FREE

TUESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2004 Volume 3, Issue 244

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

FANTASY 5
5 18 28 34 36

DAILY 3
Daytime: 6 2 3
Evening: 1 1 5

DAILY DERBY
1st: 03 Hot Shot
2nd: 10 Solid Gold
3rd: 11 Money Bags
RACE TIME: 1:41.66

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

In January, Fort Worth, Texas, murder defendant Robert William Greer Jr. agreed to plead guilty to a 1988 killing provided that the judge kept him in the local jail for two more weeks before sending him to the penitentiary — so that he could be assured of seeing the Super Bowl on TV. (Greer thought TV privileges in prison were less certain.) Greer was excited about the prospects that his favorite team, the Minnesota Vikings, would go all the way. Two days after his guilty plea, the Atlanta Falcons beat the Vikings to knock them out of the playoffs, but the guilty plea stood.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Twelve years ago, Hurricane Andrew smashed into Florida, causing record damage; 55 deaths in Florida, Louisiana and the Bahamas were blamed on the storm.

■ **In A.D. 79,** long-dormant Mount Vesuvius erupted, burying the Roman cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum in volcanic ash. An estimated 20,000 people died.

■ **In 1572,** the slaughter of French Protestants at the hands of Catholics began in Paris.

■ **In 1814,** British forces invaded Washington D.C., setting fire to the Capitol and the White House.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

"If you want to be thought a liar, always tell the truth."

– LOGAN PEARSALL SMITH
AMERICAN ESSAYIST (1865-1946)

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MGM Plaza sold for hundreds of millions

National real estate company increases its presence in SM

BY JOHN F. MULLER
Special to the Daily Press

COLORADO AVENUE — With the addition of one of Santa Monica's largest office complexes, a national corporation has established a hold on nearly a fifth of the city's commercial space.

Equity Office Property Trust (EOP) and a joint venture partner acquired the Colorado Center last month for $443.6 million from Tishman Speyer Properties, Inc. EOP paid $228.6 million for about half of the 1.1 million-square-foot center, and will manage and lease the office space in the six-building center, which is currently about 80 percent occupied.

EOP, the nation's largest office building owner and manager, owns more than 700 properties, comprising 124 million square feet of office space in the country's major metropolitan markets. The Chicago-based company owns about 2.7 million of the 13.7 million square feet of office space in Santa Monica, according to CoStar Group, Inc., which compiles real estate market data from around the country. Most of the properties EOP owns are along Ocean and Colorado avenues and Broadway.

Company officials said Santa Monica's location and demographics had drawn EOP to the city.

"We know the market, we like the market, and we like the dynamics of the market," said Frank Campbell, EOP's vice president of leasing in Los Angeles. "You have the combination of the entertainment, technology and financial sectors all interested in locating there. Their executives live in the surrounding areas — the Palisades, Malibu, West LA, Santa Monica. And a well educated labor pool surrounds the project."

"I don't envision seeing another Water Garden or Colorado space coming up in the near future considering the city's policies on development."

– RICK GOLD
Senior executive vice president
NAI Capital Commercial

Campbell said the company's decision to increase its holdings in Santa Monica was aimed to better serve EOP's customers — not to try to corner the market. He said EOP's corporate strategy — to acquire core, critical masses of buildings in target areas — was designed to allow the company to build long-term relationships with its clients. With large holdings in certain areas, EOP can offer its tenants the flexibility to easily switch offices as their needs change.

The Colorado Center, which was previously called the MGM Plaza, includes company offices for HBO, Viacom and CBS. Campbell noted that not many

See MGM, page 5

Waste not, want not

Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

An employee of the Santa Monica Recycling Center on Monday pats one of many giant bundles of recyclable papers into shape.

The SM voter's guide to the Nov. 2 ballot

BY GENEVA WHITMARSH
Daily Press Staff Writer

Santa Monica voters will be asked to weigh in on numerous measures on the Nov. 2 ballot, including a county-wide sales tax hike that would bring in more than $4 million for the city's law enforcement agencies.

Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca's tax proposal asks voters to decide whether the county sales tax should be raised by .5 percent to fund local police and fire departments, jails, prosecutors and other agencies. If passed, the sales tax would rise from 8.25 percent to 8.75 percent, an increase of about $91 a year for the average family.

The proposition — Measure A on the ballot — would net an estimated $560 million, with funds distributed to various cities within the county. Approximately $4.2 million has been earmarked for law enforcement in Santa Monica, said Steve Whitmore, Baca's spokesperson.

"We're very hopeful it will go through, not only for Santa Monica, but for the county," said Santa Monica Police Lt. Frank Fabrega. "It's too early to say where the money would go, but we can always use money for equipment and to add technology to the organization."

Of the remaining money, approximately $50 million will go toward jails, $20 million to hiring prosecutors, $14 million for other

See BALLOT, page 6

Three killed in midair plane collision off Malibu

By The Associated Press

MALIBU — Authorities on Monday identified one of three people killed when two single-engine planes collided off the beach.

Jenifer Williamson, 37, and a 56-year-old man were in one plane, and a 48-year-old man was in the other, said David Campbell, spokesman for the Los Angeles County coroner's office.

They were awaiting autopsies.

Authorities say a Thorp-18 based in Torrance and carrying two people and a Citabria 7ECA, which was kept in Santa Paula, collided about 5:30 p.m. Sunday roughly 100 yards off El Matador State Beach.

Both are single-engine kit planes.

The National Transportation Safety Board was investigating the cause of the crash.

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Curl up at home, Taurus

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)
★★★★★ You get a whole different impression of a work-related matter today. Facts help, and you feel energized. In the next few weeks, your creativity will be enhanced. Make it your business to find solutions. Tonight: Forget that it's Tuesday. Enjoy.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You are surrounded by affection and caring — be it at work or in your personal life. Be sure not to lead on someone you care about only as a friend. His or her feelings are more important than whimsy. Deal with people individually. Tonight: Curl up at home with a favorite pet or loved one.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ You are graced by more effective communicating. Others bathe in the warmth expressed in your words. Be careful, as you might throw a party at home to a roommate's or partner's dismay. You enjoy yourself much more than you have in a while. Tonight: Wherever you are, the party is.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ You might want to spend some money on yourself, whether it is to spruce up your looks or give yourself a present. Get ready for more shopping. You feel like you need a change in your daily life. Tonight: Buy a plant on the way home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Mercury moves into your sign, adding to your expressiveness. You get a positive response just walking into a room. Be more aware of your intellect and magnetism, and use it to zero in on what you want. Your libido energies run high. Tonight: Take a midweek break.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Use care when meeting new people in the next few weeks. Others might not be all that they appear to be at first. Also, your feelings could be more sensitive in general. Let loose and enjoy your home and personal life more. Tonight: Your home is your castle.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Mercury moves into a position in which it draws what you want. Friends want to help you. You meet new people who could be instrumental to your life's path. Just talk and reach out. Talk away. Tonight: Get together with your pals.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Your public appeal seems to become much more positive. As a result, others go along with your ideas, especially those involving money and career. Someone might even propose to you, as you are so desirable right now. Tonight: Treat someone to a good time.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ You are all smiles. You feel that you can accomplish a lot. Emphasize communication with a loved one at a distance or plan a mini-vacation in the next few weeks. You feel overwhelmed with responsibility, but you will see the end results very soon, if you haven't already. Tonight: Just ask.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ A partner or associate feels unusually generous and caring. Don't say "no" to his or her offer! Open up and express more vulnerability with a key person in your life. Share some of your many dreams. Tonight: Be mysterious. You don't have to tell everyone.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Others seem unusually attractive, whether they are new to your life or not. Develop even more sensitivity toward others. You find that you work well with a group and realize much more of what you want. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Keep your public image up. You find it much easier to be diplomatic and resourceful in the next few weeks. You see results, perhaps as soon as tonight. Be willing to be more nurturing to a co-worker. Tonight: Work late. Dinner out.

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1427 Third Street Promenade, Ste. #202 • Santa Monica, CA 90401 • www.smdp.com

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa .....ross@smdp.com
EDITOR
Carolyn Sackariason .....sack@smdp.com
STAFF WRITER
John Wood .....wood@smdp.com
STAFF WRITER
Geneva Whitmarsh .....geneva@smdp.com
ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER
Rob Piubeni .....rob@smdp.com
ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
Rob Schwenker .....schwenker@smdp.com
ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
Chris Allen .....chris@smdp.com
PRODUCTION MANAGER
Alejandro Cesar Cantarero II .....alex@smdp.com
PRODUCTION ARTIST
Rick Reynoso .....rick@smdp.com
EXECUTIVE TRAFFIC MANAGER
Heather Rich .....heather@smdp.com
CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE
Mitch Troy .....mitch@smdp.com
CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE
Kitty Seeger .....kitty@smdp.com
NIGHT EDITOR
Lori Luechtefeld .....lori@smdp.com
NIGHT EDITOR
Michael Tittinger .....mikeyt@smdp.com
CIRCULATION MANAGER
Mike Aviles .....mike@smdp.com
CIRCULATION
Keith Wyatt .....keith@smdp.com
CIRCULATION
Glenn Bolan .....glenn@smdp.com
SPECIAL PROJECTS
Dave Danforth .....dave@smdp.com
MASCOT
Maya Furukawa .....maya@smdp.com

LOCAL

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

YWCA hungry for food donations

By Daily Press staff

There are thousands of children on the Westside who are starving.

