

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

1 28 29 40 43
Meganumber: 20
Jackpot: 10 Million

FANTASY 5

14 22 25 36 39

DAILY 3

Daytime: 6 5 8
Evening: 0 9 8

DAILY DERBY

1st: 11 Money Bags
2nd: 06 Whirl Win
3rd: 05 California Classic
RACE TIME: 1:47.98

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

In August, the International Paralympic Committee rejected quadriplegic British rugby player Mark Fosbrook for the upcoming Paralympics because he is too able-bodied. Fosbrook has no feet, and two fingers at the end of each arm, but he was rated 4.0 in functionality, with 3.5 the highest level allowed to compete.

TODAY IN HISTORY

ON OCT. 19, 1781, British troops under Lord Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown, Va., as the American Revolution neared its end.

■ **In 1765**, the Stamp Act Congress, meeting in New York, drew up a declaration of rights and liberties.

■ **In 1812**, French forces under Napoleon Bonaparte began their retreat from Moscow.

■ **In 1864**, Confederate Gen. Jubal A. Early attacked Union forces at Cedar Creek, Va.; the Union troops were able to rally and defeat the Confederates.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Anyone who goes to a psychiatrist ought to have his head examined."

SAMUEL GOLDWYN
US (POLISH-BORN) MOVIE PRODUCER

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Council hopefuls answer the \$6M school question

(Editor's note: This is the third in a series of installments posing questions to City Council candidates. Each Tuesday leading up to Election Day, candidates will be asked a question by the Santa Monica Daily Press. Their answers appear in alphabetical order).

By Daily Press staff

CITY AT LARGE — The City Council earlier this year agreed to commit a minimum of \$6 million to the local school district annually for the next five years. But how to do that without taking from somewhere else in the city budget remains an issue.

Elected officials hope that voters this November will pass a 2

percent tax hike on tourists who stay in local hotels, which would generate about \$3.5 million a year.

Those running for four City Council seats vary in their predictions on whether the measure will pass, but offer their ideas on what should be done if it doesn't.

This week's question:

Measure N proposes to raise the hotel bed tax by 2 percent, thereby generating about \$3 million that would go directly to local schools. If the measure fails, how will you keep City Hall's promise to give the school district a minimum of \$6 million annually? Where would you take money from in the already tight budget in order to fund the schools?

See **CANDIDATES**, page 6

Return to sender: Shriver goes it alone

Election mailers upset City Council candidate

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

City Council candidate Bobby Shriver went on the offensive Monday, distancing himself from a batch of campaign literature distributed throughout the city last weekend.

Paid for by the well-funded local tourism industry, the mailers tied Shriver to City Councilman Herb Katz, an independent seeking re-election, and took aim at two controversial local issues — homelessness and excessive City Hall bureaucracy.

Both Katz and Shriver denied advance knowledge of the mailers, which were produced by a recently formed independent political expenditure committee calling itself "Santa Monicans for Change." Election law prohibits candidates from communicating with independent committees,

which can endorse any candidates or issues they choose.

Shriver, who canvassed Ocean Park over the weekend, said he was chastised by some residents for apparently sending confusing mailers. Shriver's campaign has sent several mailers of its own, including one on homelessness. All of them tout Shriver as an independent candidate.

"I have to be careful," Shriver said. "I haven't been around (Santa Monica politics) long. People are just forming their first impression of me. It's not like I'm Ken Genser, who's been around for 20 years. I have to be very careful of what's out there."

In a statement issued to the press Monday, Shriver reiterated that he was running as an independent candidate and said, "I am requesting that any individuals or organizations planning to publish materials using my name either not do it, or make it clear that I am not aligned with their organization or any other candidates they may support."

See **MAILERS**, page 8



John Wood/Daily Press

With trash strewn across the beach, the storm runoff west of Pico Boulevard emptied straight into the ocean Monday, as Santa Monica's water filtering system was overloaded by the season's first significant rain. Health officials recommend staying out of the ocean for at least three days after heavy rains.

Flotsam emerges to the surface after season's 'first flush'

BY KATHLEEN BISHOP

Special to the Daily Press

THE BEACH — An overcast sky, free-flowing storm drains and warnings not to swim in the ocean can only mean one thing — the impact of the season's first rainstorm has hit local beaches.

Friday night's rain inducted the city and surrounding areas into the region's official rainy season. As the showers continued into the week, dirt and trash that settled on city surfaces over the summer spilled onto the beach.

"We call it the 'first flush phenomenon,'" said Craig Perkins, director of Santa Monica's envi-

ronmental and public works management department. "That sounds kind of bad, but that's really what it is."

"The first couple of storms clean out the streets and the alleys and the parking lots that have accumulated residue for the past nine months," he added. "That's a lot of extra contamination going into the ocean."

Perkins said the last time Santa Monica had measurable rainfall was in April — about 181 days ago.

Cleaning up debris along the shore might take longer than a week, said Ruben Harow, a crew

See **FLUSH**, page 7

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The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

★★★★-Dynamic ★★★★★-Positive ★★★-Average ★★-So-so ★-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ Know that you need to take a stand, even if you don't want to. Others easily become irritated. You cannot win for losing today; so just do what you need to do or what is right. A problem could surround your family or home. Tonight: Be lazy.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ You might have something on your mind that is preventing you from fully concentrating on a project. You might have difficulty staying in the here and now. Deal with new information and find experts. When you finally take action and become present with the moment, you know what you are doing. Tonight: Let your mind wander with music.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Others expect a lot from you. Know that, without a doubt, you cannot please all the people all the time. Isolate yourself and restrict communication to one individual at a time. Recognize that a financial matter might need to be put on hold. Tonight: Be with your favorite person.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ You don't have control over anyone but yourself. This statement becomes a reality today. The power is in other hands. Don't worry; simply relax. Your family and domestic life could be another source of irritation. Tonight: Visit with your pals.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★ Once more, you feel that life is all work and no play. You do your work well, but you might need a break soon, especially to maintain the caliber product you want. Speak with others, sharing your frustration. With focus, you might be able to make this a short workweek. Tonight: Bring extra work home.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ You could encounter problems when you least expect them. Your creativity flourishes, but somehow you keep hitting a brick wall. Think about jumping over it or walking around the issue for now. Time could work in your favor. Tonight: Lighten up.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★ Frustration could easily become your middle name. As much as you have a magnetic personality, others seem destined to rain on your parade. You might want to bring extra work home and take some time for yourself. Tonight: Don't go too far from home.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ Listen to others. Your instincts could be a bit off. Put your thoughts on hold instead of reacting. You might want to keep a list of your passing thoughts. Communication buzzes. Return calls. Others want to chat. Tonight: Hang with your pals.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Your focus on money cannot be compromised, even when friends turn up, on the phone or in person. You need and want as much monetary security as possible. Distraction occurs left and right. Make decisions carefully. Tonight: Your treat.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Your personality blooms, even if another person or an authority figure tries to rain on your parade. Deal with authority figures and bosses as diplomatically as possible. Remain confident and don't take on others' issues. Tonight: Make your own plans.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★ Take your time making decisions. Even if you can avoid others and formal commitments, you still need your space. Or at least, for now, keep your thoughts to yourself. Quickly investigate different options on your own. Tonight: Vanish.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Meetings take the front row in your planning. In fact, dealing with groups is your strength. A partner or associate could feel left out. Stay focused on your goals, and don't get caught up in all the frivolous conversations around you. Tonight: Whatever you do is right.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Candidates go head to head on City TV2

By Daily Press staff

It should be lively tonight in Council Chambers as 14 candidates for City Council will debate various issues on local television.

All the candidates will be participating in a round table discussion from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. During the program, called "Council Candidates Live!" each person will consider pre-written questions and debate them in small groups. Since the public is invited, the idea is for voters to see all of the candidates in one place and see how their opinions differ.

City TV2, channel 20, is a companion station to CityTV, channel 16, Santa Monica's main government access cable station. City TV2, which has been on-air for two weeks, is dedicated to 24-hour election coverage and will be re-airing the taped debate everyday. Since many local political candidates don't have the money to run television ads, City TV2 aims at both educating voters and leveling the field for all candidates by providing each equal air time. The new station makes Santa Monica the first city in the country to dedicate a separate channel to educating voters about the specifics of an election. City TV2 also will provide continuous coverage of election night results from Tuesday at 8 p.m. until Wednesday at 12 p.m. After Nov. 2, residents will be able to catch government meetings they have missed by tuning in to replays of meetings on City TV channel 16.

Park planning 101

By Daily Press staff

Saturdays should be spent playing the park, but this Saturday, it could be spent planning one.

The city of Santa Monica's Community and Cultural Services Department will host a community design workshop on Saturday, Oct. 23 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. to encourage public input on the design of a small park planned on Euclid Avenue between Colorado Avenue and Broadway.

The design team of Rios Clemente Hale Studios and artist Abbie Morganstein will be on hand to present various design options, potential park features, and to hear from the neighborhood and community on preferences for amenities such as shade, seating, children's playground equipment, security features, and landscape planning.

The park project has been in the works since City Hall purchased the site in 1998, as part of a combined parks and housing development. The new park is part of the city's parks and recreation master plan, a 20-year plan for more than \$142 million worth of improvements to Santa Monica's parks, open spaces and community facilities. Partial funding for the project is coming from the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District.

Euclid Park site is served by Big Blue Bus Lines 1, 5, and 10 and is wheelchair accessible. For disability-related accommodation requests, or for more information, call (310) 458-8310.

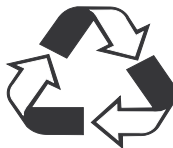


Anita Holcomb is this week's mystery photo winner. Holcomb accurately described where the photo was taken — 2116 Main Street, on the wall of American Dog Training. She will receive a Daily Press T-shirt. Check out Monday's edition for the next mystery photo.

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SURF REPORT

Polluted. On Tuesday look for a mix of slightly increased NW and SW wind swells and fading SW Southern Hemi swell. Northern LA spots see mostly knee-waist high surf, with a few bigger sets leftover at best SW exposed spots up to chest high in the morning. South Bay spots see mostly waist high and below surf, with a few waist high and occasional plus sets at best combo breaks in the north half of the bay. Variable S to SW wind in the 0-10 knot range expected for the morning, building 10-20 knots through the late afternoon/evening.

