

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

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Jackpot: \$13 Million

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1 6 13 28 39

DAILY 3

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Evening: 3 9 9

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1st: 05 California Classic
2nd: 01 Gold Rush
3rd: 07 Eureka

RACE TIME: 1:43.18

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

According to an August report in The Guardian, British UFO sightings have fallen dramatically in the last few years, say prominent extraterrestrial-watchers in Cumbria County, England (which has seen a drop-off from 40 sightings in 2004 to none in the first seven months of 2005, although sightings continue to come in from elsewhere in the country). Explanations include a post-Sept. 11 worry about Earthbound threats, as well as the end of the TV series "The X Files." Furthermore, in August, British book-makers told Independent Television News that betting action on whether Elvis Presley is alive has almost completely disappeared. Said bookie Rupert Adams, "It is perhaps the end of an era."

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 298th day of 2005.
There are 67 days left in the year.

On Oct. 25, 1854, the "Charge of the Light Brigade" took place during the Crimean War as an English brigade of more than 600 men, facing hopeless odds, charged the Russian army during the Battle of Balaklava and suffered heavy losses.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Youth is a blunder; manhood a struggle; old age a regret."

BENJAMIN DISRAELI
BRITISH STATESMAN (1804-1881)

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Land ho! City wants real estate

More downtown parking, light rail in leaders' sights

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN — City Hall sits on the precipice of a major land-grab, mulling the purchase of millions of dollars worth of real estate in the downtown area.

The properties in question could be used to help alleviate the

parking crunch and provide light rail service up to Santa Monica's doorstep.

A closed-door discussion set for Tuesday night should have elected leaders weighing in on 10 downtown properties that may be used to expand parking space, sources said. If so, the acquisitions could help City Hall achieve its

goal of adding 2,000 more spaces downtown within the next decade.

Miriam Mack, the city's economic development manager, wouldn't disclose specifics about the discussion. However, she said city staff would be seeking direction from the City Council regarding strategies to pursue negotiations for the properties, as listed on the agenda.

If the council were to purchase

any of the properties listed, Mack said a proposal would be brought forth publicly at a future meeting.

"All contracts have to be approved by the council," Mack said. "At any point in time when an agreement is to be approved it will be on a public agenda for the public's consideration."

The sites are mostly located on

See **LAND HO**, page 6

Double it up



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Crane operator Keith Stipke, with the assistance of Dave Little (center) and Ray Hilbert, directs a bundle of beams onto the Santa Monica Pier. The work is part of an overhaul project intended to double the strength of the pier, making the entire length of it accessible to emergency vehicles. Work is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

City hopes everything is illuminated

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

BY JASMIN PERSCH

Special to the Daily Press

CITY HALL — Elected leaders are expected to spend \$2.6 million tonight for cleaner water, new street lights and improvements to the city's trash collection.

The largest expenditure by far — at \$2.4 million — will fund this year's replacements in city lighting, staff said.

Steiny and Company, Inc. has won the construction contract with the city to install new street lights and fixtures in several areas

throughout the city.

New lights will be installed at Crescent Bay Park, Ozone Park and in the Pico neighborhood; Ocean Avenue between Colorado Avenue and Pico Boulevard;

See **LIGHTING UP**, page 7

Venetians converge on MTA land swap

Grass Roots members call for 16 RAD changes

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

VENICE BUS BARN — A revitalized neighborhood group could be putting the brakes on an MTA land deal a quarter century in the making. That is, until they can squeeze out more concessions to benefit Venice.

The planning committee for the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council (GRVNC) has called on a private developer to make significant changes to a proposal that would turn an aged bus station into a condominium complex.

Newly-elected members of the GRVNC are set to take action today regarding a series of suggestions that would significantly alter a private development proposal set to go before the Los Angeles planning commission later this week.

In September, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's board of directors approved an agreement with RAD Jefferson, LLC, on plans to exchange MTA's 3.13-acre bus yard property located at Sunset Avenue and Main Street in Venice for construction of a new 4.66-acre transportation facility on

See **RAD LAND SWAP**, page 7

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HOROSCOPE

Happy with others, Libra

Santa Monica Daily Press

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ The planet Jupiter changes its position today. As a result, you will be luckier with finances, especially when involved with other people. Lotteries, bingo and other games of chance could prove lucrative. Tonight: If you had the money, what would you do? Imagine.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Your luck runs high, especially during meetings and with other people. Your serious focus draws strong reactions. Monetary gains come through perhaps spending a little. Work on adding more pennies to your piggy bank. Tonight: Happy with others.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ With Jupiter entering your opposite sign, much becomes possible. Others seem to respond to you far more positively than they have in many years. If you are single, in the following year, you are likely to meet someone of marriage caliber. Tonight: Get cozy at home.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Jupiter enters your sign for a year, initiating a new luck and life cycle. You might experience some great highs and expansion. Sometimes you might have to say goodbye to the past, feeling a bit sad. Curb a sweet tooth. Tonight: Out on the town.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Your words have impact. Though you manifest unusual wit and creativity, you might want to direct this energy into your work or daily life. Before you know it, you might get a pay raise. Tonight: How much money do you need in order to feel comfortable?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Of late, you have been able to and have wanted to take the high road. Getting a perspective on events and people in your life can only be helpful. Do research and check facts. You are entering a year-long cycle in which you will do a lot of reflection. Tonight: Let your mind wander.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You might be willing to take a risk in order to enhance your financial situation. Think twice before leaping. Though you are entering a very lucky period as of today, don't overextend yourself. Allow your imagination to flourish. Nothing is impossible. Tonight: Add spice to your night.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Working with others starts becoming easier than ever. You find a newfound respect for a key associate or partner. Working as a team proves to be the path to success. Start walking. Tonight: Say yes to an earnest request.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ The Moon in your sign empowers you right now. Your emphasis might be on a real estate investment or a domestic matter. You might decide to buy a new home or expand your family in the next few months. Tonight: Whatever puts a smile on your face.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Your sense of direction might be right-on, but others want things their way. You cannot fight city hall, nor should you. Let go and have faith in your abilities. Emphasize work and responsibility. Tonight: Let the cards fall where they may.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Step back and take your time. Though your mind might be racing with many different ideas, and others might make many requests, you still need to slow down. Jupiter moves into a segment of your chart and makes communication flow as it hasn't in years. Tonight: Think rather than act.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Emphasize your daily life, but make time to schedule a doctor's appointment. You need to take good care of yourself. Examine new possibilities with an open mind. Think positively. Start looking past the obvious. Tonight: Lie low.

AUDIT PENDING

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



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Arresting behavior: Citizen police academy a go

By Daily Press staff

Interested in learning why police officers do what they do?

The next Santa Monica Police Department Citizen Police Academy, which provides an inside look at local police work, will begin on Wednesday, Nov. 9.

The 11-week program, one night per week for three hours, gives participants an overview of the department's functions, responsibilities and operational procedures. Classes are taught by police officers, police executives and highly specialized non-sworn employees of the SMPD.

Included in the course are demonstrations, discussions, lectures and personal participation in mock exercises. Units involved include the defensive tactics team, metro team, K-9, traffic enforcement and internal affairs. Participants also will get to tour the Public Safety Facility, where a majority of the classes will be held.

Enrollment is open to anyone over 21 years old, who lives, works or attends school in Santa Monica. Applications will be accepted until Oct. 31, or until the class is full. To obtain an application or to ask questions, call the SMPD's community relations unit at (310) 458-8474.

The 'buc' stops here: A pirate's treasure of mini golf

By Daily Press staff

Shiver me timbers, there's free Halloween fun a comin' to Pacific Park on the Santa Monica Pier at the over-the-ocean swashbuckling-themed Pirates' Pier Mini Golf course.

Any lad or lassie who appears in traditional pirate garb will get yee a free round of miniature golf starting Saturday, Oct. 29 through Monday, Oct. 31 from 11 a.m. to 12 a.m. on Saturday; 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Sunday and 12 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Monday.

To take pleasure in a free round of mini golf, buccaneers in pirate costume merely need to go to the Pirates' Pier Mini Golf entrance and notify the attendant and Pacific Park will provide a complimentary round.

"To all me mates, I say, 'weigh anchor' for this chance to play mini-golf for free," boasted Jeff Klocke, captain of commerce at Pacific Park. "It's a great, grand celebration for pirate wannabes and mini golfers all Halloween weekend long."

Pacific Park's Pirates' Pier Mini Golf course was developed from stories of former pirates off the California coast from as far back as 1577. The legend today is incorporated in the nine-hole miniature golf course with wily pirate lore, palm trees, wharf décor and a shipwreck to navigate with a putter.

Veterans get opportunity to strut their stuff

By Daily Press staff

A local nonprofit agency is looking for employers who want to put veterans to work.

New Directions will host the second annual job fair for veterans on Thursday, Oct. 27, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the New Directions Regional Opportunity Center in West Los Angeles.

This year's theme "Employers Helping Americans" is geared toward the Los Angeles area doing its part to recruit skilled veterans, Hurricane Katrina evacuees and others in the community in need of employment.

More than 50 employers and 300 participants are anticipated to attend. Partners supporting New Directions for the event are EDD's West Los Angeles Job Service Office, VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System, LAVEC, Salvation Army, Playa Vista Jobs and 99 Cent Store. The event is free to job-seekers and is open to the public.

New Directions is looking for interested employers to participate. Registration is \$50 per table and includes lunch. For more information, call Brigitte Slayton at (310) 914-4045 ext. 201.



SURF REPORT

Note that due to the long-period nature of the SW swell there will be variation in size between west facing breaks. Caution and steady observation before making a decision on a paddle-out is advised. West-facing breaks will see building surf as the day progresses. Note that rain failing into Tuesday could cause onshores above 15 mph.

