

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

1 11 16 29 39
Meganumber: 13
Jackpot: \$19 Million



NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ In September, Anthony R. Martin, 52, of Belleville, Ill., became the latest person to call the police and complain that someone had stolen his illegal drugs. But there was more: Martin told the investigating officer that a hostile neighbor had taken his marijuana plants, but when he showed the officer the room where he usually kept them, the plants were actually still there. Martin then said whoever took them must have returned them. He was charged with growing marijuana. (He also admitted that he had been drinking that night.)

■ Arrested recently and charged with murder: Kenneth Wayne Keller, Denton, Texas (August); Ronald Wayne Lail, Burke County, N.C. (September); Timothy Wayne Condrey, Caroleen, N.C. (September). Sentenced for murder: Tyler Wayne Justice, Alice, Texas (September). Committed suicide while suspected of murder: Michael Wayne Baxter, Edgewater, Md. (October). And in February, convicted double-murderer Russell Wayne Wagner was found dead in his cell in Jessup, Md., of an apparent heroin overdose, but in July, at the request of a sister, he received an official military burial at Arlington National Cemetery because he had been honorably discharged after his Army service in Vietnam. (Current law blocks from national cemeteries only criminals with death sentences.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 314th day of 2005.
There are 51 days left in the year.

On Nov. 10, 1775, the U.S. Marines were organized under authority of the Continental Congress.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The mind will ever be unstable that has only prejudices to rest on, and the current will run with destructive fury when there are no barriers to break its force."

MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT
ENGLISH AUTHOR (1759-1797)

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Sojourn sparks city debate over 'slush' funds

BY RYAN HYATT
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — A fund-raising effort on behalf of sending a Santa Monica teacher to China has spurned debate among elected officials as they determine the most appropriate way to spend city slush funds.

Santa Monica City Councilman Kevin McKeown asked his colleagues last week to use \$1,000 in discretionary funds for a matching grant to support local public school teacher Linda Kovaric's trip to China. McKeown, who works for the local school district as an informational technology consultant, asked the council to approve the allocation so that Kovaric, who teaches at John Adams Middle School, may participate in a U.S.-China education conference to be held in Beijing during the first week of December.

The City Council approved the allocation by a 4-2 vote. Santa Monica Mayor Pam O'Connor and Councilman Bobby Shriver voted against it, arguing it may not be fair to issue such a grant without providing standards by which

See DISCRETION, page 7

Turning a deaf ear



Jim Mount/Special to the Daily Press

A city street crew recently painted these turn arrows in front of the YMCA and the new Main Library on Sixth Street, despite the fact they may prompt motorists to make illegal U-turns.

Honda suspects etch not guilty plea

BY RYAN HYATT
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN LA — The case against six former Honda of Santa Monica employees who allegedly scammed hundreds of thousands of dollars from customers will be heard in court in November, after all defendants pleaded not guilty to charges on Monday.

The alleged scam, which occurred from 2000 to 2002, involved the car dealership's sales representatives tacking on charges of "theft etch" to customers' contracts without their consent. Theft etch marks a vehicle's parts with traceable numbers in the event of a theft.

Los Angeles Deputy District Attorney Dana Aratani, who works in the consumer protection division, said more than \$500,000 worth of theft etch had been sold at Honda of Santa Monica, which would show up on the sale contract as a VT registration charge.

Ali Asghar Hussain, Hamid Reza Khaki, Yaprem Zohrab Yarialian, Ahtamet Uersunthornwattana, Yaser Alkasem and Thomas Holterhoff all face felony counts related to the overcharging of customers, according to the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office.

Each of the defendants have been released by the court on their own recognizance. They are scheduled to take part in a two-day preliminary hearing, beginning Nov. 9, during which time a judge will decide if the evidence is adequate to go to trial.

On Monday, the six defendants appeared in court with their six attorneys representing them. When the clerk announced the case, the defendants and their counsel stood, forming a long wall of dark business suits as they faced Superior Court Judge David S.

See HONDA, page 6

Cross bones



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Things got a bit scary in the Sunset Park neighborhood on Halloween, especially at this home on Maple Street that decked out the front lawn complete with a graveyard and a skeleton.

LOCAL

Mugging for camera: Couple is accosted

BY JASMIN PERSCH
Special to the Daily Press

SANTA MONICA BEACH — A young couple sustained minor injuries last Thursday when they were attacked by a group of three men.