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

**Today the
water is:**

67°



LOW TIDES

HIGH TIDES

	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	4:25	1.8	5:50	-0.3	10:42	6.3	N/A	N/A
SUNDAY	4:55	2.2	6:51	-0.2	12:14	3.9	11:21	6.2
MONDAY	5:28	2.7	8:06	0.0	1:35	3.4	12:08	5.9
TUESDAY	6:14	3.2	9:35	0.1	3:42	3.3	1:13	5.5
WEDNESDAY	8:28	3.5	10:56	0.0	5:41	3.7	2:47	5.2
THURSDAY	10:51	3.2	11:58	-0.1	6:26	4.1	4:29	5.1
FRIDAY	N/A	N/A	12:11	2.6	6:58	4.6	5:49	5.2

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The QLine

As election day draws near, voters are increasingly being inundated with political scare tactics, confusing campaign literature and promises from candidates — on the local, state and national levels.

Although many people might have made up their minds long ago on the presidential race, it is often much harder to make meaningful distinctions among local and state candidates and issues.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know,

"How comfortable would you feel stepping into the voting booth right now? Have you been sufficiently informed about candidates, or have the political tactics employed this year left you dazed and confused?"

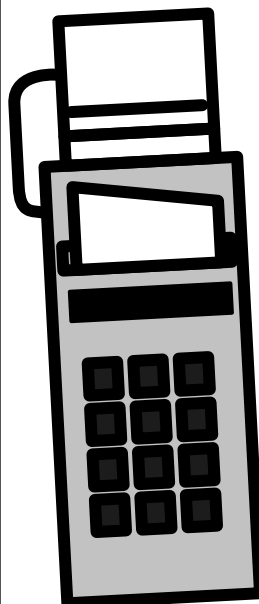
Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your response in the weekend edition. Please limit your comments to a minute or less. It might be helpful to first think about the wording of your response.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CEPS spells 'school yard bullies'

Editor:

I just looked up the definition of bully: "One who hurts or intimidates others." Seems like the CEPS bullies are at it again. City Council candidate Bobby Shriver recently said: "I was so scared of them after 40 minutes that I would have done anything they told me."

The role of a City Council member is to listen to everyone in the community, analyze the issues and use judgment in making decisions. Councilmember Michael Feinstein felt it was not wise to promise funds when there was not a sure revenue source for those funds. That is not a vote against education. Rather than engage him in a dialogue to find some common ground, the CEPS folks demonize him.

The initiative CEPS threatened to put forward was to give money to the public schools without any accountability on the part of the school district. Seems the CEPS people think if you just pour in money, you get quality.

I can imagine what they have to say about me because I didn't do exactly what they wanted. I had the temerity to force accountability onto the school district — a district that didn't even make its budget accessible to the public until after I made that, and other accountability measures, requirements before any additional city funds went to the school district.

Unlike Mr. Shriver, I won't do whatever CEPS tells me to do. Like Mr. Feinstein, I'll use my judgment. But it's too bad there can't be a dialogue with the CEPS folks. Seems that they are taking lessons from the Republican Congress who demonize and try to squash anyone who dares to disagree with them.

There's always truth in humor.

Pam O'Connor

Santa Monica City Councilmember

Out with the old, in with the new

Editor:

A record number of homeless people.

Rising crime rates.

Worsening traffic congestion.

These are the critical problems of Santa Monica. A reasonable person would assume that Santa Monica's City Council would aggressively confront and tackle these issues. A reasonable person would be wrong. Instead, the City Council has effectively ignored these problems and spent its valuable time on such vital community concerns as counting squirrels, declawing cats, and condemning children's playhouses.

Over four years ago, I sought approval to build a playhouse for my son Jacob in our backyard. More than three months after permission was granted by City Hall, it was abruptly withdrawn, and I was ordered to either tear it down or face criminal

prosecution. I refused, and City Hall embarked on a four-year legal mission to impose its will, eventually winning a decision at the appellate court.

Then they stuck me with \$85,000 in legal bills. Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of Santa Monica citizens, the bills have been paid in full. But it never should have come to this. It happened to me. It could happen to you.

My ordeal, along with similar stories like candidate Bobby Shriver's battles with the city over the height of the hedges on his property, have convinced me — and thousands of others around the city — that the majority of this City Council has got to go. Herb Katz is the only member of the current council running for re-election who backs the citizens over bureaucratic interests. He will get my vote, as will Bobby Shriver.

I've lived proudly in Santa Monica for nearly 30 years. And it is patently obvious that problems such as homeless people using our streets, alleys and sidewalks as beds and bathrooms are much more critical to our quality of life than this City Council's misplaced priorities, capricious abuse of power, and arbitrary hubris toward both residents and small business owners would suggest.

Let's face it. This City Council is not up to the challenge. They've had their chance and they've failed. Let's stop batting our collective heads against the same old brick wall and try a new approach.

I don't wish a four-year legal battle on anyone, but it has taught me a couple of valuable lessons. First, you can fight City Hall, but it's extremely expensive and not very efficient. Second, the citizens of Santa Monica deserve much better than what this council has been providing. We don't have the power to threaten council members with criminal prosecution or send them legal bills for squandering our resources. We do have something far better, cheaper, and more efficient: The power to vote, which we should exercise in a manner that is loud and clear on Nov. 2.

Dr. David A. Levy

Santa Monica

Sick over the flu shot saga

Editor:

I'll bet Bush and Cheney have already received their flu shots. The administration's inability to provide flu shots to those who need them is another big feather in its cap. As a result, the lives of hundreds of thousands of Americans have been placed at risk, and thousands may die.

Bush's policy favoring outsourcing (and therefore loss of oversight of production) allowed the flu vaccine manufacturer to avoid close scrutiny in time to prevent the complete loss of their product. Thank goodness the British government caught the problem before hundreds of thousands of Americans were injected with a possibly dangerous, perhaps even deadly, dose of contaminated vaccine.

See **LETTERS**, page 5

The future of America means fewer employees



WHAT'S THE POINT?

BY DAVID PISARRA

Seeing the future is not always an easy thing. It rarely is. Change is inevitable and those who refuse it are doomed to be passed over. This is one of the reasons why organizations fail.

As individual humans we tend to fall into two categories — those who love change and those who hate it. There are more people by far who hate it than love it. This is why change happens slowly, and for those who wish to succeed it must be done in baby steps.

Take for example the local Ralphs stores. Many of them have introduced the self-service line for checkouts. They have the scanner, and a computer automated voice — I call it Silicon Sally — to walk you through the process of beginning the transaction, swiping your purchases over the scanner and then paying for your goods.

I like this at lunchtime when I am in a hurry and I'm buying my lunch of a prepackaged sushi and a fruit smoothie. It is a convenience factor for me, and has become a quicker alternative to waiting in line as someone ahead of me attempts to pay for their month's worth of shopping with coins.

On the other hand, I am not one who

will stand there and scan all my purchases for the week and bag them. This is too large of a project for me to do by myself. And frankly, I'm just that lazy.

What difference does all this make? It is a vision of the future. My likes and dislikes are being recorded by Ralphs, Wal-Mart and every other major retailer. As technology becomes more a part of our lives, those likes and dislikes will be turned into new technologies.

The fact that Ralphs is training its customers to become self-checkout savvy is an indication of where the company model is going.

As Ralphs teaches more of us to rely on those machines to do our checkout, they will find easier and better ways to accommodate our laziness. The plan is to get us used to doing our own checkouts. This has the benefit to the retailer of lower labor costs, which creates bigger profits.

If you look at the self-checkouts, there is one staff member who is monitoring the four bays for people to do their own work. What that means is that the retailer has now lowered his labor cost by 75 percent on four checkout stands. Three people are no longer needed to do the job.

This is the march of technology and progress. As machines are more capable for handling the repetitive, mind numbing work of manufacturing, there is less need for human capital. We simply need fewer people to do twice as much work.

This is no different than in 1794 when Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin and reduced the labor cost of cleaning cotton to

the point where it became a profitable product. It was through technology that being a cotton farmer was once a losing proposition but then became a viable profession.

It is because of the march of technology that the entertainment industry is going through a massive renovation in how movies are made. The unions are about to lose hundreds of jobs each year as technology increases and more of what used to be done by hand is done by computers. What used to take 10 matte painters a month to do can now be done in a week by one or two people with a computer.

What used to require stunt men can now be created with a digital image. This means that new jobs are created, with different pay scales. Where the stunt man of old would have been paid by jumping off a building, on a per floor basis, the digital artist can now create a character that jumps off of a building. The difference is that that digital artist is paid on an annual basis, and could make \$100,000 a year.

From the studio's perspective, with a digital artist, it gets the performance that it wants, but it doesn't have to pay the same insurance rates, feed the stunt man and his crew, and pay for a location. It is safer and cheaper, even though the studio pays the artist more than the stunt man.

We face it every day. Whenever you call an organization and get a voice mail system, that has put a receptionist out of work. When you check your bank balance online, you've put a teller out of work.

Our society is fast becoming polarized between those who understand technolo-

gy and can adapt to it, and those who can't. The problem is, as technology gets more efficient, we need fewer people.

We have created our own problem. We want life to be faster, better, cheaper, and the only way that can happen is with technology. We also want to have full employment, cheaper health care and lower taxes.

These are all pipe dreams. Full employment will never happen. The best we can hope for is a low unemployment rate. Cheaper health care is possible only when we stop wanting to live forever, and lower taxes are never going to happen — they will just arrive in different forms. The "convenience fees" and the "processing fees" are the "shipping and handling" of the tax code and they are not likely to ever go away.

People desperately want to believe this is a partisan issue. It is not. This is not the president's fault, — as much as I wish it was — and it is not the Democrat's problem. If you believe someone should be blamed, blame Silicon Valley. They are visionaries who are causing the changes. But the fact is this is the face of America in the 21st Century, and we must accept it. Only then can we do something about it.

(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).

OPINION



Falling for autumn in LA

ANY DAY IN LA

BY HEIDI MANTEUFFEL



I left work Wednesday on a serious a mission to get a birthday present for my mom. I searched all over Santa Monica Place and Third Street trying to find the perfect tank top, um, I mean gift for mom. And while Sam Goody didn't have a DVD for less than \$29.99, the scarves strewn over mini-skirt-wearing mannequins did bring me to the realization that ahhh, it's finally autumn in LA.

Everywhere you go you're sure to see it's fall. I'm being sarcastic, by the way. Rite-Aid packed up the fans and filled its summer aisle with fun-size candy bars. Halloween costume stores in the valley have opened again. The air is so crisp that I can see my breath when I open my freezer. And the leaves are definitely, definitely, not changing. Nothing like the feeling of autumn.