Today the water is:

64°

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	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
MONDAY	9:39	3.8	11:18	0.8	6:58	3.8	2:53	4.3
TUESDAY	11:39	3.4	12:09	0.7	7:04	4.1	4:38	4.3
WEDNESDAY	12:09	0.7	12:32	2.9	7:18	4.3	5:49	4.4
THURSDAY	12:45	0.7	1:09	2.3	7:33	4.6	6:41	4.5
FRIDAY	1:20	0.4	1:42	1.9	8:02	4.1	7:37	4.0

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The Q Line  **Sponsored by...**

A lot has been said in the media about the upcoming special election spurred by Gov. Schwarzenegger. Attack ads have been running, which many say have confused voters beyond reason. As a result, they are turned off and probably won't show up to the polls.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, **"Do you see a need for a special election? Why or why not?"**

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

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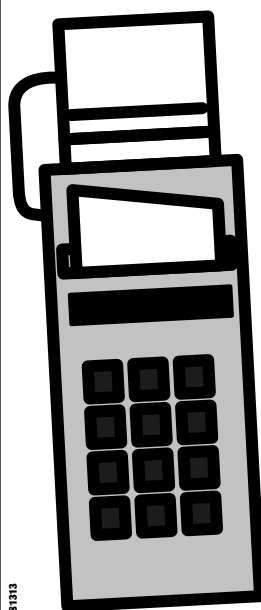
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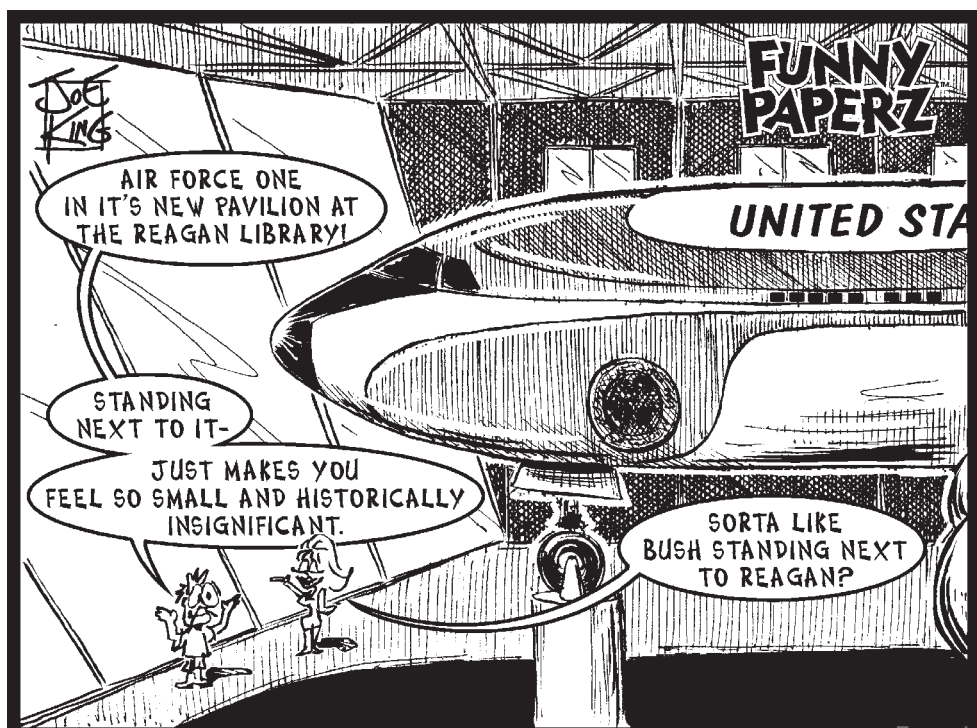
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OPINION



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Appalled at support for 'molester'

Editor:

Just when you think you've heard it all, it is difficult to believe that there are actually people in this world that support child molesters. Gail Lawson's letter (SMDP, Oct. 20, page 4) regarding the lack of community support for pedophile Michael Hearn was pure insanity. Doesn't she know that child molesters will do anything they can to "help" kids and they will do anything to be around them? As a parent of Samohi students, I am angry that Ms. Lawson would go so far as to call the character of the victims into question. There is no punishment too harsh for Michael Hearn or for Carl Hammer. They should throw away the key for both of them, or better yet, put them in general population when they get to prison. Thank God, Gail Lawson lives in Las Vegas, away from our school system and kids.

Lori Emerson
Santa Monica

The other side of the props

Editor:

Harry M. Heily, president of the Santa Monica-Malibu CTA, is a perfect example of the self-centered, thinking only of themselves, attitude represented by the public unions over this special election. Harry re-states lies and misrepresentation in his letter (SMDP, Oct. 21, page 4) and it makes me wonder how this gentleman can be in charge of a group that is supposed to represent such an honorable profession as teaching. Let's start with Prop. 74, his "Blame Teachers Act." How many other jobs out there guarantee lifetime employment after only a few years? This insane notion that for some reason teachers should not be held accountable is beyond me. It is common sense that if you know your job is 100 percent safe you may not be so inspired.

With Prop. 75, Harry claims this is designed to silence teachers, nurses, firefighters and other public employees. Well the reality is, it gives more of a voice to them than they had before. The only thing Prop. 75 does is change the money collected by unions for political reasons from an opt-out option to an opt-in option. Now if the nurses, firefighters and teachers are as gung-ho as Harry thinks they are to give up their hard-earned money for political ads they may or may not support, why is he so worried? I would think that the day after this prop passes there will be an onslaught of opt-in paperwork arriving in the union office. Or is the truth, the fact that Harry is afraid that many of these public servants aren't in the same political camp as he and his union buddies are? Methinks the Harry doth protest too much.

Prop. 76 only restores the powers the governor had only a short time ago. It gives the legislature 45 days to fix budget shortfalls. If they cannot do it, the governor has the authority to do it. The prop also changes the formula for the amounts that go up each year for funding. Now Harry lies here again and claims there will be a cut in education, but the reality is, there will be an increase, just not as much as Harry wants. Now I know Harry would rather tax the living daylight out of the residents of this state to fund more failed programs and a failed education system, but just throwing money at a problem does not fix it. The tax and spend mantra of the unions and the left in this state will be the downfall of us all. I wonder how Harry runs the finances in his home? If he is short one month does he just go take money from the rich guy at the corner or does he cut back on his donations to Move-on.org?

Just as folks like Harry thought the recall election was going to be "unpopular" and a waste of money, the state had an amazing turnout and Arnold won by a solid amount. He has put the brakes on this runaway train that was California and is working on turning it around. The governor is not attacking teachers Harry, he is attacking the greedy unions and the tax and spend liberals like yourself while protecting this state and turning it around to recovery.

Billy G. Woody
Santa Monica

Election will surely tell if governor makes grade



WHAT'S THE POINT?

BY DAVID PISARRA

In two weeks, the state of California is holding a special election on eight initiatives — everything from the mind-numbingly dull, to the really important because they have far-ranging effects on peoples lives.

But this upcoming election also has a subtext. It really is a referendum on the governor and the job he is doing. His ability to get his initiatives on the ballot, and passed, is seriously in question in this election, and the outcome will have an echo effect for the balance of his term as governor.

The man who swept into the highest elected position in the seventh largest economy, because of his years of benefiting from the studio machine marketing that made him a household name, is now being judged on his merits.

The electorate, which is not to be confused with the public — one third of the population did not vote in the last California election — now has the opportunity to grade the governor.

This governor, with much fanfare, stormed the capitol with his laudable goals of "fixing" the state. His campaign made much political hay of the previous governors' tremendous fundraising and inability to get the legislature to pass legislation.

Governor Schwarzenegger it seems has once again proven his ability to surpass others, for he has raised more money than Governor Davis did, and has been more effective in not getting the legislature to bend to his wishes. In fact, this governor has gone so far as to veto groundbreaking legislation, and abdicate his responsibilities to the judicial branch.

Since this election is not actually a recall, the question then becomes: What are the initiatives that are actually on the ballot? There are four major initiatives that the governor was spreading the gospel on, until his face and name became a liability to the cause. They are Propositions 74 through 77. These are the ones that all the TV commercials are going on about.

In this battle, there is the usual political confusion over what does the proposition really mean. The political hacks have worked long hours to make this election as confusing as possible.

Providing clarity on these propositions is a goal of mine, but one that may remain elusive. Here's a rundown of four them and my take on how to vote:

Proposition 73 — abortion notification

This proposition is designed to make it mandatory that a minor child who is seeking an abortion must have at least one parent notified, or seek a judicial waiver.

I think this is a bad answer to a terrible situation. The facts of teen pregnancy are appalling and this is a painful area to try and legislate. However, it is not the government's job to act as chaperone for all of life's events.

There is another good reason to vote "no" on this proposition. It adds language that reads "unborn child, a child conceived but not born." This is important because it is the first step in making the argument that a child exists, which is what the Pro-Life lobby wants, so that they can then argue that abortion should be outlawed, as the murder of a child.

Whether you are for or against abortion, the fact is this proposition is changing California constitutional language without full disclosure to the voters. That is not right and this should be voted down.

Proposition 74 — teacher tenure

This attempt at reforming our schools and improving the education of our children is another example of right ideas, bad law. The idea is that good teachers should be kept and bad teachers should be removed from the classroom. It attempts to make it easier to determine the good from the bad, by making the probationary period longer, so that the good teachers can be discovered as well as the bad.

The problem is that it doesn't create any inducements for people who are qualified, to want to become teachers, and it doesn't reward those who are good to stay on and continue performing.

We lack enough good teachers but that has more to do with the fact that we value them so little. If we want good teachers, we should give people a reason to become teachers. Making it harder to get tenure only makes it harder to find qualified people. This is backwards legislation.

Proposition 75 — public employee union political contributions

This proposition is marketed as a way to help union members decide where their money is used. It requires an annual statement by the employee that the funds collected can be used for political purposes. Unfortunately, it is an unnecessary law.

Unions are about collective voices, and in this state, the public unions are a large block of votes. However, approximately 25 percent of their members are not participating in the political debate. Right now, no member is forced to spend their money on political purposes. They have the right to opt out of paying dues, and can pay "fees" which are dedicated to the collective bargaining purposes of the union.

This is about making it harder for the unions to speak. By creating an annual statement by the member, the burden is being put on the unions to administer additional pieces of information, and accounting — neither of which has any benefit to society at large. This is union busting at its finest.

I'm not a big fan of unions, but they should have the right to organize their internal business however they want. This is not a subject the voters should be deciding, and we should vote it down.

Next week, I'll finish up on the remaining propositions that deal with "living within our means," "redistricting," "prescription drugs" and "electric companies."

(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.)

COMMENTARY



Shaken, not stirred: Quakes a fact of life

ANY DAY IN LA

BY HEIDI MANTEUFFEL



There I was in the middle of the film's most romantic scene, and the entire theater started shaking. I discovered during a viewing of "Shopgirl," that earthquakes can directly hit Santa Monica.

So tacky, I thought. It's hardly necessary to rattle the seats like we're watching "Jurassic Park" at Universal Studios.

Quickly after, as the audience was looking around in gasps of amazement, I realized I had experienced my first Santa Monica-centered earthquake.

I'm aware that we can feel earthquakes from distant epicenters, but I didn't know there was a hot spot just off the Third Street Promenade.

Apparently, there was a 3.1 quake five miles northwest of Santa Monica, right off the coast where thousands bike, walk and rollerblade on.

Considering the wake of recent devastating hurricanes to our Southland, mudslides in Guatemala, and the catastrophic earthquake in Pakistan, I wasn't psyched about being stuck in a LA movie theater during the initial rattle. I'm not one for waiting to see if a short, yet startling shake is the precursor to something phenomenally worse.

I looked up at the enormous gray blocks jutting out of the theater's ceiling, wondering just how well the massive material was secured. Not wanting to be a fraidy cat, though, I tried to sit and bear it, my hands wound tightly around my Rice Krispy bar.

It wasn't too hard to focus as the film's storyline and actors were great. But I could hardly think about that as my Jetta was stuck stationary in a brigade of cars that made its way to the fifth level of the

parking structure.