Briana Stanley, 22, who studies advertising at the Otis College of Art and Design, had been shooting photos of her boyfriend, Ross Crooks, 23, when the assault occurred along the 1600 block of the boardwalk, near Chess Park. The incident was within short walking distance from the cou-

See ASSAULT, page 6

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HOROSCOPE

Happy 40th Birthday, Robin Humble! Love, Bono

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)
★★★★ Others continue to run with the ball; you might go along with this behavior for now. You might want to make a financial resolution that could impact your savings, retirement and long-term goals. Tonight: Don't take any risks, please.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You are not being ignored; in fact, others want you around. It is just that your opinions might not be as welcome as usual. Do what you need to do; follow through on a project. Right now, listen more than talk. You could get uptight and feel restricted. Tonight: Roll with others' plans.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Right now, you need to buckle down and cut the frivolous mood. You might have more to do than you would like. Are you thinking about a new health or diet plan? Make that your resolution on this New Moon. Tonight: Take a walk after dinner.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ You have ideas when others are stumped. You find solutions when others say there is no answer. Use your unique abilities. A new beginning is possible with a creative or romantic project. Tonight: Let your hair down. Any excuse will do.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Pressure builds on the home front. Someone wants to remodel or buy a new home. You might want to do just that. Think about how you ultimately want your personal life to look. Take the first step. Tonight: Think "home office."



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ What you say might perk up those around you. In fact, make it a point to initiate activity more often, or at least touch base with loved ones. Your efforts toward others come back in multiples. Tonight: Clear out paperwork.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ You know how to make money and maximize a natural gift or talent. Making important decisions that involve your handling of funds could make a difference. Be careful with a friend or a meeting. Don't internalize comments. Tonight: Pay bills.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ You are all smiles. Though someone might try to rain on your parade, the operative word is "try." A new beginning or a resolution might be more powerful today than in previous periods. You are likely to succeed. Tonight: Continue to smile.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Information you get is definitely not complete. Do not react or feel down about it. Rather, open up and make your own observations. You will land on your feet no matter what. Trust your intuition. Tonight: Do some quiet work.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ If you know what you want and are willing to forge an independent path, you will succeed. A partner or associate could put down your idea. You know what you are doing. Remain confident. Meetings are instrumental. Tonight: Don't count on anyone but yourself.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ You have a way of bringing others together. Your professional status is enhanced because of the manner in which you are dealing with others. A friend, loved one or partner could be jealous. Try to ease this person through these feelings. Tonight: Don't count on an early bedtime.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Take your time checking out information. If you feel like work or life is a drag, consider a change, whether it is changing fields, taking a workshop or taking up a new interest. Whatever you decide to do is likely to become a reality. Tonight: Rent a movie.



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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

November is music to SMC's ears

By Daily Press staff

From the classics to the modern and beyond, the Santa Monica College music department will present an eclectic mix of musical performances during its November concert series.

Located at the SMC Concert Hall, 1900 Pico Blvd., the lineup includes:

■ Friday, Nov. 4 at 7 p.m.: Nedra Wheeler & The Women's Jazz Ensemble. A queen of strings, bassist Wheeler leads a group of jazz musicians. Tickets are \$10.

■ Saturday, Nov. 5 at 8 p.m.: SMC Applied Music Program Benefit Concert. Tickets are \$10.

■ Sunday, Nov. 6 at 3 p.m.: Los Angeles Flute Quartet. Tickets are \$15 general admission and \$10 for students.

■ Tuesday, Nov. 8 at 11:15 a.m.: "Four Hands" Piano Recital, featuring Natalie Limonick and Donald Fredrickson performing works by Mozart, Schubert and Ravel. Free.

■ Sunday, Nov. 13 at 4 p.m.: SMC Symphony Orchestra, under the baton of James Smith. Tickets are \$10.

■ Tuesday, Nov. 15 at 11:15 a.m.: SMC Flute Ensemble. Under the direction of Peter Sheridan, the ensemble will present works by Bach, Shickele, John Williams and more. Free.

■ Friday, Nov. 18 at 8 p.m.: SMC Chamber Choir. Under the direction of Nike St. Clair, the ensemble will perform pieces ranging from English madrigals to Italian Baroque music. Tickets are \$10.

■ Sunday, Nov. 20 at 7:30 p.m.: SMC Musical Theatre Workshop — "Music in the 21st Century." Under the direction of Perviz Sawoski and Frank Turner, students present a program of selections from hit musicals on Broadway and the West End. Tickets are \$8.

