about — they look over your right shoulder as you tell them you just lost your job or your grandmother passed away.

Drive-thrus designed for these customer groups simply perpetuate obesity and never-ending anxiety issues. And while I'm no expert on the subject, too many idling cars can't be good for the environment.

The world needs more drive-thrus for mothers, and not necessarily because we want them — most mothers love getting out of the house and car, shopping and interacting with other adults — but because we need them.

Banks, restaurants (preferably healthy), coffee shops,

pharmacies, grocery stores, laundromats ... you name it, we'll drive through it.

Think about when you leave work at the end of the day and run errands before heading home. You quickly park in front of the bank, throw a coin into the meter and withdraw money at the ATM. Perhaps there is a Whole Foods a couple of blocks away so after inserting another 25 cents you walk there to browse up and down the aisles loading a basket with Edamame, bananas, cereal and bottled water.

On your way home, you make two more quick stops — the laundromat where you pick up eight hangers of clothing and your local corner store to grab what it is you forgot at Whole Foods. In case you weren't counting, you have now gotten in and out of your car three times. And, once home, don't forget everything then has to be taken into the house.

Now imagine doing all of this carrying an infant — potentially crying and probably hungry — and anywhere from seven to 25 pounds, most likely sitting in a relatively heavy car seat. Imagine being Andrea.

Ever since I had my daughter I have become the target of a whole new sales pitch. Just the other day while pushing her in the stroller on Third Street Promenade, a woman approached and gave me her business card. She offered maternity and baby massages.

So, I figure I might as well start thinking more about what it is I — now having joined the "mom" customer group — need. And the fact is I would pay double the price for my latte if I could have the choice to drive through or not to drive through to get it.

For now, my daughter and I drive 3.17 miles to get to the closest Starbucks with a drive-thru. Apparently, more than 50 percent of their business comes from the drive through, and a large percentage of these customers are moms, as well as celebrities. Go figure.

I excitedly order my usual — a zucchini nut muffin and grande non-fat chai tea latte — and then drive up to the counter. The always-friendly Starbucks employee smiles and hands me my goodies, all the while my daughter sits in her car seat cheerfully sucking on a toy, or even better, sleeping. Baby Mozart is playing in the background.

"Have a nice day," the employee says ... and I always smile and reply, "I will."

(Amy Perritt is a freelance writer and full-time mom. She can be reached at aperritt@hotmail.com.)

The games people play with their babies

BY DR. JEFFREY PENSO

Special to the Daily Press

Most people love to play with babies. Whether it's a game of peek-a-boo or simply making faces until the baby laughs, playing with your infant is a great way to entertain them, experts say.

And most of the games have the added benefit of stimulating their growing minds and bodies. Listed below are five all time favorites:

Make some moves

Adults are fascinating mysteries to babies. Initially, everything they do interests them, and their pleasure when mommy or daddy suddenly starts dancing is conta-

gious. Even if you can't two-step, your baby is guaranteed to think you are light on your feet if you hold them close and sway to whatever music you are listening to. Dancing is a great way to bond with your baby, parent experts say. Your body contact will reassure them and your movements stimulate their senses and will help them develop a sense of rhythm.

Sing a song

Your singing may sound atrocious to you, but to your baby it is a sweet lullaby. Children love music. Listening while their parent or caregiver sings a song is entertaining and comforting. Babies thrive on familiarity. If you

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Exposition Park, 700 State Dr., LA, 323-SCI-ENCE, www.californiasciencecenter.org.

ONGOING THROUGH SEPT. 5 at the NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

PAVILION OF WINGS, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. daily. Don't miss this live butterfly exhibition with over 7,000 individual butterflies and moths flitting and fluttering by. \$3 adults, \$1 children, 900 Exposition Dr., 213-763-3387

THURSDAY, AUGUST 25

TWILIGHT DANCE SERIES – 7:30 p.m. – BUCK-WHEAT ZYDECO!

Enjoy the 21st season of this great musical event on the pier presented by LACarGuy.com. This will be a super fun family night with Buckwheat Zydeco and others throwing a Louislana Dance Party! 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.

FRI. – SUN., AUG. 26 - 28

HSIAO HIS YUAN PUPPET THEATRE – FREE!
This show features the 9 – 12 inch tall Chuanchow-style wooden puppets performing to traditional peukun music. Showtimes: noon on 8/26, 8pm on 8/27, 3pm on 8/28. California Plaza, 300 S. Grand Ave., 213-687-2159, www.grandperformances.org.