Tons of cement barreling down on you isn't a great way to go, either.

I tried to breathe in and out — as my yoga instructor taught me — to successfully release my fear. But my pessimistic-realist side put my yoga instructor into a downward dog. My pessimistic side can be a real jerk sometimes.

However, 20 minutes later we made our way out safely, back to our rent-control apartments. True, Santa Monica isn't Kansas, but sometimes there really is no place like home.

I think what scares me most about earthquakes is their lack of warning. You don't often get time to evacuate, leaving only your '80s CD collection to receive the brunt of the damage. You could be on a LA freeway underpass, a pedestrian road bridge or in an underground parking structure, and not know you were driving into the onslaught of disaster. Or, you could be in a movie theater, with 100 people running around panicking as the ceiling collapses. I know those are my favorite kinds of movies.

Soothing image, I know. But you can't live life avoiding every elevator and on-ramp in SoCal in fear of the next gigantic quake. Well you could — actually, that might be the solution to LA's traffic problem.

I'm not a big eat, drink and be merry person. Merry is for Santas. But I do promote not running around worrying when the next earthquake will come. It's not your boyfriend. It can check in when it wants, eat all your food, and leave when it feels like it too. Wait, maybe that is your boyfriend.

Just don't worry about when it will happen. A little rattle might actually help the plot of some Hollywood blockbuster movies. Especially if they aren't romantic dramas.

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

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Mayor: Sears site not necessary as lure for rail

LAND HO, from page 1

the 1300 and 1400 blocks of Fourth Street between Arizona Avenue and Broadway, and the 1400 and 1600 blocks of Fifth Street between Broadway and Olympic Avenue. They include the temporary site of the Santa Monica Library, a parking structure site, and several smaller properties currently being used for retail and offices.

Officials who attended an April 26 closed session, in which several of the properties were discussed, said the City Hall's parking plan was a major component driving the real estate search.

COUNCIL LOOKING FOR SPACE

The downtown parking plan was signed off by the City Council in 2002 after nearly a year of research and discussion by a task force specifically created to address the shortage of downtown parking. A consultant was hired for \$150,000 to help the task force find potential parking places and figure out how to finance them.

The plan would add 1,712 new parking spaces between Fifth Street and the Third Street Promenade. City Hall has already embarked on the rebuilding and retrofitting of some existing parking garages, which will create a total of 2,931 spaces. The new spaces will come from rebuilding and adding to three garages — which will produce 712 slots — and another 1,000 by constructing two new structures near Fifth Street. Those structures will have street-level retail and be used by those with monthly passes so short-term visitors can park closer to the Promenade.

It's estimated that the additions will cost about \$92.5 million, which would be self-financed through revenue bonds paid for by increasing parking fees and downtown property assessments. The costs will most likely be passed on to drivers, as well as developers and business owners who operate in the downtown area.

Monthly parking rates in the garages are expected to be increased from \$75 a month to \$105, and short-term rates would increase to \$1.25 every 20 minutes after the first two free hours, with a maximum of \$10 for the day. The current maximum is \$7.

The task force reasoned that property owners would benefit from the additional spaces and, therefore, should help finance them. New commercial development downtown already pays into a shared parking fund and is not required to provide separate parking. The downtown area has seen about 50,000 square feet of growth per year over the past eight years.

As far as the assessments are concerned, the task force considered tacking on an extra 50 cents per square foot to existing properties and expanding the assessment district to include an additional 1.9 million square feet in commercial space. That district would include north of Wilshire Boulevard, the east side of Sixth Street, the north side of Colorado Avenue and the east side of Ocean Avenue.

Jeff Mathieu, director of City Hall's resource management department, said in

addition to securing possible parking sites, the city also frequently looks at real estate in order to help improve easements, infrastructure and affordable housing.

Mathieu said people in the real estate community frequently contact him to let him know sites are available for purchase. If it seems City Hall may have some use for the sites, they are discussed in closed session. If the City Council discloses it's interested in acquiring one of the sites, city staff will then look further into the properties.

According to Mathieu, there was no particular real estate purchasing budget City Hall operates on, but that purchases were driven by need. He said one way to secure funds for real estate investment, if the funds were not immediately available, was by raising bonds.

Mathieu did not say which of the sites City Hall may pursue buying. He said the properties were listed on the agenda because the law requires the city provide some public disclosure whenever a property is on the table for discussion.

LIGHT RAIL MAKING ITS WAY

Negotiations for the Sears property, 402 Colorado Ave., is also set to be discussed in closed session Tuesday evening. City Hall has shown interest in purchasing the 40,000-square-foot property for more than a year. It's currently owned by Sears and is used as a retail outlet and car repair shop.

Officials have said the land could be the ideal site for the western end of a proposed light rail line from downtown Los Angeles to Santa Monica. It also might be used to build more affordable housing or a new parking structure.

Plans for a light rail project from downtown LA to Santa Monica are still in the preliminary stages, but \$505 million has been set aside for the first phase of the line, which threads into Culver City and is scheduled to be completed in 2012.

The property is part of a master plan for the civic center area which is on hold because of the budget crisis. Officials hope to make a giant public space downtown, stretching from the Third Street Promenade, past City Hall and the Santa Monica Courthouse, to Main Street.

Mayor Pam O'Connor, who sits on the board of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, said the plan is to bring the light rail line to Santa Monica, contrary to recent reports that Los Angeles 11th District Councilman Bill Rosendahl may try to make the line pass through Venice instead.

Because the light rail line is already set to come to Santa Monica, O'Connor said acquisition of the Sears property wouldn't expedite or "lure" the line to the city.

"The MTA board has a vision and intent that the Expo line comes to Santa Monica," O'Connor said. "The details are still to be worked out."

O'Connor said the MTA board in spring will begin to discuss details for the second phase of the light rail's construction to Santa Monica.

INTERESTED IN YOUR DAILY FORECAST?
CHECK OUT THE HOROSCOPES ON PAGE 2!

LOCAL



MTA says land swap 25 years in the making

RAD LAND SWAP, from page 1

Jefferson Boulevard in West Los Angeles.

The Venice property has been in use by transit agencies for more than 100 years. However, it's inefficient, costing \$5 million a year in wasted drive time — the distance in miles a transit bus must travel before entering a revenue-generating area, according to MTA officials.

The Venice bus division accommodates 77 buses and can't handle clean-air natural gas (CNG) fueling. Before the swap occurs, RAD Jefferson is to build MTA's new facility, which will include CNG fueling, according to the agreement. The new West L.A. facility will handle 150 buses — all of which will operate on CNG — according to MTA officials.

The Venice Sunset property is valued at \$12.9 million, and the agreement calls for MTA to kick in \$8 million to make up the difference in the cost of the new transportation center.

Meanwhile, Los Angeles 11th District Councilman Bill Rosendahl said he will not support the project, which is to be built within his jurisdiction, unless RAD makes a better effort to build consensus through the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council (GRVNC), which hopes to become a revitalized community group during Rosendahl's term.

The proposal calls for erecting a 255,766-square-foot building, which would be up to 56 feet tall and include 214 condos and 20,000 square feet of commercial retail space.

In a letter sent to the Los Angeles city planning department, Rosendahl indicated he has heard an outcry from constituents who oppose the RAD development. In particular, he has issues with exemptions the developer seeks for height, density and design.

Last Wednesday, members of the GRVNC's land use and planning commit-

tee voted (5-2) in favor of recommending 16 changes to RAD's proposal.

Among the design changes, the committee requested the building's maximum height be reduced from 56 to 35 feet. Commercial development would be broken up from one tenant occupying 20,000 square feet to 10 tenants occupying 2,000 square feet, committee members said.

In addition, the developer would be required to make several concessions for public benefit, including: an arts component added to the site; the expansion of sidewalks, bus, bike and other traffic mitigation measures; and the creation of a park area and community room.

Committee members said 20 percent of housing units should be designated for very low-income residents and 10 percent should be designated for moderate-income residents.

Calls to RAD regarding the requests weren't returned.

Jody Litvak, regional community relations manager for the MTA, said the agreement with RAD would allow the transit agency to provide better service to users in which the buses would use cleaner gas.

Litvak said MTA has been working for 25 years to relinquish the Venice bus yard property.

"Officially, MTA has no position on what happens to the Venice property when we leave, except that we want and need to go," Litvak said. "This is the closest we've come in years (to a deal).

"It isn't easy to do."

The GRVNC is set to discuss RAD's proposal and the planning committee's suggestions at 7:30 p.m. at Venice High School, 13000 Venice Blvd.

The Los Angeles planning commission's public hearing is set to be held at 8 a.m. on Thursday, Oct. 27, at Los Angeles City Hall, 200 N. Spring St., 10th floor.

Let there be light: Leaders shelling out for street lamps

LIGHTING UP, from page 1

between Adelaide Drive and Montana Avenue; Second Street from Wilshire Boulevard to Colorado Avenue; Georgina Avenue between Ocean Avenue and Fourth Street; Palisades Avenue from Ocean Avenue to Fourth Street; and Wilshire Boulevard from Yale Street to Centinela Avenue.

City officials will pay the construction company more than \$2 million, which is several hundred thousand dollars more than the city engineer's estimate of \$1.6 million, staff said.

City Hall contracted with Steiny and Company for last year's lighting project and the firm has also completed projects for the cities of Los Angeles and Santa Clarita.

City officials also will pay SA Associates \$132,000 to inspect Steiny and Company's work.

NEW WAYS OF PICKING UP TRASH

Officials will withdraw \$188,000 from city coffers to evaluate trash disposal and new ways of delivering it.

The contract comes on the heels of

action taken by the City Council this past summer to deal with the inefficiencies of the city's trash operation — which has been an ongoing issue for several years.

City Hall's solid waste balances have been decreasing to varying degrees over the last four years and needed to be corrected to keep the bonds that support the funds in legal compliance, according to officials.

In order to begin restoring the funds to a healthy level, the City Council in June adopted a rate schedule that increased the cost of solid waste rates by 10 percent citywide.

The rates are to be in effect at least this year, with staff and consultants to follow up and evaluate the costs and revenues for services that have prompted the city's utility funds to be depleted by as much as \$20 million.

City Hall will pay Gershman, Brickner & Bratton, Inc. \$61,000 to evaluate the city's budget for trash disposal, propose alternative ways of delivering solid waste and analyze the rates for trash pick-up.

If city staff choose an alternative means

See **LIGHTING UP**, page 8



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Notice of Public Hearing

Tuesday, November 8, 2005

City Council meeting starts at 6:45 p.m.

Annual Review of the City's Coordinated Plan for Homeless Services

As required by Municipal Code Section 2.69.030, the City Council will hold a Public Hearing on the Annual Review of the City's Coordinated Plan for Homeless Services to gain public input on:

- the impact of the City's homeless population on other residents of the City;
- the effectiveness of the delivery of services to the homeless by the City and various social service agencies;
- the cost of those services; and
- the changes which should be made in the plan in order to carry out its primary goals and objectives.