But with the help of the YWCA Santa Monica/Westside, about 2,000 underprivileged babies and toddlers will receive the nutrition they need. The YWCA will collect food donations to contribute to the Westside Food Bank.

The YWCA is accepting infant formula, all flavors and stages of baby food, infant and children's cereals, all types of juices and food snacks, crackers, teething biscuits and cookies.

People can bring their donations to the YWCA Santa Monica/Westside, 2019 14th St., Monday through Thursday, from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., or Saturday 8:30 a.m. to noon. Food will be collected until Sept. 30.

Through the services of the Westside Food Bank, the food donation serves low-income families throughout the West Los Angeles whose babies and toddlers are in need of adequate nutrition.

For 75 years, the YWCA Santa Monica/Westside has provided community service programs to women and children in more than 10 Westside communities. Preserving its mission to empower women and to work to eliminate racism, the YWCA offers a housing and education program for young women emancipated from foster care.

The G.E.D./L.I.F.E. program combines evening high school diploma classes with a child literacy program. ENCORE is an exercise and support program for breast cancer survivors. The girls' basketball program provides an organized opportunity for more than 400 girls annually to play basketball and stay involved. The YWCA's Child Care Center provides a creative, safe and affordable environment for children ages 5 to 12. The newest program, Girls in Action (G.I.A.), is a comprehensive leadership program for girls attending John Adams Middle School in Santa Monica.

Christmas in September?

By Daily Press staff

Christmas is coming sooner than expected at a local hotel.

The Santa Monica Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary will hold its annual Christmas in September fashion show/luncheon on Sept. 2 at the Fairmont Miramar Hotel in Santa Monica.

Jewelry, gift items and other specialty boutiques will open at 11 a.m., and the luncheon is at noon. The event benefits programs for children of needy families, which include the distribution of new toys during the holidays, said Louise Gabriel, event general chair.

Stephanie Edwards, TV and radio personality, is the honorary chair, as well as commentator for the fashion show, which will feature new fall fashions for men, women and children from Robinsons May, Santa Monica Place, to be modeled by representatives from Westside community organizations.

Music for the fashion show will be performed by Anthony Begonia. The models will be escorted by Mark Olson, representing the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce, and Santa Monica Police Lt. Frank Fabrega. The models are Dana Harris, the Irene Dunne Guild, Saint John's Medical Center; Karon Larmore, Rotary Club; Carroll McEachern and Joanna Wood, Santa Monica–UCLA Medical Center Auxiliary; June Peralta, Assistance League; Helen Vasak, Santa Monica Sister City; Evelyn and Natalie Guerboian, Santa Monica Breakfast Club; Jean McNeil Wyner, Santa Monica Historical Society Museum; Monet Brock, YMCA Y's Men and Women; and junior models Allison and Briana Vasak.

Committee chairs include June Livingston, Edith Conovitz, Dorothy Schweder, Ellie Margaillan, Virginia Nairn, Ila Stewart, Joyce Garrison and Lenore Johnson. Reservations are $50 per person and may be made with Roberta de la Puente, (310) 399-3570, or the Salvation Army office, (310) 451-1358.

Jason Knight is this week's mystery photo winner. The sign is located at 911 Second St., between Idaho and Washington avenues. Knight has won a gift certificate to Over Under Sports Bar.

SURF REPORT

Tuesday will see a small SW swell mix with a touch of NW wind swell. Santa Barbara spots are mainly knee high and below. Ventura breaks see knee-high waves, with some waist-high sets at best combo breaks. Look for building surf on Wednesday as both a new NW ground swell and SE tropical swell fill in through the afternoon. Morning winds will be generally light over the next couple of days, with building W to WNW wind in the 8-12 knot+ range for the afternoons.

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

Today the water is:

68°

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	6:45	1.6	8:24	1.5	12:54	4.0	1:27	5.1
SUNDAY	7:18	2.1	10:03	1.2	2:13	3.4	2:19	5.2
MONDAY	8:06	2.7	11:38	0.7	4:31	3.0	3:28	5.4
TUESDAY	**9:46**	**3.0**	**N/A**	**N/A**	**6:52**	**3.2**	**4:48**	**5.6**
WEDNESDAY	12:47	0.0	11:35	3.0	7:51	3.7	6:02	6.0
THURSDAY	1:40	-0.5	12:49	2.7	8:28	4.0	7:03	6.5
FRIDAY	2:24	-0.9	1:46	2.3	9:01	4.4	7:56	6.8

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The Q Line

Election time is drawing near. That means now, more than ever, it is important for citizens to let their elected officials and those running for office know exactly what is on their minds.

It's your chance to sound off, Santa Monica.

So this week, Q-line wants to know, **"What's bugging you? What issues need to be brought to the table during this election season and what do you have to say about them?"**

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

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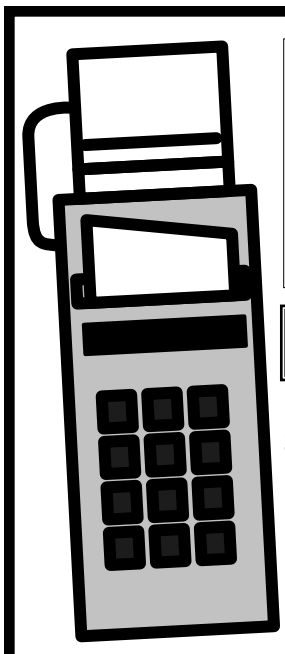

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OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Airport a menace

Editor:

The argument that the airport was there first is about the most irrelevant and stupid claim that can be made for it (SMDP, Aug. 22-23, page 4). The airport may have been surrounded by bean fields when it was created, but that is not the case now. It is surrounded by people. We live in the present and, if we act wisely, may make it to the future. To allow this dangerous, deafening, polluting nuisance in our midst is irresponsible.

Toxic dumps, rivers used as industrial sewers, smoking, and gas stations with leaking underground tanks all predated somebody living nearby. But when society woke up to the danger to human life and the environment, it required clean up. And oh the cries of the end of the world from the polluters. The same self-serving, destructive arguments accompanied every effort to bring about change: It will cost too much and drive business away. Guess what? It's time to call the airport what it is, a vestige of the past, out of sync with its surroundings and definitely not the highest and best use of a community resource. It's time to clean up this festering, out of control mess and honor the people of the neighborhood by letting them breathe clean air and get a good night's sleep.

Geraldine Kennedy
Santa Monica

New Web site a wash

Editor:

Thanks for the article (SMDP, Aug. 20, page 1) about the city's new Web site. Glad it only cost $45,000. The Web site is not much better, but we could have spent much more for not much better.

One problem is that the print is small and the Web site doesn't provide an option to increase the font size. (Do any of the Web site's designers wear reading glasses? I bet not.)

The other problem is that the Web site still skimps on content. (Did any of the designers beta-test the new Web site with typical users? I bet not.)

I'm a typical user. This past week, I went to the Web site to find out what size dumpsters are available for apartment buildings, and what the city charges for residential trash pickup. Not seeing anything on the home page about trash — hello, this is a popular topic — I typed "trash" into the search box. Up popped 199 results sorted by relevance.

Fortunately, the first result was the customer service directory where I found trash pickup. Clicking on that brought up the main page for refuse & recycling services: solid waste customer service and a list of refuse-related topics. By clicking on refuse service options & pricing, I quickly learned about the options (dumpster sizes), but learned nothing about the pricing, despite the word "pricing" being in the title. The only pricing info: "The fee varies according to frequency of service and the number and size of containers serviced ... For detailed information … call the solid waste management office …"

A good Web site is easy to see, easy to negotiate, and answers commonly asked questions. Providing a phone number when the info could be posted is … stupid. The cost of city services is not a secret. Why force the customer service staff to answer questions that computer-savvy customers would rather find online?

Elissa Royal
Santa Monica

Surf's up: City's Web site works

Editor:

Your article on (SMDP, Aug. 20, page 1) questions the speed and accessibility of Santa Monica's new Web site. Are we looking at the same Web site? My experience is that the new site is fast and more accessible. The pull-down tabs allow users to find information quickly and easily from the home page, without wasting the user's time or system resources loading four or five page to locate the information. I also really like the new colors.

True, the opening flash animation might be a speed issue for a user accessing the site with a dial-up modem and a slow computer. Perhaps this flash animation could be moved to a new "Santa Monica in Pictures" section, using this flash as an introduction, followed by a picture album of the people and sites of Santa Monica. Overall, the new site's combination of improved functionality and better aesthetics deserves praise.

Paul DeSantis
Santa Monica

The good, bad and ugly in customer development

LEGAL NEWS & VIEWS
BY DAVID PISARRA

No matter what the product or service is, marketing is the lifeblood of any organization. It is one of my great passions to observe others in their marketing efforts. Occasionally I see shining examples of exciting, engaging, fantastic marketing programs, but more often than not, I see horrible, terrible, tremendously stupid marketing.

Marketing is far more than simply putting together a brochure or flyer, and taking out a print ad in a newspaper. It is the process of developing someone's complete experience with your organization. It includes the little things such as "thank you" notes, and big things such as automated phone systems.