SAT. AUG. 27

BIG! WORLD! FUN! FAMILY SERIES at the FORD – 10:00 a.m.

Today's performance is from Wicked Tinkers, a group of musicians presenting a rousing program of Scottish music. Ages 4 -11, \$5. John Anson Ford Theatre, 2580 Cahuenga Blvd., Hollywood, 323-461-3673, www.ford-damphitheatre.org

SAT. & SUN., AUG. 27 & 28

GARDEN CONCERT for KIDS at the GETTY – 4:00 p.m.
Bilingual recording artist and author Jose-Luis Orozco shares songs and stories of Latin American culture. FREE! \$7 parking, 1200 Getty Center Dr., 440-7300.

SUN., AUGUST 28

SUMMER CONCERT and DRUMMING CIRCLE – 3:30 p.m./5:00 p.m.
5:00 p.m. - Jim Santiown, renowned Indian percussionist, performs; 3:30 p.m. pre-show features a kids drumming circle. FREE! Crestwood Hills Park, 1000 Hanley Ave., Brentwood, 472-5233.

***SPECIAL NOTE** – many of the library story-times are on break until September. Please check the list below carefully and check back for exact starting dates.

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. Today's movie, Aug. 23, is The Great Raid starring Benjamin Bratt, James Franco and Connie Nielson; War/Historical Drama, Rated "R." 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 and Preschool Storytime are on break until September.

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

Cuentos Para Pequenos and Lap Time are on break until September.

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

Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704

Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.

Family Story Time – 7:00 p.m., all ages.

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

Toddler Storytime, 10:00 and 10:30. Music, rhymes and stories for 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.

YMCA – 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 Khefri Riley at Ocean Oasis, 1333 Ocean Ave. Register at www.khefri.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 and Preschool Story Time are on break until September.

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 and Preschool Storytime are on break until September.

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 is on break until September.

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.

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SANTA MONICA PARENTING

A WEEKLY LOOK AT EVENTS AND PROGRAMS FOR SANTA MONICA PARENTS AND PARENTS TO BE

CALENDAR, from page 11

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-B00K.

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.santa-

monicayoga.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.
Barneyard 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
Magicopolis – 2 and 8 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$20 for evening, \$15 for matinee. Call 310-451-2241 for info.
Precious Prints – Ceramic Heirlooms for a Lifetime
Second Saturday every month at The Pump Station, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Contact Kristan Ritchie at 310-802-8013 or visit www.preciousprintsstudios.com for more info.
Lakeshore Learning Stores “Free Crafts for Kids” – Saturdays, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., 8888 Venice Blvd., 559-9630.

SUNDAY

Main Street Farmer’s Market – 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., corner of Main St. and Ocean Park Blvd. Pony rides, live music, lots of vendors and great family socializing.
Puppetolio – 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested
Magicopolis – 2 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$15. Call 310-451-2241 for info.
Barneyard 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 Theatricum Botonicum – 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 is on break until September*
Ocean Park Branch Library – *2601 Main Street, 310-392-3804.*
 “Spanish for Little Ones” is on break until September.

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 Khefri Riley at TURNOUT Performing Arts Center, 12113 Santa Monica Bl., St. 201. Register at www.khefri.net or call 323-549-5383.
Yoga Garden, - Restorative yoga for pre/post-natal – 6:30 p.m., 310-450-0133. www.yoga-gardenstudios.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.

Goo-goo and peek-a-boo: Games build confidence

BABY GAMES, from page 10

sing the same nursery rhyme enough times and they will start to anticipate the words and motions that come next.

Peek-a-boo

A quick game of peek-a-boo has staved off many an airplane temper tantrum. While the pilot may not want to play along, the inquisitive baby across the aisle from you will be fascinated every time you cover your eyes and then magically reappear. It seems far-fetched, but peek-a-boo is more than a distraction. Pediatricians, agree that the game can build infant confidence — teaching babies that you are still there and will reappear even if they can’t see you. It also encourages large motor coordination when older babies begin to imitate the game’s hand movements.