Copies of the report will be available to the public on November 3, 2005. To obtain a copy of the report, please contact the Human Services Division, located at 1685 Main Street, Room 212, Santa Monica, CA 90401, at (310) 458-8701 or online at smgov.net. Written comments can be submitted to Gigi Decavalles-Hughes at the above address by noon on November 8, 2005 and will be presented to the City Council that evening, or you may present your comments in person at the City Council public hearing.

For more information, call (310) 458-8701, TTY (310) 458-8696; Fax (310) 458-3380; Email: human-services@santa-monica.org. City Hall and the Council Chambers are wheelchair accessible. If you have disability-related accommodation requests or language interpretation, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (310) 458-8211; TTY (310) 458-8696 at least 3 days prior to the scheduled meeting. This flier is available in alternate format upon request. Santa Monica Blue Bus Lines #2, #3, and #8 serve City Hall. Limited parking.

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LOCAL □ STATE



Wine agreement pitting Old World vs. the New

BY MICHELLE LOCKE
Associated Press Writer

NAPA, Calif. — Some European Union lawmakers are fuming over a new U.S. wine trade agreement, saying they're being force-fed such New World innovations as subbing wood chips for barrel aging or even, quelle horreur, adding water.

U.S. winemakers contend that their practices are legitimate — and point out the Old World has wine wiles of its own.

At issue is a clash between the tradition-bound, heavily regulated European wine industry and a much younger American wine industry that came of age during a technological revolution.

"The difference in the New World — and it's not just California and the United States, it's Australia and New Zealand as well — is: Is there a more efficient way to do something with technology?" said Roger Boulton, enology professor at the University of California, Davis. "The question is when is it modifying and manipulating it and when is it a traditional practice just done in a more effective way. That's really the debate."

Underlying the winemaking quarrel are market realities.

Although the EU continues to export far more wine than the U.S., Australian and U.S. wines — along with imports from Chile and other countries — have been making gains in the European market.

According to the San Francisco-based Wine Institute, a trade association, the United States exported \$736 million worth of wine in 2004, an increase of nearly 30 percent over 2003, with nearly \$500 million of that going to the European Community. Major European wine producers exported \$2.3 billion worth of wine in 2004 to the United States, down slightly from 2003 largely due to French exports dropping 7.6 percent to a little less than half that total.

Meanwhile, Australian wine exports have also been booming. In the highly competitive market of the United Kingdom, sales of Australian wine more than doubled from 126.8 million liters in

Going to grape lengths: A look at U.S. wine exports

By The Associated Press

U.S. wine exports by liters		
2004	2003	2002
United Kingdom		
142,858,000	118,995,000	95,446,000
Germany		
27,670,000	19,265,000	8,635,000
France		
8,953,000	8,579,000	5,943,000

Source: The Wine Institute

1999 to 254.8 million liters in 2004, according to wine industry consultant Jon Fredrikson of Woodside-based Gomberg, Fredrikson & Associates.

"What I think really is happening is that the marketplace is voting for California wine in a resounding landslide," said Eric P. Wente, chief executive officer of Wente Vineyards and Wine Institute chairman. "What they're (critics) seeking to do is use legislation to combat their inability to change winemaking styles, their wine quality and their approach to the marketplace."

Under the accord, reached by negotiators in Washington in September, the United States and the European Union agreed to recognize each other's winemaking practices. Meanwhile, the U.S. administration agreed to ask Congress to stop U.S. producers from using names such as sherry, port and Champagne that derive from European wine-growing regions.

A spokeswoman for the U.S. trade representative's office said he will work with Congress on finding the best way to introduce the legislation once the agreement is signed, possibly later this fall.

In a compromise, the deal grandfathers in established brands, irking European producers.

The agreement has to be approved by the 25 EU member states, and some EU parliamentarians have been loud in their disdain. "I don't want a McDonald's type chardonnay," said French Liberal Democrat Anne Laperuze.

City Hall coughing up \$47K for new urban runoff system

LIGHTING UP, from page 7

of delivery, the company will propose new service options and pick-up rates, which would cost an additional \$127,000.

LOCAL WATERS 'IMPAIRED'

The remainder of tonight's spending — \$47,470 — will help fund the construction of a new water-treatment facility.

The majority of the expenses will be paid in grants City Hall received from the California Integrated Waste Management Board and Proposition 12 in 2001 and Proposition 13 in 2004, totaling \$1,419,930.

City officials picked Blios Construction, Inc. to build the water-treatment facility at Mar Vista Park. The city of Los Angeles gave Santa Monica the permission to use its land to construct and maintain the urban runoff system.

Mar Vista Park was the preferred site because it has open space for construction, is easily accessible for operation and maintenance and is close to the Sepulveda Channel, which can absorb water in case of a flood.

The DMR Team was chosen to manage the project the responsibilities of dealing with traffic control and detours, holding progress meetings periodically and providing information to the contractor when needed and keeping files on the construction.

The goal of the project is to improve the city's water quality and stop water from flowing from the Centinela Basin to Ballona Creek, which pours into the Santa Monica Bay.

Both the creek and bay have poor water quality and are on the national list of impaired water bodies that need attention.

STATE



STATE BRIEFS

Numbers game: Make way for 'Deano'

By The Associated Press

RANCHO MIRAGE — The city is about to eliminate its last street with a numerical name: Residents of 35th Avenue are soon going to be living on Dean Martin Drive. The nondescript numerical street names have been replaced over the decades with flashier monikers, often named after celebrities who have called the desert home.

Wonder Palms Road, originally 38th Avenue, became Frank Sinatra Drive; 36th Avenue was changed to Gerald Ford Drive; and 34th Avenue became Dinah Shore Drive.

The latest change involves the western portion of 35th Avenue, which soon becomes Dean Martin Drive. The eastern portion of 35th Avenue is Ginger Rogers Road.

"I looked around one day and said 35th Avenue has no panache. We need a better name," said Gordon Pringle, 62, who lives in a gated community along the 1,600-foot-long stretch of 35th Avenue.

Martin, who died in 1995, came over from Palm Springs to visit Sinatra in Rancho Mirage, said his son, Craig Martin, 63, who lives in Rancho Mirage.

"They'd play and go out," Craig Martin said. "He enjoyed the golf courses here." Neighbor John Budd, 67, noted Frank Sinatra Drive is just a couple of streets away.

"It's kind of keeping the two buddies together," he said.

None of the residents in gated communities along the new stretch of Dean Martin Drive will have to change their address since only their community entrances abut the tree-lined street.

Rancho Mirage requires that new street names relate to a desert or development theme, or have historic significance.

The city approved the change for 35th Avenue in September and it's expected to take about three months for the signs to be completed and installed.

Far out: LAX wants 'Gateway' moniker

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Officials at Los Angeles International Airport are aggressively pursuing the title "Gateway to the East," investing millions to make room at LAX for the new generation of mammoth double-decker jetliners that carry 550 people.

The airport will spend millions of dollars preparing for the arrival of the Airbus A380 super-jumbo jet and the lucrative routes across the Pacific Ocean. San Francisco has opened an international terminal built with the A380 in mind.

The planes could secure Los Angeles' position as the gateway to the East, but they could also give San Francisco a growing claim to that title.

"We're out in front," said Jesse Blout, director of economic and work force development for the San Francisco mayor's office. "That certainly suggests that we would have a head start on new routes."

In coming weeks, workers at LAX will begin a \$7 million project to refashion a corner gate in the international terminal for the new planes. A second gate will follow, on the other side of the terminal. Both will have two loading bridges for the double decks of the A380.

LAX officials have talked about renovating more gates inside the international terminal to make them ready for the new planes, but those efforts are still preliminary.

"If you're not prepared to handle it, then you lose your status as the international gateway," said Frank Clark, executive director of the LAX Terminal Equity Corp., an entity owned by the air carriers that use the international terminal.

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- 2:00 – 5:00 Business Meeting
- 5:00 – 6:00 Dinner break
- 6:00 – 7:00 **New Captioned Telephone Expanded Field Trial: Overview and user panel**
- 7:00 – 8:00 **Public Input**

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DEAR DORIE

Two hard to understand

Dear Dorie,

My 2-year-old daughter seems to talk incessantly. The problem is, I can't understand a lot of what she's saying. What's going on and what should I be doing?

— Mommy of a Mumbler

Dear Mommy,

One of the great things about the "terrific twos" is language acquisition. Infant gibberish becomes toddler attempts at adult language. This is great camera footage (or baby book notes) along the lines of, "I tawt I taw a puddy tat." You can encourage your toddler in a few ways:

When speaking with your daughter, get down to her level. Kneel or sit and make eye-to-eye contact to improve your listening and let her know that you're attempting to understand.

When your child mispronounces a word, do your best not to laugh or correct. If you understand the word, use it in your response. For example, your daughter points to the stove and says, "tot! No touch." And you respond, "Yes, the stove is hot. We don't touch it." If you don't understand the word, ask for clarification. For example, "Please point to the tot for me." This helps your understanding without discouraging her use of new words.

Finally, look for every opportunity to ask a question and establish two-way conversation. The answer will come and the correct pronunciation will follow. Good luck.

— Dorie

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

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Party hardy, for right reasons



How Much Is Enough?

By Connie Dawson

Since I'm old enough to be a grandmother of eight, I'm old enough to hear myself saying, "When I was your age" As a kid, I rolled my eyes when I heard that. But I find myself saying that a lot these days and I don't know if it's because I'm old or because I'm wise.

In the old days ...

Take birthday parties, for instance. When I was parenting children in the '60s, birthday parties were very different from those I had experienced as a child.

Going to a birthday party used to involve putting on clean clothes and taking a present for the birthday girl or boy.

You played some games, watched the gifts being opened, and ate some cake and ice cream. You thanked your friend's mom. You went home.

The insufficient party

However, when it was time to go home from a party I gave for my son Tom's seventh birthday, one little guest asked, "Where is my goody bag?"

Startled, I thought, "Am I supposed to send every boy and girl home with a bag of treats?" A sin of omission.

But the next birthday party I threw, I complied with the prevailing norm. After all, what would the other parents say about me when their children returned home sans a goody bag? A respectable goody bag at that.

Lo and behold, my good effort wasn't enough. One little boy, upon opening his creatively decorated sack, exclaimed, "Is this all?" I still remember the look he gave me.

More and more

When our oldest was 8 years old, he regaled us with descriptions of all the wonderful things they had done at

his friend's party. The party-goers were treated to a movie, a feast at the pizza parlor and a stop at the ice cream store where each child could order what he wanted.

The birthday goody bag itself was, to my mind, over the top. Each one contained at least \$5 worth of stuff. The gift given to the birthday boy hardly cost that much.

Another chance

It would soon be time to plan son Tom's birthday party. Our family couldn't afford the kind of party others were giving. I didn't think it was a good idea anyway. "Too much," I thought. And Tom wasn't pushing for an elaborate celebration.

My challenge was making it OK for me not to do a party the way most of our neighborhood kids' moms did parties.

