

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

5 11 12 19 39
Meganumber: 10
Jackpot: \$37 Million

FANTASY 5

6 11 19 29 39

DAILY 3

Daytime: 2 5 0
Evening: 2 0 9

DAILY DERBY

1st: 11 Money Bags
2nd: 03 Hot Shot
3rd: 07 Eureka!

RACE TIME: 1:40.76

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

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ London's Sunday Times reported in July that Prime Minister Blair had spent the equivalent of about \$3,300 on makeup and makeup artists over the last six years, and according to campaign disclosure statements reported by the Boston Globe in May, U.S. Rep. Steve Lynch of Massachusetts spent \$2,506 on makeup services only in the previous eight months.

■ First prize in the youth division of the Fourth of July parade this year in Haines, Ore., went to three kids, all aged 9 and 10, who dressed as large, shelled insects (actually, in inner tubes covered by garbage bags), pushing huge rubber balls coated in sand, dirt and dead grass, according to the Baker City Herald. (Yes, the parents had conspired with their kids to dress them up as dung beetles!)

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 256th day of 2005.
There are 109 days left in the year.

On Sept. 13, 1788, the Congress of the Confederation authorized the first national election, and declared New York City the temporary national capital.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Better to be without logic than without feeling."

CHARLOTTE BRONTE
ENGLISH AUTHOR (1816-1855)

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Hot cakes



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Gail Litvack (center) pours the batter for a giant pancake while Mary Chiu (left) helps contain it on the griddle and Katie Parr Morgan (right) fries up the sausage during the Santa Monica's Lions Club 51st Annual Pancake Breakfast this past weekend at the Santa Monica Boys and Girls Club.

\$9 million to be spent tonight

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

By Daily Press staff

CITY HALL — Elected officials are expected to approve nearly \$9 million in expenses tonight, putting aside taxpayer money to clean up local water wells mucked up by big oil companies, as well as buying a fleet of

hybrid-electric buses and hiring a helping hand for the embattled City Hall's Planning Department.

Tonight's estimated expense — totaling \$8,959,970 — also will target an array of other needs, ranging from bus shelter construction plans to hazardous waste management.

CLEAN-UP BEGINS

The City Council's biggest expense aims to clean up the Charnock well field, a group of wells that were a significant source of Santa Monica drinking water until 1996 when MtBE was

See **CONSENT**, page 7

Collision causes concern among local residents

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

SUNSET PARK — A two-car accident at the corner of 16th Street and Ocean Park Boulevard that resulted in no injuries on Monday has residents wondering what it'll take for City Hall to put a traffic signal at an intersection that they

See **INTERSECTION**, page 6



Ryan Hyatt/Daily Press

Police investigate a traffic accident at 16th Street and Ocean Park Boulevard on Monday. No one was injured.

Council ponders ranked voting

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — Elected leaders are scheduled to hear a proposal tonight that would change Santa Monica's voting structure in a way that proponents say will make the process more democratic.

Members of the non-profit group, Santa Monica Ranked Voting, are set to appear before the City Council to encourage City Hall to switch to an electoral system they say will be more fair and representative of voter wishes. Meanwhile, ranked voting proponents are expected to meet their share of supporters, as well as skeptics, as the council is asked to weigh in on the proposal.

The purpose of ranked or "choice" voting is to allow voters the ability to rate the level of preference they have for candidates seeking office.

More than 60 residents are involved with Santa Monica Ranked Voting, which formally organized before last fall's election to better inform the public of

See **VOTING**, page 6

STATE

Utility worker error cuts electric power to thousands in LA

BY LAURA WIDES

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Major portions of Los Angeles were blacked out for more than an hour early Monday afternoon, trapping people in elevators and snarling traffic after utility workers accidentally connected

See **BLACKOUT**, page 10

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

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★★ You can make money or spend a lot of money, depending on how you handle a demand and your present need for self-expression. You do need to stop and think rather than impulsively book a trip or take off. Tonight: Put on your dancing shoes.

 **PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**
★★★★★ You have the energy and force to accomplish what you want. Be careful how hard you push and of the words you choose. You could be a lot more brusque than you think. If angry, calm down before doing anything. Tonight: Follow another's lead.



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LOCAL



His head is spinning



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

B. Boy Shaggy, a break dancer from the group Hollywood Break Life, makes some maneuvers for the crowd at Venice beach on Sunday.

Santa Monica Red Cross chapter bucks up for Katrina victims

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica Red Cross has raised more than \$400,000 for Hurricane Katrina relief and 42 local volunteers have been deployed to the disaster area.

Additionally, the Santa Monica chapter has opened 26 displaced persons cases, representing 42 individuals. Those cases have been processed by the Santa Monica chapter, which is providing comfort, aid, financial support and general assistance to

those evacuated from the disaster zone. Displaced persons are from both Mississippi and Louisiana.

"The Santa Monica chapter is offering a full range of services for those here from the disaster area," said Santa Monica Red Cross Chapter Executive Director John Pacheco. "We are issuing debit cards that may be used for urgent purchases of food, clothing and other necessities. The chap-

See RELIEF, page 10



SURF REPORT

Overall, southerly periods are averaging 14 seconds from 175 degrees and NW periods are averaging eight seconds from 310 degrees.

West-facing breaks are seeing waist- to chest-high sets. South-facing breaks are running knee- to waist-high.

Today SW energy should keep south-facing breaks in waist- to possibly chest-high surf, and wind swell should stick around.

Today the water is:

64°

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

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
MONDAY	9:49	3.5	N/A	N/A	7:38	3.6	4:42	5.5
TUESDAY	11:48	3.1	N/A	N/A	7:48	3.9	6:00	5.9
WEDNESDAY	1:28	-0.5	12:54	2.5	8:11	4.3	7:00	6.4
THURSDAY	2:08	-0.8	1:46	1.9	8:37	4.7	7:53	6.7
FRIDAY	2:38	-0.2	2:39	1.7	8:58	4.0	8:40	6.2

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The QLine

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City Hall has issued a request for proposals that opens the bidding process for the sites currently occupied by Perry's Beach Cafe and Rentals, four beach concession stands that have been a trademark of Santa Monica for more than 25 years. Officials say it's all part of a basic, legal procedure that ensures the best possible mix of businesses in Santa Monica; the owner of Perry's contends the request invites large food-service chains to sweep away his company.

So this week, Q-line wants to know, "What business(es) would you like to see in the space currently occupied by Perry's stands? Should things stay as they are, or would you like to see a change?"

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OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Will it take a disaster to help our own?

Editor:

America has shown the world its true colors — that its individual citizens show compassion, and the desire and ability to help those in dire need — by their charity to those suddenly made homeless by Katrina, the great hurricane of 2005.

It makes me proud to be an American again, even though Bush still ruins, er, runs the country.

Providing assistance to those in need, Californians by the thousands have offered money, shelter, food, and even jobs to those suddenly plunged into homelessness.

But a nagging question lurks in the back of my mind: If we can come together in a concerted effort to provide relief to so many strangers half a continent away, why can't we do the same for our local homeless? Certainly, many, though not all (as in New Orleans, where some residents resist efforts of rescue from potentially deadly conditions) of our local homeless population, given the same benefits of housing, food, clothing, and the opportunity to work, would be returned to productive lives, just as we hope to see our new influx of refugees from back East do so. (Didn't we go through this in the '30s? Seems to me that back then we put up road blocks to keep the "Okies," out.)

Perhaps, when — not if — the "Big One" hits California, displacing millions, our homeless will be able to take advantage of the largess of the rest of the country and finally be able to get the help they need and deserve to get up off our streets.

At least they will have a big advantage over all those made suddenly homeless — they already know how to survive such conditions — they do it every day.

Ken McCrae
Santa Monica

Where's our money going?