Man in the mirror

Babies love to look in the mirror. It isn’t vanity, however, that drives them to examine their images. Instead, babies are simply fascinated by watching their own facial expressions. Looking in the mirror encourages babies to make a wide range of expressions — especially if you make

funny faces while holding them.

On the move

Babies love to move their arms and legs. Initially, however, they lack coordination. By gently moving your baby’s arms and legs in circular motions while singing a song like “Wheels on the Bus,” you can encourage coordination and muscle control.

Pediatricians agree that playing games with your baby can be an important part of their development. Games encourage everything from motor control to self-discovery. Most importantly, time spent playing with your baby is time you are focusing on them and their needs, and babies of any age are sure to enjoy that.

(Dr. Jeffrey Penso is a pediatrician with Saint John’s Health Center in Santa Monica. To find a pediatrician like him (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.)







NATIONAL



Temporary immigration benefits seen as security risk

BY SUZANNE GAMBOA

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The federal government takes so long to decide whether to grant U.S. residency to some legal immigrants that applicants often have temporary benefits before all background checks are done, leaving the country vulnerable to security risks, officials say.

Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said last month that eliminating delays in processing residency applications — some several years long — would be an important part of the department's agenda, although a spokeswoman would not offer specifics of Chertoff's plan.

Temporary benefits can include work permits and authorization to travel in and out of the country. All the terrorists in the Sept. 11 attacks entered the country through the legal immigration system on tourist, business or student visas. Since then officials have sought to close immigration avenues that could be exploited by potential terrorists.

In a June report to Congress, the Citizenship and Immigration Services ombudsman also raised the delays as a security concern.

"The current green card application process is highly susceptible to exploitation by unscrupulous persons and ineligible applicants seeking interim benefits," Prakash Khatri said in his report. "Green card" is immigration lingo for the document granted when an immigrant has attained permanent legal residency.

With a work permit, an immigrant can get a Social Security number and driver's license and secure credit, the ombudsman said. In some parts of the country, the wait for a green card is so long, immigrants can get three or more work permits before their green card application is adjudicated.

In an interview, Khatri said many security checks are

done before the applicants get temporary benefits, but not all of them.

Last year, about 20 percent of applications for green cards were rejected by Citizenship and Immigration Services, and most of those applicants received temporary benefits. But in some parts of the country the rejection rates were higher: 39 percent in New York last year, for example.

Chris Bentley, a Citizenship and Immigration Services spokesman, said the agency recognizes interim benefits as a potential loophole, which is why it is working to eliminate its applications backlog and have a six-month turnaround time for every application by the end of 2006.

The agency now says its application backlog has fallen to fewer than 1 million delayed cases. But some of that reduction can be attributed to changes by the agency in how it defines the backlog.

Khatri has recommended "upfront" screening to eliminate temporary benefits. In a Dallas pilot project using the mechanism, interviews and paperwork are handled when the applicant walks in the door.

The goal in the Dallas project is for green cards to be awarded in less than 90 days. From May 2004 to June 2005, 58 percent of the cases were completed in 90 days, and temporary benefits were issued to 1,204 applicants, or about 20 percent compared to 85 percent of cases nationally.

About 2,000 of the applications handled under the Dallas program were rejected before they could be filed. Had they been filed through the regular process, those applicants also would have received temporary benefits, Khatri's report said.

Bentley said CIS is conducting pilot programs in Boston, San Antonio and San Diego and will glean the best practices from them to make national changes to how it handles green card and other immigration benefit applications.

Singing for the foreign man

By The Associated Press

PHOENIX — An advocate for immigrants is planning a series of concerts to promote the idea of legalizing millions of illegal immigrants in the United States.

Activist Elias Bermudez said the goal is to raise \$1 million from concertgoers and business donations to air national immigration-reform television ads.

So far, he has raised more than \$43,000 to pay for the concerts.

He has been on Spanish-language radio asking for donations for the event, which he hopes will draw tens of thousands to the Glendale Arena in separate shows in October.

Bermudez organized a demonstration at the Arizona Capitol in May to protest state laws and proposals that he said made life difficult for illegal immigrants.

Bermudez' latest venture, however, is raising eyebrows among some Latinos who question his motives and the fund-raising strategy of collecting money from immigrants by telling them help is on the way.

Though his critics said they have no reason to believe Bermudez will use the money other than to pay for the event and TV ads, they said he personally stands to benefit from the publicity.

