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Santa Monica Daily Press

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

McDonald's franchisees in Cape Girardeau, Mo., Brainerd, Minn., and Norwood, Mass., recently began outsourcing their drive-thru order-taking to a call center in Colorado Springs, Colo. Thus, a Big Mac order shouted into a microphone in Missouri gets typed into a computer in Colorado (and a digital photograph of the customer's car is taken in order to reduce errors) and then clicked back to the originating restaurant's kitchen, which has the order ready in less time (30 seconds less, on average, with fewer errors) than the average McDonald's takes.

TODAY IN HISTORY

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO, on Sept. 7, 1979, the Entertainment and Sports Programming Network, ESPN, made its debut.

■ **In 1940**, Nazi Germany began its initial blitz on London during World War II.

■ **In 1963**, the National Professional Football Hall of Fame was dedicated in Canton, Ohio.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"My definition of an educated man is the fellow who knows the right thing to do at the time it has to be done."

CHARLES F. KETTERING
AMERICAN INVENTOR (1876-1958).

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Mall renovation plans rolled out behind closed doors

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN — Officials are quietly unveiling their plan to raze the archaic Santa Monica Place Mall and make it an extension of the Promenade.

Santa Monica Place representatives in the past two weeks have been meeting individually with City Council members and top brass in City Hall to gauge their response to their multi-million dollar plans.

"Personally, I'm there to just listen," said City Councilwoman Pam O'Connor, who met with mall officials last week. "A lot of people are going to care about this and it will require plenty of public input."

Officials from Macerich Co., which owns the private mall,

have met with at least five of the seven City Council members in recent weeks.

"It's a private project and it's their decision on how to daylight it to the community," said Mayor Richard Bloom, adding the public will have plenty of time to debate the plan. "They want to do it right and are navigating very carefully."

Officials visualize a pedestrian-oriented strip that would extend from Wilshire Boulevard all the way to Main Street. That could only happen if Santa Monica Place, which was built before the current Promenade, is torn down and rebuilt as an outdoor mall. Officials consider Santa Monica Place an obstacle, preventing the flow of pedestrian traffic to the Civic Center and the pier.

See MALL, page 6

AFM expands its screen space in SM

By Daily Press staff

OCEAN AVE. — The world's largest motion picture trade event has expanded its base in Santa Monica.

As a result of an overwhelming response from film and television companies around the world, the American Film Market, which will be held in November, has expanded its exhibitor space to include offices at the Le Merigot

Hotel, said Jonathan Wolf, executive vice president of the Independent Film & Television Alliance and managing director of the American Film Market.

Running well ahead of February's market with more than 300 exhibiting companies already committed, this year marks only the second time in the AFM's 15 years at the Loews Santa Monica

See AFM, page 6

Teachers dip into their wallets to give students the basics

BY ANDREA ALMOND
Associated Press Writer

VENICE — If Doreen Seelig pocketed all the money she's spent on classroom supplies over 35 years as a teacher — the printer cartridges, paper, pencils and paperback books to loan her Venice High School students — she figures she'd have a new car.

State and federal tax breaks never fully covered the collective

tens of millions teachers shell out, but they did provide some relief. Not anymore.

As schools reopen, the personal burden Seelig and other California teachers bear just got a lot heavier.

As part of last month's budget compromise, the state suspended its on-again, off-again Teacher Retention Tax Credit, which repaid public school educators up to \$1,500 for classroom supplies or other expenses. Meanwhile, a

\$250 federal tax deduction that helped defray out-of-pocket spending expired this year.

Seelig says she still won't hesitate to buy hundreds of dollars worth of basic materials that districts don't provide — and she'll still drive her 1991 Acura.

"What are we going to do, tell the kids, 'Sorry, there's no paper today,' or tell them they can't print because there's no ink?" Seelig asks. "I know I couldn't do it."

This issue extends beyond California. Teachers nationwide have long grappled with a lack of supplies, and few received any tax relief in the first place.

Even when breaks are proposed, as in Arizona last year, the teachers' lobby may be opposed, saying the solution is more state funds for education, not credits for teachers shouldering the burden of inadequate supplies.

See SUPPLIES, page 7

Labor daze



Crill Hansen/Special to the Daily Press

Warm weather and a holiday was the right combination for crowded beaches in Santa Monica this past weekend.



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Dinner for two, Sag

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*****-Dynamic *****-Positive ***-Average **-So-so *-Difficult





ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ As your plate is full, plan your time carefully and organize your day. You can accomplish a lot through clear thinking and asking others for feedback. Delegate a job or two. The end results will be excellent. Tonight: Settle in to a quiet night at home.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Deal with funds. You pull the wild card emotionally and financially. Before you plunge into a risk, be sure you can handle the end results if they are negative. Remember, you picked the wild card today. Tonight: Catch up on a friend's news.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You're coming from a place of security and well-being. In any case, act like it. As a result, others respond to your lead. Use this day for key projects and issues. Maximize the planetary power. Tonight: Settle in. Consider paying bills, if not organizing them.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Step back and think through your plans. In fact, you can get a lot from hanging out by yourself and processing decisions. Not everything is as you think it is or as the facts relate. Go over your projects with a fine-tooth comb. Have a solid plan of action. Tonight: Happy as a cat.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You hear the cling clang of money right now in your piggy bank. Don't decide to spend it just yet. Think about long-term expenditures. You might want to use the extra funds toward a long-term goal. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You might want to listen to others and their opinions. You can add a lot by your simple appearance and well-timed suggestions. Know who is in charge, and defer to him or her. Tomorrow, your ideas play a big role. Tonight: Join your pals.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ You find looking past the problem and breaking past limitations the best way to go. Refuse to accept “no,” but brainstorm away until you find the appropriate solution. Feel good as you break past rigid thinking. Tonight: Working late? Or just out late?



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Someone you have counted on comes through for you again. In fact, you are surrounded by people and options. Your biggest problem is which way to go. Follow your heart. Understand where your interests lie. Tonight: Relax to music or a movie.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Others present the information; all you need to do is mull it over. A boss or authority figure has many ideas and suggestions. You wind up calling on a dear friend or loved one for support and feedback. Tonight: Dinner for two.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Investigate what might be happening with associates and co-workers. Doing some research on your own brings in real facts and information. Check in with an expert. Others also have suggestions. Listen, please. Tonight: Out with friends. How 'bout a game of racquetball?



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Listen to others. Someone might come up with an outlandish idea. It might even be you! Creativity flows with loved ones, work or whatever you choose to occupy your time with. Express your uniqueness. Tonight: Settle in.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Anchor in on your priorities, especially within your home domain. How you see someone could drastically change, and for the better. This person is buoyant and full of ideas. What starts out as a serious relationship could develop into much more. Tonight: Find a quiet spot to get to know each other better.

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LOCAL

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Police helicopter helps nab would-be car thieves

By Daily Press staff

Four men were arrested early Saturday after police caught them allegedly stealing a car on Lincoln Boulevard.