■ Tuesday, Nov. 22 at 11:15 a.m.: SMC Musical Theatre Workshop — "Music in the 21st Century." Under the direction of Perviz Sawoski and Frank Turner, students present a program of selections from hit musicals on Broadway and the West End. Free.

For information and tickets, call (310) 434-3000 or (310) 434-4323.

YWCA stages a proposition party

By Daily Press staff

In the dark about the propositions and measures on the ballot for the November election? The Santa Monica/Westside YWCA is here to help. On Wednesday, Nov. 2 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., the YWCA Santa Monica/Westside will be holding a proposition party at its facility at 2019 14th St. in Santa Monica. The free event is open to all and is designed to help voters learn more about the measures on the Nov. 8 ballot. Attendees will get a non-partisan outlook on who is funding each measure, what the fiscal impact will be and what a "yes" or "no" vote means. Brief discussion time at the end of the presentation also will be available. To RSVP call the YWCA at (310) 452-3881.

Readings extend Botanicum's repertory season

By Daily Press staff

Summer may be over, but the Will Geer Theatricum Botanicum is continuing its season by offering staged readings from two new original plays from its ongoing development series for playwrights called "Botanicum Seedlings."

See BRIEFS, page 7

CLARIFICATION — In the Oct. 28 issue of the Santa Monica Daily Press, an article entitled "Leaders shaken by earthquake report" did not make clear why City Hall has not properly notified property owners that their buildings need to be seismically retrofitted to bring them into current code. The reason they haven't been notified is because City Hall doesn't have sufficient resources in the building and safety department to notify them.



SURF REPORT

West-facing breaks are doing best with waist- to chest-high sets in those areas not affected by the steepness of the 315 NW. South-facing breaks are running knee- to waist-high.

Today, expect waist- to chest-high sets. Offshore winds may be problematic in the morning.

Today the water is:

62°

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



LOW TIDES

HIGH TIDES

	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
MONDAY	1:24	1.2	2:17	0.3	7:40	5.8	8:21	4.4
TUESDAY	1:47	1.5	2:52	-0.1	8:02	6.0	9:02	4.3
WEDNESDAY	2:11	1.8	3:30	-0.3	8:27	6.2	9:47	4.0
THURSDAY	2:36	2.1	4:13	-0.4	8:56	6.3	10:39	3.7
FRIDAY	3:03	2.4	5:02	-0.4	9:30	6.3	11:43	3.4

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The Q Line

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Coastal areas around Los Angeles County last week received some of the worst statewide grades for water quality from nonprofit environmental group Heal the Bay. Environmental officials ascribed the county's low scores to a lack of enforcement of new environmental regulations.

So, this week, Q-Line wants to know, "What can local and county government agencies do to improve water quality and regulation compliance in Los Angeles County?"

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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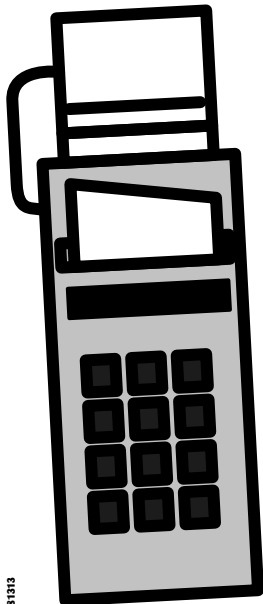


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OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Help wanted: A city manager with integrity

Editor:

(Editor's note: This letter was originally addressed to the Santa Monica City Council.)

This is in response to the recent requests for input from the community about the choice of City Manager. I welcome and appreciate the opportunity to be part of this public process.

In addition to the usual qualifications of administrative, executive, and fiscal expertise, and a strong work ethic, I want to emphasize the need for a manager with uncompromising integrity, whose words match his/her deeds and efforts behind the scenes — one who will be responsive to the voters and residents of this city and uphold a transparent public process.

We need a City Manager who in turn hires staff that respects the needs and desires of the community it serves, a manager who will tolerate nothing less, a manager and staff that will not defer to real estate developers and large scale commercial interests with short term goals that weaken the quality of life of the city. In short, a manager who will resist the temptations of growth, revenue and power.

I urge you to hire a manager who will strive to protect — if not restore — the livability and diversity of our city with its sense of history, its ties to the middle class, and concerns about the poor and less fortunate. We need a manager who cares about education.