Editor:

Again we hear after the fact, of the local school board having approved of the school district's administrative decision to implement more unnecessary, and very costly programs. (SMDP, Sept. 6, page 1). What sense does it make to use hard earned taxpayers dollars to pay known failing students, to tutor younger students than themselves how to read? And who came up with the idea to spend \$50,000 of said scarce tax dollars to implement a "pilot program" to lure some failed or expelled former students back to school? What will that new unnecessary program cost after its pilot debut has run? \$100,000 a year? Superintendent John Deasy on the one hand, has cried and complained that the district is woefully underfunded, yet his administration keeps recklessly spending more on new programs and teachers who are second to none in their pay and benefits here in California and elsewhere. Deasy has been free to allow the school district's student choir and musicians to enjoy lavish and very expensive trips out of the country, and to places like Boston and Hawaii while holding Santa Monica — and curiously not also Malibu's — taxpayers responsible for making up any budget shortfalls he perceives to exist, to the tune of \$6 million a year, for about another six years. Do the simple math. A school budget that is state, and not in any way a city responsibility, or mandated. According to Ryan Hyatt's article, last year there was a \$1 million surplus in the school budget. If so, that huge sum of taxpayer's money ought to have been returned to the city, not held on to until the district could craftily find a way to burn it up, as has been done without any consultation of the taxpaying public. The city taxpayers are entitled to have strict school fiscal accountability, and ought to have a regular vote as to what school programs are implemented, how much money is actually spent, and also to be able to not engage in any duplicity of taxpayer's funds that are the sole responsibility of the state. Malibu residents ought to pay half of the yearly "gifted" funds to the school district, now up to \$6 million, thanks to the coercing of the Jaffe-Davis camp.

Jane Wright
Santa Monica

Don't rely on the government to help

Editor:

Thanks to Hurricane Katrina, Americans have learned a valuable lesson about self reliance.

Not only can we not rely on the federal government to save us, we might need guns so the government can't stop us from rescuing our neighbors.

As some people are beginning to say, "Hell no, we won't go to no internment camps." Not even if they declare martial law and cut off the water supply.

Kira Landan
Santa Monica

Governor seals his legacy as opportunistic social neanderthal



WHAT'S THE POINT?

BY DAVID PISARRA

In 1994 I was in my second year of law school. A time in a budding lawyer's life when recreational reading is generally limited to bathroom wall scripture, and the occasional bar coaster under one's beer. But a book came out called "Straight from the Heart" — a love story. It was written by two male bodybuilders, who had fallen in love, and thanks to the efforts of the National Enquirer had quickly become a national sensation for their "marriage" at the time. The early '90s being what they were, it really was a commitment ceremony in their eyes and those of their friends and family.

"Rod and I wanted to get married because in our culture that's the highest level of public and private commitment we could make to one another. We wanted to get married in a church before God — whatever God is — because we both have deep spiritual beliefs. And we wanted to get married in front of our friends because we wanted them there to witness us making an important statement of commitment," wrote Bob Paris.

What is telling in this book is the fact that then-superstar Arnold Schwarzenegger was invited, along with many other bodybuilders, to the wedding. In the book, Paris and Rod Jackson say that the other bodybuilders looked to Arnold for direction on whether to go or not. He is alleged to have said that if they liked Bob and Rod, and they wanted to go, they should. On the one hand this is a leadership statement that people should do what they want and support the people they believe in.

On the other hand, he didn't go to the wedding. It could have been a scheduling problem, but I think it is a window into his soul.

The governor has been quoted as saying that Europeans have the knowledge of how to come here and become successful — to use the system to make money, and he certainly has proven that point well.

But he also has a history of using the gay community to get what he needs. For example in 1977 when he was a young and presumably cash-strapped young man, he posed naked for the gay magazine "After Dark." Later he was a model who was photographed by the well-known Robert Mapplethorpe.

He has been quoted as saying, "Gay people are fighting the same kind of stereotyping that bodybuilders are: People have certain misconceptions about them just as they do about us. Well, I have absolutely no hang-ups about the fag business."

So if he is to be believed when he says, "Let's reform California so that together,

we can rebuild it," why is he vetoing legislation that has passed both the Assembly and the Senate? Because he wants the people or the courts to decide the issue — which I find immensely entertaining, since the Republican cry of "activist judges" is heard almost as much as "we are winning the war on terrorism in Iraq."

In an ABC News/Washington Post Poll in June of 2005, the public was asked who should decide the rules of marriage. Surprisingly enough it was 45 percent for the state legislatures, 40 percent for the courts and 11 percent for both.

With public opinion clearly moving in the direction of allowing same-sex marriage, why would a man who wants to "reform California" avoid making what is by all accounts a historic decision? The governor doesn't want to be seen as a "girlie man."

Unfortunately, I believe his legacy will be more from the mold of Arkansas Governor Orval Faubus, and President James Buchanan. The governor opposed desegregation and laid the groundwork for President Eisenhower to force the issue. President Buchanan thought he could avoid the issue of the North/South split on slavery by letting the courts decide. In his inaugural speech, the president referred to the territorial question as "happily, a matter of but little practical importance" since the Supreme Court was about to settle it "speedily and finally."

He thought the courts would go one way on the now-famous Dred Scott case. He was wrong. It led to a civil war.

History has shown that standing up for what is right, even though politically unpopular, will guarantee a man a place in history that is well regarded, and failing to do so will guarantee a place in obscurity, or worse, in the hall of cowards.

The governor's ratings are plummeting. He is trying to shore up his base, so that his highly unpopular, unwanted and stupidly expensive special election can get him the reforms he wants.

It's probably going to fail. He'd have a better chance, though, if he showed the public what a real man is — not one who is opportunistic in his courting of a segment of the community when it suits his financial and political needs, but one who stands for what is right.

I'd like to say I'm disappointed in him, but the truth is I didn't vote for him.

I voted for a man with solid credentials in running a business. A man who knows how to build a consensus. Someone who puts his money where his mouth is, and who has stood up for civil rights. My guy has demonstrated a working knowledge of the Constitution, and has been a long time supporter of the Bill of Rights.

I voted for Larry Flynt.

(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.)



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COMMENTARY



Life in the big city too close to home



ANY DAY IN LA

BY HEIDI MANTEUFFEL

Just because I live in a city with 86,000-plus people in it doesn't mean I want to know what they're doing at all times of the day.

And yet I can't help but over hear it in an apartment-rich city like Santa Monica. It's not that I'm trying to be nosy, it's just with apartment complexes built on top of each other, I can understand exactly what you're saying. Apparently the neighbors lost their cat again.

And watching. Sounds like "The Price is Right" is on, and can be heard from here to Culver City. And when they're vacuuming, the whole apartment, again.

Oh good, some man's screaming at no one in particular as he walks past my bedroom window. Good morning to you, sir.

And moving. Glad someone is blocking me in again this morning and shouting at someone else to pick up a sofa.

Wanna guess what I'd like to pick up on Saturday at 8:55 a.m.?

Now a store alarm is going off. Brinnnnnnngggg ...

Comatose, I stumble out of bed, but not because I'm ready to get up. No, I'm resigned to the fact that it's going to be a futile battle from this point on.

It's fine. Who needs to sleep past 7 a.m. on a Saturday? Oh wait ... almost everyone.

I tried to fight the good fight with my fan and the highest decibel-silencing earplugs Target sells. But who can compete against moving vans, let alone city garbage trucks that sound like storm troopers?

"I claim this alley for my men, and for the city of Santa Monica." Great, you can have it. Now will you pick up the cardboard boxes, ironing table and baby toys that have been sitting here for three weeks?

My hearing has been or always been a

little off, so that tends to keep things interesting. When I go to bed, sometimes it'll sound like there's a large animal romping (AKA neighbor's puppy) in my apartment. I can also hear objects dropping with no one to drop them. Nearly 95 percent of the time I get up and prove to my directionless ears that it's in an adjacent apartment, but a creeped-out, sleepy mind is not always assuaged by reason.

I know, I know — it all comes with the deal of living in apartments. People coming and going, moving, scraping through glass and stumbling home from the bar in an angry stupor is standard affair. But is it so wrong to want to sleep past 8 a.m. on a Saturday?

The man with the roaming boom box seems to think so.

I want to tell to all the random passers-by and more permanently stationed ones just one thing: It's not that I don't like you, I just don't need to know what you're thinking/doing every second of the day.

I don't need to know that you're out for the fifth smoke break this morning as the smell of cigarettes funnels directly through my bedroom window. Let's make you the only one keeping count, eh?