Using the aid of a helicopter, Santa Monica police on the ground drew their guns on the suspects at Lincoln Boulevard and Grant Street after they attempted to flee the scene at about 12:47 a.m. Police were called to the area of Lincoln Boulevard and Pacific Street for an auto theft in progress. There, the suspects apparently broke the window to a parked SUV, stole stereo equipment, and attempted to steal the vehicle, police said.

While ground units were responding to the area, additional Santa Monica officers who were on patrol in the helicopter, arrived within seconds over the location and saw the suspects fleeing, police said. The helicopter followed the vehicle and directed responding police units to its location. The helicopter remained overhead until the suspects were taken into custody, police said. Four suspects were arrested and the stereo equipment was recovered.

Antonio Orozco, 28, of Los Angeles, was booked for auto burglary, attempted car theft, and violation of felony probation. He has no bail. Felix Rangel, 31, of Los Angeles, was booked for auto burglary, attempted car theft and violation of felony probation. He has no bail. John Daniel Rangel, 22, of Los Angeles, was booked for auto burglary and attempted car theft. His bail is set at \$20,000. The other suspect is a juvenile.

Attention jazz lovers

By Daily Press staff

Jazz enthusiasts should get ready to swing with some legends of the genre at the fall Friday night jazz series concerts at Santa Monica College.

Celebrated jazz trumpeter Oscar Brashear will perform at the opening night of the series on Sept. 17. Brashear is considered to be one of the great jazz musicians of the post-1970 period, and one of the most prolific creators of recordings and performances. He has performed alongside such greats as Count Basie, Woody Herman, Bobby Hutcherson and many more.

Other jazz musicians scheduled to appear in the concert series are the Reggie Hamilton Quintet on Oct. 8, the Jon Mayer Quartet on Nov. 5, and the John Beasley Quintet on Dec. 3.

In addition, pianist Christopher Weldon will perform for free on Sept. 21 at 11:15 a.m. Weldon trained at the Juilliard School and has won numerous national and international piano competitions. Among them are the Kosciuszko Foundation National Chopin Competition and the Juilliard School Gina Bachauer International Piano Competition.

The concerts take place at 7 p.m. on Fridays at Santa Monica College and cost \$10. For more information and tickets, call (310) 434-3000.



SURF REPORT

Today we'll see mainly just leftover, short period SSE energy (165-180) from Hurricane Howard mixing with small NW energy and a touch of building SW swell (200-210). The southerly exposed spots see mainly knee-waist high surf, while standout spots through North Orange County are a bit better — up to shoulder high. NW spots are mainly waist high and below.

Look for the tropical swell to be pretty much gone by Wednesday while the SW swell pulses up a touch more and the NW wind swell holds.

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

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

Today the water is:

72°

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	6:39	2.2	8:41	1.5	1:24	3.7	1:17	5.0
SUNDAY	6:57	2.7	10:23	1.4	3:02	3.1	2:05	4.8
MONDAY	N/A	N/A	11:57	1.1	N/A	N/A	3:20	4.6
TUESDAY	10:24	3.4	N/A	N/A	8:14	3.5	4:52	4.7
WEDNESDAY	12:57	0.8	12:11	3.3	8:21	3.8	6:03	5.0
THURSDAY	1:38	0.4	1:02	3.0	8:35	4.0	6:54	5.3
FRIDAY	2:10	0.2	1:38	2.6	8:51	4.2	7:34	5.6

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The QLine

A plan to end homelessness in Los Angeles within a decade will be unveiled on Sept. 23. The plan has taken several months to develop and has taken into consideration the input and opinions of hundreds of people.

The planning panel of about 80 people — consisting of everybody from politicians to business leaders to homeless advocates — hopes to end the problem that has plagued this city for decades. It's considered the largest effort ever by community leaders to tackle a problem that some say stands as the biggest

facing the country.

In Santa Monica, homelessness is one of the most hotly debated issues in the community.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "What must be included in the panel's plan? How can homelessness most effectively be eradicated in the next 10 years?"

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

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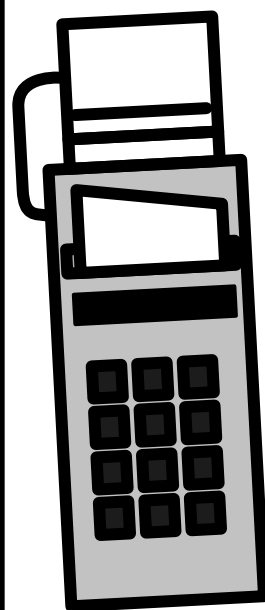
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bird man adds color to life

Editor:

About 12 years ago I came across an “apparently” homeless person in Santa Monica. Someone, I’m not sure who, told me he was the bird man. He always had a bike, a beach cruiser of sort, with bags of cans and recyclables on it. I several times tested him, yelled out “bird man!” to which he always whole heartedly replied with an excellent rendition of a bird call. Something about the guy, but I knew my asking him to perform brightened his day.

About seven or eight years ago when my niece and nephew were visiting with my mother I happened upon the bird man in Santa Monica. I told them, as we drove up near him, the stories. We rolled down the windows and I gave the obligatory yell, he responded in kind, very kind. He made me look like a local to my relatives, and gave them a story to remember. The bird man represents the eclectic nature brought on by Santa Monica and Southern California in general. It’s what I have clung to in my 13 years here.

As I write this, I look down at the date on my computer — 13 years today, Aug. 28. I arrived in California.

Today as I drove down Wilshire towards my home in Venice, as I approached Ocean Avenue, I saw the bird man. Oddly enough he was perched on a city box next to the light on the opposite corner. I was ready to yell “bird man.” As I inched closer to the intersection I put down my window, I was ready to verbalize something, but realized he was already in a conversation which was directed at me.

It took me a few minutes to grasp, jump in, and understand where he was coming from. He told me his bike had been stolen and that he now had a new bike — not as nice, only three sprockets in the back. I told him that I thought this bike was really cool, but saw the sense of loss in his eyes. He appreciated me listening for the 15 to 20 seconds before the light changed and I had to move. I was trying to think quickly and make a last statement that might encourage him a bit.

Probably not the best but I said, “that’s a sorta cool bike but I’m sorry about your other bike.”

He replied, “Thanks,” with a smile. I felt good and felt a sense of kindness rolling

off this guy. He was OK. He was happy.

Light changed, I pulled away.

What I forgot to mention, is that when I first pulled up and heard his “conversation” he precluded it with a rooster call.

My nephew Jesse who passed away two years ago, at the age of 17, heard the bird man and he laughed.

Laughter is cool.

Mike Bongarzone
Venice

Here’s to you, Big Blue

Editor:

(Editor’s note: This was originally addressed to the Big Blue Bus).