We need a City Manager with a clear plan for protecting our citizens in case of disaster, one who will consistently work to eliminate air and water pollution, and thereby discourage regional traffic and its ever-growing congestion with idling cars emitting toxic fumes that babies and children and the elderly breathe.

We want a City Manager who will halt the amount of new development and increased density that will eventually squeeze out the middle class and strangle the residents, rich and poor alike. The electorate has repeatedly said that it wants “moderate growth” and we want a manager who will uphold this.

We desperately need a City Manager who will strive to solve the transportation, infrastructure, density, and massive, out-of-control traffic problems we already have before creating new ones, a manager who will not be tempted by the lust for power, money, and rapid growth that can dazzle and motivate the power structure in this city.

Most importantly, it seems imperative that we hire a City Manager with the above qualifications and concerns who comes from outside the established Santa Monica City structure. We need an independent, intelligent, highly competent manager with lofty, yet sophisticated vision, one who is not embroiled in the existing, incestuous web of city politics.

Thank you for your consideration in this crucial matter.

Sue Miller
Santa Monica

Union, yes: Prop. 75 hurts the workers

Editor:

In Judy Dlugokecki's one-sided tirade (SMDP, Oct. 18, page 4) in favor of Proposition 75 and against organized labor's efforts to defeat it, she conveniently does not mention that corporate political spending is excluded. To not be one-sided, corporations should also be subjected to the same law by having to secure written permission from each stockholder regarding corporate political expenditures. The true purpose of Proposition 75 is to weaken unions. In doing so, union and non-union workers would suffer. Unorganized corporations pay better wages and benefits than they would otherwise in their efforts to defeat union representation elections.

Edmund J. Wiannecki
Venice

There's nothing soft about 'Barely Legal'

Editor:

I noticed with admiration and a sigh of relief that Santa Monica movie theaters nixed showing the “soft-porn” movie “Barely Legal,” recently released by a major movie studio and plastering newspapers (not yours) with garish ads to “come hither.” Teen-aged girls are in a severe crisis what with being either victimized by downright criminal men, neglectful parents, uncaring, non-mentoring teachers, or in some few narcissistic cases making a willful personal choice to be dysfunctional. They do not need reinforcement by porno images to continue a downward spiral, nor to show more of their anuses, as they blatantly are, nearly collectively, in public.

William Cook
Santa Monica

Sex offender offered no neighborly love

Editor:

Regarding the letter that Gail Lawson of Las Vegas wrote (SMDP, Oct. 20, page 4), supporting sex offender Michael Hearn and chastising this community and his peers for not offering him the support she feels he deserves. I am sure her heart was in the right place when she wrote, although I feel her compassion was totally misplaced. Ms. Lawson also pointed out in her letter that since Michael Hearn was born and raised in Santa Monica, he, therefore, was deserving of this support.

See LETTERS, page 5

A voter's guide: Elect to make a difference



WHAT'S THE POINT?

BY DAVID PISARRA

The election is now only days away, the commercials are hitting harder and harder, and frankly it is becoming more difficult to understand the various propositions and what each side is saying.

This week, I'm going to finish up the last five propositions on the ballot, and hopefully bring some clarity to what would otherwise be a muddy pool of arguments between warring sides.

The governor was elected on the premise that he was going to change the way we do business in Sacramento. He was going to be a reformer and be a voice of “da peoples.” So let's see what he's come up with:

Proposition 76: State spending and school funding limits. This is the one the governor has called the “living within our means” act. This proposition would automatically renew the prior year's spending limits if a budget was not passed by the legislature and signed by the governor. Not a bad idea in and of itself. Here's the catch: The proposition also allows the governor to call a “fiscal emergency,” which is based on his/her own estimates, and if the “emergency” is not corrected within 45 days, the governor is given the power to cut spending wherever, and however he/she wants, with no oversight. A bad idea.

As for school funding, it requires that borrowed funds be repaid, a good idea. But over a 15-year period, a bad idea.

Given this governor's track record on “borrowing” money from our schools, I don't think I want him getting his hands on any more money.

Proposition 77: Redistricting. Here is one of those arcane, picayune little areas of the state government that allows for party politics to be played. The story behind this proposition is that there are districts in this state that bear no rational relationship to geography, but they do bear a strong resemblance to voters registered parties.

For example, our district extends from Oxnard to the southern tip of Santa Monica. I have nothing against the people of Oxnard. I also have very little in common with them, from a legislative standpoint.