I had an occasion this past week to cash a check. This simple act, which in a time long before the advent of ATMs was the normal course of business, has become rare.

In the banking world, the capture of new clients is of great value. Any new client is a source of new deposits, and that means fees for new accounts. As each bank has become more consolidated, they each fight for ways to capture and keep new clients.

Late last week, I went to U.S. Bank to cash a check from a client. Because it was made out to me and they had enough money in the account, this should not have been more than a 30-second transaction. In all likelihood, it should not have affected my opinion of this bank. However, in an effort to capture my business, U.S. Bank has instituted a "non-account holder" processing fee of $5 to cash a check.

This is legal, and I am confident that there is a battery of lawyers on the bank's side who have researched it to make sure that they comply with the law.

When I was told that I was going to have to pay this fee, I asked for a manager. He was clearly annoyed that I should dare to invade his highly regarded duties of wandering around trying to look important. When I said that this was an appalling charge and no way to build customers, he gave me one of those it's-not-my-fault looks and said, "Don't shoot the messenger. It's the law, so long as we have it posted."

It was obvious he was sure that would make me go away.

Being who I am, I asked for a copy of the law. He was efficient in how quickly he grabbed the little blue sheet that explained to me how I could avoid the charge if only I would open an account, but he didn't actually provide me with anything that stated a U.S. code section or a California code, so frankly it could all be just a scam by the manager and his minions at the bank.

The bank has a way that I can avoid paying the $5 fee. If I feel like opening a new account with a $100 minimum, they will waive the "non-account" holder fee.

For a brief second it occurred to me that I should make them open an account in my name, for the $100, cash the bloody check, and then close my new account. Which surely would have taken up lots of time and annoyed everyone in the process, including me.

Providing someone with a "benefit" in this manner is the type of marketing that is punishment driven. It comes from a desire by the bank to turn a one-time customer into a long-time customer. It didn't work on me.

In fact, what it did do was make me disgusted with the bank, mad at the people who wrote me a check on U.S. Bank's account, and angered me so much that I called my banker at First Regional Bank to determine if they charge my clients money when they cash a check. I was told that they don't, and I got the impression my banker thought it rather petty of the manager not to waive the fee.

Punishment doesn't seem to work well as a way to induce behavior. Particularly with Americans, we tend to rebel against it. Personally, I will never set foot in a U.S. Bank again, and I will actively discourage from U.S. Bank any clients who ask me for a good bank. My bank, First Regional, is a superb example of what a bank should be. They are efficient, and I can get a hold of someone to take care of my needs without having to go through an automated system, all the while being told that, "We care about our customers, you are important, and we value you," as they slowly drive me insane while avoiding actually helping me.

In the interests of honesty, I should note that I do have accounts with three other banking institutions, so it is not as if I am acting in the dark here. I work with banks and bankers a fair amount. I tend to understand their motivations and what makes them tick.

What appalls me here is that U.S. Bank thinks it is achieving new customers by giving them the benefit of "free check cashing" if they become a depositor, when in fact, what they are doing is driving away customers.

I understand in the banking world that there is a need to cut costs, and the fewer teller transactions that occur, the fewer tellers they need. But charging a non-customer to cash a check is an affront to the people whose money they hold and insulting to the person who is trying to get paid.

It is this type of marketing that is bad. The type of marketing that allows me to get directly to my banker is good. Now, we need to see more of it.

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

YOUR OPINION MATTERS! Send your letters to Santa Monica Daily Press Attn. Editor: 1427 Third Street Promenade Suite 202 Santa Monica • 90401 • sack@smdp.com

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Commercial property in Santa Monica holds tight

MGM, from page 1

"class-A" properties like the center have been available recently.

"We believe there's a positive long-term outlook for the Santa Monica market," he said. "It's got fairly constrained supply. It's not a particularly easy market (in which) to build a replacement product for this kind of product."

Rick Gold, the senior executive vice president of NAI Capital Commercial, said he couldn't imagine any other properties like the Colorado Center coming onto the market any time soon. NAI is one of the largest full commercial real estate brokerages in Southern California.

"I don't envision seeing another Water Garden or Colorado space coming up in the near future considering the city's policies on development," he said. Gold has been in commercial real estate on the westside for 28 years. "It's my personal belief that if the city has any large developable parcels, they're going to be looking for affordable housing, not office projects. So it becomes supply and demand."

Gwen Pentecost, the city's senior administrative analyst for economic development, said EOP's 19.5 percent share of Santa Monica office space won't have a drastic effect on the real estate landscape. Santa Monica's office vacancy rate, which mainly takes into account "class-A" spaces, has sky-rocketed in recent years. In the first quarter of 2000, vacancy rates stood at 0.6 percent. By the fourth quarter of 2001, it had reached 20 percent in the wake of the failures of dot-com businesses and an economic recession. Pentecost said the rate has been recovering in the past half year as jobs have slowly begun returning to the city.

"I wouldn't see it having any impact at all (on the commercial real estate market in Santa Monica)," she said. "Everybody is trying to fill up their spaces. They're all doing the same thing. Nobody's saying, 'I own so much, I'm going to set it all aside.' Every professional retailer out there is doing his best right now."

Gold said it was possible EOP's large market share could have an impact on the market for office space in Santa Monica, but he doubted that possibility would be realized.

"(EOP's large market share) could pose a problem only in the sense that if someone owned a large portion of the market and was unwilling to be cooperative and work with people (they could disrupt market dynamics)," Gold said. "It would work in one of two ways. They could try to undercut all the other landlords and create a problem, or on the flip side of the sword, if they were real jerks about it, they could push people out of their buildings and actually help out other landlords.

"I don't see either of those happening."

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LOCAL

Voters will weigh in on multiple city, state measures

BALLOT, from page 1

criminal justice agencies and $11 million for a new communications system that allows police and firefighters to communicate on one frequency.

Opponents of the measure say increased arrests would overwhelm an already overworked district attorney's office. LA County Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich has voted against it, saying the county could use existing tobacco tax revenues to boost the sheriff's budget and fund jails.

Experts say the proposition could be a hard sell: Voters often have a resistance to tax hikes, and the measure must be approved by two-thirds of the county's voters for it to move forward.

The proposition is the only county measure on the ballot.

Santa Monica voters also can expect to see a variety of city and state measures on the ballot.

CITY MEASURES

Measure N:

The local initiative would increase the tax rate from 12 to 14 percent and increase nightly rates at local hotels by an average of about $4. The increase is expected to raise $3.5 million and would help Santa Monica City Hall in its goal to give local schools an additional $6 million annually for the next five years.

Opponents say an increased tax could turn away some potential business, including travel agents who buy package deals in bulk for foreign tourists. The city's current tax is lower than the taxes in surrounding cities including Beverly Hills, Marina Del Rey and West Hollywood.

Measure S:

The $135 million bond would be spent to build and upgrade several buildings at Santa Monica College, buy more open space in Santa Monica and Malibu, and fund the development of other properties throughout the city.

If approved, it would be the second SMC bond proposal approved in 2 1/2 years and would cost the average Santa Monica homeowner $77 in the first year. The average renter would have to pay $13 in the first year.

The proposition's creators originally asked for a $175 million bond, but reworked the proposal after failing to garner enough support among the college's board of trustees.

Santa Monica took the heaviest hit under the revised bond: Whereas the previous plan proposed $75 million in projects at SMC, $75 million in joint efforts with Santa Monica City Hall and $25 million in joint projects with Malibu City Hall, the new bond proposes just $45 million for joint projects with Santa Monica City Hall and a slightly reduced amount for SMC.

STATE MEASURES

Proposition 1A:

Allows local property and sales tax revenues to remain with the local government. Proponents say it would safeguard funding for public safety, health, libraries, parks and other local services. Provisions would only be suspended if the governor declares a fiscal necessity and two-thirds of the legislature concurs.

Proposition 59:

Provides right of access to meetings with governmental bodies and to writings of government officials, and requires detailed explanations for a waiver from such access. Preserves limited access to certain meetings and records, including law enforcement protection records.

Proposition 60:

Provides the right for a political party participating in a primary election for partisan office to also participate in the general election for that office. The candidate receiving the most votes from among that party's candidates in primary election cannot be denied placement on the general election ballot.

Proposition 60A:

Dedicates proceeds from sales of surplus state property purchased with general fund monies to payment of principal interest on Economic Recovery Bonds approved in March 2004. When those bonds are repaid, excess funds go directly to the Special Fund for Economic Uncertainties.

Proposition 61:

Authorizes $750,000 in general obligation bonds to fund grants for the construction, expansion and remodeling of eligible children's hospitals. Twenty percent of bonds would be available for grants to certain University of California general acute care hospitals, and 80 percent of the bonds would be tapped for grants to hospitals that focus on children with illnesses such as leukemia, heart defects, sickle cell anemia and cystic fibrosis.

Assuming 30-year bonds at an interest rate of 5.5 percent, the state cost would be about $1 billion over 30 years to pay off both the principal ($750 million) and the interest ($800 million) on the bonds. Payments would be about $50 million a year and would result in minor administrative costs to the California Health Facilities Financing Authority.

Proposition 62:

Requires primary elections in which voters cast ballots for any state or federal candidate regardless of party registration. The measure exempts presidential nominations and elections of central party candidates in which only registered party members may vote unless the party otherwise permits.