Bermudez is the executive director of a Phoenix business that assists immigrants in filling out immigration and tax documents.

"Everyone is making money and benefiting, except the migrants," said Salvador Reza, the head of a day-labor center in northeast Phoenix.

Bermudez said he is aware of the criticism, but shrugged it off, saying he won't keep any money for himself.



**"When I'm not playing my guitar,
I'm reading about Main Street in the Daily Press."**

Gary Gordon, Executive Director, Main Street Business Improvement Association, former Mayor of Gainesville, FL and musician

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NATIONAL

Beef banned under mad cow rules is recalled

BY LIBBY QUAID

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Beef banned under mad cow disease rules was shipped to wholesalers in a half-dozen states and is now being recalled by a Wisconsin beef plant.

The 1,856 pounds of beef came from a Canadian cow. Inspectors there determined the cow was eligible for shipment to the United States, but a Canadian audit two weeks later said the cow was too old to be allowed inside the U.S.

“There is a minimal chance, given the age of the animal and the health of the animal, that there was any risk whatsoever” to people, Steven Cohen, spokesman for the Agriculture Department’s Food Safety and Inspection Service, said Monday.

The U.S. restricts shipments to younger animals because infection levels from mad cow disease are believed to rise with age. The cutoff is 30 months of age.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency is investigating and has suspended the veterinarian who certified the cow, said Francine Lord, import-export manager for the agency’s animal health division. She said the agency finished its audit last week and notified U.S. officials Thursday. The Agriculture Department said Canadian officials verified the cow’s age on Friday.

Green Bay Dressed Beef of Green Bay, Wis., processed the cow on Aug. 4 and distributed the meat to wholesalers in Pennsylvania, Florida, Illinois, Maryland, Minnesota and Wisconsin. The department and the company are trying to find out how much beef wound up in retail stores, Cohen said.

The department issued code numbers for recalled cases of beef sent to distributors, but it was unknown whether beef that reached the retail level would have carried the same numbers.

Consumer groups have criticized the government for not revealing the names of retail stores involved in food recalls.

“When it comes to a case like this, the retailer is never disclosed — how are you ever going to know whether your chuck roast was involved in this recall or not?” asked Jean Halloran, director of food policy initiatives at Consumers Union. “The consumer has absolutely no way of knowing.”

The recall is for cuts of meat that could contain backbone because the cow’s backbone was not removed. Those cuts include neck bone, short loin and bone-in chuck.

The U.S. requires the removal of backbone and nerve parts — which can carry mad cow disease — when older cows are slaughtered. The at-risk tissues are removed

from cows older than 30 months.

U.S. and Canadian officials said the cow in question wasn’t the only problem in a shipment of 35 cows from Ontario: Also in that shipment were eight pregnant cows, which the U.S. also prohibits. The cows were processed for distribution but their calves were destroyed, the Agriculture Department said.

Those cows are part of the Canadian investigation, Lord said.

The U.S. closed its borders to Canadian cattle in May 2003, when Canada discovered its first case of mad cow disease. The government allowed Canadian imports to resume last July after a court battle with a group of western ranchers suing to keep the border closed.

Canada subsequently found two more cases of mad cow disease. The U.S. also found two cases, one in a cow that had been imported from Canada.

Since the border reopened, 40,390 Canadian cows have crossed the border.

Mad cow disease is the common name for a brain-wasting ailment called bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or BSE. In humans, eating meat contaminated with BSE has been linked to about 150 deaths from a rare but fatal degenerative disease called variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

USDA: Money is there for states to maintain the road less travelled

By The Associated Press

CASPER, Wyo. — States that want to study whether to maintain some national forest land as roadless can get funding from the federal government to pay for those studies, a top U.S. Department of Agriculture official said.

Undersecretary Mark Rey said the department had “a couple million (dollars) to help states with some degree of assistance” on their roadless petitions.

The Clinton administration had set aside 58.5 million acres of forest land, protecting it from mining, logging and other commercial use. But the Bush administration modified that rule in May, giving governors 18 months to petition for protections on 34.3 million acres, or to ask for new forest management plans for the remaining 24.2 million acres. Rey said he expected few states to submit petitions, but those that did could get help from USDA paying for their studies.

“We think that the exercise of going through this process should be something that a state could do for a couple of hundred thousand (dollars) on the outside,” Rey said.