You have changed my father’s life. You bring him joy, independence, freedom. Thanks to you Big Blue, he can saunter out of his Brentwood home, stroll down to the corner, hop on your comfortable seat and go with the flow. Well not quite hop, you see he is 86 years old. He no longer has his driver’s license but thanks to you Big Blue, he has mobility again. More important, you have renewed his spirit. His favorite destination is Lone Wolf Cigar Store in Santa Monica, the ambiance is that of a cozy den. He shoots the breeze with the fellows while enjoying his favorite cigar. He’s even been to the Music Center, Union Station and Olvera Street. You’re a cheap date Big Blue, great company and ever so reliable. He is a new man, thanks to you Big Blue.

Sandi Homchick
Los Angeles

Americans have to accept they live in a global world



WHAT'S THE POINT?

BY DAVID PISARRA

This past weekend was the celebration of labor, and as I pointed out last week, bosses should not be forgotten on this holiday. That of course brought forth the inevitable question from a reader, “But what about the employers who export jobs to India or China? Do they deserve honor as well?”

Yes.

Not only is it important for the world economy to provide work for people in underdeveloped countries who need jobs so that they may provide for their families, but it is good business. And what good liberal doesn’t want to raise the standard of living globally? We must provide employment globally. To decry the loss of jobs is to be a protectionist, and protectionist policies are small minded and discriminatory in an “Us vs. Them” mentality.

The fact that a CEO would consider moving a company in order to lower labor costs is one of the very bricks in the foundation of capitalism. It is their fiduciary duty to the stockholders in the company. Even if they are the only stockholder.

A business must be run efficiently. It must be run to maximize profits and minimize expenses. Any person who does not run their company that way will not have

a company in short order.

Moving a company internationally is no different than when a company moves from one state to another. When Buck Knives Co. was investigating moving, it was because labor costs became too high in California. Does it make a huge difference if they moved to Nevada or India? The fact is that the jobs were leaving the state.

There was a large outcry but the fact is that to keep a company profitable, the environment for business must be hospitable. In California, and certainly in Santa Monica, business is under attack.

Why is business so under attack? Is it the insurers who are overreaching on worker’s comp claims? Is it the fact that businesses are having to compete in a global market? Is it the Wal-Mart effect?

Workers’ compensation rates are insane. The reason why is simple: To be declared an employee is the simplest thing in the world by the Worker’s Compensation Appeal Board. I had a case last month in front of a hearing officer. The “worker” was by all accounts an independent contractor. He had his own truck driver’s license, he was paid on a per trip basis, he had no taxes taken out of this wages, he was able to accept or reject any particular trip, he didn’t have to maintain regular working hours, and he did not report to any superior on the truck yard. He also was declared as an employee. The hearing officer said it is almost impossible to not be declared an employee when it comes to determining if an employer

should cover injuries on the job or related to the job.

This case, where one man was driving a truck, and he wasn’t even injured, will put this employer out of business. That is 20 jobs that are going to disappear.

Before condemning the bosses one should review where one shops, what is bought and why.

How many American flags were flown this past summer with “Made in China” printed on them? How many times did you shop at Wal-Mart, Target and K-Mart? Did you buy the cheapest product or the one made in America?

The “giant sucking sound,” as Ross Perot put it, of jobs leaving the country is not the fault of the CEOs. It is the shoppers at Wal-Mart, Target and K-Mart. The people that shop on price. And yes, they are most likely to be the ones who are losing their jobs next.

It is unfair to condemn the CEO, whose primary responsibility is to the stockholders to lower production costs. That type of forward thinking brought us the industrial age, which has brought us increased life expectancy, a better standard of living and amazing discoveries in science and medicine. In the late 1800s when mass production really took off, was the start of the pursuit of profits through reduced labor costs. It hasn’t changed since.

Off-shoring work is just the natural evolution of capitalism. For decades, labor came to America because of the opportunities for work. Now it’s just cheaper and easier to leave the worker in

their homeland and ship the product.

If unions are losing ground to workers in India who are willing and able to live on less money, it’s not only the smart move for a CEO to move his production there, it’s his duty. So long as a Chinese factory will mass-produce American flags cheaper than they can in Riverside, that’s where the work will go.

To make business stay in Santa Monica, or California, or the United States, it needs to be an inviting environment. Wages are not the real cost that CEOs are trying to avoid. They know workers must be paid, and they would rather live in a country where their neighbors had jobs because that means they have money to spend on goods. But the fact is, it’s too expensive to pay people, and provide them health insurance, and worker’s compensation insurance, and pay outrageous city licensing fees, and permitting fees, and comply with all the city, state and federal regulations, and still try to show an increasing profit each quarter. The marketplace is cutthroat, and it gets more so each time Wal-Mart pressures an American company to lower its prices.

If the workers want to keep their jobs at home, they better start shopping for products made at home.

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



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

OPINION



The blog that stopped it all

ANY DAY IN LA

BY HEIDI MANTEUFFEL



You know that ultimate nightmare of your mom finding your diary and reading things you said about her you never wanted her to know? Yeah, me too.

Before I had a column, I had a blog, and before that I had a mom. Both while blogs and columns are public domain, mothers like to keep their families fairly private. Unfortunately, when my mom was looking for my column online she found my blog which newest post included an unflattering comment, specifically about her.

I had this great idea that I could use blogging as my personal journal. Thousands of people publish their blog every minute, and mine doesn't have pictures, graphics, porn — anything fun. So the odds of someone finding it and actually wanting to read it I figured were slim to none. Yet the one person I posted a comment about which included fighting words I don't utter in real life, was the very person who found it.

The post was two months ago, and I honestly didn't remember writing it. However, last week I got an e-mail from her saying she wanted to discuss what was bothering me in my blog. I was thinking, what do you want to talk about? My posting about Wonderbread, annoying people I saw on Wilshire ... what? Then I opened it, and to my embarrassment, the memory came flooding back.

The incidence was about two months ago, and my mom and I were finishing an ongoing conversation where she instructed and I listened. Mom had been making some strides as parents do for their children in the arena of helping them, whether finding a plane ticket home for vacation or guiding through the Target online sale. And I knew logically in this case that she was again just trying to help, but at the same time that's not what my feelings were telling me.

Feelings are never entirely rational, and I couldn't help feel a sharp cut as this specific decision was done with seemingly little to none of my input. Although it was just another everyday decision — for some reason with this specific incident — I didn't feel that her motives were entirely pure.

And this jab I felt from my parents, whether intended or not, made me feel hurt and alone. It was in this incredibly bad and low mood that I needed only a journal entry to express what I couldn't to

them. So I jotted out the most cutting one to two sentences I could think of, published the blog and completely forgot about it.

However, looking back at this blog entry and others, they're totally not indicative how I feel about anyone. It's always when I'm the most upset, or sad, or let down by them that I feel the need write. Like Bridget Jones says, "diaries are just full of rubbish and everyone knows that." But as I discovered, it doesn't stop from hurting a friend when they come across you at your lowest, and funnel your fury specifically in their direction.