Only the two primary-election candidates with the most votes from an office, whether or not they are members of the same party, would be listed on the general election ballot. However, the candidate receiving the majority vote in a special primary election would take office.

Proposition 63:

Imposes additional 1 percent tax on taxable income over $1 million to provide funding for expansion of mental health services and programs. State officials say the increase would result in revenues of approximately $250 million in 2004-05, $680 million in 2005-06 and $700 million a year later.

The initiative would provide funds to counties to expand services and develop programs and integrated service plans for mentally ill children, adults and seniors, and would require the state to develop mental health service programs including prevention, early intervention, education and training programs.

Proposition 64:

Amends business competition laws to: limit the individual's right to sue by allowing enforcement only if the individual has been actually injured by and suffered financial/property loss because of an unfair business practice; require representative claims to comply with requirements applicable to class action lawsuits; authorize only the California Attorney General or local public officials to sue on behalf of the general public to enforce unfair business competition laws.

Penalties recovered by the Attorney General or local prosecutors could only be used for enforcement of consumer protection laws.

Proposition 65:

Requires voter approval on any legislation that provides for any reduction of local governments' vehicle license fee revenues, sales tax powers and revenues, and proportionate share of property tax revenues.

Proposition 66:

Amends "three strikes" law to require increased sentences only when the current conviction is for a specified violent and/or serious felony. Only prior convictions for such felonies, brought and tried separately, would qualify for second and third strike sentence increases.

Proponents say the measure will result in significant net savings to the state due to a reduction in court-related activities, parole supervision and the incarceration of and counseling services for sex offenders. Savings are also expected as result of the delayed construction of additional prison beds.

Proposition 67:

Provides funding for emergency personnel training and equipment, reimbursement for uncompensated emergency physician care and uncompensated community clinic care, and emergency telephone system improvements.

The funding would come from an addition of 3 percent to the surcharge rate on telephone use within California, portions of tobacco taxes, and criminal and traffic penalties. A monthly cap of 50 cents on the surcharge collected by residential service providers would apply. The cap would not apply to cell phone or business lines.

Proposition 68:

Authorizes the governor to renegotiate tribal-state compacts to require that tribes pay 25 percent of slot machine/gaming device revenues to a government fund, comply with multiple state laws and accept state court jurisdiction. If all compacted tribes fail to accept the terms within 90 days, the measures authorizes 16 specified non-tribal racetracks and gaming establishments to operate 30,000 slot machines/gaming devices with 33 percent of their revenue going to fund public safety, regulatory and social programs. If approved, the measure is expected to garner revenues of more than $1 billion annually.

Proposition 69:

Requires collection of DNA samples from adults and juveniles arrested and/or charged with specific crimes for submission to state DNA database. In five years, samples would be required from all adults arrested and/or charged with a felony. Authorizes a $7 million loan from the legislature for implementation.

Proposition 70:

Requires Governor to offer renewable 99-year gaming compacts to federally recognized Indian tribes. The agreement would grant the tribes exclusive gaming rights on Indian land; no limits on the number of machines, facilities or types of games; and a contribution to the state fund base on prevailing state corporate tax rate. Contributions would be in lieu of any other fees, taxes or levies and would terminate if the state permits non-tribal casino-type gambling.

Proposition 71:

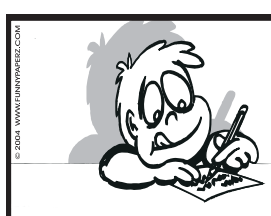
Establishes the "California Institute for Regenerative Medicine" to regulate stem cell research and provide funding through grants and loans for both research and research facilities. Also establishes the constitutional right to conduct stem cell research and prohibits the Institute's funding of human reproductive cloning research.

The state would pay about $6 billion over 30 years to pay off both the principal ($3 billion) and interest ($3 billion) on the bonds. Payments would be about $200 million per year.

Proposition 72:

Provides for individual and dependent health care coverage for employees working for large and medium-sized employers. Requires that employers pay at least 80 percent for coverage cost, with a maximum 20 percent employee contribution. Also requires employers to pay for health coverage or pay a fee to a medical insurance board that purchases primary private health coverage.

If enacted, the measure would apply to employers with 200 or more employees beginning 2006 and would apply to employers with 50 to 199 employers a year later. It would apply to employers with 20 to 49 employees if the tax credit is enacted.



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STATE

CALIFORNIA BRIEFS

Hollywood owes artist $2,715

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A painter shortchanged while working for a city-sponsored group on a Hollywood art project has won $2,715 in back pay.

Muralist Preston Craig said the Hollywood Beautification Team improperly withheld the money earned when he decorated roll-down security doors along the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

The state Labor Commission decision awarding back pay now clears the way for other artists involved in the 2002 "Night Gallery" celebrity portrait project to collect additional compensation.

Craig was among a group of artists hired by the Hollywood Beautification Team to paint faces of such stars as Harrison Ford, James Cagney, Eva Gabor and Norma Shearer on businesses' steel doors.

The work was financed by the Los Angeles Community Redevelopment Agency.

But Craig and others said they were paid about half of what they were owed, and only after signing a pledge never to complain about their treatment or criticize those in charge of the project.

Craig was paid $3,700 to paint eight doors. But he and the eight other artists say they were promised bonuses at the end of the project because of the difficulty of the work, which had to be done during nighttime hours when the corrugated steel barriers were lowered.

When the bonuses weren't paid, the artists complained to the redevelopment agency, which had funded the door murals through a $92,000 grant.

"The other artists were waiting to see what would happen. They will file their appeals," Craig said. "I'm encouraging other artists who signed the waiver to go to the labor commissioner's office."

Beautification team chief Sharyn Romano blamed the redevelopment agency.

"We had wanted to pay that group of artists that amount of money, and then the CRA brought some confusion to the situation," Romano said.

Redevelopment officials on Friday released documents they said show that Romano's group added the clause without the knowledge of the agency.

"Any assertion that we put that language in is false and inaccurate," said Kiara Harris, spokeswoman for the redevelopment agency. "The documentation proves otherwise."

LAX boasts best on-time record

By The Associated Press

TORRANCE — During the first half of 2004, Los Angeles International Airport had the best on-time arrival performance among the nation's 10 busiest airports.

LAX edged out Denver International Airport for the top on-time score, a Daily Breeze computer analysis of Bureau of Transportation Statistics records showed. Flights into LAX arrived on schedule 82.9 percent of the time, compared with 82.8 percent in Denver.

Federal guidelines consider a flight on time if it begins letting passengers off within 15 minutes of the scheduled arrival.

Good weather, the airfield layout, surrounding airspace configuration, changes in air traffic control procedures and controller staffing, and fewer flights since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks were cited as reasons for the top ranking at LAX.

"LAX has a lot of things going for it," said David Stempler, president of www.airtravelersassociation.com, a national air passenger advocacy group. "It's pretty efficiently laid out and the approach paths are long and straightforward."

The nation's worst on-time arrival airport was Chicago's O'Hare International Airport with 64 percent of flights arriving on time.

A main advantage Los Angeles International Airport has over most airports is the weather.

"Of the top 10 airports, we probably have the best weather in terms of the amount of sunshine and the fact that we get very little precipitation," said Donn Walker, a spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration.

Kern County down in the dumps

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — While Mayor James K. Hahn looks for far-off dumps to take residential trash, tons of Los Angeles yard trimmings and garbage are rotting on Kern County farmland 120 miles away in Delano.

Bureau of Sanitation and its green-waste recycler Waste Management Inc. have distanced themselves from the 5-foot-deep stack of debris, blaming it on subcontractor Los Angeles Waste Industries.

The subcontractor was hired to haul the ground-up green waste for use as fertilizer on farmland near Delano, a San Joaquin Valley community between Bakersfield and Visalia.

"When you send things elsewhere, the best thing you can do is do your homework, as best you can, to make sure things don't happen," Waste Management district manager Doug Corcoran said.

Kern County officials discovered the piles of decomposing foliage, laced with plastic, paper and glass, last year and the county ordered the land cleared in December. Last week, Kern officials announced they would levy $10,000-a-day fines and pursue a lawsuit against Los Angeles Waste Industries if the site wasn't cleaned up in 30 days.

"Our concern is public perception — and the real concerns about being a dumping ground for Los Angeles," Kern Environmental Health Services director Steve McCalley said.

Kern County Supervisor Ray Watson said it looks like a jetliner crashed in the field.

"There's just trash and junk all over the place," he said. "It's really a terrible, terrible site. It just makes you feel bad for what's been done to that land."

Los Angeles Waste Industries general manager Laszlo Lensce said the Kern project was his first attempt at farming and he is trying to remove the trash from the yard trimmings so he can continue in his attempt to grow crops.

Bureau of Sanitation Assistant Director Enrique Zaldivar said the city has severed ties with Los Angeles Waste Industries.

"We took immediate steps to stop the practice, at least from our perspective," Zaldivar said. "I was not aware the area had not been cleaned up."