This proposition attempts to take the legislators out of the legislative districting. It's a good idea to put redistricting in the hands of the independent judicial branch of government. This proposition has a panel of three judges, chosen by the leaders of the political parties, to do the drafting.

There is a formula for how the districts are generally decided, and I assume that the judges are there just to put a fine point on the niggling details, like which district does this particular side of the street fall in.

The problem I see with this is that it is voter approved, meaning after the judges draw the district lines, it goes to the voters to approve the plan. Apathy being what it is in America, no plan is likely to be approved because most voters won't take the time to read it, and they will then just reject it.

This is a good attempt at a much needed reform. This is the best redistricting

plan we've seen in a while on the ballot, but it still falls short of greatness.

Propositions 78 and 79: Prescription drug plans. These are two very similar propositions who serve the goal of getting reduced cost prescription drugs into the hands of the people who need them. Both involve getting rebates from drug companies.

Both plans have an annual fee — Prop. 78 charges \$15 and Prop. 79 charges \$10 annually. Both have a structure that allows low-income families and individuals to qualify. Under Prop. 78, an individual who makes under \$29,000 and a family of four that makes under \$58,000 qualify. Prop. 79 raises those limits to \$38,000 for an individual, and \$77,000 for a family of four.

Prop. 78 costs more, but benefits fewer people. Prop. 79 costs less and benefits more people. Thus of the two plans, Prop. 79 seems better. But there is a catch: It creates civil penalties for drug companies who profiteer, or overcharge, on other drugs. The Attorney General's office can enforce, but so can anyone affected. This will create more litigation. Lastly, it creates an oversight board to administrate the program and enforce the profiteering. California does not need one more “board.”

Of the two, Prop. 78 is the better of the two plans. It is more realistic and it provides a solution without creating additional agencies and bureaucracy.

Proposition 80: Electric service providers. This is the mind-numbingly dull one. It has to do with how 11 percent of the state receives its electricity and who regulates them. Currently there is a segment of society, mostly commercial and light industrial enterprises, who receive their electricity from a group of companies that are not regulated by the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). The PUC wants control of them, and to regulate who can become part of their customer base.

In the only bit of irony in this whole matter, the PUC does not actually regulate the publicly-owned utilities, they regulate the privately-owned ones. If the PUC is charged with regulating the private electric companies, they should regulate them all equally. This proposition requires that a small number of private electricity providers fall under the PUC net.

As a free market capitalist, I don't like the idea of the government regulating most aspects of business and life. I'd prefer to see the affected customers be able to continue to choose their electric providers, and this proposition would stop that.

I know people are upset over the deregulation in the electric utilities and the havoc it caused. But the bigger question here is, should the PUC regulate all electricity? If you believe yes, then you should vote “yes” on this. If you think no, you should vote “no.” But the most important thing to do is to vote. It is vitally important that this governor and this legislature hear from the public, and the best way for that to happen is for people to exercise their right to vote.

Remember, when you stay home, the other guy gets to decide the election. How's that working for you so far?

(David Pizarra can be reached at dpisarra@pizarra.com.)

COMMENTARY



Recipe for a good Halloween



ANY DAY IN LA

BY HEIDI MANTEUFFEL

The ingredients for a good Halloween are the same as for caramel apples — a little tart, sugar and lots of nuts. That last ingredient isn't too hard to find if you're an inhabitant of Southern California.

It's always been there (the nuts part), it just takes a holiday where boys wearing aqua spandex (outside of West Hollywood) and yellow tutus is semi-socially acceptable to bring it out.

Only on Halloween do you get men coming up to you in Rite Aid asking which pantyhose look good on them.

"Uh, I don't know, the black ones are kind of nice ..." I sort of mumbled. "Did you try the beige ones over here?" The best part was, he didn't really need my help. He knew more about pantyhose sizing than I did.

Since there are plenty of ways to spend your Halloween in LA, it's just a matter of which route you decided to tread. Did you go to West Hollywood and literally experience the gay pride parade? Maybe you hit Sunset Strip where the girls' costumes consisting of cat ears and sheer leotards matched the name.

There's always the chi-chi \$300 fundraising events that are comprised of a few lingering C-list celebrities — anyone like Balki from "Perfect Strangers?"

Well, none of these choices really called my name. And seeing as last year we were the only Saltine crackers in Korea Town, my boyfriend and I decided to buck up and have our own party, soliciting the help of our roommates.