The truth is, I think my mom is wonderful. She's kind, caring and would do almost anything for me and my sister.

Mom was the one that was continually there for me during both the easy and difficult times throughout my life. She just wanted to see me happy. But despite this, all I could think about was that one moment in time, and how it felt — like she didn't really care.

My mom was certainly hurt by the uncalled remark, but mostly because I didn't tell her what I was thinking. And as always, she was just trying to help.

The problem with mind reading is if you get the first assumption wrong, you'll have the one resting on top of that wrong as well, and all the rest after that. Basically you're left with a Jenga tower that's resting on nothing but false assumptions. As soon as you find that one belief is wrong, as I did with my mother, and pull the piece out, the whole tower comes crashing down. As soon as my mom displaced my fears about the initial reasoning behind the decision, I realized every assumption after that in my head was wrong, and based on a false presupposition preceding the other.

What would have been best is if I confronted my mother in the first place, before I created this whole scenario in my head, and told her how I felt. This would have made my resistance to her much less, the decision go much faster and the problem not escalate to become its own unmanageable entity. Besides mind reading, I shouldn't have tried to predict reactions either, even if on the whole I'm intuitive and know the person really well. I was totally wrong in this case.

Needless to say I've taken that posting off my blog site. I've taken every blog off my site, and would close the thing if I could figure out how. The whole point was to help me express how I was feeling for my own sake, and not to make people I care about feel lousy.

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LOCAL

Santa Monica Place Mall readies for overhaul

MALL, from page 1

Although mall officials won't elaborate on their plans publicly, Bloom said the ideas floated past him last month are impressive.

"It involves a boat load of money," he said. "Their plan is breathtaking in its scope."

The conceptual plans would involve completely rebuilding the shopping center, and creating an open mall setting, extending the Third Street Promenade to Colorado Avenue.

The rebuilt mall — estimated in the

past to cost more than \$150 million — would have retail and restaurants on surrounding streets of where the current shopping center sits. A park-like setting could be built at Second Street and Colorado Avenue.

Bloom said the new mall would have comparable square footage to what's currently there and close to the same number of stores. Santa Monica Place Mall sits on 10 acres and has 560,000 square feet of retail.

Randy Brant, the senior vice president of Macerich, declined to comment on the specific plans, or the company's time

frame on when they would unveil the plans.

"We are not ready to go public," he said. "But I'm very excited about our plans."

Macerich will have to enter into a development agreement with City Hall because the parking structure and the land surrounding the mall is publicly owned. Bloom said public parking would be provided in the new development three stories underground, and designed much like the garage at the Grove shopping center in Los Angeles.

The new mall is directly related to City Hall's ambitious plans to redevelop the Civic Center area. Officials plan to completely rebuild the area around City Hall on Main Street.

"I think whatever happens at Santa Monica Place is very meaningful for the community," Bloom said. "There are some extraordinary opportunities at hand."

City Hall recently released a draft environmental impact report on the Civic Center plan, as well Santa Monica Place. It includes between 150 and 450 housing units and 85,000 square feet of office space. The Civic Center is visualized as a town square, with botanical and sculpture gardens, open space and bicycle paths, as well as a childhood development facility and a revamped City Hall.

Officials from Macerich met with city

officials more than two years ago to discuss similar ideas. When economic realities squashed their grandiose plans, mall officials put the brakes on the concept.

But as the mall's popularity continues to dwindle with consumers, Macerich has realized its economic reality means a reinvestment in its property, which was last renovated in 1990.

Last year, shops and restaurants along the Promenade grossed over \$2.2 billion in sales, while Santa Monica Place raked in \$1.1 billion, according to tax figures from the city.

"Santa Monica Place is currently not particularly successful," Bloom said. "(A redevelopment) has meaningful economic impacts and we have a lot of motivation to improve that property."

Many say the mall was a bad urban planning decision — it blocks off the ocean, the pier and serves as a barrier at the end of a three-block-long open-aired Promenade. Malls and people's tastes have changed dramatically since Santa Monica Place was built in 1980. Now people either want a Main Street-type experience, or a massive shopping center like the Beverly Center.

"A good planning decision? No. But it is reflective of the time," O'Connor said. "People's expectations about a mall cannot be met on that footprint."

Thousands expected at AFM in November

AFM, from page 1

Beach Hotel that organizers have taken additional exhibition space — the last time being in 2001.

The Le Merigot Hotel, which is located directly next to the Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel, also is the site of the AFM's three video screening rooms and their sell-out seminars. All exhibitor offices at Le Merigot will be on the lobby level, including Peter Hoffman's Seven Arts International.

Celebrating its 25th anniversary, the AFM will run Nov. 3-10. Attendance is projected to be more than 7,000 people.

For City Hall, the annual film market means anywhere from \$250,000 to \$300,000 in hotel bed taxes. For local merchants, the thousands of extra visitors to Santa Monica means untold millions of dollars in meals out and cab rides.

The AFM is a global marketplace where more than \$500 million in motion picture and television production and distribution deals are closed annually. Each year, thousands of industry professionals converge in Santa Monica for eight days of deal making, screenings, seminars, networking and hospitality.

Participants come from more than 70 countries, and include leaders in motion picture and television production and distribution, directors, agents, writers, lawyers, bankers, festival directors, film commissioners and trade groups.

The event was normally held in February, but organizers permanently

Each year, thousands of industry professionals converge in Santa Monica for eight days of deal making, screenings, seminars, networking and hospitality.

changed it to November. The idea was to shift the film market so that it is on a natural cycle with some major film festivals. For Santa Monica, it means twice the revenue this year. For hoteliers, that means nearly 12,000 room nights sold. In other words most, if not all, of the city's 3,700 hotel rooms will be booked for several days straight.

The Loews and Le Merigot will act as a sort of tradeshow floor, where executives view clips and sell distribution rights. At Loews, all of the hotel's beds will be taken out and put in storage, while desks, telephone and fax lines, audio/visual connections, plasma televisions, DVD players and all the elements of a tradeshow will be put in place.

The AFM is produced by the Independent Film & Television Alliance (formerly AFMA), the trade association representing the world's producers and distributors of independent motion pictures and television programs.

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STATE



Back to basics: Students need paper and pencils

SUPPLIES, from page 1

The loss of tax credits comes as school districts across California are tightening their budgets while being pressured to raise test scores, according to teacher advocates. For young teachers at the lowest end of the pay scale, the loss of the credit is all the more drastic.

"The end of the tax benefits is effectively a tax increase for teachers — people who spend thousands of their own dollars each day for their classrooms and who don't deserve a tax increase," said California Teachers Association President Barbara Kerr.

Students can suffer academically when they don't have the basics — pencils, erasers, notebooks, tissues. Parent-teacher organizations and private groups often take an active role in donating supplies, but it's an imperfect alternative, educators say — while rich districts ultimately get what they need, poor ones come up short.