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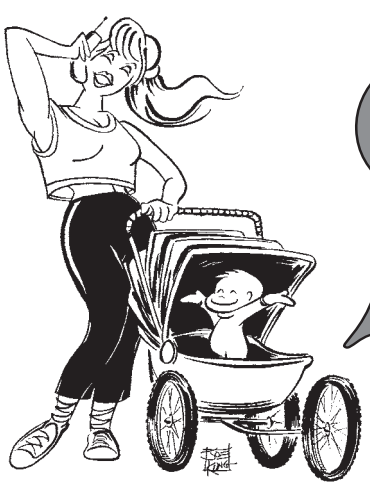

Santa Mo

A weekly look at events and programs fo

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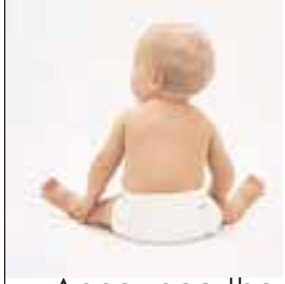

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GUEST COMMENTARY **BY DENNIS B. WOO, M.D.**

Scrap the junk food and give your child a fighting chance against obesity

There is an obesity epidemic sweeping across our country and, in too many cases, the problems begin at an early age.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Centers for Disease Control, today's children are considerably heavier than their counterparts were just 50 years ago. In some parts of the United States, more than 20 percent of school-age children are overweight.

In addition to being teased and ridiculed, an overweight child is at greater risk for serious health problems, including Type-II diabetes, heart disease and high blood pressure. By encouraging and participating in dietary and lifestyle changes, parents can help guide their children toward better health.

"SUPER-SIZED" AND STATIONARY

Children, like adults, gain excess weight when calories consumed exceed those expended to support body function. Today's children are constantly tempted by an abundance of advertising for high-calorie foods with little nutritional value. Additionally, portions have grown out of control in our "super-sized" society.

Lack of physical activity also contributes to weight gain. Many schools have reduced or eliminated physical education due to funding cuts, and children spend much more time indoors, whether in classrooms or at home in front of television and computer screens.

For a small percentage of overweight children, the cause is medically based. But the vast majority of cases are simply due to ingesting too many calories and getting too little exercise. That's where parents must lead by example and play an active role in helping children — and themselves — make lasting changes in eating and exercise habits.

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP

Is my child overweight? That's a question I'm often asked in my practice. As physicians, we use a calculation called "Body Mass Index" (BMI) to diagnose and track the progress of an overweight child. However, common sense and observation are equally important tools. If your child appears overweight, he or she probably is.

Here are some suggestions to help your child lose weight:

Junk the junk food. Remove foods and drinks high in sugar and fat from your kitchen, thereby limiting temptations for children at home. Doing so also sends a strong message that the entire family can live without these foods.

Stock healthy snacks. When children get the munchies, they usually reach for the most available foods. So, keep fresh fruits and vegetables, other healthy snacks and low-calorie drinks or water nearby.

Set the example when setting the table. Serve healthy, balanced meals that include lean protein, as well as fruits and vegetables, and eat what you expect your children to eat. Avoid fad dieting that might seem like punishment to them and only offer a "quick fix" anyway. Teaching children positive messages about food will encourage them to eat healthfully now and throughout their lifetime.

Exercise. Encourage children to become more physically active because regular exercise can play an important role in their long-term weight management and wellness. Limit their television time and sedentary activities such as video and computer games. Encourage them to get involved in organized physical activities. Coached activities, such as soccer, martial arts or dancing, prompt children to try harder, learn teamwork and get more satisfaction from exercise.

A healthy bottom line begins with you. By setting the example through lifestyle choices that emphasize proper nutrition and regular exercise, you can help your children adopt the same healthy habits.

(Dr. Dennis B. Woo is a board-certified pediatrician with the UCLA Medical Group in Santa Monica and chairman of the pediatrics department at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center).

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Santa Monica Moms

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SPECIAL EVENTS

THURSDAYS thru SEPT. 2 – TWILIGHT DANCE SERIES, 7:30 p.m.
The Santa Monica Pier's "Twilight Dance Series" is back for its twentieth year. Bring the kids and picnic on the beach next to the pier for great family fun.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 28th
GETTY FAMILY FESTIVAL, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Enjoy music and dance from India, Celtic lands and beyond. Performers will tell the story of Robin Hood. Create momentos. For all ages, FREE! (parking is $5.00).
1200 Getty Center Dr., 440-7300, www.getty.edu.

RHYTYM CHILD kicks off FIESTA LA BALLOONA with a kid's drum circle at Veteran's Park, 4117 Overland Ave. 11:30 a.m., Community Stage (southeast corner). FREE! 204-5466, www.rhythmchild.net; www.fiestalaballoona.org.

SATURDAY and SUNDAY, AUGUST 28th & 29th, SEPT. 4 – 6.
AFRICAN MARKETPLACE and CULTURAL FAIRE – 10:00 a.m – 9:00 p.m. Aug. 27th - Children's Village African Festival – 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Celebrating African influences around the world in themed villages such as health, fine arts, merchants and sports. Food and musical performances. Children's village features games, petting zoo, drumming and dance demos. For all ages. $6 adults, $3 kids. Exposition Park, 710 State St., LA. 323-734-1164

FRIDAY – SUNDAY, AUGUST 28-29 and FRIDAY – MONDAY, SEPT. 3-6
DAY OUT with THOMAS - Thomas the Tank Engine will be in Fillmore, CA at the Fillmore & Western Railway. This is a real steam engine that has been converted into Thomas, the classic storybook character. This fun-filled family event, that offers the opportunity to ride with Thomas the Tank Engine and experience other Thomas & Friends themed entertainment, will engineer miles of smiles at every scheduled arrival. The 25-minute train ride with Thomas the Tank Engine will depart every 50 minutes, rain or shine, between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. daily. This event is expected to sell out, so advance purchase is recommended to ensure a choice of dates and times. Tickets are $14 for ages one and up.

Fillmore & Western Railway is located at 351 Santa Clara Avenue in the historic city of Fillmore off of Highway 126 in the Heritage Valley. Tickets are available by calling 866-468-7630 or logging onto www.fwry.com. For information and directions contact Fillmore & Western Railway at 800-773-8724 or www.fwry.com.

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TUESDAY

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"A Cinderella Story" starring Hilary Duff, Jennifer Coolidge and Chad Michael Murray. Romantic comedy rated "PG."
11:00 a.m., Loews Broadway, 1441 3rd St. Promenade – for Moms and babies newborn – 1 year old. Doors open early for socializing and getting comfortable.
www.enjoytheshow.com/reelmoms.

Storytelling
Main Library – held at Reed Park, corner of 7th and Wilshire.
Toddler Storytime; 10:00 & 10:30 a.m. Next series begins Sept. 7. For 2 year olds with adult.
Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.
Cuentos Para Pequenos – 10:00 a.m., six-week series in Spanish for 24 – 36 month olds with adult. Next session dates are Sept. 7 – Oct. 12.
Lap Time – 11:00 a.m, six-week series for babies 0-24 months, co-sponsored by the SMMUSD Infant & Family Support Programs. Next session dates are Sept. 7 – Oct. 12.
Twilight Story Time -7pm – an ongoing program for 3-5 year olds.
Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.
Family Story Time – 7:00 p.m., all ages.
Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St. – 310-392-3804.
Toddler Storytime, 10:00 and 10:30. Music, rhymes and stories for 24-36 month olds with adult. Thru Aug. 31. Next session starts Sept. 21, registration required.
Tiny Tuesday Storytime at Storyopolis
Themes change weekly; for ages infant to 3. 11:00 a.m. 116 North Robertson, Plaza A, LA. 310-358-2500, www.storyopolis.com
Barnes and Noble at the Grove
Storytime for ages 2 – 6. 10:00 a.m. 189 Grove Drive, LA, 323-525-0270

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

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

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

THURSDAY

Storytelling
Babystyle, 1324 Montana Avenue, 434-9590

August 24th - Nature Walk (Children's Nature Institute)
Temescal Canyon, 15601 Sunset Blvd., Pacific Palisades, 10:00 a.m.
Reservations – 998-1151 or www.childrensnatureinstitute.org

WEDNESDAY

Storytelling
The Talking Stick Coffee Lounge – 1630 Ocean Park Blvd., 450-6052
10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4 at this neighborhood coffee shop.
Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.
Preschool Story Time – 10:30 a.m.,; six-week series for 3-5 year olds with adult. Next session dates are Sept. 8 – Oct. 13.
Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.
Lap Time - 10:00 & 10:30 a.m., for children ages 0-2 thru Aug. 25th.
Toddler Story Time – 11:15 a.m., for 2 year olds thru Aug. 25th.
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.
Aug. 25th - Ms. Betsy's Storybook Tree at Delphi Academy - 12:30 – 1:15 p.m., ages 3 – 8, 1610 Broadway, 526-2700.

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.

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

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

THURSDAY

Storytelling
Babystyle, 1324 Montana Avenue, 434-9590
10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4.
Main Library – held at Reed Park, corner of 7th and Wilshire.
Toddler Storytime; 10:00 a.m.; next session begins Sept. 9. For 2 year olds with adult.
Preschool Story Time; 10:30 a.m.; next session begins Sept. 9. For ages 3-5.
Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.
Toddler Story Time – 10:30 a.m; for ages 2 –3. Next session dates are Sept. 9 – Oct. 14.
La Hora Del Cuento – 7:00 p.m. Spanish stories, songs and rhymes for all ages.
Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.
Toddler Story Time – 10:15 a.m., for 2 year olds thru Aug. 26th.
Preschool Story Time – 11:15 a.m.; for 3-5 year olds thru Aug. 26th.
Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St. – 310-392-3804.
Lap Time – 9:20 & 10:20 a.m., 6-week series for babies 0-24 months, co-sponsored by SMMUSD Infant & Family Support Program. Next session dates are Sept. 9 – Oct. 14.