When I picture fall, I think of the weather getting so cold that I put away summer clothes and get out my winter sweaters for the snowy months to come. The leaves start to change brilliant colors of orange, yellow and red, and blanket the grass as they fall one by one from the tree. I think of trick-or-treating with heavy, thick coats that hide whatever you were supposed to be, and in some years trudging through sleet or snow for a measly Twix or JuJuBe. But almost always, a crispness adorns the air when I think back on memories of autumn.

And I'm not sure with 60-degree weather that we qualify for a crispness factor. So I guess I'm wondering if I'm missing the mark. Is this all we get to signify a changing season? Some fun-sized Hershey bars, some fall sales, and a scarf? It hardly seems fair that the rest of the country gets leaf fights and hot cocoa and a fabric called flannel and we get a designer Prada bag to carry our pooches in.

Oh, but don't think I'm going to give up that easily. For your sake and mine, I'm going bundle up, go out on this blustery, 64-degree weekend and see if I can't find the faintest hints of autumn. Ready?

11 a.m. As I step outside, I think to myself, I'm really glad I got a jacket to go over my T-shirt and shorts. I park near the pier, and the first thing I notice is there are definitely fewer people on the boardwalk than three months ago. It's almost noon now, and I can rollerblade without running into huge families and their munchkins. Instead of the overly crowded

beaches, only a few brave souls are playing beach volleyball and a couple die-hards are tanning. I make it to Temscl with barely breaking a sweat.

3:30 p.m. I take a walk down Montana Avenue. There's still a fair amount of people checking out the lack of sales. Nothing to point out here, although I did notice a push of orange to be the new, "fashionable" color. I also notice walking faster from stores as I have no intention of spending \$200 for a shirt that's popular for 30 days.

9 p.m. As I curled up on the couch with my boyfriend to watch "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind," Kate Winslet also with festive orange in her wardrobe, there was a faint drizzle sound, making my boyfriend wonder if it was raining outside. To settle our curiosity right then and there, I opened the door, and small rain pellets fell gently on my neck. The rain was amazing, and as you know, went pretty much throughout the night and slightly into the next morning.

Sunday, 12:30 p.m. Me and some friends ate lunch at Cross Creek in Malibu. The wind was making my eyes tear, as it usually does when it gets colder. I think that's why people waiting to get their sandwiches at John's Garden were at staring me, wondering why I looked so sad. I told them it was because they were out of honey mustard. Who knows if they believed me. My roommate got me a coat out of her car as I ate my veggie burger and rubbed my glistening, irritated eyes.

It's 5:30 p.m. and I'm wondering the conclusion I've come to of a fall in LA. There's fewer people out on the weekends, I have to wear long-sleeve shirts, sometimes, I look like I'm crying, and it isn't sunny everyday. But is that it? What about the hot cocoa and changing leaves? I've seen the air change color from clear to brown, but that's not something I really want to press in a book.

So while I mull over the LA autumn on my normal walk, I notice the grass, the high hedges, and some red leaves on the ground. I stop in my tracks, turn around and look again. Were my eyes deceiving me? No, they weren't for they were definitely red leaves, and some yellow ones too. I walk a little further, and there was yet another tree with red leaves, and another past that one.

I picked up four or five leaves, marveling at each one that such a thing could happen. Right underneath my unbelieving nose, in all its warmth and lack of clamor, autumn was occurring in LA.

(If you noticed something strange or bizarre happen this weekend as well, e-mail Heidi at anydayinla@gmail.com).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LETTERS, from page 4

The Bush policy of not allowing drugs to be imported from Canada because he feels they "might not be safe" prevents us from at least partially replacing the lost dosages through our neighbors to the north. I think most people trust the Canadians not to poison them, but to save their lives. Perhaps the state of California should purchase the drugs directly from Canada, or create a "flu train" to take our citizens on excursions north where they can receive proper treatment.

If the reports that our leaders were informed of the forthcoming shortage several months ago but took no action are true, then those at risk have indeed been ill-served by our government.

Frankly, if I were John Kerry, I'd be all over this fiasco like fleas on a hound dog.

Ken McCrae
Santa Monica



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LOCAL

CANDIDATES, from page 1

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LETICIA ANDERSON

I don't think the voters will pass Measure N, and even if they did, we should not be playing roulette with the future of our future — the children. The city should always look for a back-up plan. I support revenues generated through joint powers agreements, along with the possibility of raising revenue through renting out cafeteria buildings on weekends for community groups who are operating on profit.

BILL BAUER

It's not likely that Proposition N will fail, however, if it does, some city belt tightening is in order for the city to meet its obligation to the schools.

The most obvious place to find money is in the social services areas. This would be a good opportunity to cut funding for homeless services in half, thereby freeing up a million dollars per year.

Shuttering the Bayside District Corp. and turning some of its functions and duties over to the Santa Monica Convention and Visitors Bureau, along with a couple hundred thousand budgeted "Bayside" dollars to cover incremental operating expenses would free up about another three-quarters of a million dollars more that could go to schools.

Cutting some city departmental budgets by 3 to 5 percent could generate additional savings that could be used to support schools. I would not cut public safety budgets, however.

The city has shown great creativity in financing pet projects such as finding nearly \$8 million in "housing" funds to pay for a proposed new homeless shelter for nonprofit services provider OPCC on Cloverfield Boulevard, and loans from water and wastewater funds to pay for the purchase of the Fisher Lumber property on 14th Street for expanded use as a park.

Of course, if we incur more costs by instituting a city minimum or "living" wage for employees and subcontractors, this will mean more money going out and less available to support schools.

Finally, using Governor Schwarzenegger's theory of economics, there's always an improved business outlook and increased revenues from sales tax to also help fill the bill.

MAYOR RICHARD BLOOM

I believe that Measure N will pass because voters recognize that it represents a fair increase in the bed tax that will bring us in line with neighboring

cities. The hotel bed tax is paid entirely by visitors who use our city's resources, so it costs residents nothing. We will use the money for schools, police and other important needs. It is important to note that this increased funding has not been designated for the school district.

Speaking of the school district, I was proud to lead the city team that brought the city and school district to agreement on the historic doubling of our funding for schools.

I am also proud of my leadership as mayor during the past years of economic downturn. Our city has been fortunate because our staff have been good stewards who requested and received fiscal restraint from the City Council. As a

result of this responsible approach by Santa Monica's elected leaders, we will exit the economic downturn sooner and in much better condition than most other communities. Although the Santa Monica economy is doing quite well, we still live in very uncertain economic times, particularly in terms of our funding from the state of California.

If Measure N were not to pass, we will not cut school funding or public safety services. We have curtailed spending in a fiscally responsive manner during these past difficult years by cutting programs least likely to be overtly felt by residents. This is likely to change, however, if we are forced to make additional cuts.

Therefore, it is imperative that residents vote "yes" on Measure N.

DAVID COLE

I was not aware that all of the funds raised by Prop. N would go to our schools. The Chamber has told me they expect some of that money to go to the Visitors and Convention

Bureau, and the Police union has said they expect it to help them maintain those 100,000-plus salaries.

I know that if this current City Council wants money to fund something, they always seem to find it and so our commitment to our local schools is not solely dependent on the passage of Prop N. We still underfund our school district, in my humble opinion.

Lastly, I think each voter should take the time to study the proposal and make up their own minds.

As a candidate or council person, it is not my position to tell people how to vote.

MATT DINOLFO

The financial health of our schools and the city's commitment to ongoing funding is extremely important to our community. I support and expect the passage of Measure N, the

hotel bed tax. Review of the city revenue analysis, as outlined in the budget, projects moderate growth in fiscal years 2004-2005 and 2005-2006. Santa Monica has overcome the negative financial impact of the Sept. 11 attacks, and has experienced increased sales tax revenue as well, projected at approximately 3.5 percent.

The continued increase in business activity will be essential to sustained economic growth. A city government that is more responsive in the areas of planning, permitting, and architectural review will encourage the development of small businesses grounded in our community. The city can also expect greater interest income from the city's pooled investment portfolio and experience revenue increases from utility taxes in areas of increased cable and wireless technology usage.

Lastly, as our parking facilities are updated and expanded, the city will also have increased revenue from this source.

Should Measure N fail, I believe these increases will allow us to honor our funding commitments to education without significant changes in city services.

CITY COUNCILMAN MIKE FEINSTEIN

I support Measure N and urge people to vote "yes" this November for this important measure that will ensure continued funding for essential city services.

If Measure N were not to pass, I would work to put a modified, similar measure on the ballot in 2006, the next time such a measure could legally go on the ballot.

In the interim, I would address the deficit by allocating one-time funds, rather than projecting outward an ongoing operating deficit of \$3.5 million a year, and hence having to make deep programmatic cuts in needed services.

Where could such one-time funds come from? The city could choose to defer capital projects and/or utilize year-end savings and other one-time sources to make up the gap. Again, this would be far preferable to cutting ongoing programs.

CITY COUNCILMAN KEN GENSER

Sustaining city support for our public schools must remain one of the city's top priorities. I strongly support the recently approved funding

agreement between the city and school district.

In the unfortunate and unlikely event that Proposition N is not approved by the voters, the city will face a budget shortfall for at least several years. If that were to occur, I would work to make up for the shortfall by deferring some capital improvements and maintenance projects.

Undoubtedly, the effects of such deferrals would be noticeable. But in my view, this would be a better choice than reducing financial support to our schools.

PATRICIA HOFFMAN

I am in favor of Measure N because it would bring parity in our taxing level with that of other nearby cities — the revenue won't come from the residents and it cannot

be taken away by the state. However, the premise of the question differs from my understanding of how the money can be used. The money has not been designated specifically for the schools. It is general fund money that can also be used for things like libraries, parks, environmental programs, and public safety as well. Schools are just one of many uses to which that money could be put.

The city has worked and reworked its budget to make sure that it could honor its commitments, schools included. Two examples are that revenues are slightly more positive than anticipated and the city has held off filling some vacant positions. I am sure that we won't need to do any significant shifting of money.

CITY COUNCILMAN HERB KATZ

I strongly favor passage of Measure N to increase the hotel "bed tax" for the benefit of Santa Monica's public schools. Our public schools must be our

highest priority because they represent our community's future. Quality public schools mean a stronger local economy, a better quality of life and children educated to meet the challenges of the 21st Century.