And while teachers who fill the gap say they often pay enough that they feel the pinch personally, the spending isn't often great enough to itemize as deductions on their taxes.

By ditching its tax break, California joined most of the rest of the nation. National teacher organizations don't keep track, but it appears few states now offer teachers any relief at all.

Arkansas law requires that school districts reimburse teachers for up to \$500 of out-of-pocket expenses. Texas officials have allocated \$3 million to compensate public school teachers. Between that and local government funding, Texas teachers might reach \$400 worth of reimbursements this school year.

In Los Angeles, a teachers' union survey reported the union's approximately 35,000 members spent, on average, a little more than \$1,000 on school supplies last year. Nationwide, teachers ponied up \$458 on average, according to the National School Supply and Equipment Association, a Maryland-based trade group.

Karl Kaku, an English teacher at Fresno High School for 10 years, said he had already spent \$200 on supplies, before this year's classes even started.

"Stuff to write with, stuff to write on: pens, paper, overhead transparencies, overhead markers, ink cartridges," said Kaku, who makes \$56,000 a year. "Some years, there's some money. Others, there's nothing. This year there's nothing."

During a teachers' meeting before school started, many of Kaku's colleagues complained that without the teacher credit, finding extra cash became even harder.

In the Los Angeles section of Canoga Park, teacher and expectant new mother Jennifer Flores said she has already rationed her spending.

"We'll do without some of the things I would usually buy," she said. "And the worst thing about it all is that it's the kids who end up suffering the most."

The California credit was first offered in 2000 as a way to keep teachers from quitting. Teachers with four to 11 years in the profession received \$250 to \$500. Those more experienced could receive up to \$1,500.

The credit was suspended in 2002 as state legislators battled a budget gap. It was resurrected for the 2003-2004 tax year, at a cost of \$180 million to the state. Last month, legislators suspended the relief until 2007.

Parent and teacher groups, as well as private companies, are scrambling to cushion the blow.

The Los Angeles teachers' union recently teamed with a local Spanish-language radio station in asking donors to fill supply wish lists that ranged from glue sticks, pencils, crayons and manila folders to socks and underwear for lower-income districts.

One Web site, iLoveSchools.com, matches teachers with donors. The nonprofit organization, launched in July by a San Diego-based Internet company, has already attracted teachers from every state — more than 10,000 in all — said site founder Jerry Hall.

While the group has received about \$90,000 in donations, Hall said that's far short of the estimated \$6 million the teachers who've written his organization have spent.

Indeed, stopgap spending is not just an issue in California. Across the country, educators have long been personally making up for budget shortfalls.

Teachers in states including Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming, haven't had anything like California's now-suspended tax credit. Educators, many of whom spent far more than the \$250 they could claim as a federal tax deduction, just made do.

Some teachers say the end of federal aid is just another example of how undervalued they are.

"We have underpaid teachers and we're offered a carrot for one year and then it's taken away," said Shirley Andrews, who has taught at the Mukilteo School District near Seattle for almost 30 years. "It's sending the message that the government doesn't care."

The National Education Association and some lawmakers are working to reinstate the federal teacher deduction, which was introduced in 2002 but expired at the end of 2003. The House passed a bill last year that would make permanent a \$400 deduction. A similar piece of legislation has been introduced in the Senate.

Legislative efforts have stalled in some states.

In Arizona, legislator Dean Martin introduced a bill the last two years that would have reimbursed teachers \$250 each year. Teachers' unions helped shoot it down each time.

"Tax credits are bad public policy, even if they are a benefit to our members," said John Wright, president of the Arizona Education Association. "If teachers are spending their own money for supplies ... then that's an indication of unmet needs. We should be providing schools with the funds needed rather than reimbursing teachers."

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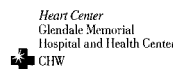
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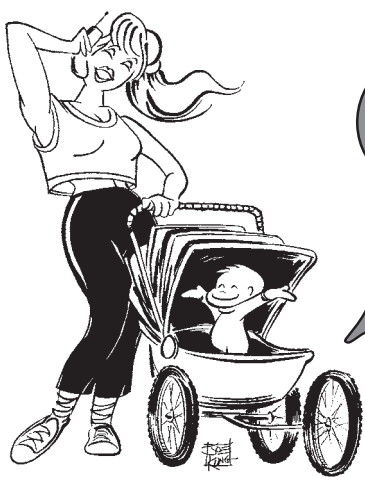


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Santa Monica

A weekly look at events and programs for

Parenting got you confused? Help is on the way

BY PAM WIGHT
Special to the Daily Press

Your baby won't sleep through the night and you don't know what to do about it. Or your baby won't sleep through the night because you're trying to wean her and you're not sure how to stick to your guns. Or maybe still, you have a toddler who would just as soon piddle in his pants than make the trip to the bathroom and interrupt his current project of pulling all of the dishes out of the cup-

board. Rest assured, help is out there — and it doesn't cost anything.

Santa Monica has many free programs and sources of information for parents regarding almost any subject. The Infant and Family Support Program, along with the Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District and Saint John's Health Center, currently provide a myriad of programs, meetings and "family advocates" (usually mothers who act as counselors and go into the community to find parents who need help) aimed at educating and helping new parents. The goal is to get kids ready for school.

The program is certified to help with applications for government-sponsored health care programs so parents can obtain the correct papers to make them eligible. Other topics range from weaning and breast feeding to toilet training and discipline techniques that are non-violent.

"If we don't know the answer to a question, we can find out for any information," said Dorie Meek, the program's director.

Every Monday morning, the program holds meetings called, "Family Connections," when an expert will speak on a different topic. The city of Santa Monica provides free space but does not fund advertising. Even without marketing funds, the meetings and other classes draw 300 to 400 people weekly. Between 25 and 40 attend

each meeting.

"A class on (how to get your baby to) sleep will guarantee a full house," Meek said. News of events is largely passed on by word-of-mouth and flyers distributed around the city. Flyers can be found at such places as libraries, laundromats and on the bulletin boards at the parks where the events take place. Most classes and events occur at Joslyn Park and Memorial Park. The program currently is aimed at birth to 5 years old.

The program was founded in 1997 to satisfy a need in Santa Monica. Some well-publicized writings by Dr. Dan Siegel from UCLA were published at that time claiming that the infant brain — far from being a blank slate — was a complex web of synapses and connections which needed to be stimulated or it would die. Further, Dr. Siegel argued that the right stimulation resulted in a reduction in arrests 15 years later, and that high quality child care could cut crime rates by 80 percent. At the same time there was a brewing health care crisis. The two factors spurred the creation of the program.

Family Connection meetings and other classes run on a school schedule with the first meeting this year scheduled for Sept. 13. Anyone who needs help or information can attend a meeting or pick up a flyer at one of the parks, libraries or schools. For more information, call at (310) 452-6132 or e-mail ifsp@smmusd.org.