I'm glad you're moving to the neighborhood, lady who's blocking me in, but you can't sign me up for the welcome wagon at 8 a.m. on a Saturday and expect me to be in a high spirits about it. What you do is your business, and if you don't mind, I'd like to keep out of it.

Ah, but there's the rub. With neighbors so close they might as well be kissing cousins, what we do becomes a family affair. And by family I mean the entire city of Santa Monica.

I hear your "Because of Winn-Dixie," and you hear my "Da Ali G Show."

So with third grade piano playing (Michael Row your Boat Ashore, Hallelujah) and private relationship fights broadcast across entire city blocks, I bring you a bundt cake of sleep/crabbiness and say, welcome to the neighborhood.

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

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LOCAL

Ranked voting meant to broaden representation

VOTING, from page 1

the system's method and benefits, said Amy Connolly, a community activist and group spokeswoman.

Connolly's group is pushing City Hall for an alternative style of voting where residents rank candidates in order of preference. The group hopes to make extinct a practice known as bullet voting, where residents pick just one candidate in order to limit the votes a competitor receives.

Bullet voting has a controversial history, locally. Opponents say it allows sophisticated groups to manipulate elections. Proponents say it's effective and legal.

Frustrated by the two-party "all or nothing" electoral system, members of Santa Monica Ranked Voting claim elections in the United States would be more effective if citizens can demonstrate which candi-

dates they prefer based on a point system.

Though some Santa Monica voters apparently cared only about state and national races in the last election, others didn't cast all four votes in the local City Council race because doing so may have hurt their favored candidates, Connolly said, adding her group examined all 66 voting precincts in Santa Monica.

Ranked voting already is used for national races in Australia and Ireland, and local races in Cambridge, Mass., and New York City, according to Steven Hill, an analyst from the nonprofit organization, Center for Voting and Democracy. Last fall, San Francisco used a ranked voting system to hold an instant runoff in its board of supervisors race, thereby saving the city from its usual costly and protracted runoff process.

Ranked voting does have supporters at City Hall, such as City Councilman Kevin

McKeown, who has been involved in regional efforts to see it come to fruition.

"The question is how to give Santa Monica voters more power to elect the candidates who'll serve them best," McKeown said in an e-mail message. "Ranked voting allows more nuanced choices, yet is a very natural way to express preferences, as easy as 1-2-3."

Last year, McKeown said he worked with State Sen. Debra Bowen, now a candidate for Secretary of State, on her bill SB596, which would establish state-approved methods for conducting ranked voting and instant runoff elections.

McKeown said he's also been active for several years with the California Voter Empowerment Circle, which includes the League of Women Voters, the ACLU, the NAACP and disabilities rights groups.

McKeown said what drives the effort is

a broader attempt to increase voter participation.

"I believe giving voters more power and a better way to more accurately express their preferences will ultimately increase participation and voter turnout, making ours a better democracy," McKeown said.

However, some councilmembers aren't sold on the idea. Councilman Herb Katz said he is open to discuss the issue, but he has some reservations about changing the current voting process.

Katz is curious how ranked voting for local office would tie in with the county, state and federal voting system.

"I'm reluctant to make a decision until I'm more informed," Katz said. "Why do rank voting in just one little city?"

"It's supposed to be more open and fair, and frankly, I'm not sure it is."

Sunset Park residents want turn signal after recent accident

INTERSECTION, from page 1

claim sees dozens of similar incidents annually.

At 9:20 a.m., a Ford Explorer flipped over after a Mitsubishi smashed into it. Both drivers walked away from the accident, police said.

Witnesses said the driver of the Ford Explorer, heading eastbound on Ocean Park Boulevard, attempted to veer away

from the oncoming car traveling southbound on 16th Street, but was unable to. The Explorer rode on its right wheels briefly before flipping over, crushing the top of the SUV.

The Explorer's driver, a woman, received minor injuries and complained of pain but didn't want to be taken by ambulance to the hospital. The Mitsubishi driver reported no injuries, police said.

The Explorer's driver was distraught,

sitting on the sidewalk, hands holding up her head, as she watched a tow truck flip the Explorer right side up.

Several residents who live close to the accident scene said such incidents at the intersection are common. They said City Hall needs to put in a traffic signal to make the area more safe. Students from three nearby schools — Will Rogers Elementary, John Adams Middle School and Santa Monica College — frequently use the yellow painted crosswalk on Ocean Park Boulevard throughout the day. The crosswalk is illuminated, but residents said the lights are only visible at night. They added that the crosswalk is useless during the morning and afternoon hours when it's needed most for passing students.

Residents said a school girl walking across Ocean Park Boulevard was hit and seriously injured by a motorist in March. In 1996, residents said a man was dismembered and his body parts were thrown as far as a block away when he was struck by a speeding motorist.

Norm Patino, a Santa Monica resident for more than 25 years, owns Merrihew-Sunset Gardens, a nursery located on the southwest corner of Ocean Park Boulevard and 16th street. Patino said he sees a near-collision at the intersection at least twice a month.

"As soon as I saw that SUV flip over, I started dialing 9-1-1," Patino said. "A customer ran out from the store and pulled out the driver."

"Accidents like this happen all of the time here," he added. "I don't know why there's no turn signal."

Resident Susan Bance called the intersection horrendous and said greater steps were needed to regulate traffic.

Another resident, who lives on the 1500 block of Ocean Park Boulevard, called Monday's collision the "accident of the month," and said it was ridiculous that City Hall hasn't installed better traffic measures to protect public safety at the site.

CITY HALL CAUGHT IN CROSS TRAFFIC

Santa Monica Police Department Lt. Frank Fabrega said traffic accidents in Santa Monica are down 1 percent overall from last year. There was no information immediately available on how many traffic accidents have occurred in recent history at the intersection, Fabrega said.

Lucy Dyke, head of City Hall's trans-

"Accidents like this happen all of the time here. I don't know why there's no turn signal."

NORM PATINO
Santa Monica resident

portation planning division, said residents have requested a traffic signal at the intersection. However, upon investigation, staff found that the location didn't meet minimum requirements for the installation of a traffic signal. The requirements are set at the state and national levels, she said.

Dyke said over the years there have been humbling and saddening accidents at the intersection, even after City Hall took steps in 2004 to improve conditions. The flashing crosswalk includes warning signs and curb extensions, which were designed and installed based on community input, field review and an analysis of conditions at the intersection including traffic volumes, accident history, and pedestrian crossing volumes, Dyke said.

The crosswalk improvements were considered to be the best available for the conditions at the time, Dyke said. City Hall also has made the area a focus of speed enforcement and SMPD undercover officers regularly conduct stings to nab motorists who don't yield for pedestrians.

Nonetheless, Dyke said the steps City Hall has taken can't alone guarantee compliance with traffic signs and controls. She pointed out that most pedestrian auto accidents in Santa Monica occur at signalized intersections.

Flashing light systems have been shown to be a promising improvement to reduce accidents, Dyke said.

However, she said City Hall is reviewing the operation of the flashers at 16th and 18th streets to determine whether they are still the best available improvements for those locations.

The City Council allocated funding this year to study the conditions in that area.

"We all want to make walking, especially walking to school, safer for this community," Dyke said.

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LOCAL



Hybrid busses account for \$2M in taxpayer money

CONSENT, from page 1

discovered to have seeped into the water source from nearby gas stations.

The cancer-causing chemical was left behind by large oil companies — like Texaco, Shell Oil, Chevron U.S.A. and Exxon Mobile — a dangerous discovery that led to a court-approved settlement, forcing the guilty oil giants to pay to construct a treatment facility. The money will come from a fund established that holds \$121 million of settlement cash given by the oil companies.

If approved, tonight's near \$6 million expenditure would go toward hiring a field consulting company — Environ International Corp. — to help monitor the several year-long project.

BUSSES GOING HYBRID

Though the night's largest expenditure is expected to go toward fixing what's already broken, the second largest item takes a more preventative approach.

The City Council is expected to set aside nearly \$2 million of taxpayer funds to purchase five new hybrid-electric buses, an environmentally-friendly replacement for the dying diesel-gusslers currently used by the Big Blue Bus.