I support Measure N because it's a step towards providing Santa Monica's children the schools they need and deserve. I stand with CEPS on this issue and my long-standing support of our community's schools has earned me the CEPS endorsement this year.

I fully expect Measure N to pass. In the unlikely event it does not, I would contin-

ue to support full funding of the city's financial commitment to our schools. I would propose that the city tighten its belt by cutting back substantially on our current use of outside consultants. The savings realized by reducing our expenditures on these fees would help us make up the gap if Measure N does not pass on Nov. 2. In addition, certain capital improvement projects may have to be re-evaluated or deferred.

MARIA LOYA

I support the passage of Measure N. As an advocate for our public schools, I believe that the city should keep its word and fund our schools with the \$6 million we promised. If

Measure N fails, the city should look at other income streams such as the tax increments created by our redevelopment zones. In addition, public education will need a leader that believes in finding adequate and sustainable sources of revenue to maintain a quality education for our students. A vote for Maria Loya will secure a solid vote for education funding.

JON MANN

All candidates signed a pledge regarding this. I alone added a caveat — subject to review. Kathryn Morea refused to sign and changed her mind after she received the Chamber of

Commerce endorsement.

I felt that requiring the candidates to write a blank check under duress was a promise that would not be kept and was tantamount to blackmail.

In my CEPS questionnaire, I explained that I felt the entire school budget should be monitored and audited to ensure it was cost effective and not being wasted. I believe there are many ways that the school budget could be streamlined and much administrative waste could be eliminated so existing revenues could be directed where they were needed.

KATHRYN MOREA

I believe Measure N will pass. However, let's say it does not. I would find other expenses which could be cut or streamlined. Perhaps the construction and development

projects being done by City Hall need to be reduced or postponed.

For instance, a library remodel approved for \$25 million mutated into a new building which cost taxpayers \$75 million, three times more than what was budgeted and approved.

Each year our city spends around \$5 million to fund various homeless programs. Maybe we need to find ways to partner so the taxpayers are not shouldering so much of this burden. I believe if forced to choose, our children must come first.

A similar large item pay-out has been for "affordable housing." Only a few months ago, \$10.8 million was approved for two different projects of 41 and 44 units respectively. Not only are these extremely expensive projects to build, they often result in hundreds of new families moving into Santa Monica, further crowding our schools, roads and other parts of an overburdened infrastructure.

Furthermore, our City Hall staff has doubled in just 10 years, yet our population has remained fairly constant.

So I believe there are plenty of places in

LOCAL

CANDIDATES, from page 6

the budget where cutbacks could be made if there is a priority placed on finding solutions instead of merely raising taxes.



BOBBY SHRIVER

I believe Proposition N will pass. Voters know it raises Santa Monica's hotel bed tax to the same rate as Los Angeles and Beverly Hills. Voters also know that Proposition N was

put on the ballot to ensure that the city lives up to its agreement to give the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District \$6 million a year.

Even if Proposition N does not pass, the city must fund the agreement. Our

public schools need as much support as we can give them, and each one of our children deserves an excellent education.

To find \$3 million, the first place I'd look in the budget would be the funds allocated for code enforcement. I am confident that we all could live with flags stuck on cars for sale around the Fourth of July, as well as many of the other minor transgressions the city spent millions last year to police. I would ask the City Manager to have department heads reduce or eliminate their staffs' overtime hours. Savings may be possible in what is currently budgeted for outside consultants.

If we still need money for our schools, rather than laying off people, I would recommend delaying one or more capital improvement projects.

A clean ocean starts with human behavior

FLUSH, from page 1

leader in Santa Monica's beach maintenance department. A storm later in the season without the drain build-up takes three or four days, he said.

When a storm is predicted, the city's primary goal is to prevent flooding, so extra staff is on call in case of drain blockage and the screens of curb catch basins are cleaned out, Perkins said.

Even with those precautions and Perkins' assurance that the city has been doing much better at controlling pollutants that enter drains, he said people should not be swimming near a flowing storm drain within three days of rainfall.

Mark Gold, president of Heal the Bay, a non-profit organization that works to improve conditions in the Santa Monica Bay and Southern California coastal regions, thinks people should be more cautious this time around.

"Because this was the first flush, this would be an extremely polluted slug of storm water that went into the bay," he said. "We'd normally say don't swim within three days of a storm, but since we got about a half inch or so and it hadn't rained for so long, four or five days would make more sense."

Gold said people should avoid the water all together, not just the areas where stormwater flows into the ocean.

"Generally, when we have a storm like that, most beaches get Cs, Ds or Fs," he said, referring to Heal the Bay's weekly reports on the health of the beaches. He said studies have shown the most common outcomes of swimming in a contaminated beach are stomach flu, upper respiratory infections and skin rash.

The system that carries rainwater to the ocean begins with the 2,500 curb catch basins throughout the city. All water and run-off flows through the drains to five discharge points on the beach. Perkins

said the Pico-Kenter point — just south of the Santa Monica Pier — is the largest. Half of its run-off comes from other Los Angeles County areas, including Brentwood and the Santa Monica Mountains. Pico-Kenter pumps about 300,000 to 500,000 gallons of water into the city's Santa Monica Urban Runoff Recycling Facility (SMURRF) every day during the dry season, he said. Any water the plant can't handle goes through a bypass pipe under the beach and straight into the surf. The city also packs the channels with sand — a process called dredging — during the dry months to prevent excess water from forming stagnant ponds on the beach.

But once the rain comes, the water has to flow naturally. The first storm blows out the dredged sand, and there is too much water during heavy rain for SMURRF or the bypass pipe to take.

"In the storm season, which is generally November to March or April, it's really important that all of the drains have an unobstructed path to the ocean," Perkins said.

The city has plans to deal with rainwater more efficiently.

"There are some projects underway to divert all city's remaining dry weather storm flow that doesn't go to SMURRF into the sewer system," Perkins said.

He said City Hall has received grants that will fund 80 to 95 percent of the \$3 million project. City staff also are installing more catch basin screens and drain filters. But like many environmental projects, Perkins knows progress begins with Santa Monica residents being aware of what they are putting in the ocean with everyday behavior, like washing their cars, watering their lawns and littering.

"Most importantly, we're continuing to do a whole lot of education and enforcement and outreach about good housekeeping stuff that anyone who lives in town needs to be doing," he said.

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Santa Monicans for Change plans to send more mailers

MAILERS, from page 1

Seth Jacobsen, a spokesman for Santa Monicans for Change, said he was surprised Shriver would shun the free pre-election publicity. Mail pieces cost thousands of dollars apiece and are a preferred medium for reaching voters in local elections.

"I'm disappointed that he took this position," Jacobsen said. "My inclination is that he's trying to appeal to both the renters' rights coalition, as well as the homeowners and newer renters, the non-rent control renters, in Santa Monica. He's trying to build a broader base. The downside of a strategy like this is that you risk alienating one group or another."

Both Shriver and Santa Monicans for Change plan to send more mailers before the election. Shriver said his mailers will list groups that support him from all different political viewpoints in Santa Monica. However, it's unclear if the Santa Monicans for Change mailers will be altered.

"All of our materials are clearly designated Santa Monicans for Change," Jacobsen said. "As an independent expen-

diture committee, we have to do that. There's nothing illicit and nothing illegal going on here."

He added that future mailers will list college and school board candidates, as well as more council candidates. Four council seats are at stake in the Nov. 2 election.

Santa Monicans for Change is funded by local luxury beach hotels, restaurants and about a dozen local residents, Jacobsen said. Because it was formed this month, it hasn't yet had to report where its cash contributions have come from. All local candidates and political groups regularly have to report campaign contributions. The next deadline is Thursday.

In the meantime, Katz said he appreciated the extra publicity from the mailer, but was wary of having his name used without his knowledge.

"I care what my stuff says," Katz said on Monday. "I care about my own views. Bobby likes me and I like Bobby, personally, but we're not endorsing each other, yet — if at all ... It's not horrible, but I don't like stuff going out without my OK-ing it."

Rain helps firefighters control Sierra Nevada wildfires

By The Associated Press

KYBURZ — The season's first major rainstorm has helped firefighters get a handle on wildfires burning across the Sierra Nevada, including a 2,000-acre blaze started by an arsonist in Yosemite National Park.

The Power fire, which spread to 16,800 acres near state Highway 88 between Bear River Reservoir and Salt Springs Reservoir, was about 80 percent contained by noon Monday, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Heavy rain helped contain the fire, but also prevented fire crews from working, said CDF spokeswoman Donna Winkelman. A section of the highway that was closed Saturday has been reopened, but drivers were warned of danger from poor visibility, Winkelman said.

The Freds fire, which burned about 7,700 acres in the Kyburz area of the Eldorado National Forest, was contained Sunday night, according to the CDF.

But U.S. 50, which links Sacramento and South Lake Tahoe, remained closed due to safety concerns. CDF officials issued a flash flood warning in antici-

tion of up to 3 inches of rain by Tuesday.

Park rangers in Yosemite National Park said Sunday they believe that a body found Saturday belonged to the arsonist who ignited a 2,000-acre blaze in the Hetch Hetchy basin.

The body has not been positively identified, but authorities believe it belongs to Richard Celebrini. The 32-year-old former stock market day-trader is suspected of killing his wife and two daughters in their Brentwood home before traveling to Yosemite and setting the fire with a handheld blow torch.

Autopsy results have not been released, but it appeared he died from a self-inflicted gunshot, park spokesman Scott Gediman said Sunday.

On Friday, visitors told park rangers they saw a man lighting fires and brandishing a gun on a hiking trail near the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, which provides drinking water to more than 2.4 million residents in San Francisco Bay area.

The fire burned in remote, rugged wilderness in the northwest portion of the park, where no structures or roads were threatened. Steady rainfall snuffed out most of the fire by Sunday, Gediman said.

Kristine Johnson Fountain of Joy



The Kristine Johnson Fountain of Joy is seeking donations. Situated in a courtyard garden visible to the community, the fountain will be a respite for those seeking faith, peace and hope amongst the challenges of the world.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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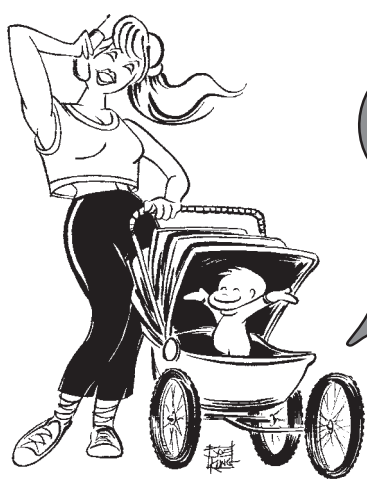
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GUEST COMMENTARY BY JAN V. SOLOMITA

Seven ways to create a supportive environment

When we refer to our “environment,” we typically think of the color of the walls, or perhaps the weather, or pollution. For some the word, “environment” bring to mind the organizations that protect it, such as “Save the Whales,” “Heal the Bay” or “Green Peace.” For the purpose of this discussion we are going to focus on our personal environments.