Could I do what I felt was best for my kid and our family and risk being the subject of whispered judgments?

Or would I short the family in some way in order to get the funds for a more lavish party?

What would you decide?

Back then, I made my decision intuitively, but now, I'd know to fall back on the "Test of Four:"

■ Would an elaborate party help my son accomplish his developmental tasks? (For an 8-year-old, setting boundaries, developing skills, learning to develop and live with rules and consequences, etc.)

■ Would an elaborate party cause the spending a disproportionate share of family resources?

■ Would an elaborate party apt to benefit me more than my son?

■ Would an elaborate party cause harm to others?

Using the Test of Four, if one of the answers to the four questions is "yes," it's probably not going to be something I'd want to do.

What do you think I decided? Even back in the old days wisdom prevailed.

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

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SPECIAL EVENTS - HALLOWEEN FUN
THURS., OCT. 27 – 3:30 p.m.
Spooky stories, crafts and trick-or-treat fun for ages 4 and up. Costumes welcome. FREE!
Fairview Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 450-0443.

FRI., OCT. 28 - 4:30 – 9:00 p.m.
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF SANTA MONICA HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL
This festival features rides, moon bounce, game and art booths, costume contest, prizes, food and music. Free admission, activities and food \$.25 – \$1.50. 1238 Lincoln Blvd., 393-9629.

SAT., OCT. 29
MOMS CLUB OF SANTA MONICA HALLOWEEN PARTY
3:00 – 5:00 p.m. This non-scary party will feature crafts, songs, play, costume parade, light refreshments and trick-or-treating all in an indoor play place with lots of fun things to do. The public is invited to join in on the fun and experience what the MOMS Club is all about – friendship, community and support. \$12 per child, RSVP required to Nina at smdp.com or 395-7321. A Kid's Place, 12306 Venice, Blvd., West LA.

FRANKLIN SCHOOL CARNIVAL – 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Frankie's School of Magic presents a day of wizardry including the Chamber of Secrets Haunted House, Prof. Snapes Pumpkin Patch, Dumbledore's Magician, fortune tellers, rides, games, treats and more! Free admission, ticketed rides, games and food. 2400 Montana Ave., 828-2814.

3RD ST. PROMENADE – 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Tawni's Pony and Petting Zoo will be set up near Broadway with free rides and petting for the kids, and Casper the friendly ghost and friends will be in the area with spooky giveaways.

HAUNTED DRIVE-IN at the PIER – 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Pier-wide trick-or-treating starts at 4:00, sign up at the big screen at 5:00 for the costume contest, and enjoy a screening of Beetlejuice at 6:00 p.m. FREE tickets required for entry, available at Santa Monica Conv. & Visitors Bureau locations and LA Car Guy dealerships including Lexus, Toyota, Mitsubishi, Scion and Volkswagen.
SM PIER ACQUARIUM -12:30 – 5:00 p.m., also Sun., Oct. 30
Creepy critters, gooey seaweed and mysteries of the deep investigated in this special Halloween program. Admission is \$1 for adults, kids under 12 are free.

SAT. and SUN. THRU OCT. 30
ABSOLUTELY HALLOWEEN at the Santa Monica Playhouse
12:30 and 3:30 p.m. A family theatre world premiere this show tells the heartwarming tale of a young girl who learns valuable lessons about life, love and laughter from her cat on Halloween. 1211 4th St., 394-9779, ext. 2 for reservations, \$10.50 children under 12, \$12.50 adults.

MON., OCT 31 – HAPPY HALLOWEEN!
PALLOWEEN CARNIVAL – 5:00 – 9:00 p.m.
This awesome event is presented by the SM Police Activities League and features fun and games, music, booths, trick-or-treating, costume contest and food. For youth and their families, FREE admission, ticketed activities and food, costume contest begins at 6:00 p.m. Barker Hangar, 3021 Airport Ave., 458-8988.

COSTUME TRICK-or-TREATING at SANTA MONICA PLACE
4:00 – 7:00 p.m. Look for Casper the Friendly Ghost and friends for spooky giveaways and enjoy mall-wide trick-or-treating.

TUESDAY

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

Movies for Moms! 11:00 a.m., Loews Cineplex Broadway Theatre, 1441 3rd St. Promenade – for Moms and babies newborn –

1 year old. Doors open early for socializing and getting comfortable. Visit www.enjoytheshow.com/reelmoms for details. Oct. 25 – Stay starring Ewan McGregor, Naomi Watts and Ryan Gosling. Suspense, Rated “R.”

Storytelling
Main Library – held at Reed Park, corner of 7th and Wilshire.
Toddler Storytime; 10:00 a.m. For 2 year olds with adult.
Preschool Story Time; 10:30 a.m.; for ages 3-5.
Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.
Cuentos Para Pequenos – 10:00 a.m., six-week series in Spanish for 24 – 36 month olds.
Lap Time – 11:00 a.m. six-week series for babies 0-24 months, co-sponsored by the SMMUSD Infant & Family Support Program. Next session Nov. 1 – Dec. 6.
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 – Oct. 25 & Nov. 22 – holiday themed stories and crafts for ages 5–8.
Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St. – 310-392-3804.
Toddler Storytime, 10:00 and 10:30. Music, rhymes and stories for 2 to 3 year olds. Next session Nov. 8 – Dec. 13. Registration required.
Tiny Tuesday Storytime at Storyopolis
For ages infant to 3. 11:00 a.m. 116 North Robertson, Plaza A, LA. 310-358-2500, www.storyopolis.com
Barnes and Noble at the Grove
Storytime for ages 2 – 6. 10:00 a.m. 189 Grove Drive, LA, 323-525-0270

Classes
YWCA – A Place for Parents –Toddler & Me Class - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. – 12 to 36 months; Infant & Me Class – 10:45 – 11:45 a.m. and 1:30 – 2:30 p.m., 0 – 12 months; 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.
YMCA – Attachment Parenting Classes - 2:00 – 3:30 p.m., 1332 Sixth St., 393-2721 (ask for Shelana Philip-Guide or Audrey Meyer). This new class for mothers/dads and babies up to 12 months is presented by Karol Darsa, PsyD, a licensed psychologist with extensive experience working with children and families. Fees: Members – 1 class - \$40, 5 class pass - \$180; Non-members - \$50, 5 class pass - \$200.
BREAKTHROUGH PARENTING CLASSES – 7:00 – 9:30 p.m.
An advanced 10-week parent education course. Continuous enrollment. For info call Jayne A. Major, Ph.D., Breakthrough Parenting Services, Inc., 310-823-7846, jm@BPinAction.org.

Yoga & Exercise
Prenatal Aqua Aerobics at the Santa Monica YMCA
10:00 – 11:00 a.m and 7:30 – 8:30 p.m; Free for members, non-members \$90 for 10 classes. (also Thursday nights 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.) 393-2721. ext. 117 for more info.
Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:40 p.m., \$15. Mommy and Me – 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.
Mommy Care – at the Dance Factory, 11606 San Vicente Blvd., Brentwood, 310-394-6711. Combined Pregnancy/Recovery Exercise Group – 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.. (babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)
Itsy Bitsy Yoga – Baby IBY (6 weeks to pre-crawling) – 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. With Khefri Riley at Ocean Oasis, 1333 Ocean Ave. Register at www.khefri.net or call 323-549-5383.
Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

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

WEDNESDAY

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

Storytelling
The Talking Stick Coffee Lounge – 1630 Ocean Park Blvd., 450-6052
10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4 at this neighborhood coffee shop.
Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.
Toddler Story Time – 9:30 a.m., for two year olds with adult.
Preschool Story Time – 10:30 a.m.; for 3-5 year olds with adult.
Next session Nov. 2 – Dec. 7.
Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.
Lap Time - 10:15 & 11:15 a.m., ages 0-2. Next session Oct. 26 – Dec. 14.
Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St. –392-3804.
Preschool Twilight Story Time – 7:00 – 7:30 p.m. Parents/children ages 3-5.
Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion – 2 pm – ages 2-5 – 310-475-4144
Border's, Westwood – 11a.m. – 310-475-3444.

Classes
YWCA – A Place for Parents –Toddler & Me Class - 10:45 – 11:45 a.m., 7 to 36 months; 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

Rhythm Child Parent & Me Rhythms, Santa Monica Studios, 3025 Olympic Blvd., 9:30 – 10:15 a.m. Children explore rhythms through drum play. For toddlers. \$100 for 8 weeks. Call 204-5466 or visit www.rhythmchild.net for more info and session dates.
YWCA – A Place for Parents –Toddler & Me Class - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. – walkers to 3 years; (Mon – Fri); 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.
Enchanted Lunchtime Theatre at Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th St., 394-9779
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. For ages 3 – 5 with parents. This theatrical adventure includes story time, theatre games, crafts, play building and lunch. Reservations required 24 hours in advance, \$19.50 includes lunch for child and lunch.

Yoga & Exercise
Kids' Yoga Circle, 1814 14th St., 260-2736 – Yoga and more for ages 4 – 7, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. 8 week session \$125/Drop-in \$18
Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45pm, \$15
Fitness for Moms – Babies Welcome! Step Aerobics, 10:30 a.m. at the YMCA, 393-2721, ext. 117 for more info. Free for members, non-members pay \$90 for 10 classes.
Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

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

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

THURSDAY

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

Storytelling
Babystyle, 1324 Montana Avenue, 434-9590
10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4.
Main Library – held at Reed Park, corner of 7th and Wilshire.
Toddler Storytime; 10:00 a.m.; for 2 year olds with adult.
Preschool Story Time; 10:30 a.m.; for ages 3-5.
Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.
La Hora Del Cuento – 7:00 p.m. Spanish stories, songs and rhymes for all ages.
Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.
Toddler Story Time – 10:15 a.m., for 2 year olds, next session Oct. 27 – Dec. 15.

Preschool Story Time – 11:15 a.m.; for 3-5 year olds.
Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St. – 310-392-3804.
Lap Time – 9:20 & 10:20 a.m., for babies up to age 2. Next session Oct. 20 – Nov. 17.

Classes
YWCA – A Place for Parents –Toddler & Me Class - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m and 10:45 – 11:45 a.m., 12 to 36 months; Parent Support Group – 3:30 – 4:30 p.m., age 3 – 5 years; 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.
BREAKTHROUGH PARENTING CLASSES – 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.
An advanced 10-week parent education course. Continuous enrollment. For info call Jayne A. Major, Ph.D., Breakthrough Parenting Services, Inc., 310-823-7846, jm@BPinAction.org.