Yoga & Exercise
Prenatal Aqua Aerobics at the Santa Monica YMCA
7:30 – 8:30 p.m; Free for members, non-members $90 for 10 classes. (also Tuesdays at 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.) 393-2721. ext. 117 for more info.
Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:40 p.m., $15. Mommy and Me – 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.
Mommy Care – 11870 Santa Monica Blvd, at the Dance Factory, West LA, 310-394-6711. Pregnancy Exercise – 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.; Post Partum Exercise – 10:15 – 11:15 a.m. (babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)

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

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

FRIDAY

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

Mommy and Me Dance– celebrate the wonderful world of imagination Fridays at the Electric Lodge. 9:45 – 10:45 a.m. ages 14 - 24 months; 10:45 – 11:45 a.m. ages 2 – 4.
6 classes for $75 or $14 per class. First class free! 1416 Electric Ave, Venice, 306-1854.

Yoga & Exercise
Fitness for Moms – Babies Welcome! Indoor Cycling, 10:30 a.m. at the YMCA, 393-2721, ext. 117 for more info. Free for members, non-members pay $90 for 10 classes.
Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45 p.m., $15.
Prenatal Breath and Movement – a Continuum Movement and Yoga-based program designed to support women through various sound and movement explorations that celebrate pregnancy and labor as powerful rites of passage. 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
With Deborah Raoult at the Continuum Studio, 1629 18th St., #7. For more info call 625-3739, www.openskymovement.com. $108 for a six-week session.

SATURDAY

Storytelling
Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade – Kid's Story Time – 10am – 310-260-9110
Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion – 10:30am – ages 2-5 – 310-475-4144.
Children's Book World, 10580 1/2 Pico Blvd, LA - 10:30 a.m., 310-559-BOOK.
Village Books, 1049 Swarthmore Ave, Pacific Palisades – 10:30 a.m. – 454-4063.

Yoga & Exercise
Santa Monica Yoga – Pre- & Post-Natal Yoga, Saturdays – 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.
1640 Ocean Park Blvd, 396-4040, www.santamonicayoga.com
Mommy Care – 11870 Santa Monica Blvd. at the Dance Factory, West LA, 394-6711; Pregnancy Exercise – 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.; Post Partum Exercise – 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. (babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)

Other
Snowhite, a brand new musical for kids of all ages, at the Santa Monica Playhouse
Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m. thru Sept. 26, $12 adults, $10 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 1 for reservations, www.santamonicaplayhouse.com
Puppetolio – 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested
Magicopolis – 2 and 8 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is $20 for evening, $15 for matinee. Call 310-451-2241 for info.
Family Fundays at the Will Geer Theatricum Botanicum (also Sundays)
Ages 4 and up, 11:00 a.m., $8, 1419 N. Topanga Blvd., Topanga Canyon, 310-455-3723.

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

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

SUNDAY

Snowhite, a brand new musical for kids of all ages, at the Santa Monica Playhouse
Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m. thru Sept. 26, $12 adults, $10 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 1 for reservations, www.santamonicaplayhouse.com
Main Street Farmer's Market – 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., corner of Main St. and Ocean Park Blvd. Pony rides, live music, lots of vendors and great family socializing.
Puppetolio – 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested
Magicopolis – 2 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is $15. Call 310-451-2241 for info.
Family Fundays at the Will Geer Theatricum Botanicum (also Saturdays)
Ages 4 and up, 11:00 a.m., $8, 1419 N. Topanga Blvd., Topanga Canyon, 310-455-3723.

Aug. 22, 10:00 a.m. – Birdwatching for Young Children and Parents
Malibu Lagoon St. Beach, 23200 PCH. Special short walk for families. Free! 393-6205.

MONDAY

Storytelling
Main Library – Lap Time at Joslyn Park, Craft Room, begins September 13, 9:30 a.m. A series for babies up to two years old.
"Family Connections" starts again September 13th at 10:00 a.m. immediately following Lap Time. Joslyn Park, Craft Room. A series of weekly discussions by well-respected voices in fields related to early childhood development and growth, as well as other areas of interest.
Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main Street, 310-392-3804.
"Spanish for Little Ones", 11:15 a.m. Next session dates are Sept. 13– Oct. 18.
Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade – Toddler Story Time – 10am – 310-260-9110

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

Yoga & Exercise
Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45pm, $15
Yoga Garden, - Restorative yoga for pre/postnatal – 6:30 p.m., 310-450-0133. www.yogagardenstudios.com

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STATE

Drug price protest rolling from LA to Canada

BY ROBERT JABLON
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — A train carrying elderly activists to Canada to buy drugs departed Monday on a rolling protest against high U.S. drug prices.

The "Rx Express" was paid for and arranged by a taxpayers' group, which wants the government to be allowed to negotiate a national bulk-purchasing program for pharmaceuticals to reduce their cost to Medicare patients and others.

"Prescription drugs are bankrupting the entire health care system," said Jerry Flanagan of the Santa Monica-based Foundation for Taxpayer and Consumer Rights.

David Parker, 64, of Orange said the costs of his medication and health insurance together have tripled to about $1,000 a month. To help deal with the increase, he has gone on Social Security early and is paying some of the expense by using the equity in his home.

"Eventually we'll have to sell the house to pay off the loans," he said.

Carole Jaquez, 78, of Apple Valley said she gets free drug samples from her doctors and sometimes goes to Mexico to buy cheaper pharmaceuticals. Otherwise, the five medicines she takes for acid reflux, asthma and high blood pressure can run $300 a month — a big chunk of her $2,200-a-month income.

"When I can't afford it, I borrow from my relatives," she added.

Jaquez said she also has tried to import Canadian drugs even though government regulators say it is illegal.

"They're not paying the bills — I am," she said. "It's higher and higher. Where's it going to stop?"

Stephanie Barstow, 70, of Sherman Oaks and her husband, Carl, who requires a wheelchair, said they had cut costs by getting free drug samples from doctors but those have stopped and they expect to start paying $600 to $700 a month for their prescription drugs. That's a fifth or more of their income.

"You have lots of people in the same boat," she said.

The couple economizes by eating $2 lunches of donated food at a senior center, buying day-old bagels at markets and buying clothing at thrift shops, "which my children think is a positive horror," she said.

"I never conceived of being in this kind of a situation," said Mrs. Barstow, a retired social worker. "But you have to make the most of it. You do the best you can."

The Food and Drug Administration has opposed prescription drug imports because it says it cannot guarantee the drugs' safety. There has been a groundswell of demand by Americans, however, because of skyrocketing drug costs.

Certain pharmaceuticals cost a fourth as much in Canada as they do if purchased in the United States due to government price controls.

For instance, a three-month supply of the cholesterol-lowering drug Lipitor costs $214 in the United States and $162 in Canada.

Americans are paying more because the drug companies must recoup the cost of research and development and the Canadian controls are keeping prices there artificially low, an industry trade group said.

A new drug can cost $900 million to develop," said Wanda Moebius of Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America.

"We're talking about a system that is reliant on the profits of the industry to come up with future cures," she said. "Americans wind up paying a larger share of research and development costs. It's a completely unfair system."

A poll released this month by the nonprofit Kaiser Family Foundation found that older and disabled Americans strongly support proposals to permit prescription drug imports and to allow the government to negotiate prices of medicines.

Four-fifths of those polled said they support the proposals, both of which are banned under the new prescription drug law passed last year by the Republican-led Congress and signed by President Bush.

The "Rx Express," consisting of two chartered train cars, departed from downtown's Union Station. The train was scheduled to pick up riders along its route. Twenty-five senior citizens, small business owners and others were to arrive in Vancouver on Wednesday, either by train or by bus if a recent fire in an Oregon tunnel forces the train to stop short of the border, Flanagan said.

The riders were to be flown back home.

While importation is banned, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration allows people to buy up to three months of drugs for personal use with a U.S. prescription, Flanagan said.

"The point is, we shouldn't have to go to Canada and we shouldn't be restricted by policies that are giving away the store to pharmaceutical companies," he said.

Critics say the issue has been overblown.

Republicans argue that new Medicare discount drug cards are helping to cut drug bills by 25 percent for people without drug insurance. The cards will be replaced in 2006 by prescription drug insurance under Medicare, which the Bush administration says will reduce drug costs by more than half for people previously uninsured and much more for low-income seniors.

There also are discount plans available through HMOs, said Gerald Felando, a retired dentist and former Republican state Assemblyman for Torrance.

Felando, 69, of San Pedro, said he pays only $300 a month for health insurance that includes only a small co-payment for the drugs he uses to control cholesterol, asthma and back pain.

"There are programs right now that they can explore that will ease the burden," he said. "They don't have to go all the way to Canada."