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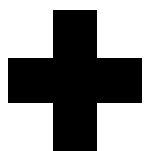
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SPECIAL EVENTS

SATURDAY, SEPT. 12 – PARTY on the PIER! – 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The fall session kicks off with a chance for you to get acquainted with the program and program leaders of SMMUSD's Infant and Family Support Program, provided by St. John's Health Center. 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. Immediately following Lap Time at Joslyn Park, Craft Room, 633 Kensington Rd. Call 452-6132 or e-mail ifsp@smmusd.org for more info.

SATURDAYS thru SEPTEMBER 25th – 1:00 – 1:30 p.m.

YMCA NUTRITION, HEALTH and WELLNESS FAMILY SEMINARS
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Santa Monica YMCA, 1332 6th St., Teen Fitness Center, 3rd floor, 393-2721, ex. 137.

MONDAY, SEPT. 13th - FAMILY CONNECTIONS OPEN HOUSE – 10:00 a.m.

The fall session kicks off with a chance for you to get acquainted with the program and program leaders of SMMUSD's Infant and Family Support Program, provided by St. John's Health Center. 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. Immediately following Lap Time at Joslyn Park, Craft Room, 633 Kensington Rd. Call 452-6132 or e-mail ifsp@smmusd.org for more info.

RHYTHM CHILD PARENT & ME CLASSES –

Reserve space now for the last series of the year beginning Wednesday, Sept. 15, 9:30 – 10:15 a.m., Santa Monica Studios, 3025 Olympic Blvd. \$100 for 8 weeks/ \$85 for siblings. Ages 6 months – 3 years. Reservations recommended; 204-5466 or e-mail info@rhythmchild.net.

BABY MASSAGE CLASSES at the SM YMCA

Infants 6 weeks – 4 months: Mondays, Sept. 13 & 20th, 10:00 a.m. – noon
Infants 5 months – 1 year: Mondays, Sept. 27th & Oct. 4th, 10:00 a.m. – noon
Register for these two-part workshops at the YMCA located at 1332 6th St. or call 393-2721 for more info. Fees: Free for YMCA members, \$50 for non-members.

TUESDAYS, SEPT. 7 - 28 – ART for TODDLERS – 10:30 – 11:15 a.m.

Explore age-appropriate creativity and experiment with color, texture and patterns. Zimmer Children's Museum, 6505 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 100, LA. Ages 20 months – 3 years, \$5, reservations required, 323-761-8998.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23 – COMMUNITY CPR, 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Brought to you by the SMMUSD Infant and Family Support Program, provided by St.

John's Health Center. This English session is free but a \$20 registration deposit is required (fully refunded at the end of class). Contact IFSP at 452-6132 to register.

TUESDAY

Movies for Moms!

"Little Black Book" starring Brittany Murphy, Holly Hunter and Kathy Bates. Romance-comedy; rated "PG-13."
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. Next session begins 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.

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 ages 0-2, next session begins Sept. 15.

Toddler Story Time – 11:15 a.m., for 2 year olds, next session begins Sept. 15.

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

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

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

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

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45pm, \$15
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, next session begins Sept. 16.

Preschool Story Time – 11:15 a.m.; for 3-5 year olds, next session begins Sept. 16.

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 4-8 months, 1:00 – 2:30 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.

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-B00K.

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

Yoga & Exercise

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

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

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

Other

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

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

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

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

Family Fundays at the Will Geer Theatrum Botanicum (also Sundays)

Ages 4 and up, 11:00 a.m., \$8, 1419 N. Topanga Blvd., Topanga Canyon, 310-455-3723.

Precious Prints – Ceramic Heirlooms for a Lifetime . Second Saturday every month at The Pump Station, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Contact Kristan Ritchie at 310-802-8013 or visit www.preciousprintstudios.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 – HAPPY GRANDPARENTS DAY! (Sept. 12)

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

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

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

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

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

Family Fundays at the Will Geer Theatrum Botanicum (also Saturdays)

Ages 4 and up, 11:00 a.m., \$8, 1419 N. Topanga Blvd., Topanga Canyon, 310-455-3723.

MONDAY

Storytelling

Main Library – Lap Time at Joslyn Park, Craft Room, begins September 13, 9:30 a.m. A series for babies up to two years old.

"Family Connections" begins September 13th at 10:00 a.m. with an OPEN HOUSE to get acquainted with the program and program leaders. 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

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

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

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

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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.

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STATE

SoCal earthquake prediction was probably a false alarm

BY CHRIS T. NGUYEN
 Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — A seismologist who predicted that a magnitude-6.4 earthquake may strike a 12,000-square-mile area in Southern California said the forecast was probably a false alarm.
 Vladimir Keilis-Borok of the University of California, Los Angeles, and a team of scientists worldwide said last January they had determined there was a 50-50 chance that by Sunday the quake would hit the area east of Los Angeles. That region encompasses the Mojave Desert, the Coachella Valley, the Imperial Valley and eastern San Diego County.
 The day before the nine-month window ended, Keilis-Borok said he was probably wrong.
 “It’s not something that has absolute precision. It’s kind of like military intelligence,” he said. “There is a trade off. Tell people nothing and they will suffer. Tell them everything and they will suffer in another way.”

The team led by Keilis-Borok, 83, based its prediction on a pattern of earthquakes recorded in the region over the past decades.
 Most recently, the predominantly desert area sustained a magnitude-7.1 quake in 1999 near Joshua Tree and a magnitude-7.3 earthquake in 1992 in Landers. A magnitude-6.4 quake struck the Imperial Valley in 1979.
 Keilis-Borok’s team got credit for calling two earthquakes. The group predicted the magnitude-6.5 San Simeon quake in December and the magnitude-8.1 quake last year off Japan’s Hokkaido island.
 In both cases, the scientists set wide parameters in place and time using research that includes geodynamics, chaos theory and statistical physics.
 The Southern California prediction piqued some alarm.
 Lori Sears, assistant manager at Builder’s Supply store in Palm Springs, said hundreds of people — mainly senior citizens — purchased lumber, first aid kits and

trash cans in the last six months to gear up for the predicted quake.
 “The elderly, they’re pretty frightened about it ... because they think the earthquake is coming,” she said.
 The California Earthquake Prediction Evaluation Council in April endorsed Keilis-Borok’s research methods but not the prediction. Making predictions is often regarded taboo among seismologists.
 “He’s out there on a limb. He’s the only one doing it in this country,” said Kate Hutton, a seismologist at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena. “We do get earthquake predictions from crackpots but he’s a well-known scientist.”
 Hutton said scientists have little doubt a major earthquake will hit California, most likely along the San Andreas fault.
 “We know eventually there’s going to be an earthquake, and we know where the shaking is going to be bad. But what we don’t know is when,” she said.