Thomas J. Leonard, the father of the modern day “Life Coaching” movement, suggested that we think of everything in our lives as an environment. Leonard referred to, “The seven environments of you,” and he put them into the following categories: self, physical, network, nature, intangible, memes and relationships.

The idea is to form a partnership with our personal environments in order to design more supportive structures within each. By doing so, our environments become places that move us forward with less energy expended, and sometimes in very inspiring ways. Once we take charge to intentionally redesign our environments, we are able to move from succeeding in spite of our environments, to succeeding because of our environments.

Here’s an example from a person’s network environment:

Let’s say that you are a parent with two small children under 3 years old, and that you are forever seeking referrals for the needs of yourself and your children. You may already have plenty of friends and professional connections within the community, but because your children have yet to attend a formal child development center, you may lack a natural network to many of the resources that exist out there for parents with young children.

There is a woman who started a Yahoo Group to provide a central place for her family and friends to share information on everything related to families with small children. What do you think would happen if as a parent with very young children you were to join this group? The group consists of more than 500 members, and anything that you can imagine that a person with toddlers

and infants might want information on, can be found here. From pediatricians to nannies, from quality crib suggestions to the best pumpkin patches around, all that and a whole lot more, is only a few mouse clicks away. By joining this Internet group, that little tweak to your personal network, would overnight, by design, make this particular environment much more supportive.

Another example comes from my personal environment with nature. Like most of us, I thrive on the chance to surround myself with a natural setting. It calms me, and grounds me like nothing else can. In response, I have scheduled myself to go for a hike in the woods no less than twice a month, no matter what, and to take a camping trip annually. I also have blended part of my exercise routine, with my desire to spend more time by the ocean, by taking walks and runs on the beach. Before committing to these adjustments in my routine, just as surely as I would shop for food or put gas in the car, I mostly just yearned for spending more time with nature. Now, with the redesign firmly in place that I get out to nature regularly, doing so has become an integral part of my schedule and my life.

Lets take a closer look at the seven environments and some of the things that fall under each category.

Self: Your body, height, weight, hair. Your spiritual side, yourself, your connection to the universe, your unique talents and abilities, etc.

Network: The Internet, professional peers, PTA, community groups, social groups, etc.

Nature: Outdoors, the seasons, the aging process, our access to the beaches, the mountains, the woods, the quality of light, etc.

Memetic: Ideas, concepts, cultural beliefs, knowledge and information that influence your thinking, etc.

Physical: Home, furniture, money (anything you can touch), car, toys, equipment, TV, artwork (very important one), our books and magazines, our “things,” etc.

Relationships: Family, friends, coworkers, spouse, lovers, colleagues, children, neighbors, the checker at whole foods, your trainer, your doctors, your pets, etc.

Intangible: feelings, your emotions, your passions, your values, your dreams, your visions, your aspirations, etc.

There are so many improvements and adjustments both small and large, that we are all able to initiate into our personal environments to more effectively support our individual lifestyles. I suggest starting with a three-step process for each environment to kick-start the personal design process.

1) What is working: Identify one thing that you already have in place in your environment that is working to support you. Examine, “How did it get there?”

2) What is not working: Identify one thing that exists in your environment that you are tolerating, that is a hindrance, that could be minimized or eliminated. Examine, “How can I reduce or eliminate it, or it’s impact?”

3) What can make it better: Come up with one thing that you’d like to add, or upgrade for each category, that you believe will make this particular environment more supportive for you. “What must happen for me to ‘just do it’?”

Why design your environments consciously? Simply put, to make things more supportive for the way you want to live. Change the environment to fit you, rather than changing yourself to fit the environment. It’s a bit of an adjustment for some people to become proactive about the big and small ways that our environments are set up. But my advice is that we never take for granted that we must live at the mercy of the status quo.

(Jan Solomita is a life coach and majored in psychology at Antioch College in Yellow Springs Ohio and also studied design at Boston Architectural. He is currently enrolled in the graduate school of coaching, part of the Schools of Coaching founded by Thomas J. Leonard. A detailed description of his professional services can be found on his Web site at www.Jamvsolomita.com).

Six words the norm for an 18-month-old’s vocabulary



DEAR DORIE

Dear Dorie,

My daughter is 18 months old and doesn’t seem to be speaking much. I understand most of her words but most people don’t. She is comfortable with her name and

responds to sounds but she seems really quiet compared to her friends. When should she be talking?

Dear parent,

All children acquire language skills in a particular order, but on their own time. If your daughter seems quieter than the norm, she’s probably at the slow end of the normal spectrum and will catch up later on. But this also could be who she is in temperament and personality. Assuming normal development, you can help foster her language skills by reading, speaking and singing with her whenever possible.

However, if you’re worried that she might have a problem, talk to her doctor. Explain your feelings and have specific examples (e.g. “she says lano for banana”). Clarify if you feel it is an articulation problem (no one else can understand her but she seems to understand), a delay in using language (she understands but won’t use words) or a comprehension delay (she grasps little of what is said). The doctor may refer you to a certified speech and language pathologist.

At 18 months, she should be able to follow a one-step command and have a recognizable vocabulary of at least six words. If this is not the case, talk to her doctor. Good luck and keep me posted.

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- ♦ Stretching Your Limits - November 6, 2 pm
- ♦ Kid's Peace Circle - November 13
- ♦ Kids' Musical Yoga - November 14



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VISIT A PUMPKIN PATCH!

Malibu Feed Bin, 3931 Topanga Canyon Blvd. (at PCH), 456-2043. Featuring pumpkins, looking zoo, gift boutique, Halloween goodies and entertaining staff. Open 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Mon. - Fri., 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Sat.

Faulkner Farms, 14292 W. Telegraph Rd., Santa Paula, 805-525-2226, www.faulkner-farm.com. Guests can stroll through a giant sunflower forest, take a hayride, climb a haystack, pet animals, enjoy BBQ and pick from lots and lots of pumpkins at this real farm. Lots of fun, great photo ops. Admission is only \$1 on weekdays, \$2 on weekends for ages 3 and over. 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. thru Oct. 31.

The Farm, 8101 Tampa Ave., Reseda, 818-341-6805. Wagonloads of pumpkins, petting zoo and pony rides (\$3). 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. thru Oct. 4. Admission is \$3. Fillmore & Western Railway's PumpkinLiners, on Central Ave. in Fillmore, 800-773-8724. Take a 25 -minute train ride to a remote pumpkin patch with a hay maze. Trains depart at 10 and 11 a.m., 12:10, 1:10 and 2:30 p.m. on weekends. \$15 ages 13 and older, \$8 ages 4 - 12, \$6 ages 3 and younger.

Underwood Family Farms, 3370 Sunset Valley Road, Moorpark, 805-529-3690, www.underwoodfamilyfarms.com. Kids receive hands-on lessons in picking a pumpkin from the vine thru Oct. 31. Featuring tractor and pony rides, a corn maze and food. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. (5 p.m. after time change) daily. Admission is \$2 weekdays, \$5 weekends.

SATURDAY, OCT. 23rd - COMMUNITY CPR (English), 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. The session is FREE, but a \$20 refundable registration deposit is required. Contact the IFSP at 452-6132 to register.

WEDNESDAY - SUNDAY, OCT. 27th - 31st - SESAME STREET LIVE!

All of your favorite Sesame Street characters singing and dancing live on stage. Oct. 27 - 31 at the Grove of Anaheim; Nov. 5 - 7 at Arlington Theatre in Santa Barbara. Visit www.sesamestreetlive.com for details or call Ticketmaster at 213-480-3232.

Special Note - Mommy Care classes at the Dance Factory have moved to 11606 San Vicente Blvd., Brentwood. Please see the calendar listings for schedule updates.

TUESDAY

Movies for Moms!

Oct. 19th - "Napoleon Dynamite" starring Jon Heder, Jon Gries and Aaron Rueli. Comedy; rated "PG."

11:00 a.m., Loews Broadway, 1441 3rd St. Promenade - for Moms and babies newborn - 1 year old. Doors open early for socializing and getting comfortable.

Visit www.enjoytheshow.com/reelmoms for details.

Next week - October 26th

What's so Funny About Halloween? - 3:30 and 4:30 p.m., 2601 Main Street. Stories and puppet show at the Ocean Park Branch Library. Ages 3 -7. Tickets are free but must be picked up day of show after 12:00 noon.

Halloween Tales - 3:30 p.m., 1704 Montana Ave. Spooky stories and crafts for ages 4 and up at the Montana Branch Library.

Storytelling

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

Toddler Storytime; 10:00 & 10:30 a.m. 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 Nov. 2 - Dec. 7.

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 Nov. 2 - Dec. 7.

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.

Terrific Tuesdays - 3:30 p.m., every other Tuesday, Oct. 26, Nov. 9 & 23. Stories and crafts for ages 5 - 9.

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.

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 (1-3 years) - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m.; Infant & Me, Transitional Group (7 - 14 mos.) - 10:45 - 11:45 a.m.; Infant & Me (0-12 mos.) - 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.; classes in partnership with the Infant and Family Support Program. 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

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)

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 Nov. 3 - Dec. 8

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

Lap Time - 10:00 & 10:30 a.m., for ages 0-2.

Toddler Story Time - 11:15 a.m., for 2 year olds.

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

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

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

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

Classes

Rhythm Child Parent & Me Rhythms, Santa Monica Studios, 3025 Olympic Blvd., 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. Children explore rhythms through drum play. Ages 6 mos. - 3.5 years; \$15 per session. Call 204-5466 or visit www.rhythmchild.net for more info.

YWCA - A Place for Parents - Parent Support (3 - 5 years) - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m.; Infant Plus (0-12 mos.) - 10:30 a.m. - noon; Parents of Adolescents Support Group - 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. 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.

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.; 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.

Toddler Story Time - 10:30 a.m.; for ages 2 -3. Next session Nov. 4 - Dec. 16.

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.