The hybrid-electric buses can run either in electric or hybrid mode, using a quiet micro-turbine engine with nearly zero emissions, according to a city staff report.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT NEEDS MORE PLANNING

The City Council also is expected to help revamp the city's planning department, which has come under fire the last two years for its alleged inefficiencies.

After independent audits by the City Council and the Chamber of Commerce, the planning department is looking for a helping hand from Civic Solutions, a consulting firm that's supposed to help the embattled division manage its workload.

The City Council is expected to approve an additional \$106,440 for the interim planning services, rounding out the total cost to \$161,440.

Civic Solutions has been working with the planning department since May and City Hall described the company's help as "excellent," in a recent council staff report.

GIVE THEM SHELTER

The city's bus system also is expected

to get a makeover, as the City Council will likely approve a measure to get the ball rolling on the construction of 20 new Rapid Bus shelters along Lincoln Boulevard.

The contract to complete pre-construction plans — rounding out to nearly \$150,000 — was awarded to Amphion, Inc., which will be responsible for design, document preparation and permit coordination.

According to a staff report, City Hall hopes that eye-catching shelters would identify the city's bus line as a high quality service.

DEMO EXPENSES

Another major expense expected to win approval is restoring the City Hall building after the demolition of the former police building this past August damaged portions of the facility.

The project — expected to cost the city nearly \$380,000 — will consist of repairs to the interior and exterior flooring, wall, ceiling and roof system.

City Hall awarded the contract after two separate bid requests in the Los Angeles Times attracted no bids from area contractors, allowing the city to side-step competitive bidding and hire ROD Builders, a company that's done work for the city in the past.

HAZARDS EXIST

Another big-item expenditure expected to pass is a contract for hazardous waste management for the environmental programs division.

The two-year deal with PSC Rho-Chem, estimated to cost \$400,000, will cover waste management and safe transport.

MISCELLANEOUS TOTALS \$190K

Other expenses expected to get the yes vote from City Council include legal services for \$110,000 — \$55,000 related to property transactions for the city's redevelopment agency and parking authority, and \$55,000 to help the city of Santa Monica resolve a dispute with the Federal Aviation Administration over landing fees.

Another \$55,000 will go to financial advice for the city's redevelopment agency and parking authority and water-use reduction education for \$25,000.

HEADSHOTS AND PHOTOGRAPHY

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DEAR DORIE

Raising a mouthful a handful

Dear Dorie,

I'd like some information about oral fixation in toddlers. My 3-year-old daughter sucks her thumb while putting her other finger in her nose, is fascinated with food (doesn't eat a lot but constantly asks for it) and talks incessantly. Any information is appreciated.

— Raising a Mouthful

Dear Raising,

Congratulations for respectfully recognizing a unique trait in your daughter and doing a little research. Too often, especially with non-nutritive sucking, parents freak out and try to stifle the behavior, usually unsuccessfully.

There are a lot of things happening here. The thumb and finger technique, while awkward to watch, is her version of self-soothing. She'll do this anytime she desires a little comfort and it should be tolerated. More than likely when she's a little older (kindergarten on up) she'll start talking about quitting and need your help. That's another letter. In the meantime, allow her this "cup of tea."

The talking and food fascination are exploration techniques that usually indicate a lot of learning is going on. Her verbal skills are developing and she wants to experiment. If she's in preschool (she should be), talk with her teacher. I bet she's more chatty with you alone than with her peers. This is a combination of getting your attention, as well as learning from your response.

Three-year-olds still learn with their mouths and the food issue is even more of this exploration. Set your usual meal/snack guidelines and stick with them. She needs to know that food is not for wasting but at the same time you have to balance her need to experiment. Have key phrases ready like, "snack time is over, we'll try that at lunch," or "set that aside for your afternoon snack." The eating ritual requires your guidance but if she wants to taste lemons, let her taste lemons.

As always with oral issues, cleanliness becomes a safety issue. Watch for dirty fingers, hands or objects headed for her cute little mouth, and always carry a pack of sanitizing wipes with you. She'll get used to it and so will you. Good luck.

— Dorie

(Dorie Meek is director of the Infant & Family Support Program, provided by Saint John's Health Center in partnership with the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. Meek answers questions concerning children ages birth to 5 years old. Submit your questions to "Dear Dorie" at meek@smmusd.org, or call (310) 452-6132; fax (310) 452-6392).

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How Much Is Enough?

By Connie Dawson

I dropped and broke the coffee cup purchased in a local charity recycle shop as I unloaded the dishwasher. I remembered why I bought it in the first place.

On the side is an artist's rendering of a blond, ditzzy-looking young woman and the words "Born to be spoiled (hint, hint)." No longer useful as a cup, it's now safe only in the garbage or as garden art.

What's "spoiled?"

Spoiled is an interesting adjective. When my son was courting my daughter-in-law, who grew up in a Chinese family in Malaysia, time and time again, she said, "He spoils me."

As an author of a book on overindulgence, I couldn't help but be stopped by her obvious pride and pleasure in describing my son's attentions and thoughtfulness as spoiling. To me, "spoiled" is not something to brag about. To her, it meant "He treasures me."

The idea that "spoiled" may mean caring, loved and prized was an unfamiliar concept. "Spoiled" in my culture means any number of things like uncaring, self-centered, superior.

Research through grandchildren

When two of my grandchildren, ages 15 and 12, were visiting this summer I decided to get their input and asked: "What goes through your minds when I say 'overindulgence?'" Their responses:

- A spoiled brat.
- Someone who isn't learning the skills to live right.
- When the parents want to make the kid special.

Then I asked, "How would you describe them (the 'spoiled' kids)?"

- Self-righteous.
- "Spoiled" means you've gone bad in some way.
- When a person thinks they're so much bloody better than everyone else and they're told that all the time.

One more question of my small sample of experts. "What would you like to tell their parents?"

- Do you really want to raise someone who acts like that?

■ How will your kid react when he gets fired from a job or when she gets down on their luck as adults?

■ Why don't you, out of the blue, make their stuff disappear randomly so they learn to appreciate what they have?

■ When the child wants something, they can do a job and earn the money to buy it.

■ Buy something your kid wants that isn't too expensive and watch to see how much dust collects. The dust would be proof the child is overindulged.

And finally, the 15 year-old said, "It would be difficult to tell the parents anything unless you have real evidence. Some parents are in complete denial. They'd say stuff like "Our Elizabeth isn't like that."

Advantages of being spoiled?

I couldn't believe they were seeing past the deliciousness associated with having your way and nearly always getting what you wanted, so I asked, "Do you see an advantage of growing up spoiled?" Their response:

■ "I'd like to have everything I wanted and I'd like not to have chores, but I wouldn't want to turn out like the spoiled kids I see at school."

Overindulgence or spoiling?

We authors of "How Much Is Enough?" say that overindulgence is much more than spoiling. I don't know if the opinions expressed here are the opinions of many other kids, but clearly, these two grandchildren think overindulgence is mostly about things that cost money.

And they call having whatever you want that costs money "spoiling."

What they call "spoiling" we call material overindulgence. Our research studies also identified that "spoiling" children also results when parents over-function for kids (relational overindulgence) and when adults fail to set healthy boundaries (structural overindulgence).

Please remember that no parent intends to harm their children by overindulging them. It's a matter of straightening out the ways to transmit love so that their love actually serves to strengthen their children, not weaken them.

(Connie Dawson, Jean Illsley Clarke and David Bredehoft are co-authors of "How Much Is Enough? Everything You Need to Know to Steer Clear of Overindulgence and Raise Likeable, Responsible and Respectful Children, Toddlers to Teens." Dawson can be reached at cdawson@whidbey.com. To read more about overindulgence, go to www.overindulgence.info.)



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SPECIAL EVENTS TUESDAYS – ONGOING TODDLER EXPERIENCE at the ZIMMER CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

10:30 – 11:15 a.m. Encourage children's creativity and imagination with play, music, art, movement and stories at this great kids' venue. 20 months – 3 years; \$20 for 4-week session or \$8 per class. Registration required, 323-761-8998. 6505 Wilshire Blvd., LA.