California governments misspent anti-terrorism funds

By The Associated Press

OAKLAND — Many government agencies in California have misspent federal money to strengthen security against terrorist threats following the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, according to newspaper investigations published Sunday.
 Investigations conducted by The Oakland Tribune and the Daily News of Los Angeles found that officials have used federal anti-terrorism money to purchase equipment and cover police work not directly related to the war on terror.
 The newspapers, which conducted dozens of interviews and reviewed government documents obtained under the California Public Records Act, also determined that hundreds of millions of dollars have been disbursed

without giving enough consideration to the specific risks and threats facing the state.
 As a result, nearly half of California’s security funding through the last fiscal year, about \$128 million, went to areas outside the five counties with the state’s top 10 terrorist targets. Almost \$8 million flowed to counties with no targets whatsoever.
 “They see that the next town over bought a whiz-bang command post vehicle and they want one too,” said John Miller, head of the Los Angeles Police Department’s counterterrorism bureau. “So, what you are finding in the smaller communities is that there is a duplication of effort where in all likelihood they may never use that equipment or vehicle.”
 The investigation was led by The Oakland Tribune with assistance from the Daily News. Among the findings:

U.S. Coast Guard already patrols coastal waters.
 ■ Desert Hot Springs police ordered night-vision goggles to monitor gangs, Kern County hired an earthquake expert, Nevada County shopping centers received heart defibrillators, and an agriculture commissioner in Central California got intelligence-gathering software to file monthly pesticide reports.
 Part of the problem, officials say, is that many California counties have applied federal money toward equipment to respond to both terrorist acts and more traditional disasters such as earthquakes and fires when it should go solely toward terrorism preparedness.
 “A first responder’s job is far more than dealing with the next terrorist attack,” said Rep. Christopher Cox, R-Newport Beach, who chairs the House Select Committee on Homeland Security. “But a grant program for homeland security should not be all-hazards.”
 Exacerbating the situation, there is no national plan with clear performance measures to guide local jurisdictions, experts say.
 Although federal spending for homeland security is expected to climb over the next five years to \$27 billion, emergency first responders could require as much as four times that amount, experts say. But Congress may not make that available if it determines that state and local officials have spent the funding on needs other than protecting against terrorism, they say.
 “It’s a scandal waiting to happen,” said Warren B. Rudman, a former Republican New Hampshire senator who is co-chairman of the Council on Foreign Relations’ task force on homeland security.

In case of congressional investigations, he added, in which “witness after witness will be paraded up there to talk about misuses of these funds — I’m not saying it will, but that could cause funds to be cut back.”

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- Even though Alpine County has no terrorist targets, it received 27 times more funding per capita than Los Angeles County, which has 180 state-identified targets.
- San Francisco and Oakland used homeland security money to pay overtime to police anti-war protests even as the National Guard struggled to recoup 10 percent of its costs to patrol the Golden Gate Bridge and other major terrorist targets.
- Law enforcement officials in Los Angeles County have ordered two customized security boats that cost \$200,000 and \$750,000, respectively, even though the

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NATIONAL



20 years ago, an Oregon team started an inkjet revolution

BY BENNETT HALL

Associated Press Writer

CORVALLIS, Ore. — Frank Cloutier does a frighteningly good imitation of a dot-matrix printer. It involves a lot of rapid-fire noise and a sweeping back-and-forth motion of the entire upper body, something like a heavy machine gun spitting out .50-caliber slugs.

“Can you imagine what offices would be like today,” he asks, “if we had hundreds of those printers going?”

Dot-matrix was the dominant printer technology in the early days of desktop computing. Also called serial impact printers, the clattering devices used metal pins to hammer out text onto endless accordion-folded reams of perforated computer paper.

Dot-matrix printers were big, clunky and, above all, loud. The laser and inkjet technology prevalent now is far more sophisticated, efficient, versatile — and blessedly quiet.

To a large extent, you can thank Frank Cloutier for that. The inkjet printer revolution began 20 years ago, right here in Corvallis, with a small team of engineers under Cloutier’s supervision at Hewlett-Packard Co.’s local campus.

And remarkably, even though inkjet technology has come a long way since then, their original invention is still in widespread use.

Building on a breakthrough by HP Labs in Palo Alto, Calif., that used heat to force tiny droplets of liquid through a hole, “Cloutier’s Crazies” created the first commercially viable desktop inkjet printer. The product debuted in 1984 as the HP ThinkJet. Over the next 20 years, it changed the entire industry.

Dot-matrix printers, though not extinct, have faded into the background of the office landscape, while inkjets have become the dominant species of printer in the desktop publishing age. The heart of the original ThinkJet was the printhead, which wedded ink-aiming computer circuitry to a set of nozzles (the jets) and packaged them with the ink cartridge itself.

The first inkjet printhead was codenamed St. Helens, after the volcano that was so much on the minds of Oregonians in the early ‘80s.

“St. Helens was something that got hot and spit things out, so there you are,” Cloutier said in an interview.

The St. Helens had just 12 nozzles for spraying ink. It could produce a maximum image resolution of 96 dots per inch, or not quite as sharp as the type and pictures in this newspaper.

One current HP printhead, model No. 96, has 672 ultrafine nozzles that are capable of producing images of up to 1,200 dpi. That level of quality leapfrogs newspapers and even glossy magazines to rival the finest photographic prints.

“We got better than magazines several years ago,” Cloutier said. “Then the question became can we do better than silver halide, and the answer today is yes.”

But that doesn’t mean the St. Helens is obsolete — far from it. Sales of the 20-year-old printhead model are nearly as strong today as they’ve ever been, with scores of manufacturers using it in a host of applications that its HP designers may never even have dreamed of.

Its low cost — \$13.95 for a black St. Helens cartridge versus \$70.99 for a black model 12 printhead — and rugged simplicity make it ideal for a wide range of applications where high reliability is more important than high resolution.

St. Helens printheads — also called pens — are used

to print everything from cash register receipts to ski resort lift tickets.

One of the biggest markets is for automated teller machines, which need a receipt printer that will perform reliably even when exposed to the weather in an outdoor terminal.

“Our estimate is that about 80 percent of the ATMs in the world use a St. Helens pen,” said Marcy Eastham, a Hewlett-Packard spokeswoman.

And entrepreneurs keep coming up with new ways to use the product. ViewPlus Technologies, a Corvallis company that makes an innovative line of raised-dot computer printers for blind users, has begun installing St. Helens pens in a new attachment for its Pro Embosser series. The attachment produces plain text and visual graphics side by side with ViewPlus’s embossed images, enabling sighted teachers to see exactly what their blind students are working on.

The simple functionality of the St. Helens made it an obvious choice for ViewPlus, which required a printhead that could fire at an angle.

Medical researchers are even using old inkjet models to “print” sheets of new skin cells for burn victims.