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., 6-week series for babies 0-24 months, co-sponsored by SMMUSD Infant & Family Support Program. Next session Nov. 4 - Dec. 16.

Classes

YWCA - A Place for Parents - Toddler & Me (1-3 years) - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. and 10:45 - 11:45 a.m.; classes in partnership with the Infant and Family Support Program.

Parent Support (3 - 5 years) - 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

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.

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.

Classes

YWCA - A Place for Parents - Toddler & Me (1-3 years) - 9:20 - 10:20 a.m.; Parent Support (1-3 years) - 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

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.

Hot Topics for Moms - at the Pump Station - 1:00 p.m. A discussion group for parents of small children led by a qualified speaker/leader. Different topic each week. \$25 per session or \$80 for four sessions. Current session runs thru Oct. 22.

Call 826-5774 for more info or pick-up a brochure. 2415 Wilshire Blvd.

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.

Baby Attuned - Fridays, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., A new program promoting sensitive parenting and developmental awareness. Learn about and keep a record of your baby's unique development, ages 3 to 60 months. Parent-completed developmental screening, with review and feedback from a licensed clinical developmental psychologist and experienced pediatric nurse practitioner, Eileen Escarce, PhD, MSN. (PSY 18819). Introductory fee: \$15 per screening with feedback. 1137 2nd Ave, Suite 213. By appointment only 310-367-1155.

Oct. 22nd - Nature Walk (Children's Nature Institute)

Franklin Canyon, 2600 Franklin Canyon Dr., Beverly Hills, 10:00 a.m.

Reservations - 998-1151 or www.children-snatureinstitute.org.

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.

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 - 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)

Other

Snowwhite and Mary-Mary Quite Contrary at the Santa Monica Playhouse

Alternating Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m. thru Dec. 19th , \$12 adults, \$10 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 2 for reservations, www.santamonicaplayhouse.com

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

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

Precious Prints - Ceramic Heirlooms for a Lifetime

Second Saturday every month at The Pump Station, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Contact

Kristan Pritchie at 310-802-8013 or visit www.preciousprintsstudios.com for more info.

Breastfeeding

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

Oct. 23rd - Nature Walk (Children's Nature Institute)

Solstice Canyon, 3455 Solstice Canyon Dr., Malibu 10:00 a.m.

Reservations - 998-1151 or www.children-snatureinstitute.org.

SUNDAY

Snowwhite and Mary-Mary Quite Contrary at the Santa Monica Playhouse

Alternating Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m. thru Dec. 19th , \$12 adults, \$10 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 2 for reservations, www.santamonicaplayhouse.com

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

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

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

Family Fundays at the Will Geer Theatricum Botanicum
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, 9:30 a.m. A series for babies up to two years old.

"Family Connections" - 10:00 a.m. Joslyn Park, Craft Room.

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

"Spanish for Little Ones", 11:15 a.m. Next session Nov. 8 - Dec. 16.

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

Classes

YWCA - A Place for Parents - Toddler & Me (1-3 years) - 9:20 - 10:20 a.m.; Parent Support (1-3 years) - 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

Breastfeeding Group

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

Yoga & Exercise

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

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Expecting?



STATE

Silver says his activism has cost him in Hollywood

BY BETH FOUHY
AP Political Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — For years, the actor Ron Silver was a partisan Democrat — a one-time president of the Actors' Equity union and co-founder, with colleagues like Susan Sarandon and Christopher Reeve, of the Creative Coalition, which encouraged left-leaning political activism among celebrities.

His best known screen role may be that of Bruno Gianelli, the Machiavellian political consigliere to Democratic President Jed Bartlet on TV's popular series "The West Wing."

Everything changed for Silver after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Now he calls himself a "9/12 Republican." A strong supporter of Israel and the war in Iraq, Silver spoke at the Republican National Convention in New York and is featured prominently in a new documentary, "FahrenHYPE 9/11," a searing indictment of Michael Moore's blockbuster film.

Silver says his political change of heart and outspoken support of President Bush has exacted a high professional cost in Hollywood, where Republicans are a decidedly rare breed.

"It's affected me very badly. I can't point to a person or a job I've lost, but this community is not very pluralistic," Silver said. "I haven't worked for 10 months."

It's been just a few weeks since the Republican gathering in New York where Silver made his first high-profile splash on Bush's behalf. Skeptics in the entertainment industry question how Silver can trace a drop-off of career opportunities in such a short time.

At 58, Silver is no longer the brainy young actor who cut his teeth on brash character roles; Hollywood's love

affair with youth and the "next big thing" may have affected Silver's career more than a shift in his political sensibilities.

But when Silver decided to hit, he hit hard — using his convention speech in large part to lash out at Hollywood and the hypocrisy he sees in its politics.

"I find it ironic that many human rights advocates and outspoken members of my own entertainment community are often on the front lines to protest repression, for which I applaud them," Silver said. "But they are usually the first ones to oppose any use of force to take care of these horrors that they catalogue repeatedly."

Silver shows particular venom for Michael Moore, whose "Fahrenheit 9/11" documentary broke box office records and just came out on DVD. In "FahrenHYPE 9/11," Silver teams with former Clinton adviser Dick Morris and others to deconstruct Moore's movie. They score strong points when some of the subjects — an Oregon state trooper, a maimed soldier, the aunt of a young man killed in Iraq — say Moore had no business involving them in his political screed.

Silver's film has done gangbuster business for its distributor, the Internet retailer Overstock.com, selling more than 200,000 copies since its release Oct. 5.

"Michael Moore and that faction of the party was one of the factors that did not let me support the Democratic nominee this year," Silver said. "He is a charlatan in a clown suit. I compare him to Leni Riefenstahl and Goebbels," referring to Adolf Hitler's infamous propagandists.

Margery Tabankin, who advises Barbra Streisand and other Hollywood heavyweights on their political giving, said Silver's views, behavior, and claims about his career are in keeping with his persona.

"Ron loves controversy, he loves to say the contrarian

thing. That's who he is," Tabankin said. She dismissed Silver's claim about losing jobs, pointing to Republican actors like Bruce Willis and Tom Selleck whose careers have sizzled over the years.

Barry Greenberg, a Hollywood agent who for many years was a member of the Wednesday Morning Group, a gathering of entertainment industry conservatives, agreed that while the facts may not prove the notion of political blackballing in Hollywood, it remains strongly rooted in lore.

"There has always been the great perception in the industry, that (Hollywood) is run by liberal Democrats and that those of us who are conservative don't work," Greenberg said. "I have spent 23 years in the industry and there is plenty of rumor and innuendo that Charlton Heston lost work and so on."

But both he and Tabankin note that Hollywood is always more about business than politics — which is why entertainers of all political stripes weather their ups and downs.

I think studios and networks and cable companies are interested in projects that will make them money," Tabankin said. "I don't know anyone who doesn't hire someone based on their politics if they think that person is right for the project."

As for Silver, he remains committed to campaigning and speaking out for Bush no matter the consequences, real or imagined. While he continues to take a liberal stance on issues like abortion rights and stem cell research, he has officially registered as an Independent.

"I know John Kerry, I like John Kerry and I respect him, but he is the candidate of the party," Silver said. "And if it's the party of Howard Dean, Dennis Kucinich and Michael Moore, then it's not my party."

Bar groups urge California death penalty moratorium

BY DAVID KRAVETS
AP Legal Affairs Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — A delegation of 450 attorneys representing local bar associations statewide is urging a moratorium on the death penalty in California.

The Conference of Delegates of the California Bar Associations, representing prosecutors, criminal defenders and civil attorneys from dozens of bar groups says executions should be put on hold pending an inquiry into whether California administers the ultimate punishment fairly and uniformly.

"If you make a mistake, it's not like you can go back and correct a mistake because the person is dead," said

Los Angeles County Deputy District Attorney Danette Meyers, who has sent two men to death row.

The group is urging the California Legislature, and ultimately, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, to impose a two-year moratorium on executions — a ban that could eventually become permanent. The proposal would create an independent investigative committee focusing on race, the reliability of convictions and whether the condemned had adequate legal representation. The group also wants an inquiry into the financial cost of capital punishment and whether the penalty is imposed too often.

Statewide, about 39 percent of inmates awaiting execution are white, 35 percent black and 18 percent are Hispanic, according to California Department of

Corrections data. By comparison, California's overall population is 47 percent white, 33 percent Hispanic and just six percent black.

But geography also clearly plays a role, and prosecutors in some counties seek death in cases that would not be a capital trial in others, Meyers said.

"I don't know if Scott Peterson was charged with crimes in L.A. County, Orange County or San Diego County, I don't necessarily know Scott Peterson would be looking at the death penalty," said Meyers, who supports the death penalty despite her vote.

In the Peterson case, Stanislaus County prosecutors are seeking the death penalty for the 31-year old fertilizer salesman accused of killing his wife, Laci, and their unborn son. The case is being tried in San Mateo County because of considerable pretrial publicity.

The moratorium recommendation comes on the heels of the U.S. Supreme Court this month rejecting an appeal from California condemned inmate Donald Beardslee, now 61, who was convicted of killing Stacy Benjamin, 19, and her friend Patty Geddling, 23, after a drug deal went sour at his Redwood City apartment in April 1981.

On appeal, Beardslee claimed ineffective assistance of counsel and other issues. He said his now-deceased attorney was reading "Bon Appetit" magazines while Beardslee was testifying.

See DEATH PENALTY, page 13





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STATE BRIEFS

LAX plans to take flight

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Mayor James K. Hahn’s sweeping, nearly \$10 billion modernization plan for Los Angeles International Airport goes before the City Council this week.

The vote is expected to be close over the proposal, a decade and \$130 million in the making. And opponents — including county government and several Southern California cities — are prepared to fight it in court if the council approves the plan.

The proposal was apparently doomed until Hahn ally Councilwoman Cindy Miscikowski proposed adopting the plan but yellow-lining the most controversial aspects — tearing down terminals and building an offsite arrival-departure center — for final approval later.

Opponents said Miscikowski’s plan violates state environmental laws.

“This is something we have to do,” Hahn said. “It is one of the most significant things facing the city. We have been at this a long time, and I want to see us move ahead on it.”

Police need citizen assistance

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Residents want police to help them anonymously report crime.

Hundreds of southwest Los Angeles residents gathered Sunday to ask police to improve the officer dispatch system so that callers’ identities can be protected against possible retaliation from neighborhood druggies.

Assistant Chief Jim McDonnell said dispatchers aren’t currently required to ask callers if they would like to remain anonymous when reporting drug activity. McDonnell said dispatchers must make a “subjective” decision when advising patrol officers to visit a caller’s residence.