FRI., SEPT 9 – SUN., OCT. 2 – LA COUNTY FAIR

The fair returns with the usual exhibits and competitions including livestock, food and more, as well as lots more fun for the kids in a time travel exhibit at the Education Expo Building. Various times, adults \$10 - \$15, kids ages 6 – 12 46 - \$8, free for kids under 5. 1101 McKinley Ave., Pomona., 909-623-3111. More details available online at www.lacountyfair.com

SAT. SEPT. 17 INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP/ADOPT A BEACH DAY

9:00 a.m. – noon. Join over 10,000 local volunteers and ninety-one nations around the world in cleaning up the beaches. There are nine locations in Santa Monica and Venice to choose from. All cleaning products provided, discounted parking available at most locations, all you have to do is show-up. Don't miss this opportunity to teach your children about stewardship of the earth in a very personal way. Visit Heal the Bay's website at www.healthebay.org for more details or call 800-COAST-4U for clean-up locations.

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

Today's performance features Stories of Mexico presented by Conjunto Jardin. Ages 4 -11, \$5. John Anson Ford Theatre, 2580 Cahuenga Blvd., Hollywood, 323-461-3673, www.ford-damphitheatre.org

SUNDAYS – ONGOING – 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

LOS ANGELES LIVE STEAMERS – Ride a miniature train pulled by a steam locomotive in Griffith Park. Ages 2 and up, FREE! (donations welcome) 5202 Zoo Dr. (next to Travel Town), 323-669-9729

TUESDAY

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

Movies for Moms! 11:00 a.m., Loews Cineplex Broadway Theatre, 1441 3rd St. Promenade – for Moms and babies new-born – 1 year old. Doors open early for socializing and getting comfortable. Visit www.enjoytheshow.com/reelmoms for details.

Storytelling
Main Library – held at Reed Park, corner of 7th and Wilshire.
Toddler Storytime; 10:00 a.m. For 2 year olds with adult.
Preschool Story Time; 10:30 a.m.; for ages 3-5.
Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.
Cuentos Para Pequenos – 10:00 a.m., six-week series in Spanish for 24 – 36 month olds.
Lap Time – 11:00 a.m, six-week series for babies 0-24 months, co-sponsored by the SMMUSD Infant & Family Support Program.
Current sessions Sept. 6 – Oct. 11
Twilight Story Time -7pm – an ongoing program for 3-5 year olds.
Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.
Family Story Time – 7:00 p.m., all ages.
Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St. – 310-392-3804.
Toddler Storytime, 10:00 and 10:30. Music, rhymes and stories for 2 to 3 year olds.
Current session Sept. 13 – Oct. 18. Registration required.
Tiny Tuesday Storytime at Storyopolis

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

Classes

YWCA – A Place for Parents –Toddler & Me Class - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. – walkers to 3 years, (Mon – Fri); Infant & Me Class – 10:45 – 11:45 a.m. and 1:30 – 2:30 p.m., 0 – 12 months; 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

YMCA – Attachment Parenting Classes - 2:00 – 3:30 p.m., 1332 Sixth St., 393-2721 (ask for Shelana Philip-Guide or Audrey Meyer). This new class for mothers/dads and babies up to 12 months is presented by Karol Darsa, PsyD, a licensed psychologist with extensive experience working with children and families. Fees: Members – 1 class - \$40, 5 class pass - \$180; Non-members - \$50, 5 class pass - \$200.

BREAKTHROUGH PARENTING CLASSES – 7:00 – 9:30 p.m.
An advanced 10-week parent education course. Continuous enrollment. For info call Jayne A. Major, Ph.D., Breakthrough Parenting Services, Inc., 310-823-7846, jm@BPinAction.org.

Yoga & Exercise

Prenatal Aqua Aerobics at the Santa Monica YMCA

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

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

Mommy Care – at the Dance Factory, 11606 San Vicente Blvd., Brentwood, 310-394-6711. Combined Pregnancy/Recovery Exercise Group – 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.. (babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)

Itsy Bitsy Yoga – Baby IBY (6 weeks to pre-crawling) – 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. With Khefri Riley at Ocean Oasis, 1333 Ocean Ave. Register at www.khefri.net or call 323-549-5383.

Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-998-1981 - drop-in, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

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

Storytelling

The Talking Stick Coffee Lounge – 1630 Ocean Park Blvd., 450-6052
10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4 at this neighborhood coffee shop.
Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.
Toddler Story Time – 9:30 a.m., for two year olds with adult.
Preschool Story Time – 10:30 a.m.; for 3-5 year olds with adult.
Current session Sept. 7 – Oct. 12.
Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.
Lap Time - 10:15 & 11:15 a.m., ages 0-2. Current session Sept. 7 – Oct. 12
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 – 11a.m. – 310-475-3444.

Classes

Rhythm Child Parent & Me Rhythms,

Santa Monica Studios, 3025 Olympic Blvd., 9:30 – 10:15 a.m. Children explore rhythms through drum play. For toddlers. \$100 for 8 weeks. Call 204-5466 or visit www.rhythmchild.net for more info and session dates.

YWCA – A Place for Parents –Toddler & Me Class - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. – walkers to 3 years; (Mon – Fri); 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45pm, \$15
Fitness for Moms – Babies Welcome! Step Aerobics, 10:30 a.m. at the YMCA, 393-2721, ext. 117 for more info. Free for members, non-members pay \$90 for 10 classes.
Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-998-1981, drop-in, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Other

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

THURSDAY

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

Storytelling

Babystyle, 1324 Montana Avenue, 434-9590
10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4.

Main Library – held at Reed Park, corner of 7th and Wilshire.

Toddler Storytime; 10:00 a.m.; for 2 year olds with adult.

Preschool Story Time; 10:30 a.m.; for ages 3-5.

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

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

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

Toddler Story Time – 10:15 a.m., for 2 year olds, current session Sept. 8 – Oct. 13.

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

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

Lap Time – 9:20 & 10:20 a.m., for babies up to age 2. Current session Sept. 1 – Oct. 6.

Classes

YWCA – A Place for Parents –Toddler & Me Class - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. – walkers to 3 years; (Mon – Fri); 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.
BREAKTHROUGH PARENTING CLASSES – 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.
An advanced 10-week parent education course. Continuous enrollment. For info call Jayne A. Major, Ph.D., Breakthrough Parenting Services, Inc., 310-823-7846, jm@BPinAction.org.

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Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-998-1981 - drop-in, first class free,

\$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 4-8 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

MOMS Club of Santa Monica – New Mother Group – for new moms with babies born from 10/04 to present. Meet for conversation, support and playtime. All new Moms welcome! Call or e-mail Alison at 393-4481, riversalison@hotmail.com for more info.

Parent's Night Out at Child's Play, 2299 Westwood Blvd., 6:00 – 11:00 p.m. Kids get a night of supervised fun with pizza, games and more while parents go out. Ages 3-10, \$9 per hour, \$7 siblings, 3 hour minimum. Reservations required, 470-4997. ww.childsplayonline.net
La Leche League of LA/Mar Vista – meets the 2nd Friday of each month at 10:00 a.m. Call 310-390-2529 for info.
Planetarium Show at SMC's John Drescher Planetarium, 7:00 p.m. - Night Sky Show, 8:00 p.m. – featured program. \$5 adults, \$4 children. Pico and 17th St., 434-3000.

Classes

YWCA – A Place for Parents –Toddler & Me Class - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. – walkers to 3 years; (Mon – Fri); 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

Yoga & Exercise

Fitness for Moms – Babies Welcome! Indoor Cycling, 10:30 a.m. at the YMCA, 393-2721, ext. 117 for more info. Free for members, non-members pay \$90 for 10 classes.

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

Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

Other

Baby Attuned - Fridays, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., A new program promoting sensitive parenting and developmental awareness. Eileen Escarce, PhD, MSN. (PSY 18819). Introductory fee: \$15 per screening with feedback. 1137 2nd Ave, Suite 213. By appointment only 310-367-1155.