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NATIONAL

Bush urges end to TV attack advertisements by all outside groups

BY PETE YOST
Associated Press Writer

CRAWFORD, Texas — President Bush denounced campaign commercials aired by outside groups on Monday, including an ad that accuses John Kerry of lying about his combat record in Vietnam.

"That ad and every other ad" run by such groups have no place in the campaign, Bush said when asked about the commercial sponsored by Swift Boat Veterans For Truth that has roiled the race for the White House.

Asked directly whether his Democratic rival for the presidency had lied, Bush said, "I think Senator Kerry served admirably and he ought to be proud of his record."

The president made his comments as the Kerry campaign fought back against charges made by the outside group about the senator's wartime service in Vietnam for which he received five medals.

In a conference call with reporters arranged by aides to the Democratic presidential candidate, Navy swift boat officers Rich McCann, Jim Russell and Rich Baker said Kerry acted honorably and bravely and was well qualified to be the nation's commander in chief.

"He was the most aggressive officer in charge of swift boats," Baker said.

Crewmate Del Sandusky said at a news conference in Harrisburg, Pa., that he personally witnessed the battle action for which Kerry received Silver and Bronze stars and two of his three Purple Hearts.

"He deserved every one of his medals," said Sandusky, a retired computer repairman who drove Kerry's Navy swift boat for nearly three months.

In Texas, Bush said, "I don't think we ought to have 527s," a reference to the outside groups that have poured millions of dollars over the past year into attack ads. Bush himself has been a main target of ads costing some $60 million. Bush said all of the ads should be stopped.

"That means that ad," he said, referring to the anti-Kerry ad, "and every other ad."

The anti-Kerry ad, no longer running but much publicized in news accounts, says Kerry didn't deserve his Purple Hearts, lied to get his Bronze Star and Silver Star and unfairly branded all veterans with his 1971 congressional testimony about atrocities in Vietnam.

"I couldn't be more plain about it," Bush said "I hope my opponent joins me in condemning these activities of the 527s."

With polls suggesting Kerry's standing was beginning to slip — at least among veterans — the Democrat last week called on Bush to call for the attack ads to be pulled from the air. He also accused Bush of allowing front groups to "do his dirty work."

Kerry's vice presidential running mate, Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina, said Bush's comments on Monday fell short of what was needed.

"The moment of truth came and went, and the president still couldn't bring himself to do the right thing," Edwards said. "Instead of hiding behind a front group, George Bush needs to take responsibility and demand that the ad come off the air."

Bush's campaign has denied any connection with the anti-Kerry group, and called on the Democratic challenger to join the president in a call for all outside groups to pull their ads.

Underscoring the impact of the anti-Kerry ad, the Democratic National Committee began airing a commercial last week that offered a testimonial to Kerry's fitness for national command.

And in a shift in strategy, Kerry's campaign has responded with two commercials, despite plans to preserve its campaign funds for the general election campaign.

In addition, Republican Sen. John McCain of Arizona has said the anti-Kerry tactics are the same kind used on him and has asked the president to denounce them.

A new Kerry ad says Bush smeared McCain four years ago and "now, he's doing it to John Kerry."

A former Vietnam prisoner of war, McCain lost the South Carolina Republican primary in 2000 after Bush supporters accused him of opposing legislation to help military veterans. McCain never recovered from that primary loss.

Former Sen. Bob Dole, a World War II veteran and 1996 Republican presidential nominee, suggested Kerry apologize for his 1971 testimony to Congress about atrocities U.S. soldiers allegedly committed in Vietnam.

Dole, who has a disabled right arm from war wounds, said Kerry received an early exit from combat for "superficial wounds." He called on the nominee to release all of his Vietnam service records.

Dole told CNN's "Late Edition" in relation to Kerry: "I respect his record. But three Purple Hearts and never bled that I know of. I mean, they're all superficial wounds. Three Purple Hearts and you're out."

Crewmate Sandusky said Monday, "I was there when he got wounded. I saw the blood. I don't care what Dole said."

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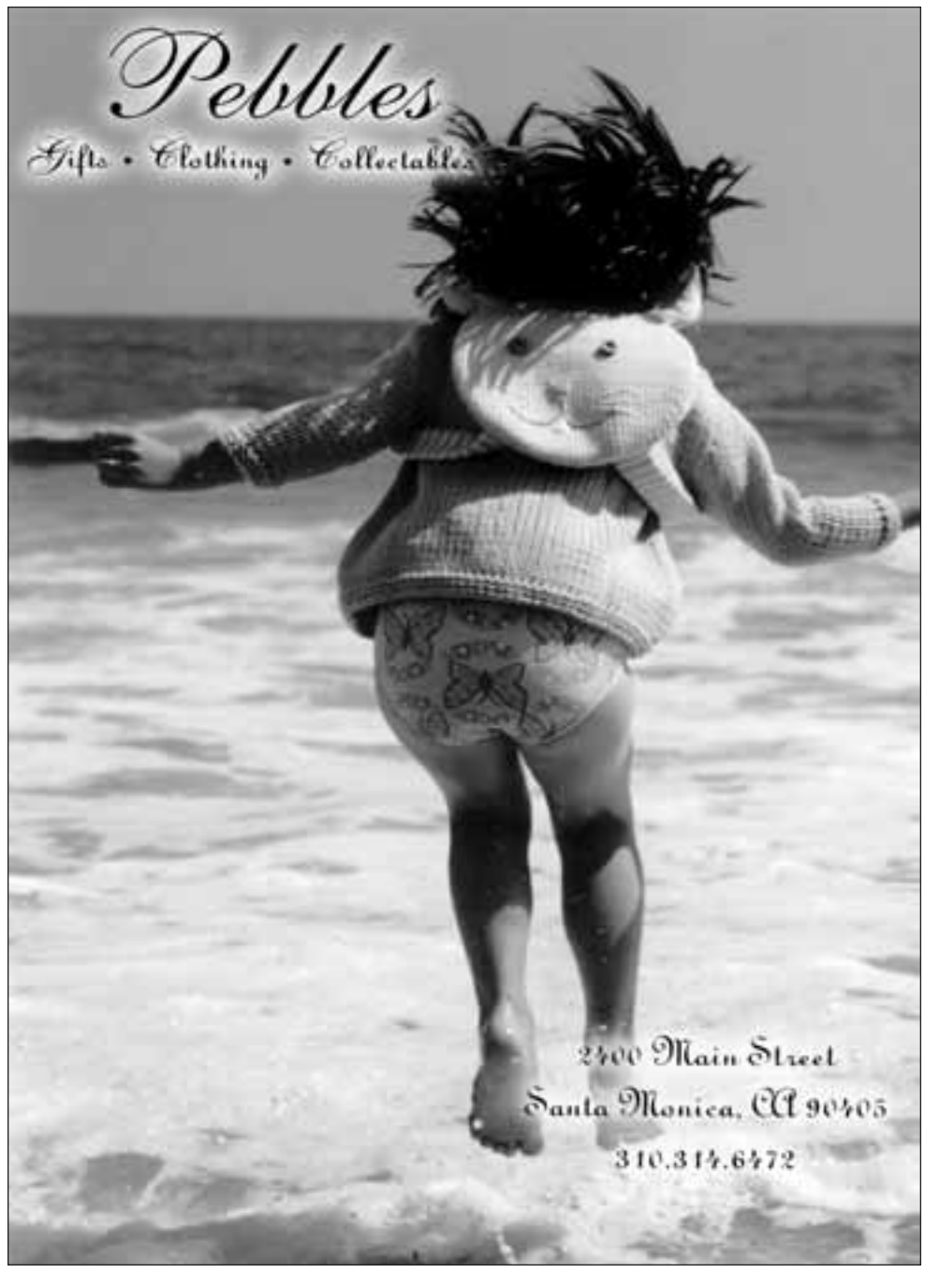

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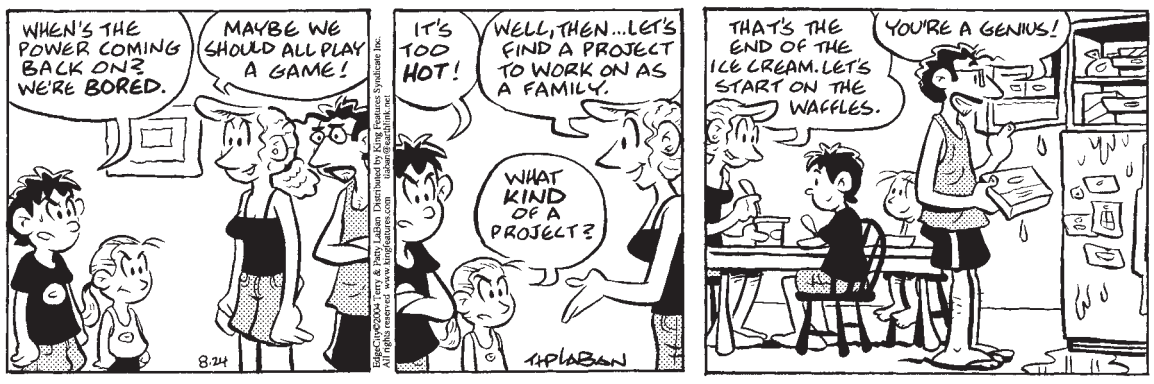