Yoga & Exercise
Kids' Yoga Circle, 1814 14th St., 260-2736 – Yoga and more for ages 8 – 11, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.; ages 12 – 15, 5:15 – 6:30 p.m. 8 week session \$125/Drop-in \$18

Prenatal Aqua Aerobics at the Santa Monica YMCA
7:30 – 8:30 p.m; Free for members, non-members \$90 for 10 classes. (also Tuesdays at 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.) 393-2721. ext. 117 for more info.
Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:40 p.m., \$15. Mommy and Me – 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.
Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

Breastfeeding Group
The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-998-1981 - drop-in, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 4-8 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

MOMS Club of Santa Monica
New Mother Group – 10:30 a.m. - for new moms with babies born from 6/05 to present. Meet for conversation, support and playtime. All new Moms welcome!
11:00 a.m. - playgroup for children born 10/04 – 5/05. Call or e-mail Alison at 393-4481, riversalison@hotmail.com for more info.

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

Classes
YWCA – A Place for Parents –Toddler & Me Class - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. – 12 – 36 mos.; 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

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

Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45 p.m., \$15.
Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

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

SATURDAY

Storytelling
Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade – Kid's Story Time – 10am, 310-260-9110
Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion – 10:30am – ages 2-5, 310-475-4144.
Children's Book World, 10580 1/2 Pico Blvd, LA - 10:30 a.m., 310-559-800K.
Village Books, 1049 SwarthmoreAve, Pacific Palisades – 10:30 a.m., 454-4063.
826LA, 685 Venice Blvd, 2nd Floor, Venice – 10:30 – 11:30 a.m., ages 3-6, RSVP to info @825LA.com or 310-314-8418. (826LA is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting students with their creative and expository writing skills, and to helping teachers inspire their students to write).

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

Yoga & Exercise
Santa Monica Yoga – Pre- & Post-Natal Yoga, Saturdays – 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.
1640 Ocean Park Blvd, 396-4040, www.santamonica-yoga.com
Mommy Care – at the Dance Factory, 11606 San Vicente Blvd., Brentwood, 310-394-6711. Combined Pregnancy/Recovery Exercise Group – 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.(babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)
Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:00 a.m., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

Other
Absolutely Halloween at the Santa Monica Playhouse
Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m, thru Oct. 30; \$12.50 adults, \$10.50 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 2 for reservations, www.santamonicaplayhouse.com, 1211 4th St.
Puppetolio – 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested
Magicalopolis – 2 and 8 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$20 for evening, \$15 for matinee. Call 310-451-2241 for info.
Precious Prints – Ceramic Heirlooms for a Lifetime
Second Saturday every month at The Pump Station, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Contact Kristan Ritchie at 310-802-8013 or visit www.preciousprintsstudios.com for more info.
Lakeshore Learning Stores “Free Crafts for Kids” – Saturdays, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., 8888 Venice Blvd., 559-9630.
“A Faery Hunt” – 10:30 a.m., every Saturday at Franklin Canyon Park. An interactive children's show, searching for fairies and other enchanted creatures in the magical canyon and finding them! \$10, call for reservations – 818-324-6802. www.faeryhunt.com. Meet in the park-

ing lot of the Sooky Goldman Nature Center, 2600 Franklin Canyon Dr., Beverly Hills.

SUNDAY

Main Street Farmer's Market – 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., corner of Main St. and Ocean Park Blvd. Pony rides, live music, lots of vendors and great family socializing.
Puppetolio – 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested
Magicalopolis – 2 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$15. Call 310-451-2241 for info.
Absolutely Halloween at the Santa Monica Playhouse
Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m, thru Sept. 25; \$12.50 adults, \$10.50 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 2 for reservations, www.santamonicaplayhouse.com, 1211 4th St.
Family Funday at the Will Geer Theatricum Botanicum – 11:00 a.m. Live music and theatre for all ages. \$8, 1419 N. Topanga Canyon Blvd., Topanga, 455-3723, www.theatricum.com.

Breastfeeding
Working Mother's Support Group
The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd. - Call 998-1981 for more info.

MONDAY

MOMS Club of Santa Monica Playgroups
Noon – 2:00 p.m., for children born 1/02 – 2/03; 9:30 a.m. – for children born 1/04 – 9/04; call or email Alison at 393-4481/riversalison@hotmail.com for more info. All moms welcome!

Storytelling
Main Library – Lap Time at Joslyn Park – 9:30 a.m. Current session thru Dec. 12.
“Family Connections” – 10:00 a.m., immediately following Lap Time - a series of discussions related to early childhood development and growth. Children welcome, free.
Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main Street, 310-392-3804.
“Spanish for Little Ones” - 11:15 a.m., for ages 2 – 5.
Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade – Toddler Story Time – 10am – 310-260-9110

Classes
YWCA – A Place for Parents –Toddler & Me Class - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. – 12 – 36 mos.; “Playtime – A combination play time and parent support time”, 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

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

Yoga & Exercise
Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45pm, \$15
Itsy Bitsy Yoga – TOT IBY (crawling – 2/3 years) – 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. With Khefri Riley at TURNOUT Performing Arts Center, 12113 Santa Monica Bl., St. 201. Register at www.khefri.net or call 323-549-5383.
Yoga Garden, - Restorative yoga for pre/postnatal – 6:30 p.m., 310-450-0133. www.yoga-gardenstudios.com
Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

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NATIONAL

Hunters' wives, girlfriends having wild times

BY CHRISTY KARRAS

Associated Press Writer

WEST WENDOVER, Nev. — It's 1:30 a.m. on a Wendover weekend, and Heather Purtell is broke.

"I gave all my money to the guys," she says, standing in line with friend Lea Talbot to spend her last \$3 on whatever she can get for \$3 at an all-night Nugget Casino food court.

By "the guys," she doesn't mean her boyfriend. She gave it all to male strippers, The Men of Playgirl, who finished performing an hour earlier upstairs.

Purtell and her friends, all students in Ogden, were planning to head to Wendover anyway. When they heard about Deer Widows Weekend, they put off their trip until last weekend, the first of deer-hunting season.

While men head for the hills in search of game, women drive west over 120 miles of baked salt flats and sagebrush-dotted hills to Wendover, where Deer Widows Weekend is a long-standing tradition. It's so popular that for the five casinos in town — the Peppermill, Rainbow, Montego Bay, Red Garter and Wendover Nugget — this ranks among the year's busiest times.

"It's a very busy weekend in Wendover," said Barbara Eakins, general manager of the Red Garter. "Between Deer Widows, the Super Bowl and New Year's, those are our three biggest weekends."

In Wendover, the slots are cheap, the drinks are free and the strippers are male. Unlike hunting, there's no need to worry about the travails of camping, weather or

finding prey. It's a very different kind of adventure, but the reason for going is the same: to get a chance to spend some slightly naughty time with buddies of the same gender.

Early Saturday morning, while Amanda Stansfield's husband is out hunting in the brush near Scofield, she's playing blackjack with friends and family members. She arrived about 7 p.m. Friday — a bit late, she says, because some of the women took too so long primping for the evening.

"I invited my husband to come, but for some reason he didn't want to come along for Deer Widows Weekend," she said, laughing and shrugging, between stints at the tables and on the dance floor.

On Friday, casinos start gearing up for the onslaught, with extra staff on hand; most of employees plan to be busy until 3 a.m. or so. Samuel Sanders mans the Nugget's buffet cash register during the day and admits people to the dance club at night (this weekend, the dance floor is about 80 percent women). He's not even sure how many hours he's going to work: "I haven't even put them together yet," he says.

This weekend, rooms in casinos are hard to come by, and double the number of "fun buses" drive out from Salt Lake City full of passengers looking for a few hours of a good time. Just for this weekend, most of the casinos have special all-male revue performances on Friday and Saturday nights.

But the weekend isn't just for women, and the crowds in Wendover are almost evenly divided between the sexes.

Jennifer Lendeborg's husband is out in the casino while she watches strippers for the third year in a row, along with six friends of all ages from Utah County. "You don't see this in Utah," she says, shortly before one

of the four men in the revue brings her on stage for a raunchy lap dance.

She looks as if she's about to faint and her friends are in hysterics as the dancer tucks a dollar bill into her tank top and pulls it out with his teeth.

Many of the women at the strip show, including Purtell and her friends, have husbands or boyfriends in Wendover with them. "We actually don't know where they are," she says just before the show. "They're somewhere in Wendover."

During the strip show, the women can legally see and do a lot more than men in Utah ever can. When the men strip down to G-strings during the show and invite women to the stage for one-on-one lap dances in front of the crowd, the women giggle, scream, clap and stomp their feet, singing along with songs with lyrics like "Save a horse, ride a cowboy."

Some single men come for this weekend because they've heard about the women. For nearly every group of women wandering the casinos, there's a pack of men hoping to get lucky.

Andrew Floor and two guy friends came to Wendover specifically because of Deer Widows. "All the guys go out hunting for deer, and the girls get lonely," said Floor, who prowled around several casinos playing craps and looking for those girls. "They hunt deer; we hunt females."

By the end of the evening, Taunya Kenney and friend Kimberlee Gull are making their way back to the bus that will take them home to Salt Lake City. They spent the night gambling and dancing with a couple of young cowboys from Herriman, but they have boyfriends at home. They lean on each other and laugh as they wait to get on the bus. "My coach is about to turn into a pumpkin," Kenney said.

Hurricane Wilma plows into Florida's southwest coast with 125 mph winds

BY MIKE SCHNEIDER

Associated Press Writer

NAPLES, Fla. — Hurricane Wilma plowed into southwest Florida early Monday with howling 125 mph winds and dashed across the state to the Miami-Fort Lauderdale area, blowing out windows in skyscrapers, peeling away roofs and knocking out power to millions of people. At least one death in Florida was blamed on the storm.

The same storm that brought ruin over the weekend to resort towns along Mexico's Yucatan Coast came ashore in Florida as a strong Category 3 hurricane, but within hours had weakened into a Category 2 with winds of 105 mph. Early in the afternoon, it was back up to Category 3 with 115 mph winds as it swirled out into the open Atlantic on a course that was unlikely to affect the East Coast.

As it made its way across the state, Wilma caused widespread damage, flattening trees, tearing off screens, breaking water mains, littering the streets with signs and downed power lines, and turning debris into missiles.

"We have been huddled in the living room trying to stay away from the windows. It got pretty violent there for a while," said Eddie Kenny, 25, who was at his parents' home in Plantation near Fort Lauderdale with his wife. "We have trees down all over the place and two fences have been totally demolished, crushed, gone."

In Cuba, rescuers used scuba gear, inflatable rafts and amphibious vehicles to pull nearly 250 people from their flooded homes in Havana after Wilma sent huge waves crashing into the capital city and swamped neighborhoods up to four blocks inland with 3 feet of water.

In Cancun, Mexico, troops and federal police moved in to control looting at stores and shopping centers ripped open by the hurricane, and hunger and frustration mounted among Mexicans and stranded tourists. President Vicente Fox announced plans to start evacuating some 30,000 frazzled tourists even as he worked to restore the profitable image of a carefree beachfront paradise.

Wilma, Florida's eighth hurricane in 15 months and the 21st storm in the busiest Atlantic hurricane season on record, came ashore in Florida at 6:30 a.m. EDT near Cape Romano, 22 miles south of Naples, spinning off tornadoes and bringing a potential for up to 10 inches of

rain, the National Hurricane Center said.