SATURDAY

Storytelling

Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade – Kid's Story Time – 10am, 310-260-9110
Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion – 10:30am – ages 2-5, 310-475-4144.
Children's Book World, 10580 1/2 Pico Blvd, LA - 10:30 a.m., 310-559-BOOK.
Village Books, 1049 SwarthmoreAve, Pacific Palisades – 10:30 a.m., 454-4063.
826LA, 685 Venice Blvd, 2nd Floor, Venice – 10:30 – 11:30 a.m., ages 3-6,

RSVP to info @825LA.com or 310-314-8418. (826LA is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting students with their creative and expository writing skills, and to helping teachers inspire their students to write).

Classes

YWCA – Toddler & Me every other Sat, 9:45 – 10:45 a.m., \$15 per class; Parent Enrichment once per month , 11:00 a.m. – noon, \$15 per class, \$25 per couple.

Yoga & Exercise

Santa Monica Yoga – Pre- & Post-Natal Yoga, Saturdays – 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. 1640 Ocean Park Blvd, 396-4040, www.santamonica yoga.com

Mommy Care – at the Dance Factory, 11606 San Vicente Blvd., Brentwood, 310-394-6711. Combined

Pregnancy/Recovery Exercise Group – 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.(babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)

Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:00 a.m., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

Other

Emerging Artists Family Workshop - 10:00 a.m. – noon.
Program varies, ages 6 and up, \$12. Santa Monica Museum of Art, 2419 Michigan Ave, 586-6488, ext. 32.

Barnyard Madness at the Santa Monica Playhouse
Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m, thru Sept. 25; \$12 adults, \$10.50 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 2 for reservations, www.santamonicaplayhouse.com, 1211 4th St.

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

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

Precious Prints – Ceramic Heirlooms for a Lifetime

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

Lakeshore Learning Stores “Free Crafts for Kids” – Saturdays, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., 8888 Venice Blvd., 559-9630.

SUNDAY

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

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

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

info.

Barnyard Madness at the Santa Monica Playhouse

Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m, thru Sept. 25; \$12 adults, \$10.50 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 2 for reservations, www.santamonicaplayhouse.com, 1211 4th St.

Family Funday at the Will Geer Theatricum Botonicum – 11:00 a.m Live music and theatre for all ages. \$8, 1419 N. Topanga Canyon Blvd., Topanga, 455-3723, www.theatricum.com.

Breastfeeding

Working Mother's Support Group

The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd. - Call 998-1981 for more info.

MONDAY

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

Storytelling

Main Library – Lap Time at Joslyn Park – 9:30 a.m. Current session thru Dec. 12.

“Family Connections” – 10:00 a.m., immediately following Lap Time - a series of discussions related to early childhood development and growth. Children welcome, free.

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

“Spanish for Little Ones” - 11:15 a.m., for ages 2 – 5.

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

Classes

YWCA – A Place for Parents –Toddler & Me Class - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. – walkers to 3 years; (Mon – Fri); 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-998-1981 - drop-in, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Yoga & Exercise

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

Itsy Bitsy Yoga – TOT IBY (crawling – 2/3 years) – 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. With Khefri Riley at TURNOUT Performing Arts Center, 12113 Santa Monica Bl., St. 201. Register at www.khefri.net or call 323-549-5383.

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

Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

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STATE BRIEFS

Dropping cones for restoration

By The Associated Press

SAN BERNARDINO — Workers are collecting a bumper crop of pine cones in San Bernardino and Riverside counties and extracting seeds in an effort to boost reforestation.

The San Bernardino National Forest pine cone crop, described as the best in two decades because of heavy winter rain, comes after millions of trees have been killed by wildfires, drought and bark beetle infestation.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the U.S. Forest Service store the seeds for use statewide. Poor pine cone crops during the past 20 years have diminished reserves of seeds.

“The need was huge,” said Terri Griffis, who manages the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection’s cone and seed processing facility in Davis. She said CDF has no sugar pine seed, has a very low level of ponderosa pine seed and needs Jeffrey pine seed.

The agencies anticipate collecting up to 1,850 bushels of pine cones from Lake Arrowhead to Idyllwild. The pine cones are bagged and trucked to seed banks in Northern California for reforestation projects statewide.

Beetles costing millions

By The Associated Press

SAN BERNARDINO — Groundwater cleanup and additional expenses in battling the bark beetle infestation has the county waste management division facing a \$52 million shortfall in the next three years.

It’s possible San Bernardino County could start to run out of space in its dumps because there’s not enough money to expand landfills.

“In a year or so, it would be a problem without the money,” division manager Peter Wulfman said.

The budget shortfall is the result of the bark beetle crisis and groundwater contamination by a rocket-fuel ingredient. Possible solutions include selling a chunk of county-owned land in Ontario, hiking some fees and forgiving an agency debt.

Hotline and Web site still active for hurricane relief donations

RELIEF, from page 3

ter is also rendering general assistance, comfort and referrals to those in town seeking help. Mental health and counseling services are also available.”

A computer has been set up in the chapter lobby to enable displaced clients to go online and try and locate missing or lost loved ones through the family links registry link at www.redcross.org.

The Santa Monica chapter has processed nearly 700 new volunteers thus far. Most of the new sign-ups are completing the required orientation and course work required for assignment to the disaster area and a Red Cross service center or shelter.

As of Monday, 42 individuals — many of them Santa Monica residents — are on their way to work or are already working in disaster relief in one of 707 shelters in 24 states including the District of Columbia. This past weekend, 128 additional local volunteers completed training to work in the disaster area. That is a total of 628 new volunteers signed up and trained to work in Hurricane Katrina relief since the disaster started two weeks ago.

In total, the American Red Cross has more than 73,000 volunteers now meeting the changing needs of tens of thousands of survivors. Plans are to recruit 40,000 more volunteers to serve in disaster relief in the weeks and months to come — both in Santa Monica and in disaster relief posts around the country. To date, the American Red Cross is housing more than 207,000 evacuees in its shelters.

Katrina disaster relief donations counted by the Santa Monica chapter so far total slightly more than \$400,000, \$94,000 of which was raised on the Santa Monica Pier over the Labor Day weekend in con-

junction with 102.7 KIIS-FM. Nationally, the American Red Cross has raised \$602 million for Katrina disaster relief.

The American Red Cross of Santa Monica and the city of Santa Monica is working on the formation of a coalition of service providers, nonprofit charitable organizations and churches which will map out strategies of working together to insure that displaced persons who come here for aid and services get what they need in a timely and efficient manner, Pacheco said.

Displaced persons from the Hurricane Katrina disaster area are eligible for substantial aid in the form of financial support and services from a variety of resources including the Red Cross.

The Santa Monica chapter's toll free Katrina disaster relief hotline at 866-733-5010 is operational. The hotline is a call-in center for information such as how and where to make monetary donations and how to volunteer locally or at a disaster relief service center where the Red Cross has set up shelters or service centers.

The hotline also can be used to link up people who wish to make donations of clothing and other goods or services with individuals, charities or organizations who are looking to acquire and distribute clothing and goods or services to Hurricane Katrina victims.

A national, toll free, 24-hour emergency line also has been set up so that survivors of the disaster can call for financial assistance by dialing 800-975-7585. Anyone looking for missing relatives or friends can call 877-LOVED-IS for the family links registry.

Go online at www.redcrossofsantamonica.org. Donate online at www.redcross.org, or, call 1-800-HELP-NOW. In Spanish: www.cruzrojaamericana.org.

Thousands left in the dark after power outage

BLACKOUT, from page 1

the wrong wires. However, portions of the westside, including Santa Monica were not affected.

Roughly two million people were affected by the resultant power surge and outages, which were reported from downtown west to the Pacific Ocean coast and north into the San Fernando Valley. Because of the region’s patchwork utility system, pockets of power remained on, even as nearby areas were dark.

The problem began at 12:37 p.m. when several workers installing an automated transmission system accidentally connected the wrong wires, according to Ron Deaton, general manager of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

“They connected it to another line that was not expecting that much electricity,” Deaton said.

No one was reported injured in the mishap. However, two men were injured at an oil refinery when smoke backed up into the facility as it burned off excess material after the power went out, fire officials said.

Much of the power was restored just before 2 p.m.; Deaton said he expected all power to be restored by 5 p.m.

Calm prevailed on the streets of downtown Los Angeles, where office workers took the outage as a chance for an extended lunch on a mild afternoon as police and fire sirens echoed in the background.