As I'm sure you know, hosting a party can be dicey business. You can get stuck having a get-together where only one person from each of your friend groups show up, making it delightfully painful and awkward to keep the thin thread of conversation going.

Host: So, Jon, you and Sarah both like ice cream.

Jon: Oh, you like ice cream?

Sarah: Mmm, yummy.

Jon: I like vanilla.

Sarah: "I like strawberry. (another long, awkward pause)"

Jon: So ... you like, sidewalks?

Then there's the party where only two people show up, who are then forced to stay with you so as to not plummet any more of your dipping self worth. These kind make you wonder why you ever have parties. My favorite are the ones where one friend is not speaking to another, and you as host get to act as the intermediary for the entire duration of the night.

Alas, none of these scenarios ensued. Instead of three, there were 23. Each guest knew at the minimal two to three other people, and in some miracle of fate, everyone seemed to get along. It was remarkable. I kept wondering what happened to my friends.

They turned on their alter egos — that's what they did. The guys from the band Aria Decline turned into '80s type "hip" man, a green dragon (the tie-on costume he wore when he was 4) and super hero Ronald Reagan. There was even Barbie without her rockers, Where's Waldo and a cowboy with an inflatable bull surrounding his lower torso.

Of course there were the standard butterfly, fairy and various other costumes to remind boys that girls are the cuter gender. This was reemphasized by our pre law friend Ricky who with just a mullet and buckteeth became the best Billy Jean this side of Pico.

I think most people are a little nuttier than they let on. Although I think I do a good job of hiring a plane and skywriting it. So it's great when a holiday like Halloween rolls around and gives you a reason to be that inner super Ronald Reagan or do-wop girl, and let down that beautiful, luscious, mullet hair.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LETTERS, from page 4

I would like to point out to Ms. Lawson that we send our children to school and entrust them to people with whom they will be safe. We expect that they are protected and in a safe place while they learn. A teacher/coach who has been called in to straighten a child out, as Ms. Lawson pointed out that Mr. Hearn often was, needs especially to be trusted.

When a teacher/coach/minister/rabbi/preist, etc. crosses that line and molests a minor who trusted him or her, he or she forgoes the support of community and peers, and I don't care where he or she was born and raised.

It is much more damaging to the child to be molested by someone the child knows and trusts. So, if someone needs community and peer support, it is the child whose trust was shattered by the molestation, and not the sex offender.

Marilyn Brennan
Santa Monica

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Judge warns 'theft etch' trial may be lengthy one

HONDA, from page 1

Wesley.

"This is going to be a long trial, does everybody agree to that?" Wesley asked the attorneys.

"Yes, your honor," they said.

Wesley then informed the defendants they have a right to a speedy trial and asked them if they were willing to move forward toward a trial.

Each of the defendants and their attorneys replied in the affirmative as the judge read out their names.

Alkasem, who had been absent from earlier proceedings, attended Monday's arraignment and joined in the not guilty plea.

Alkasem discovered an arrest warrant had been issued in his name while trying to apply to work at an out-of-state car dealership. The general manager at the dealership refused to hire Alkasem and referred him to a recent Daily Press news article describing the case.

Alkasem, carrying the news articles to court on Monday, contacted the DA's Office and turned himself in.

"It's all over the place," Alkasem said. "I couldn't get a job anywhere."

Fred Friedman, an attorney representing Hussain, is in the process of filing a demurrer, a move that would request the court to throw out the charges against his client.

Friedman, present on Monday, wouldn't comment why he felt the case may deserve to be thrown out of court.

The DA's office launched an investigation into the dealership, owned by Sonic Automotive, in July 2002, after an employee tipped investigators off to the alleged scam. The dealership was raided by investigators, including FBI agents, who seized boxes of files from the finance and sales departments on Sept. 25, 2002.

Accomplices lied in wait before attack on beach

ASSAULT, from page 1

ple's beachfront home.

According to police, at about 8:40 p.m., the two were harassed by a man who got uncomfortably close and repeatedly asked to use Stanley's phone, before trading punches with Crooks.

Soon after, two other men ran up and hit Stanley, who dropped her friend's digital camera and her own cell phone. She sank to the ground and laid there in fetal position screaming, Crooks said.

"I was scared for her sake, first of all, because I didn't know their intentions," he said. "They hit me and so my natural reaction was to hit them back."

Crooks said he brawled with the three men before chasing them off, but not before they stole the camera and cell phone, valued at more than \$1,000.

Ever since, investigators and prosecutors have been sifting through files, computer records and other evidence to build their case.