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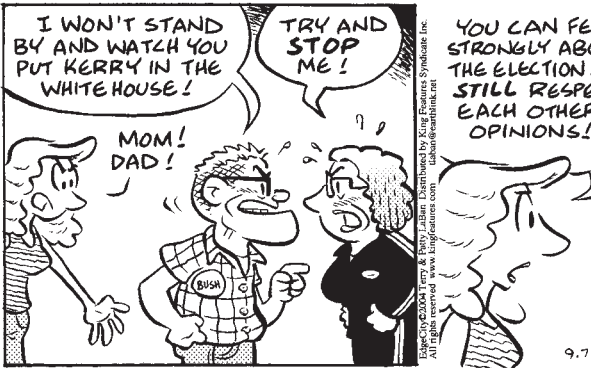


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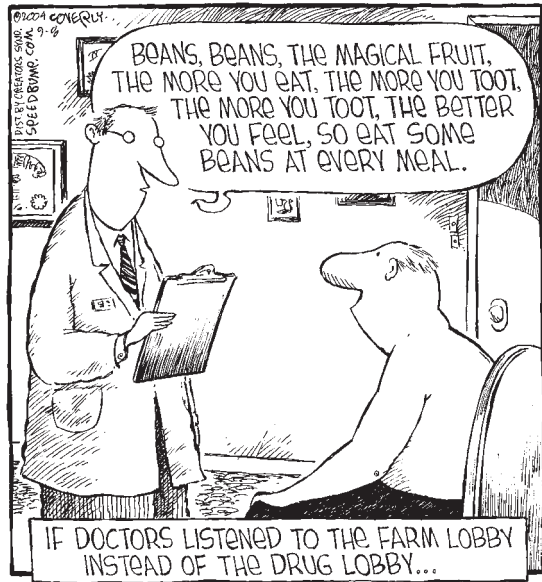
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15 Flexible card in blackjack
16 Storage spot
17 Keats poem
18 Foliage sound
20 Active one
21 Sword metal
22 Finishes
23 Confuse
25 Steal
28 Yule song
31 Howard and Silver
32 Met productions
34 Drink cooler
35 "The A-Team" star
36 "— little teapot ..."
37 Registered
40 "Enigma Variations" composer

41 Tubular

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42 Clairvoyants
43 Court workers: Abbr.

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3 Simple
4 Take to court
5 Lunch hour
6 Cry of understanding
7 Bar
8 Wore away
9 Puts off
11 Put off
14 Farm crop
19 League members
20 Famed plow maker
24 Portable computer
25 Tammy of TV
26 Spot
27 Nervous
29 Align
30 Songwriter Dozier
33 Bank fixtures
35 Earth's neighbor
38 Musical ability
39 Brewed drink

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Real life shark attack headed to a movie theater near you

By The Associated Press

HONOLULU — The story of shark attack survivor Bethany Hamilton is headed to the big screen.

Romano/Shane Productions has bought the film rights for the Hawaii teen's upcoming biography, "Soul Surfer: A True Story of Faith, Family and Fighting to Get Back on the Board," which is scheduled for release this fall.

The 14-year-old was thrust into the national spotlight after losing her left arm in a shark attack Oct. 31, 2003.

"Bethany is a shining light with a great, compelling story of overcoming adversity," said producer Michel Shane.

Romano/Shane Productions paid Hamilton an undisclosed amount for the film rights. Shane hopes to start production early next year in Hawaii.

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. — A vehicle driven by James Gandolfini, who plays mob boss Tony Soprano on the HBO series "The Sopranos," was hit by a suspected drunken driver over the weekend. The actor was not injured, police said.

Gandolfini was in town for Saturday's Rutgers-Michigan State football game when his sport utility vehicle was hit broadside by a driver who police said ran a red light. Gandolfini is a Rutgers alumnus.

Charles Collins, 72, of New Brunswick, was issued a summons for drunken driving and was released, police said. He was not hurt.

Gandolfini and three friends stopped for dinner at a local restaurant after the crash. He then returned to his home in New York City, police said.

DALLAS — An original New York Yankees uniform worn by Mickey Mantle in 1963 will be sold in a

public auction and could fetch \$100,000 or more, according to Heritage Galleries of Dallas.

The uniform is unaltered, which is rare. Until the 1970s, it was common practice to send major league jerseys down to the minors at season's end, said Chris Ivy, director of sports auctions for Heritage Galleries.

"The old numbers and logos, such as the Yankees' 'NY' over the heart, would be removed and replaced with the new team's insignia," Ivy said. "As a result, almost all other Mickey Mantle game-worn jerseys in existence today have been restored following minor league alterations."

The sale will be conducted Friday and Saturday in Long Beach, Calif., and online at www.HeritageSportsCollectibles.com.

The auction also will include a Sandy Koufax game-worn jersey from the Dodgers' final season in Brooklyn, N.Y., as well as the "Thrilla in Manila" boxing gloves worn by Joe Frazier when he fought Muhammad Ali in the Philippines in 1975.

Also for sale will be a Ted Williams game-used fielder's glove and the first baseball hit for a home run by Willie McCovey, the San Francisco Giants star.

VENICE, Italy — Unlike legions of other Hollywood stars, hipster heartthrob Johnny Depp says he actually enjoys aging.

The boyish-looking Depp — who plays the author of "Peter Pan" in his latest picture "Finding Neverland" — was asked if the children's character famed for never growing old made him wish for the same power.

"Nowadays, it's all a question of surgery, isn't it?" he joked to reporters at the Venice Film Festival on Saturday.

"No, of course the notion is beautiful — the idea of staying a boy or a child forever. But I think you can. I've

known plenty of people in their later years who were like little kids, had the energy of little children, the curiosity and fascination," he said.

"But I think it's great fun growing old. I think it's great."

Depp also discussed the Scottish accent he assumes for his role as writer J.M. Barrie.

"Musically, rhythmically, I initially couldn't quite get ahold of it," he said. "Luckily I found this dialect coach who helped me out a great deal. ... Also, we had a couple of crew guys who were Scottish who picked up the falsities."

PRINCETON, W.Va. — The original Gilligan doesn't think a new reality television show based on his classic sitcom will work well.

"'Gilligan's Island' is one show that they've never tried to copy. They couldn't burlesque it, because we had done so much of that. And they couldn't satirize it, because we had done so much of that, too. So producers just left it alone. I really don't think this show is going to work," Bob Denver, who played Gilligan on the original "Gilligan's Island," said from his Princeton home.

"The Real Gilligan's Island," set to debut on TBS in November, will feature seven castaways: a real-life skipper, a first mate, a millionaire couple, a movie star, a professor and an innocent farm girl. The show will pit them against the elements to see if they can devise a way to get off the island.

The castaways will even relive some of the bizarre scenarios from the original series, an idea that made Denver chuckle.

"I'd like to see them put a lion or a tiger on the island, but I really don't think that would happen. Or they could get real headhunters from Borneo and put them on the island," Denver said.

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