Inside some of the high-rises, office workers were stuck in elevators.

Albert Vasquez, 27, a customer service representative, was returning from lunch when he boarded an elevator. The doors closed and the power went out.

“It was bizarre,” he said. “It went completely dark. The elevator just had no power.”

Vasquez pried open the doors with his hands and left the building.

Across the city, traffic was snarled at intersections when stop lights went dark.

Katie Cerio, a stylist for TV commercials, said traffic signals were out in her neighborhood.

“They’ve got people directing traffic, but it’s definitely a bit chaotic,” Cerio said as she drove. “But now I just entered West Hollywood and the traffic lights seems to be on.”

Gas station pumps stopped working, car washes came to a halt, assembly lines stalled and restaurant machinery quit in the middle of lunch hour.

At Bob’s Big Boy restaurant in Burbank, power was out for about 90 minutes.

“All we could serve were salads and cold sandwiches, no hamburgers,” manager Frank Rodriguez said.

At the downtown YMCA, staff used flashlights to help usher exercisers from the pool and other areas to locker rooms so they could dress before evacuating.

Los Angeles operates its own power utility. Neighboring cities including Burbank and Glendale also were affected, but customers of Southern California Edison, the region’s largest utility, were not, according to spokesman Gil Alexander.

Los Angeles International Airport officials said they were not affected.

The blackout came a day after ABC aired a videotape of a purported al-Qaida member making terrorist threats against Los Angeles.

Roughly two million people were affected by the resultant power surge and outages, which were reported from downtown west to the Pacific Ocean coast and north into the San Fernando Valley

Though the Police Department ordered all officers to stay on their shifts, law enforcement officials had discounted terrorism as a cause even before the utility explained what happened.

Still, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa recognized that the timing “created a heightened sense of concern.”

Deaton estimated that about 2 million people were affected, though he wasn’t sure how many of the department’s 1.4 million households and businesses lost power. About 42,000 customers remained without power as of 3:15 p.m., said Deaton, who spoke to reporters near an intersection where malfunctioning lights made for balky traffic.

Before its power was restored, UCLA Medical Center was on backup generators and reported no problems with patient care. Childrens Hospital of Los Angeles was on backup power and doctors planned to conduct six scheduled surgeries but suspend all unneeded operations the rest of the day, a spokesman said.

Downtown resident Jacqueline Robles, 23, was at Childrens Hospital with her 1-month-old son, Jakob, when the power went out. Even when electricity was restored, she was in no hurry to return home by subway.

“I was afraid of taking the Metro because of the lights going off again. I don’t want to be stuck on the train with my baby,” she said.

The city’s transit trains ran during the outage, but with major delays.

“I walk faster than that,” said commuter Jennifer Crocker, 27.

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NATIONAL



Hopelessness begins to lift from New Orleans

BY BRETT MARTEL
Associated Press Writer

NEW ORLEANS — More than half of southeastern Louisiana's water treatment plants were up and running again Monday, and business owners were issued passes into the city to retrieve vital records or equipment as New Orleans continued to stir back to life.

Two weeks after the city got slammed by Hurricane Katrina, traffic was heavy on the only major highway into the city that was still open, and vehicles were backed up for about two miles at a National Guard checkpoint across the Mississippi River from New Orleans.

To prevent looting, authorities required business owners to obtain passes to enter the city's central business district and take what they needed to run their companies.

Among the businessmen allowed back was Terry Cockerham, owner of Service Glass, which installs windows at businesses downtown. He has been working out of his house because his business was destroyed by looters and flooding.

"This is about the most work I've ever had," he said. "We'll work seven days a week until we get this job finished. I don't want to get rich. I just want to get everything back right."

There were also signs of life at businesses elsewhere in the city.

In the French Quarter, Nick Ditta was at Mango Mango, the bar he manages on Bourbon Street, searching for time cards. "It's a mess man. There is no doubt about it," Ditta said. "But our people are going to get paid. That's all I'm worried about."

President Bush got his first up-close look at the destruction in New Orleans on Monday, taking a tour that took him through several flooded neighborhoods. Occasionally, he had to duck to avoid low-hanging electrical wires and branches.

The president denied there was any racial component to the way the government responded to the disaster, disputing assertions that Washington was sluggish because so many of the victims were poor and black.

"The storm didn't discriminate and neither will the recovery effort," Bush said. He also rejected suggestions that the nation's military was stretched too thinly with the war in Iraq to deal with the Gulf Coast devastation.

Though 50 percent of New Orleans remained flooded — and teams continued to collect hundreds of corpses, there were clear signs of recovery: Over the weekend, trash collection resumed, and the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport reopened for cargo traffic. It planned to open to limited passenger service starting Tuesday.

A plane carrying equipment to rebuild New Orleans' mobile phone networks took off from Sweden on Monday after waiting more than a week for a go-ahead from the United States. The shipment included network equipment donated by the Swedish cell phone giant LM Ericsson.

"Each day there's a little bit of an improvement," Coast Guard Vice Adm. Thad W. Allen, commander of the New Orleans relief efforts, told NBC on Sunday night. "And in the end run, maybe a week, two weeks from now, someone's going to wake in the morning and have something they didn't have the day before, and that's hope."

State officials said Monday that 16 of southeast Louisiana's 25 major wastewater treatment plants were up and running again.

In the effort to drain the flooded area, 41 of 174 permanent pumps were in operation, and officials expected an increase in temporary pumps within 24 hours.

As of late Sunday, water in many parts of the metropolitan area was going down at least a foot a day, the Army Corps of Engineers said. Once the streets are dry, crews can begin removing debris, checking buildings and other structures for soundness, and restoring utilities.

Military cargo airplanes were set to begin spraying the area on Monday to kill flies and mosquitoes. The standing water from Katrina is expected to worsen Louisiana's already considerable mosquito problem. Before the storm hit, the state had logged 78 cases of mosquito-borne West Nile virus and four deaths from the disease this year.

Insurance experts doubled to at least \$40 billion their estimate of insured losses caused by Katrina — a figure that would make it the world's costliest hurricane ever. Risk Management Solutions Inc. of Newark, Calif., put the total economic damage at more than \$125 billion.

In the French Quarter, burnt-orange rubble from terracotta roof tiles sat in neat piles for collection along the curb. Bourbon Street was cleaner than it ever is during Mardi Gras. And Donald Jones, a 57-year-old lifelong resident, said he was no longer armed when walking his street.

"The first five days I never went out of my house without my gun. Now I don't carry it," Jones said over the weekend. "The only people I meet is military."

The waters in New Orleans have pulled back far enough to allow for a scenic drive down Esplanade Avenue, past the handsome, columned two-story home where the French artist Edgar Degas once lived to the New Orleans Museum of Art in City Park.

The same can be said for Saint Charles Avenue. While

many homes are deserted and the old green street cars are gone, the beauty of the Greek Revival and Victorian homes, fronted by a canopy of live oaks, overwhelms the sight of debris piled along the road.

"I think it's livable," said John Lopez, who moved to New Orleans from the New York City area about a year ago. "If they got running water to all these buildings that are obviously inhabitable, they could get the city cleaned up a lot faster because people would be cleaning up their own blocks and their own neighborhoods."