The informant, James Alexandre, who worked as general manager at Honda of Santa Monica until April of 2002, wrote a letter to the DA's office detailing the allegations, which was received July 9, 2002. The next day, the investigation was launched.

Overcharges and fake charges for Low-Jack systems, and what was called a "California tire fee/doc fee," and "Touch of Class," "tint," and wheel locks also were part of the alleged scam, according to the complaint.

The 25-page complaint details 114 overt acts that the defendants allegedly took part in. There also are 24 additional counts that charge the defendants with grand theft of personal property exceeding \$400.

Hussain, 37, who was director of finance at the dealership from December of 2000 to June 2002, faces 25 counts related to conspiracy to defraud another of property.

Khaki, 38, who was finance manager from December 2000 to July 2002, faces nine counts related to conspiracy to defraud another of property.

Uersunthornwattana, 44, who was finance manager from January 2001 to August 2001, faces seven counts related to conspiracy to defraud another of property.

Yaralian, 39, named as a coconspirator in the complaint, faces five counts related to conspiracy to defraud another of property.

Alkasem, 43, also named as a coconspirator, faces six counts related to conspiracy to defraud another of property.

Holterhoff, 63, another coconspirator, faces two counts related to conspiracy to defraud another of property.

Crooks contends he chased the men to their car — a black Saturn station wagon — until they attempted to run him over with it.

According to Crooks, Los Angeles County lifeguards were treating Stanley upon his return. The police and several witnesses soon followed.

"It happened quick, so they (witnesses) didn't really have a chance to jump in," Crooks said. "Everyone was really cool and helpful."

According to the couple, Stanley sustained a gash above her eye, while Crooks walked away with a black eye and bruises to his back.

"We'll be smarter about it next time," Crooks said. "In retrospect, we weren't necessarily aware of our surroundings."

"We both consider ourselves pretty lucky."

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LOCAL



At their discretion: Leaders debate allocations

DISCRETION, from page 1

other teachers might be eligible to apply. City Councilman Richard Bloom wasn't present for the meeting.

Previous allocations by the City Council to support local students and teacher activities have stirred controversy in the past. While school advocates argue such practices are reasonable for a cash-strapped district, others say it's not necessarily City Hall's place to back the efforts of individual students and teachers.

According to Steve Stark, City Hall's finance director, the City Council is issued an annual allowance which elected officials can use at their discretion.

For fiscal year 2003-04, the City Council had \$75,500 in slush funds, spending \$27,500. Of that sum, the City Council spent \$25,000 to send students from Santa Monica High School to Vienna, Austria, so that they could participate in a music event.

For fiscal year 2004-05, the City Council spent \$68,000 of an available \$74,500. Of those expenditures, \$25,000 went toward sending students from Santa Monica High School to Hawaii, while another \$15,000 was put toward Santa Monica College's Fourth of July celebration.

For fiscal year 2005-06, the City Council has \$74,500 at its disposal. So far, \$1,000 of that is set to be spent in order to send Kovaric to China, Stark said.

At the Oct. 25 meeting, the City Council offered their opinions on

McKeown's request. Meanwhile, City Attorney Marsha Moutrie — who seemed to have concerns about the parameters of McKeown's request — chimed in for a point of clarification.

"I believe you need to indicate there will be some public use when you spend public money," Moutrie said. "Such requests have been denied (in the past) because there's no public benefit."

City Councilman Bob Holbrook said he supported the allocation, in part, because he said he supports the school district's efforts.

It was a point that caused some wincing on the dais.

"You've put me in an awkward position," McKeown told Holbrook.

McKeown explained he was employed by the school district, and as such, any money he's requested that would benefit it may seem unseemly if not exercised in the proper manner.

Likewise, McKeown asked Holbrook to re-state for the record that the \$1,000 would go toward the John Adams Parent Teacher Student Association, a non-profit group which will allocate the money to Kovaric.

Holbrook obliged McKeown's request.

O'Connor and Shriver both expressed concern the allocation wasn't part of an anticipated public process in which other teachers might be able to participate.

"There might be several teachers who may be qualified for such funding. What about them?" O'Connor asked. "Did they know they can come to City Hall and

make such a request? Can they?"

O'Connor said it would be more prudent for City Hall to establish guidelines by which it may vet such requests publicly.

"I take the mayor's point quite seriously," Shriver said.