The hurricane is expected to race up the Atlantic Seaboard and reach the coast of Canada by early Wednesday. But forecasters said it will probably stay so far offshore that it will not even bring heavy rain to the eastern United States.

"Most of the impact on the U.S. will be ending in the next several hours," Ed Rappaport, deputy director of the National Hurricane Center, said around midday.

The storm flooded large sections of Key West and other areas and knocked out power to up to 3.2 million homes and businesses as it rushed across the state and buffeted heavily populated Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties on the Atlantic coast with gusts over 100 mph.

In Fort Lauderdale, the hurricane blew out windows in numerous skyscrapers. In downtown Miami, broken glass from skyscrapers littered some streets and sidewalks in the Brickell Avenue financial district. A broken water main sprayed about 15 feet in the air, flooding four or five blocks of the avenue with up to 6 inches of water.

A gust was clocked at 104 mph at the National Hurricane Center in Miami, causing howling even in the bunker-like building. In Weston, near Fort Lauderdale, Kim DuBois sat in her darkened house with her two children and husband, with the power out and the storm shutters up. For light they used a battery-powered pumpkin lantern they bought for Halloween.

"I could hear tiles coming off the roof," she said. "There are trees on cars and flooding at the end of our street." She added: "Really what I'm afraid of is tornadoes."

A man in the Fort Lauderdale suburb of Coral Springs died when a tree fell on him, Broward County spokesman Carl Fowler said. Wilma killed at least three people in Mexico and 13 others in Jamaica and Haiti as it made its way across the Caribbean last week.

More than 33,000 people were in shelters across the state. No mandatory evacuations were ordered along Florida's heavily populated east coast. And in the low-lying Florida Keys, not even 10 percent of the Keys' 78,000 hardy, storm-tested residents evacuated, Sheriff Richard Roth said. This was the fourth hurricane evacuation of the Keys this year.

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NATIONAL



Canadian cattle trade flows, but not as fast as normal

BY BECKY BOHRER

AP Farm Writer

BILLINGS, Mont. — Canada has shipped nearly 250,000 cattle to U.S. feedlots and slaughter plants in the three months since a ban on cattle from that country was lifted by a federal appeals court.

It hasn't been the flood some U.S. ranchers had feared, and remains below levels seen before the case of mad cow disease that led to the ban two years ago, economists and industry leaders say.

Cattle prices in the United States are also holding firm, buoyed by strong demand and tight cattle supplies, said John Marsh, a professor of agricultural economics at Montana State University.

"Does that mean that Canadian cattle coming in had no impact? No," he said. However, over time the market had adjusted to a certain number of Canadian cattle, and "that dent that people expected from Canadian cattle coming in just didn't materialize," he said.

A number of factors are at play, including a limited availability of trucks, threat of continued litigation and a slaughter capacity that's grown in Canada since 2003 and is expected to grow more by the end of next year, experts say. In addition, Canada can only ship younger cattle due

to ongoing trade restrictions.

Dennis Laycraft, executive vice president of the Canadian Cattlemen's Association, said the group estimated that Canadian imports to the United States would hit 700,000 to 900,000 head during the first year that trade resumed, and he expects that to be hold true.

In 2001, Canada shipped about 1.3 million cattle to the United States. In 2002, a drought year, the number was closer to 1.7 million, said Ron Gustafson, a livestock economist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service.

In May 2003, the United States banned Canadian cattle imports after Canada reported a case of mad cow disease. Canada reported two more cases this year. And there have been two cases in the United States: the first, in December 2003, involved a cow from Canada, the other, an animal from Texas.

The government planned to lift the ban in March. But a federal judge temporarily prevented that, acting on a request by the cattlemen's group R-CALF United Stockgrowers of America.

A federal appeals court panel reversed that decision in July, saying U.S. District Judge Richard Cebull overstated the possible harm of letting limited Canadian cattle

shipments resume. The first trucks rolled across the border July 18.

In a tracker last week, U.S. agriculture officials said 245,291 cattle had been shipped from Canada so far this year. That number could include interstate shipments from Hawaii, though those would be small.

"So far, the movement has been relatively low, controlled, but it continues to build up week by week," Gustafson said. Seasonal variations affect numbers, and he said it's difficult to gauge just how much those numbers will grow.

Restrictions require that Canadian feeder and slaughter cattle sent to this country be killed at younger than 30 months of age. Laycraft, who is eager to see full trade re-established, estimated that older culled cows and bulls typically accounted for 20 to 25 percent of Canada's live cattle shipments.

He said that with the procedures in place, consumers in both countries should be confident in the safety of their beef.

Bill Bullard, R-CALF's chief executive officer, said his group is still concerned about the potential risk of additional mad cow cases from resuming cattle trade with Canada. He said consumers should have a right to choose between U.S. and Canadian beef products.

The Sound of silence: Band of pilots guiding ships keeps dwindling

BY KELLY KEARSLEY

The Associated Press

TACOMA, Wash. — From the bridge of a container ship, pilot Eric Lichty can see a city block's worth of containers stretched in front of him and another half-block of metal boxes behind. From his perch 10 stories above the Pierce County Terminal, he looks down on the busy Port of Tacoma, the cranes, and the buses shuttling people to the docks for work.

The only thing Lichty can't see as he prepares to guide the 1,000-foot-long Hatsu Excel into Commencement Bay: the edges of the narrow Blair Waterway on each side of the ship. That is, unless he hangs his head out the bridge's side window.

So that's what he does.

A former captain on tankers and supply boats, Lichty is one of a dwindling number of pilots.

By law, the pilots use their local knowledge to guide ships into the Sound from Port Angeles and back out from Washington ports. But in the past several months a combination of retirements, injuries and an increasing number of ships calling on Washington ports has led to a shortage of these skilled guides.

The shortage has delayed ships as they wait for pilots to arrive, and required pilots to regularly work during their scheduled time off.

Piloting the Evergreen Shipping Line's Hatsu Excel was Lichty's second job on this early fall morning 10 days into his scheduled time off after 15 days of work. Capt. Bill Bundren, also a pilot, joined him. Bundren was scheduled to take the ship the rest of the way to Port Angeles after Lichty maneuvered it out of the Blair and into the bay.

"When you have a ship this big in this tight of quarters, and (considering) there could be the slightest bit of wind or bad conditions, you just need another pilot," Bundren explained.

In the intricate routine of moving massive ships, pilots are the choreographers. For the time they are on board, they direct everyone involved from the longshore workers on the ship's lines to the ship's crew. They are experienced mariners, many with past lives as captains of tugs, ferry boats or other ships.

Lichty, 55, went to maritime school at 19. He's been at sea ever since.

For several years, the state pilotage board held off scheduling a pilots exam that would provide candidates to replenish the roster. Its members were waiting for the state Legislature to approve a new series of testing and training regulations, which it did this session.

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INTERNATIONAL

Journalists targeted in Palestine Hotel attack

BY ROBERT H. REID

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Three massive vehicle bombs exploded Monday near the Palestine Hotel, killing at least 20 people. Dramatic TV pictures showed one of the bombers driving a cement truck through the concrete blast walls that guard the hotel, then blowing up his vehicle.

Iraq's national security adviser, Mouwafak al-Rubaie, said the attack was a "very clear" effort to take over the hotel and seize journalists as hostages.

One of the car bombs exploded near the police position on the northeast side of Firdous Square, where a statue of Saddam Hussein was toppled in April 2003 shortly after the fall of Baghdad, and more than 100 yards east of the hotel. Security officials said a third bomb struck the area around the same time. All three were believed to be suicide attacks.

"Three cars came from three different roads in succession to create security breaches for terrorists," al-Rubaie

told The Associated Press in a telephone interview, adding that they were armed with rocket-propelled grenades and light arms.

"The plan was very clear to us, which was to take security control over the two hotels, and to take the foreign and Arab journalists as hostages to use them as a bargain."

The U.S. military said no U.S. troops were injured. It counted 10 dead Iraqis.

The security adviser said at least 40 people were injured, most of them passers-by. Another official, Deputy Interior Minister Hussein Kamal, said four or five Iraqi police were among the dead.

APTN footage showed that one of three vehicle bombers had penetrated the concrete blast walls surrounding the hotel compound before exploding.

The cement mixer exploded in a huge ball of flame and a cloud of smoke.

Iraqi security officials said the blasts occurred two minutes apart, not long before Muslims marking the Islamic holy month of Ramadan were preparing to break

their daylong fast. Shortly before the explosion, a truck came under fire nearby, according to APTN.

The attacks caused heavy damage to the south side of the 19-story Palestine Hotel, forcing journalists, including those from AP, Fox News and the U.S. government-funded Alhurra TV station to take refuge in the corridor. Fox and Alhurra said their employees were safe.

Inside, light fixtures were blown out, pictures were blasted off the walls and windows were shattered.

Moments before the second blast, journalists, photographers and technicians were walking up and down hazy corridors in a state of confusion, urging each other to remain calm, put on flak jackets, and to stay away from windows. Thicker clouds of smoke filled the far end of one hallway, with many people coughing and waving their hands.

The second explosion shook the building momentarily. Confusion and panic again set in, with those inside debating whether to exit, but all eventually deciding to stay in the corridor and sit propped against walls, most in flak jackets. Sounds resembling gunshots could be heard outside.

Strips of floorboards were strewn about and air vents were blown in.

An AP photographer at a checkpoint at the northwest corner of the hotel said at least three fellow photographers from other media were injured and taken away by ambulance. Three APTN personnel inside the hotel suffered minor injuries.

The AP counted six wounded inside the hotel.

Capt. Patricia Brewer, a U.S. military spokeswoman in Baghdad, said they could hear the blasts from their headquarters. A Pentagon spokesman, Lt. Col. Barry Venable, said the U.S. military sent in a quick reaction force to the site to assist the police.

In Baghdad, suspected insurgents opened fire at two civilian cars, killing three municipal workers and a passer-by, said police Capt. Talib Thamir amid a surge of violence over the last two days that has killed dozens.

The toll among American service members killed in the Iraq war also neared 2,000 dead, with the announcement of a Marine killed Sunday during fighting in western Iraq.

The exploding cement truck blew a hole in a 12-foot concrete wall that separates the hotel from the square. U.S. soldiers maintain a presence inside the five-acre hotel compound, which includes the Sheraton.

After the bombing, Iraqi forces opened up with heavy automatic weapons fire, apparently at random. There was no sign of a further assault on the hotel.

Maj. Abbas Mohammed Suleiman said earlier that the hotel compound was hit by rockets and car bombs.

Concrete barriers topped with barbed wire guard the Palestine and the nearby Sheraton, which is also home to foreigners.

In other violence:

■ The military said the Marine who was killed had been assigned to the 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward) and was hit by small arms fire in Ramadi. The death raised to at least 1,997 the number of members of the U.S. military who have died since the Iraq war started in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

■ A suicide car bomber killed two Iraqis and wounded five Monday in an attack on a police patrol in the northeastern Baghdad neighborhood of Shaab, where insurgents had kidnapped and murdered a defense lawyer in Saddam's trial last week, said police Lt. Malik Sultan.