Wyoming Gov. Dave Freudenthal, a Democrat, was one of several governors who expressed frustration with the new rules, questioning how federal land managers would evaluate state petitions.

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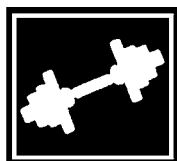


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INTERNATIONAL



Deadline looming large as Iraqi factions debate terms of constitution

BY SLOBODAN LEKIC

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iraqi political leaders met in a final bid to negotiate a new constitution Monday before a midnight deadline.

Some officials spoke of progress, and one said the key was whether Sunni Arabs would agree with compromises accepted by other factions.

Negotiators met for about three hours and convened again shortly after 4 p.m. at the home of Kurdish leader Massoud Barzani in the Green Zone, for talks Kurdish lawmaker Mahmoud Othman said would “be decisive.” He said there was some progress in the earlier session.

A senior government official, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the subject, said an agreement had been reached between the Shiites and the Kurds in the morning.

Those groups were now trying to sell the deal to the Sunni Arabs in the afternoon session.

A Shiite television station quoted Vice President Adil Abdul-Mahdi as saying “major breakthroughs” had been made and that the draft would be submitted to parliament Monday.

Issues holding up agreement were believed to include federalism, the distribution of Iraq’s oil wealth, power-sharing questions among the provinces and the role of the Shiite clerical hierarchy. It was unclear how those issues might have been resolved between Shiites and Kurds.

An initial Aug. 15 deadline was pushed back a week after no agreement was reached. Iraqi officials have insisted they would meet this second deadline and present a final document to the National Assembly, dominated by Shiites and Kurds.

Negotiators for all three communities met in Baghdad’s fortified Green Zone for a new round of talks Monday. Shiite politician Khaled al-Attiah said the political leaders “have tentatively agreed that the National Assembly would meet” Monday evening.

Parliament will either receive the draft of the new charter or vote on setting a new deadline. If it doesn’t agree on either, the legislature will have to dissolve.

Earlier, a Kurdish member of the drafting committee, Abdul-Khaleq Zangana, had said there were problems with “the role of religion and women’s rights.” He would not elaborate but predicted “either an extension — and this is not good — or parliament dissolves — and this is difficult.”

Also before the end of the morning session, Shiite lawmaker Bahaa al-Araji accused the Kurds and secular allies of former Prime Minister Ayad Allawi of trying to “curb the political process” to bring down the government and force new elections.

“If an agreement is not reached, we will hand a draft and win slight majority in a vote and this is our right,” al-Araji said.

Sunni Arab negotiators had complained of being sidelined in the final week of talks and that Shiites and Kurds were cutting deals excluding them.

A Sunni backlash on the constitution could complicate the U.S. strategy of using the political process to lure members of the minority away from the Sunni-dominated insurgency.

Washington hopes that a constitution, followed by general elections in December, will enable the United States and its international partners to begin removing troops next year.

Shiites and Kurds have enough seats in parliament to win approval for a draft without the Sunni Arabs. But the Sunni minority could scuttle the constitution when voters decide whether to ratify it in the Oct. 15 referendum. Under current rules, the constitution would be defeated if it is opposed by two-thirds of the voters in three of Iraq’s 18 provinces. Sunni Arabs form the majority in at least four.

On Sunday, Sunni representatives on the drafting committee appealed to the United States and United Nations to prevent Shiites and Kurds from pushing a draft through parliament without their consent, warning it would only worsen the crisis in Iraq.

U.S., Afghan forces reclaim lost valley, kill 40 militants

BY DANIEL COONEY

Associated Press Writer

KABUL, Afghanistan — U.S. Marines and Afghan forces killed more than 40 suspected militants in an operation against insurgents who had inflicted the deadliest blow to American forces since the Taliban’s ouster, a military spokesman said Monday.

The weeklong operation, which concluded over the weekend, was aimed at rebels in the eastern Koregnal Valley believed responsible for twin attacks that killed 19 troops in June. Three Navy SEALs were killed in an ambush, and all 16 soldiers on a helicopter sent to rescue them died when it was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade.

“It was successful,” Lt. Col. Jerry O’Hara told The Associated Press. “We had over 29 separate engagements with enemy forces that resulted in more than 40 enemy killed in action and many others wounded.”