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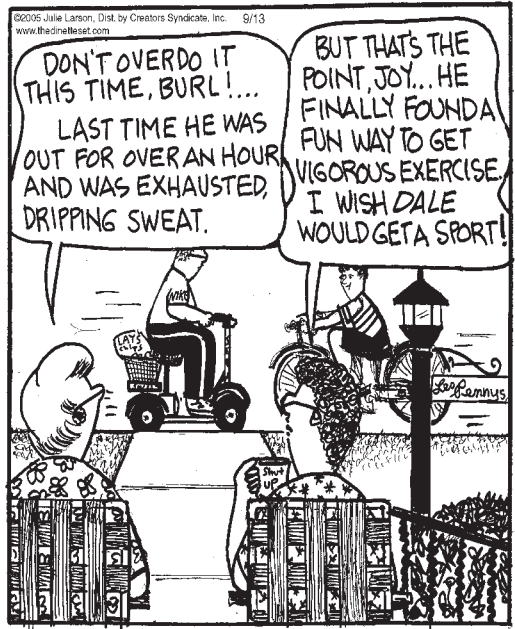
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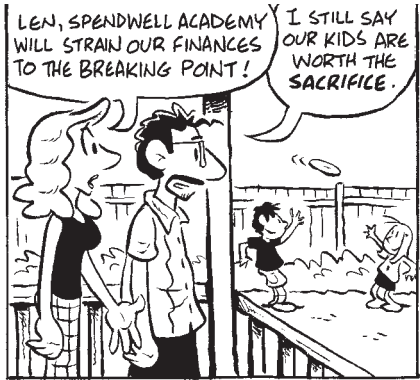


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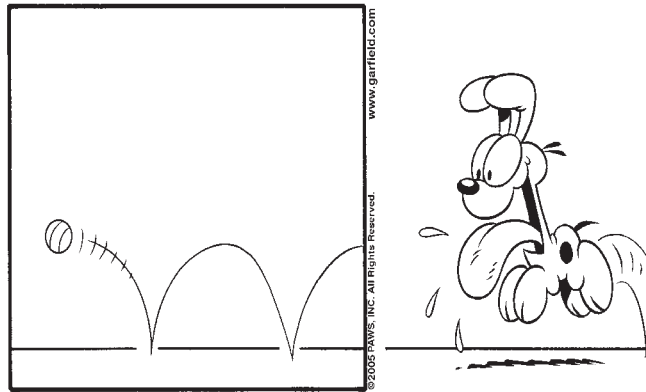
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- 7 Informal farewell
- 11 "The Wild One" star
- 12 "Trinity" writer
- 13 Expressions of sympathy
- 15 Make a speech
- 16 Lowly chessman
- 18 Drones
- 21 Tablets
- 22 Plans in detail
- 24 Lingerie item
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DOWN

- 1 "Lost" network

2 NFL

- player
- 3 Skillet
- 4 Funds
- 5 Decorate
- 6 "At the Copa" showgirl
- 7 Auto-shop job
- 8 Circle section
- 9 Common Father's Day gift
- 10 Fool
- 14 Hawke of film
- 16 Louvre setting
- 17 Old saying
- 19 Grinding tooth
- 20 Hotel choice

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Yesterday's answer

- 21 "Sesame Street" network
- 22 Janitor's tool
- 23 Golf peg
- 25 Cost, ultimately
- 28 NYSE rival
- 29 Red Cross headquarters
- 31 Salute
- 33 Pipe bends
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- 35 Rowing need
- 36 New Deal org.
- 37 Make a sharp turn
- 38 Last letter
- 39 Total

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IMMEDIATE POSITIONS available in the housekeeping department of St. John's Health Center. All shifts available, PT/ FT. Hospital housekeeping preferred. Call (310) 829-8431 for interview.

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PART-TIME SALES person for a hardware store. Call Billy at (310) 395-1158.

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RECEPTIONIST/PHONES- FULL time 6am - 2pm, overtime may be required during some months. Must be prompt, computer literate w/ ability to handle extremely busy phones. Fluent in English. Please fax resume to: 310-394-4003

RETAIL SALES
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Teri Hatcher stars in campaign for hair color product

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Teri Hatcher is hiding her gray hair — and she's not shy about talking about it.

Hatcher, one of the stars of ABC's "Desperate Housewives," is the new spokeswoman for Clairol's Nice 'n Easy hair color. The natural brunette, who's had a spot of gray since she was 25, uses medium golden brown.

"I'm not the kind of person who can get involved in things I don't believe in. I'm a very honest and open person. I'm not a good liar. I might be an OK actress but I'm not a good liar," she told The Associated Press in a recent phone interview.

Hatcher will star in both print and TV ads.

"In all my career, in my ups and downs, I've never had a beauty campaign. This was meaningful that at almost 41 years old, I could be getting my first beauty campaign," she said. "It made me feel really great."

Hatcher said the product fits her personality and lifestyle.

"My daughter is much more important to me than how I look that day, so on days when I'm rushing to get my daughter to school and rushing to work, if I don't have to worry about my hair looking good, then it's a good thing," she said.

But the day she shot the TV spot in Los Angeles, the Clairol team paid more attention to her hair in a few hours than she does the rest of the year, Hatcher said with a laugh.

"Every last strand was in place — and it looked good. But I came home with my perfect hair and took a shower," she said.

Patrice Louvet, vice president of global hair colorants for Clairol, said Hatcher was a perfect match for the at-home product.

"She's an accomplished actress who has successfully reinvented herself in her career. ... Both Teri and Clairol have a similar appeal and a similar personality. They're approachable, natural, relatable," he said.

Clairol worked with Linda Evans ("Dynasty") in the 1980s and Julia Louis-Dreyfus ("Seinfeld") in the '90s.

"A celebrity allows the woman at home to identify

with someone, which you don't get with a traditional model," Louvet said.

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Retiring Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor tells a story of her childhood in her children's book, "Chico."

O'Connor is scheduled to appear at the Scottsdale Civic Center Library on Sunday to talk about and read from the newly released book.

She had a best-seller in 2002 with the memoir, "Lazy B: Growing up on a Cattle Ranch in the American Southwest," written with her brother, H. Alan Day.

The new book, subtitled "A True Story From the Childhood of the First Woman Supreme Court Justice," is also about ranch life. Illustrated by painter Dan Andreasen, it tells of her horse Chico and a terrifying encounter she and Chico had with a rattlesnake.

O'Connor, who announced her retirement July 1, will talk only about her book and related stories, library officials said.

She also has written "The Majesty of the Law: Reflections of a Supreme Court Justice," published in 2003.

LAS VEGAS — Illusionist Roy Horn made a slow, unassisted stroll into a Las Vegas theater, taking another step in his recovery from a near-fatal tiger mauling 23 months ago.

Horn "methodically" walked about 100 yards into the Thursday evening performance of "Avenue Q" at the Wynn Las Vegas resort, said Bernie Yuman, longtime manager of the "Siegfried & Roy" show.

He was accompanied by his partner, Siegfried Fischbacher, and casino mogul Steve Wynn.

Horn, 60, has been walking without the aid of a rolling walker after months of six- to eight-hour days in physical rehabilitation, Yuman said. His injuries included a damaged neck artery and a crushed windpipe.

He has made other public appearances in recent months.

Horn was partially paralyzed when a 380-pound white tiger attacked him and dragged him by the neck during a performance of the "Siegfried & Roy" show at The Mirage resort.

The mauling ended the long-running "Siegfried & Roy" production, one of the most successful shows in Las Vegas history.

Yuman said Friday that Horn and some friends were preparing to mark Horn's 61st birthday on Oct. 3. He declined to provide details.

"We're going to continue to celebrate his birthday and his life," Yuman said, emphasizing the inspirational elements of Horn overcoming adversity.

"We look forward to Oct. 3 as we always have, but now it has new meaning," he said.

GENEVA — A U.N. panel has awarded Bill Cosby an Internet domain name based on the Fat Albert character he created in the 1960s.

Arbitrators for the World Intellectual Property Organization ordered Monday the transfer of fatalbert.org to Cosby, who had complained it was being used in bad faith to divert visitors to a commercial search engine and a Web site selling sexually explicit products.

Cosby created Fat Albert in the late 1960s as part of his standup comedy routine about his childhood in Philadelphia. The children's cartoon series "Fat Albert and the Cosby Kids" began airing in 1972 and a "Fat Albert" movie was released last year.

Sterling Davenport of Loretto, Tenn., who had registered the domain name, didn't respond to Cosby's complaint, arbitrator John Kidd said.

Kidd said, "the respondent has no rights or legitimate interests in the domain name."

A number of celebrities, including Morgan Freeman, Julia Roberts, Madonna, Nicole Kidman, Pamela Anderson, Pierce Brosnan and Carmen Electra, have won the Internet version of their names through U.N. arbitration.

Anyone can register a domain name for as little as a few dollars. The arbitration system, which started in 1999, allows those who think they have the right to a domain to claim it without a costly court battle or payment of large fees to buy the name.

Critics say the system favors trademark holders and not individuals who also may have legitimate rights to the names for parody, criticism and other purposes.

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