■ Insurgents also opened fire on an Iraqi army checkpoint in western Baghdad, killing a soldier and a girl who was standing in front of her nearby house, said police 1st Lt. Thaeir Mahmud.

■ A drive-by shooting killed one policeman and two others were wounded by a roadside bomb, authorities said.

■ Another roadside bomb exploded near a car carrying Ibrahim Zangana, a senior member of Iraq's Kurdish Democratic Party, seriously wounding him and killing one of his bodyguards, in Kirkuk, said Brig. Gen. Sarhat Qadir.

■ A drive-by shooting in Mosul, 225 miles northwest of Baghdad, killed a policeman.

■ The corpses of the eight Iraqis also were found in three different areas of Baghdad on Monday, police said. All of them apparently had been kidnapped, tied up or handcuffed, and shot to death.

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INTERNATIONAL



Japanese still have beef with allowing U.S. imports

BY MARI YAMAGUCHI
Associated Press Writer

TOKYO — A Japanese government panel on mad cow disease delayed a decision Monday on whether to recommend easing a two-year-old ban on U.S. beef imports, despite preparing a draft report concluding the risk from American beef is very low.

The panel had been widely expected to send the report to the Food Safety Commission, setting in motion a process that could lead to the reopening of Japan — U.S. beef's most lucrative overseas market — to the imports by the end of the year.

Japan bought about \$1.5 billion worth of U.S. beef in 2003, making it the most lucrative overseas market for American beef products.

The delay risked flaring tensions with the United States ahead of a visit in mid-November by President Bush. U.S. beef producers and their supporters have argued that the ban was unnecessary and have accused Japan of dragging its feet on lifting it.

Yasuhiro Yoshikawa, chairman of the panel, said he hoped the panel would reach a final decision as early as at the next meeting, which is expected later this month or early next month.

"In today's meeting we were not able to reach an agreement," Yoshikawa said.

He said the decision was delayed because two key members were unable to attend, and other members said they wanted more information about two other diseases in the United States that could be related to mad cow disease.

Japan imposed the ban on Dec. 24, 2003, after the discovery of the first case of mad cow in the United States, in Washington state.

After lengthy negotiations, the two governments this year agreed that Japan would reopen its markets to meat from American cows of less than 21 months old. Mad cow disease has never been detected in cows that young.

The panel had already prepared a draft report concluding that the difference in risk between Japanese and American beef was very low, as long as proper precautions were taken. Japan has discovered 20 domestic cases of mad cow disease since 2002, but tests every cow going to market.

Several panelists, however, raised questions about reliability of U.S. safeguard measures and how they can be ensured.

"The risk would be very low, if proper precautions are strictly followed," Yoshikawa said. "And even if imports

are resumed, we must consider halting (imports) once again if those conditions are not met."

After the panel's failure to reach conclusion, Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi told reporters that "I think the conclusion should be reached from the viewpoint of food safety."

Scientists agree that beef infected with mad-cow disease, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy, causes a fatal brain disorder in humans. Since the 1990s, the death toll from the disease topped 150 people, mostly in Britain.

The U.S. frustration over the import ban and Tokyo's dragging examination of U.S. beef safety has been building up recently. Earlier this month 20 U.S. senators sent a joint letter to U.S. Trade Representative Rob Portman, formally asking "to employ retaliatory economic measures against Japan" if its import barrier is kept in place.

On Monday, visiting U.S. Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns said officials in Washington — from members of Congress to officials in the Bush administration — were growing impatient with the slow process.

"There is a great deal of frustration in the United States that this problem has not been resolved after such a long time," he told reporters in Tokyo, calling for a quick resumption of beef imports.

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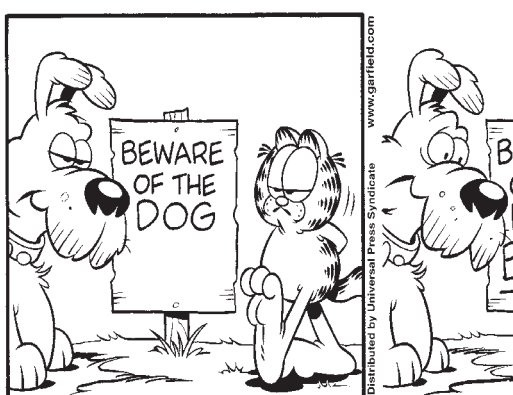


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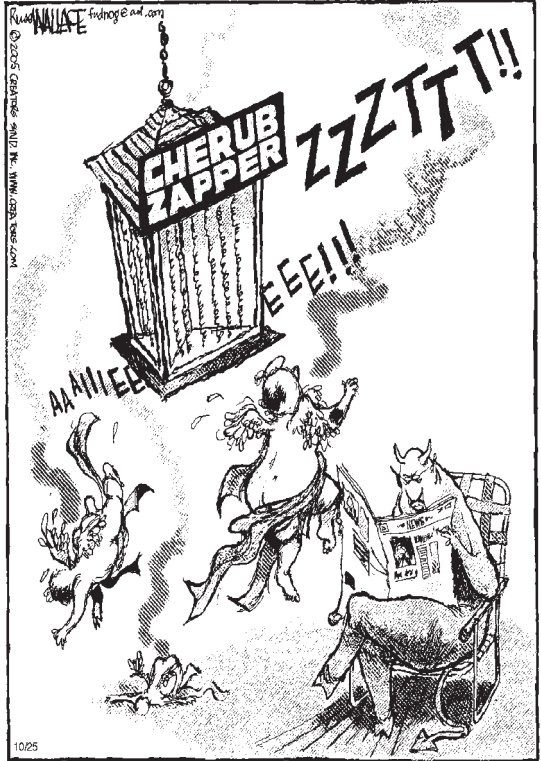


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18 Jupiter feature

20 Farm female

21 Writer Kesey

22 "— ever so humble ..."

23 Freezing

26 Kramer's first name

27 Stretches of history

28 Traffic caution

29 Sailor

30 Baton whiz

34 Simile center

35 Pale

36 Punk rock offshoot

37 Gym exercise

40 Betelgeuse's constellation

41 Plains abode

42 Micro-wave sounds

43 Mink's cousin

DOWN

1 Course of study

2 Skirt

3 Set one's sights

4 Agent, briefly

5 Cut off

6 Bob of "Full House"

7 Sphere

8 Hangers-on

9 Disneyland setting

10 Met by chance

14 Lunch hour

19 Enjoys Stowe

22 Yokel

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Phoenix rises to the occasion, steps into 'Line'

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Joaquin Phoenix had his work cut out for him before playing the late Johnny Cash on screen in "Walk the Line."

Phoenix, who had no musical background, "was pretty horrible when he started," said Dan John Miller, leader of the indie band Blanche, who plays Cash's lead guitarist.

The actor spent months rehearsing by himself. He even wrote his own songs to "see what it felt like to make something from nothing," Phoenix told Time magazine.

"He came around the corner for this concert scene and he just had the swagger and confidence," Miller told Time. "He was Johnny Cash — badass. For an amateur like me, it was suddenly clear what real acting is."

NEW YORK — Cam'ron, who is recovering from a gunshot wound suffered in an apparent carjacking in Washington, said would-be thieves shouldn't expect him to give up his ride so easily.

The 29-year-old rapper was wounded early Sunday when he refused to give up his Lamborghini at a traffic light after leaving a nightclub. When he attempted to drive away, the gunman fired a single shot that passed through both of his arms, Lynn Hobson, a spokeswoman for Cam'ron's label, Diplomat Records, said Sunday.

Cam'ron was treated at Howard University Hospital and released Sunday afternoon.

"People are foolish if they think I'm going to lose my head and give up anything to anyone just because someone threatens me," Cam'ron, who was back home in Harlem, said in a statement Monday.

"I'm doing OK. It takes more than a botched carjacking to keep me down."

The rapper, whose hits include "Hey Ma" and "Oh

Boy," will release his latest album, "Killa Season," in February. He also plans to release a film by the same name.

PARIS — A solitary white piano at a John Lennon retrospective invites visitors to play the song "Imagine."

Curator Emma Lavigne said it was a deliberate effort to make people revisit the song that otherwise "you might hear in a supermarket, doing your shopping."

"The message is still there. This song is still relevant," she said. "I wanted the exhibition to be as alive as possible, so we don't say to ourselves 'he (Lennon) is in a museum.' Because I think he would have hated that."

"John Lennon, Unfinished Music," is at Paris' Cite de la Musique for the next eight months.

The exhibition is divided into two floors, one for Lennon's childhood and Beatle John years, the other — in white-themed rooms — for the latter period when he was with Yoko Ono.

Lennon's widow lent around 90 percent of the hundreds of exhibits that make up the show, leaving her with "holes in her apartment," Lavigne said.

A 1966 pink yellow and red Andy Warhol of Lennon, which Lavigne said usually hangs over Ono's fireplace at the Dakota, is exhibited above a standup Steinway he played when composing "Double Fantasy."

Among other gems: Lennon's black 1963 Fender Telecaster with a worn fingerboard and rusty pickups; collages he made for other ex-Beatles Ringo and George; a 10-minute film of a silent Central Park gathering by crowds mourning his death; a copy of Lennon's original "Imagine," three verses written on New York Hilton letterhead.

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — Ben Okuly thought he was ready to propose to his girlfriend, but first he needed Paul McCartney's approval.

Okuly was attending one of the former Beatle's concerts in suburban Detroit when he held up a sign that caught the McCartney's eye: "CAN BEN ASK MELISSA TO MARRY HIM?"

During the concert last week, McCartney spotted it and read it out loud, The Detroit News reported Friday.

"Well, go on, get down on your knees and ask her, Ben!" Sir Paul ordered. Okuly did, and she said yes.

"Well, that's a first for me," McCartney quipped of the in-concert engagement. "And I hope it's a last for you, Ben."

The 26-year-old library employee hatched the plan when he and his girlfriend, Melissa Steele, were driving from Ohio to the concert.

"To have Paul McCartney be there and start the proposal, I really don't have words to describe what that was like," Steele told the newspaper.

NEWARK, N.J. — Philip Roth has been honored in his hometown of Newark, which has served as the setting for many of his 26 books.

Roth, whose "American Pastoral" was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 1997, was greeted at his childhood home by 75 fans who were on a bus tour Sunday of places in Newark that have been featured in his novels.

Mayor Sharpe James helped Roth unveil a plaque on the home and a street sign renaming the road "Philip Roth Plaza."

"Today, Newark is my Stockholm and that plaque is my prize," the 72-year-old writer told the crowd at the Weequahic Branch Library, in comments reported by the Star-Ledger of Newark.

He was referring to the Nobel Prize awarded every year in Stockholm, Sweden. Roth was considered a front-runner for this year's Nobel, but the award went to British playwright Harold Pinter.



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