O’Hara also announced that a separate three-day battle from Aug. 7-10 in southern Zabul province’s Daychopan district left a total of 65 suspected militants dead. The military had previously reported that 16 rebels had been killed.

News of the casualties comes after a deadly period for U.S. forces in Afghanistan, with 13 American troops killed this month. Four soldiers were killed Sunday when a massive bomb exploded under a wooden bridge as a convoy of armored Humvees was crossing it. Three troops were wounded by shrapnel from secondary explosions as they tried to pull the four out of a burning Humvee.

Most of the troops who have been killed were part of an offensive against militants who have vowed to subvert legislative elections on Sept. 18 — the next step toward democracy after more than two decades of war and civil strife.

Some 187 U.S. service members have been killed in and around Afghanistan since the start of Operation

Enduring Freedom in late 2001 — including 64 during a rash of insurgent attacks in the last six months, which have left about 1,000 other people dead as well.

The bloodshed has led the military to rush in an airborne infantry battalion of about 700 troops on standby in Fort Bragg, N.C., boosting the number of American troops in Afghanistan to about 20,000. Some 3,100 soldiers from 19 other nations also are members of the U.S.-led coalition.

A separate NATO-led peacekeeping force also has brought in reinforcements ahead of the polls and now numbers about 10,500.

Last Tuesday, a helicopter carrying NATO peacekeepers crashed in a western Afghan desert and another chopper flying with it made an emergency landing, killing 17 Spanish troops and wounding five. Investigators have so far found no evidence that the helicopters were downed by hostile fire.

The Spanish soldiers were training for security operations for the elections, and their deaths marked the NATO force’s largest single loss of life in Afghanistan.

The recent violence in Afghanistan pales next to the casualties suffered in Iraq, but it has dampened some of the optimism that prevailed after the country’s inaugural presidential election took place peacefully last fall and insurgent attacks dropped off during the winter.

In other recent violence, a roadside bomb exploded Sunday near a convoy of U.S. Embassy vehicles on the outskirts of the capital, Kabul, lightly wounding two American staff members, embassy spokesman Lou Fintor said.

In the southern Kandahar province, gunmen riding a motorbike killed senior cleric Mawlawi Abdullah — the latest attack on religious leaders who have openly condemned the Taliban and other extremists.

Two roadside bombs also exploded near police convoys in the southern provinces of Zabul and Uruzgan late Saturday, each killing two officers, officials said.

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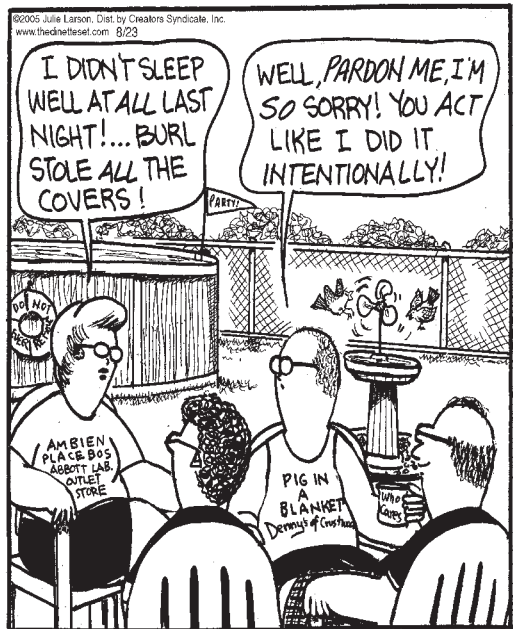
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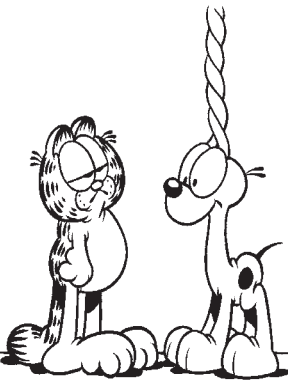
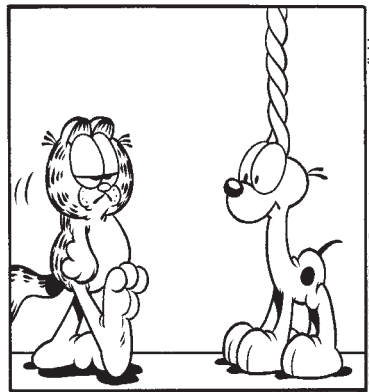
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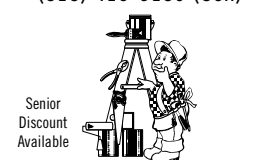
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Oh, brother: Phoenix weary of mourning tag

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — He wasn't grief-stricken, he was acting, Joaquin Phoenix says of tabloid reports that he had a breakdown while filming the upcoming Johnny Cash biopic.