Police visit their homes after they place telephone calls about drug activity and the criminals can tell who called, the residents said.

“There’s a concern, and it’s understandable,” McDonnell said after the forum at St. Agatha’s Church. “We’re going to continue to work on it.”

The meeting was organized by the local branch of People Improving Communities Through Organizing, or PICO.

Crenshaw district resident Rosal Bernal, 34, said she started calling police more than a year ago after noticing drug and prostitution activity at a neighbor’s house.

“The police never listened to us,” Bernal said, adding officers finally showed up at her doorstep after she complained about the stench of cooking methamphetamines coming from the neighbor home.

“I was scared. One wants to remain anonymous. One is scared enough as it is,” Bernal said. “And then a month later, someone robbed our house. They took money, jewelry, cameras.”

McDonnell said tight budgets and an overextended police force make it nearly impossible to immediately respond to all drug calls. Revamping the dispatch system with callers’ safety in mind will also take time, he said.

A little help from his friends: McCain stumps for Jones

By The Associated Press

BEVERLY HILLS — U.S. Senate candidate Bill Jones, who is lagging by a wide margin in the latest polls, got some campaign help Sunday from Sen. John McCain, whom he endorsed over President Bush in 2000.

McCain, who headlined two fund-raisers for Jones in July, stumped for his friend Sunday at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in the race against two-time Democratic Sen. Barbara Boxer. McCain was flanked by members of the California Veterans Political Action Committee and the California Republican Veterans of America, which both announced their endorsements of Jones. His campaign hoped to raise about \$30,000 from Sunday’s dinner.

Jones has failed to generate traction among voters in a race once considered key for California Republicans. The latest Field poll found 48 percent of likely voters supported Boxer compared to 32 percent for Jones, whose numbers have improved only marginally since May.

Sixty-five percent of those polled said they weren’t following the Senate race closely.

Jones brushed off the latest polling Sunday, saying that internal polling done by his campaign showed a much tighter race.

“If you’re below 50 percent as an incumbent, you’re in the danger zone, and I think you can say that about Barbara Boxer,” he said. “I run hard every time right to the end, I take nothing for granted and I don’t think anyone should.”

Drug money floated through prison

By The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — Suspecting drug money may have been laundered through the state’s toughest prison, officials at the Department of Corrections have frozen the inmate trust accounts of 14 Mexican Mafia members, a newspaper reported Sunday.

The Sacramento Bee said the action followed an audit released in early September in which investigators found that two members of the Mexican Mafia housed in Pelican Bay State Prison’s Security Housing Unit (SHU) each had more than \$20,000 in their accounts. Two others had more than \$10,000, and seven more had accounts ranging from \$1,700 to \$5,200. The SHU houses about 1,100 of the most dangerous inmates at the Crescent City-based prison.

Officials believe the 14 got the money from drug gang members who often give a slice of their earnings to prison mobsters.

Execution of convicted killer halted by court

DEATH PENALTY, from page 12

A judge was to have set an execution date Friday, but the California Supreme Court halted that so Beardslee could obtain new counsel in a fresh bid to avoid lethal injection.

The bar groups will look for legislators to push a bill reflecting the recommendation, said Frank Leidman, a criminal defense attorney who voted for the moratorium on behalf of the San Francisco Bar Association.

“I think there is a strong likelihood we are going to get a sponsor on this,” Leidman said.

The governor’s office declined to comment on the proposal, saying Schwarzenegger usually does not endorse or oppose legislation until it reaches his desk.

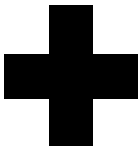
Leidman noted that in 2000 Illinois began to examine its own use of the death penalty when then-Gov. George Ryan declared a moratorium on executions. Three years later, Ryan commuted the sentences of all 167 inmates awaiting execution after concluding several inmates were wrongfully convicted.

Executions are uncommon in California even though it supports the nation’s largest death row of 640 inmates. Since the U.S. Supreme Court allowed states to resume capital punishment in 1976, California has executed 10 condemned inmates.

One reason for the delay is that more than one-fourth of all condemned prisoners have not been given a lawyer for their first and mandatory appeal to the California Supreme Court.

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NATIONAL

Voters in Florida begin casting early ballots; some problems reported

BY JILL BARTON
Associated Press Writer

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — With memories of 2000 and the state's bitter fight over ballots still fresh, Floridians began casting votes Monday and within an hour problems cropped up.

In Palm Beach County, the center of the madness during the recount four years ago, a Democratic state legislator said she wasn't given a complete absentee ballot when she asked to opt for paper instead of the electronic touch-screen machines. Several voting sites in Broward County had problems with laptops connected to elections headquarters. And a brief computer system crash in Orange County paralyzing voting in Orlando and its immediate suburbs.

A steady flow turned out Monday morning at more than a dozen sites in Palm Beach County. Patrick Flanagan, who went to the county's election headquarters to cast his ballot, said he voted early because he wanted to avoid the long lines expected on Election Day. He said he's voted on the touch-screen machines once before, and both times have gone "very smoothly."

"I'm a computer-phobe, and it seemed easy enough to me," said Flanagan, who added that he had no concerns about his vote being counted.

Steve Perez, 44, said he went early to cast a "protest vote" for Ralph Nader.

"What's important is that you vote. I didn't want to get in all the hoopla with all the turnout in Election Day," said Perez, a substitute teacher.

While backers touted early voting for people like Flanagan as a way to avoid long lines on Nov. 2, some have criticized the concept, saying it increases opportunities for fraud without significantly boosting participation.

Some groups urged Florida voters to ask for paper absentee ballots because of concerns over the state's new touch-screen voting machines and any potential recounts. Voters Monday morning could choose either method.

State Rep. Shelley Vana said the paper absentee ballot she was given at a Palm Beach County site was missing one of its two pages, including the proposed amendments to the state constitution. She said election workers were indifferent when she pointed out the oversight.

"There was absolutely no concern on the part of the folks at the Supervisor of Elections Office that this page was missing. This is not a good start. If there are incomplete ballots out there, I can't imagine I would be the only one getting it," she said.

County elections supervisor Theresa LePore did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

Early voting also gets under way

Patrick Flanagan, who went to the county's election headquarters to cast his ballot, said he voted early because he wanted to avoid the long lines expected on Election Day.

Monday in Texas, Colorado and Arkansas. Other key states this year have already begun in-person voting, including Iowa, Nevada, Ohio and New Mexico. Balloting by mail is under way in Oregon, the only state in the nation that has done away with polling booths altogether.

Early voting and touch-screen equipment were introduced in Florida after the 2000 election, in which this crucial state decided the result by only 537 votes and introduced topics such as butterfly ballots and hanging chads to the national debate. The early voting continues at a limited number of sites in each county until Election Day, when regular polling places will be open.

Protesters gathered outside the Duval County election supervisor's office Monday because the county, the state's most populous, had only one voting site. A city attorney said it said it was too late to open new sites, even though the city council had committed more money to the idea.

Broward County had 14 voting sites but several of them had trouble linking polling station laptop computers with the supervisor's office, said Jenny Nash, a spokeswoman for Secretary of State Glenda Hood. The computers are used to confirm voter eligibility. Workers used paper lists and called the supervisor's office in Fort Lauderdale to verify eligibility, Nash said.

Broward elections officials did not immediately return calls seeking comment.

In Miami-Dade County, about 150 people gathered Monday morning for a rally led by the Rev. Al Sharpton and former U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno. Some people carried homemade signs that said "Early Voting Counts" and "Every Vote Matters."

Both President Bush and Sen. John Kerry arranged campaign swings through the Sunshine State over the weekend in efforts to capitalize on the early voting.

Even as voters turned out, lawyers were going to court in Fort Lauderdale to argue a lawsuit over the lack of paper backup on the state's electronic machines.

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NATIONAL



Washington voters wrestle with fate of nuclear waste

BY SHANNON DININNY

Associated Press Writer

YAKIMA, Wash. — Supporters call an initiative on the Washington state ballot a no-brainer: bar the federal government from shipping nuclear waste to the Hanford nuclear site until all the existing waste there is cleaned up.

But opponents of Initiative 297 argue that interfering with the Energy Department's national plan for nuclear waste disposal could spell doom, especially if other states follow Washington's lead and ban Hanford waste.

The 586-square-mile facility in south-central Washington, which was created decades ago as part of the top-secret Manhattan Project to build the atomic bomb, remains the most contaminated site in the nation.

At issue is the federal government's plans for disposing of waste from Cold War-era nuclear weapons production nationwide. The Energy Department chose Hanford to dispose of some mildly radioactive waste and mixed low-level waste.

Initiative 297 would block the Energy Department from sending more waste to Hanford until the existing waste at the site is cleaned up. A citizens' petition sent the initiative to the Legislature early this year. Lawmakers declined to act on it, sending the measure to the ballot.

Gerald Pollet, executive director of the Hanford watchdog group Heart of America Northwest and sponsor of the initiative, said voters would be foolhardy not to adopt a standard to protect themselves from more contamination at Hanford.

"Don't add more waste to a site that has leaking landfills or hazardous waste that isn't stored in compliance with existing standards," Pollet said.

The Energy Department has taken no position on the initiative.

Hanford already is home to 53 million gallons of highly radioactive liquid, sludge and saltcake stored in 177 underground tanks. The Energy Department aims to bury much of that waste in a nuclear waste repository in Nevada. Another 75,000 55-gallon drums of less hazardous waste also are buried at Hanford.

"It's clear that Hanford has a role to play in accepting a small volume of waste so that other DOE sites can close, but at the same time, Hanford stands to benefit tenfold by shipping all of its high-level waste, spent fuel and plutonium waste to other repositories," said Colleen French, spokeswoman for the Energy Department's Richland office.

Heart of America Northwest has argued that the Energy Department's waste disposal plan will amount to 70,000 truckloads of waste entering the state. The department estimated about 5,800 truckloads of waste would enter the state.

The department also has pledged to cap the amount of additional low-level and mixed low-level waste that could be brought into the state and disposed of at Hanford at about 107,000 cubic yards.

Opponents argue the waste shipments to Hanford amount to rolling dirty bombs. On a recent sunny morning, two initiative supporters argued against the Energy Department's plans beside a bright-yellow, 15-foot balloon meant to represent the barrels of radioactive waste that could travel cross-country by truck.