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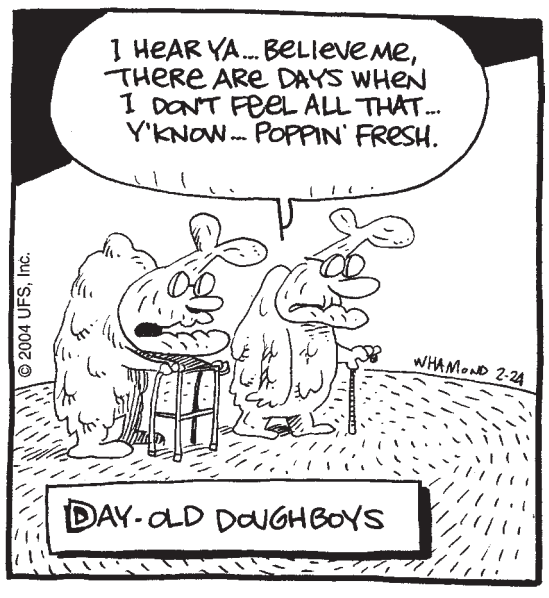
By Dave Whammond



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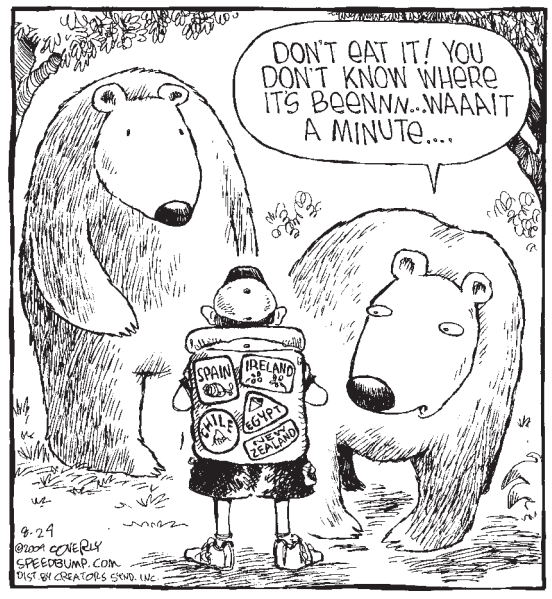
By Dave Coverly



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 The Montague boy
6 Drainage trench
11 Extreme pain
12 Nebraska city
13 Ant's pal
15 Harden
16 Poet Hughes
17 Merino mom
18 Oklahoma neighbor
20 Poet's concern
23 Yorkshire feature
27 Region
28 Prima donna
29 Vagabond
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34 That lady
37 Hold up
38 Before now
41 Legendary gossip columnist
44 Yens
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46 "Let's hear it"
47 Boxcars pair

DOWN

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10 Long-eared runner
14 Spell
18 League makeup
19 Egypt's Anwar
20 Wrestling need
21 Mess up
22 Brewed drink
24 Designer Claiborne
25 Raiser of Cain
26 Down in the dumps
30 Sentence part
31 Metal men
33 "Isn't that pretty!"
34 Close
35 Munich Mister
36 Daring
38 High point
39 "Chicago" actor
40 Metal sources
42 Rep.'s rival
43 Frat letter

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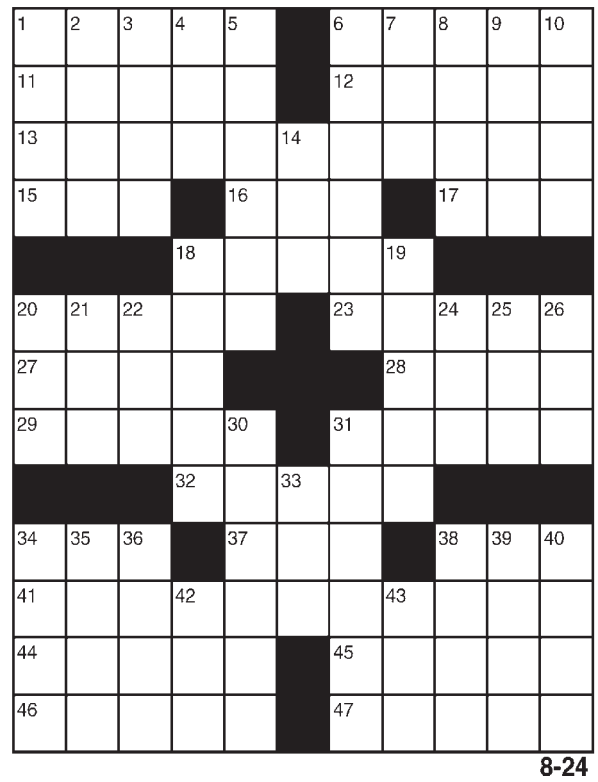

8-24

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BUSY HARDWARE Store seeking experienced only Cashier will train call Manager at 310-454-4116

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Santa Monica CVB
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Santa Monica CA 90401
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Santa Monica Convention & Visitors Bureau is the Official marketing agency which develops National & International tourism promotion programs for the Santa Monica area.

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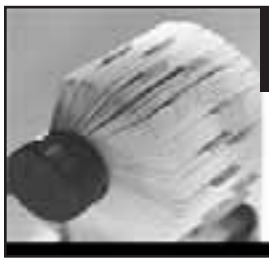

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Sevigny defends graphic sex scene as misunderstood

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK— Actress Chloe Sevigny says a notoriously graphic sex scene in "The Brown Bunny," which opens Friday in New York and Los Angeles, will make "more sense" after audiences see it for themselves.

"I knew people would not understand it," Sevigny told The Associated Press. "It's a shame people write so many things when they haven't seen it. When you see the film, it makes more sense. It's an art film. It should be playing in museums. It's like an Andy Warhol movie."

The explicit oral-sex scene, which has garnered all sorts of attention since the movie's premiere, occurs between Sevigny and Vincent Gallo, who also wrote, directed and edited the film. Gallo shot the scene using remote cameras while he and Sevigny were alone in the room.

"This particular scene is the most complex, it's the most evolved thing that I've ever done in my life," Gallo said at a news conference during the 2003 Cannes Film Festival.

Sevigny, 29, has an eclectic acting resume that includes "Kids," "Boys Don't Cry" and "American Psycho." She can next be seen in the HBO drama series "Big Love" and Woody Allen's "Melinda and Melinda," scheduled for release next year.

"I've always made films that are sort of avant-gardey or whatever you call it," she told the AP last week at the opening of the Hard Rock Cafe inside Foxwoods Resort and Casino in Mashantucket, Conn.

NEW YORK — Julia Roberts, who is pregnant with twins, plans to take a break from movies. In fact, she's throwing most plans out the window.

"I'm not planning anything. I can't imagine how big I'm going to get in the next three months, but ... you just kind of play it as it comes," Roberts tells Newsweek magazine. "I'm allowed to do that, aren't I?"

The Oscar-winning actress has two films set for release in December: "Closer," directed by Mike Nichols and also starring Jude Law, Natalie Portman and Clive Owen, and "Ocean's 12," the Steven Soderbergh-directed sequel to 2001's star-studded heist caper.

But very soon, pregnancy and children will take first priority.

Roberts tells Newsweek that her pregnancy has only just begun to show. "It does kind of happen overnight. You wake up and go, 'Oh my God!'" said the 36-year-old actress, who is due to give birth this winter.

Roberts, who won the best-actress Oscar in 2001 for "Erin Brokovich," married cinematographer Daniel Moder in July 2002. The twins will be the first children for Roberts.

Of the somber "Closer," Roberts said: "I wouldn't think of me for this. And certainly, I wasn't Mike's first choice."

Nichols originally cast Cate Blanchett, but she had to drop out when she became pregnant.

AUBURN HILLS, Mich.— DaimlerChrysler AG says it has dropped its title sponsorship of Donald Trump's TV show "The Apprentice" because of a price increase from NBC. The second season starts Sept. 9.

The automaker's Chrysler unit was prominently featured in the first season with ads at nearly every commercial break. First-season winner Bill Rancic was awarded a 2005 Chrysler Crossfire.

"You would have hoped that given the fact that we were the founding sponsor ... that would count for something," said Joe Eberhardt, head of Chrysler sales and marketing. "But they were asking for way too much money."

Chrysler still will place ads during the series, but Procter & Gamble Co.'s Crest toothpaste and Mattel toys are expected to be the show's major sponsors, The Detroit News said Monday. Ford Motor Co. and General Motors Corp. say they have bought advertising.

TULSA, Okla. — S.E. Hinton, best-selling author of young-adult books such as "The Outsiders" and "Rumblefish," will publish her first novel in 16 years next month.

Hinton's publisher, Tor Books, said "Hawkes Harbor," the story of an orphan who faces adventures on the sea, will be published Sept. 15. It's Hinton's first novel since 1988's "Taming the Star Runner."

"Hawkes Harbor" is Hinton's first fiction aimed at adult readers, Tor Books said last week.

"I was having a hard time figuring out what to write," Hinton, who lives in Tulsa, said in a statement. "I finally remembered one of the perks to writing is having adventures. So I set out to write an adventure story."

"Hawkes Harbor" tells the story of Jamie Summers, an orphan who goes out to sea and encounters pirates, sharks, smugglers and prisons before landing in the seaside town that provides the book's title.

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