Phoenix banged his head on a bedpost during a scene related to Cash's brother's death, prompting speculation that he was reacting to the 1993 death of his brother, River.

The 30-year-old actor tells Newsweek he was just trying to get into the emotional state of his character.

"You know, the press has kind of imposed upon me the title of Mourning Brother, and because I haven't been vocal about it, the assumption is that I'm holding onto this (expletive) that's just not there," he tells the magazine, now on newsstands.

His brother River Phoenix died of a drug overdose outside a Los Angeles nightclub when he was 23.

Suggesting that he'd use his personal life for "Walk the Line," says Phoenix, "kind of makes me sick."

"I don't need to pull from my experience for a character, and I've never understood why actors would, except for lack of ability, imagination or research," he says. "I had all three things, so this is a little frustrating to me, because it denies my work and the research that I did."

"Walk the Line," scheduled for release in November, traces Cash's rise from the son of an Arkansas farmer to the "Man in Black." It co-stars Reese Witherspoon as Cash's wife, June Carter.

NEW YORK — Heidi Klum prides herself on being practical.

The German supermodel married Grammy-winning singer Seal on a beach in Mexico, shops for groceries

online and feeds her 14-month-old daughter, Leni, whatever she eats.

"We tried baby food for, like a month," a seven-months-pregnant Klum tells Vitals Woman in its fall issue. "But now she eats whatever I eat. At least she's eating better things than macaroni and cheese."

Klum and Seal were married in May. They began dating last year, shortly after her breakup with Renault Formula One team boss Flavio Briatore, who is Leni's father.

Leni experienced her first European concert tour when she was 2 months old. "We just bolted a crib to the floor of the bus," Klum tells the magazine.

As for the arrival of baby No. 2, the 32-year-old Klum says: "I'm lucky. Sometimes I even forget I'm pregnant. And then, boom! I get a kick in the stomach!"

Klum is host and producer of "Project Runway" on Bravo. She has been taping the second season of the Emmy-nominated show that pits aspiring designers against each other for the right to design a collection that will be presented at New York Fashion Week.

"Last season, I thought the grocery-store idea was so stupid," she says of the past challenge in which contestants constructed clothes out of supermarket finds. "But then they made dresses out of cornhusks and a lawn chair! Clearly, I was wrong."

Klum says a Victoria's Secret photo shoot in early fall will likely be her first gig when she returns to modeling.

And what if she's not quite back in shape?

"They'll retouch it," she says. "We all don't look the way we look in magazines."

NEW YORK — Janeane Garofalo will guest star as a

controversial media strategist for three episodes on NBC's "The West Wing" this fall.

Garofalo's character, Louise Thornton, is hired by Democratic Congressman Matt Santos (Jimmy Smits) as the new director of communications for his presidential campaign. She urges Josh Lyman (Bradley Whitford) and the other staffers to stop playing politics and start concentrating on connecting with the electorate.

Her first appearance is expected to air Oct. 2, NBC said in a statement.

Garofalo, 40, was a cast member of NBC's "Saturday Night Live." Her screen credits include "The Truth About Cats & Dogs" and "Romy and Michele's High School Reunion."

She also has been a political commentator on the Air America Radio network.

The new season of "The West Wing" will premiere Sept. 25 (8 p.m. ET).

HONOLULU — Don Ho is in the hospital for observation after experiencing shortness of breath.

Ho, 75, was admitted Friday and was expected to stay a few days, his spokeswoman, Donna Jung, said Sunday.

Jung had no further information about the singer's condition.

Ho will reschedule his shows at the Waikiki Beachcomer Hotel through the rest of the month.

A mainland concert tour set to begin next month will be postponed as well. He had been due to perform in Santa Fe, N.M., San Juan Capistrano, Calif., and at the University of Oklahoma in late September.

Ho celebrated his 75th birthday on Aug. 13.

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