"We're not saying not in my backyard," said Robert Pregulman, executive director of the Washington Public Interest Research Group. "We're just saying not in my backyard until you clean my backyard first."

Other states have battled the federal government's program for disposing of nuclear waste.

For years, Nevada has been fighting plans to build a national waste repository at Yucca Mountain, 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas, that would hold all the nation's high-level waste. And in New Mexico, where the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant near Carlsbad will take Hanford's hazardous trash, the federal government agreed at the urging of state officials not to send high-level waste there.

Opponents of the initiative, however, argue it will hurt Washington state in the end.

"We're convinced that should this initiative pass, it'll actually delay cleanup and result in more nuclear waste being left or stored at the reservation," said Grant Nelson, governmental affairs director for the Association of Washington Businesses.

Coast Guard issues subpoenas in Puget Sound oil accident

By The Associated Press

TACOMA, Wash. — Cleanup crews have finished removing oil from Puget Sound following a spill of at least 1,000 gallons, and subpoenas have been issued in the search for the culprit, officials said.

The Coast Guard has issued subpoenas to individuals, vessels and one facility concerning the heavy-grade fuel oil spill, which investigators believe came from a vessel at least 65 feet long, Petty Officer Adam Eggers said.

Larry Altose, a state Ecology Department spokesman at the joint information center that includes his agency and the Coast Guard, said oil samples were sent to a Coast Guard laboratory in Connecticut and to the state agency's lab in Kitsap County.

Investigators reportedly believe one of two ships was the source, but neither Altose

nor Eggers would give further details.

"We really don't want the investigation to get compromised at all," Eggers said.

On Saturday, Capt. Danny Ellis, commander the Coast Guard's Puget Sound marine safety office, said crew error or an equipment malfunction was most likely the cause.

"I don't rule it (deliberate dumping) out," Ellis said, "but I don't think it's likely."

A \$3,000 reward is being offered by Tacoma-Pierce County Crime Stoppers and the Port of Tacoma for information leading to identification of the source of the oil.

Cleanup costs have topped \$750,000 since the spill was discovered early Thursday between Tacoma and the south end of Vashon Island, Altose said. Contaminated beaches extend from the Key Peninsula and Tacoma to parts of Vashon and Maury islands.



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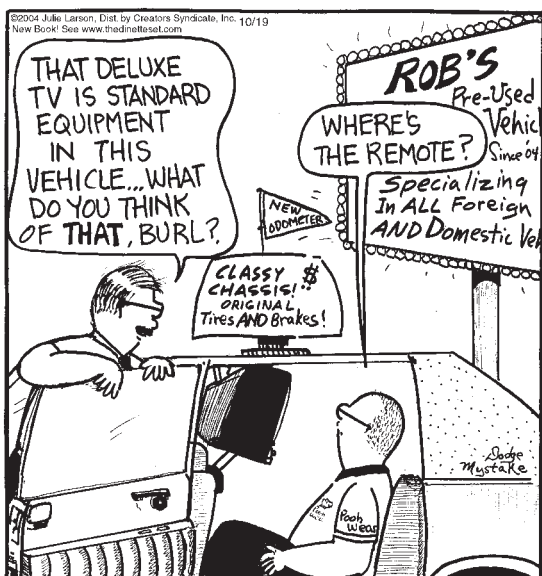
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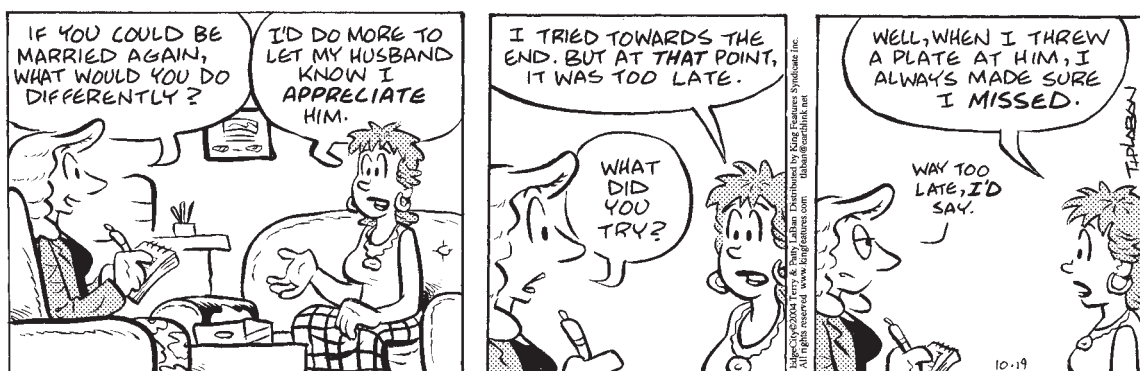
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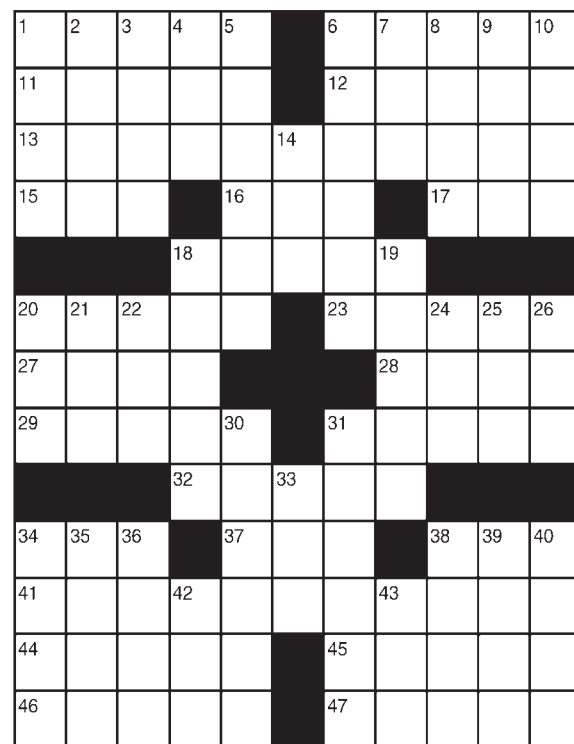
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Stone cold message: Stay home on Election Day

By The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — “South Park” co-creator Matt Stone has a message for all you undecided voters.

“Stay home,” said Stone. “It doesn’t matter who you’re gonna vote for. If you really don’t know who you’re gonna vote for, or are uninformed, or haven’t really thought about it? Just stay home.”

Stone and Trey Parker have teamed up for the puppet parody “Team America: World Police,” which debuted in third place at the box office this weekend with \$12.3 million. A parody of 1980s action movies, the film ridicules both Democrats and Republicans.

In person, Stone has little patience for those on the political fence.

“If you really don’t know or you’re just going to vote for George Bush because he’s already in office, or you’re gonna vote for John Kerry because he’s on the cover of Rolling Stone, don’t do that. That’s lame. Just stay home. That’s all we ever said,” Stone told the San Francisco Chronicle in Sunday’s editions.

LONDON — She is famed for her pride in her curvy figure — and actress Kate Winslet says reports that she had slimmed down to a British size 8 — the equivalent of a U.S. size 4 — are “insane.”

British newspapers carried prominent photographs Monday of the svelte-looking “Titanic” star in a floor-length Ben de Lisi gown at the premiere in London Sunday of her latest movie, “Finding Neverland.”

Most speculated that she had been dieting to regain her figure after the birth of her second child, Joe.

“It is so insane; I haven’t lost any weight,” Winslet said in an interview Monday morning with GMTV.

“Everybody likes to think it is a great story to talk about my fluctuating weight. The reality is I have had

two children in four years and the only time my weight goes up and down is when I’m pregnant, which happens. I have stayed the same weight apart from those times,” she said.

In “Finding Neverland,” the 29-year-old Winslet plays Sylvia Llewelyn Davies, whose four young sons inspired Scottish author J.M. Barrie — played by Johnny Depp — to write the children’s classic “Peter Pan.”

The film, which also stars Julie Christie and Dustin Hoffman, tells how Barrie, who had no children of his own, befriended the Davies boys in London’s Kensington Gardens.

Winslet is married to Sam Mendes, director of the Oscar-winning “American Beauty” and creative producer of the upcoming stage version of “Shrek.”

DETROIT — Martha Reeves, former lead singer of Martha Reeves & the Vandellas, says eBay left her open to identity theft by posting a contract on its Web site that showed her Social Security number and signature.

Reeves filed a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission about the posting.

“You feel completely exposed,” the Motown star told The Detroit News on Sunday. “They’ve got my Social Security number and signature. That’s all they need to steal my identity.”

The newspaper said eBay couldn’t be reached for comment Sunday, and eBay offices in San Jose, Calif., were closed early Monday.

Reeves, 63, lives in Detroit. Her hits include “Dancing in the Street,” “Heat Wave” and “Nowhere to Run.”

This month, the president of her fan club in Kansas City called to alert Reeves that a contract she had signed in 1975 to appear on NBC’s “Saturday Night Live” was for sale on eBay. It included her Social Security num-

ber, and anyone could copy the number down by clicking on a photo of the contract, Reeves said.

The contract drew eight bids during a three-day auction and sold Thursday for \$33.22. The seller was Todd Mueller Autographs in Colorado Springs, Colo., and the private buyer didn’t list a hometown.

NEW YORK — Although the second season of “The Apprentice” is far from over — 12 candidates remain — Donald Trump has confirmed the third installment is now filming.

“It’s going very well,” Trump told The Associated Press. “It’s a great group.”

Trump also said that John Willenborg, the latest “Apprentice” to be fired from the second season of the NBC reality show, deserved to get the boot.

“He’s a great guy, a terrific man in many respects. But it was not a good week for John,” said Trump, who had joined “Apprentice” fans and fired contestants of past and present at a downtown Manhattan pool-hall lounge to view Thursday night’s episode.

Willenborg, 24, was fired for making too many bad decisions, such as not being involved in the pricing of the clothing line that his team designed and failing to bring teammate Wes Moss, who overpriced the clothes, back into the boardroom.

In a phone interview, Willenborg described the show, where participants compete for a job with Trump, as a mixture of highs and lows. “You’re winning and losing. You’re not sleeping at all. The tasks go on for days. The experience is both exciting and very stressful,” he said.

“It was a tough night, the evening of my demise,” Willenborg told the AP on Friday. “I received the all-popular cobra from Donald Trump,” referring to the real estate mogul’s hand signal, which is accompanied by the words, “You’re fired,” at the end of each boardroom session.

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