Kovaric, who was present at the City Council meeting, declined to speak about the planned trip. However, the council asked that she might make a brief presen-

tation upon her return to share her experiences with the public.

This past spring, the Santa Monica City Council signed an agreement in which City Hall will contribute \$6 million to local public schools annually for the next five years to help maintain the district's level of programming. City Hall also gives millions to the district in the form of in-kind services and other partnership agreements.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 3

The plays presented are Hoyt Hilsman's Back-Channel on Sunday, Nov. 6 at 2 p.m. and The Big Red Naugahyde Booth (Or, Would-be Elks) by Jennie Webb on Sunday, Nov. 13 at 2 p.m. Admission to both readings is free.

"Seedlings is one of the ways we stay alive, artistically, even after our season is over," said Theatricum Botanicum artistic director Ellen Geer. "Playwrights find their way to us, and we try to give them the support they need to get their works through one stage of growth, then onto stages here in L.A. and across the country."

The Seedlings program is run by playwright-in-residence Jennie Webb and is structured to focus on the needs of writers with scripts at various stages of development.

Directed by Geer, "Back-Channel" by Hoyt Hilsman is a political drama about a high-ranking American intelligence officer whose life and family is thrown into turmoil when he receives back-channel overtures from the Iraqi government prior to the U.S. invasion.

The play, whose characters include Vice President Dick Cheney, was inspired by reports of secret negotiations just before the Iraq war. Hilsman is an award-winning playwright and screenwriter whose plays have been produced around the country. His play "Accounting," a love story set in the midst of the Enron scandal, will premiere next year in Sydney, Australia. His teleplay Foggy Bottom, about his childhood in Washington, was honored at the 2005 Slamdance Film Festival.

The Big Red Naugahyde Booth (Or, Would-be Elks) is a play about acceptance and the cost of belonging.

Webb's plays, including "Remodeling Plans and her political comedy Tilting" — commissioned by the Theatricum — have been staged at theaters in Los Angeles and internationally and supported by organizations such as The Playwrights' Center in Minneapolis.

Initiated in the fall of 2002, the Botanicum Seedlings series acts as an adjunct to the Theatricum Botanicum's Summer Repertory Season, commencing yearly before the summer activities are underway with its winter readings, continuing with spring readings as the season opens, and culminating after the season winds down with a fall workshop production or readings.

The outdoor Will Geer Theatricum Botanicum is located at 1419 North Topanga Canyon Blvd. in Topanga, midway between Malibu and the San Fernando Valley. For further information, the public can call (310) 455-2322.

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



DEAR DORIE

Don't hate the player, hate the game

Dear Dorie,
My 5-year-old daughter has started using the word “hate” when she’s mad at me. I’m tempted to punish her for this as it’s really inappropriate and painful. How do I teach her not to say that?

— Verbal Dilemma Mama

Dear Mama,
It feels terrible to have your young child look you straight in the eye and yell something like “I hate you.” I’ve experienced it and it breaks your heart. From your perspective, she is negating all of your love and parenting, and trying to hurt you. From her perspective, this is the only way she can communicate how strong her feelings are and you are a trusted recipient. In other words, she knows she can yell this at you and you will still love her. It is this point that you must try to remember.
The next time this happens, push your internal pause button before reacting with punishment or painful words. Memorize these phrases or make up your own with similar intent, “I hear your words. You must be really angry with me. What’s going on?” No matter how many times your child lashes out at you verbally, stay calm.
When both you and your child are settled down, explain that certain words are not appropriate. With a 5-year-old, you can write down new ideas for explaining your feelings. Follow her lead and add your own ideas. Teach her that words can be painful.
Finally, there are some great books about experiencing and expressing feelings at your local library.
Your ultimate message should be that it is OK to have these feelings and there is a way to express them without hurting Mommy. Good luck.

— Dorie

(Submit your questions to “Dear Dorie” at meek@smmusd.org, or call (310) 452-6132)

What’s in a name?

By Daily Press staff

There are the Apples, Cocos and Frances Beans, but traditional names are making a comeback as well. Regardless of whether you chose your baby after your grandmother or make something up, you will eventually need to name your baby.
According to Saint John’s Health Center in Santa Monica, most parents choose a name while the mother and baby are still in the hospital. Filling out a birth certificate, including your baby on your insurance plan, and registering him or her for a Social Security number are all much easier to do in the hospital.
Even so, a surprising number of parents take their new baby home without a name, doctors say. It’s little wonder, considering the vast array of traditional and non-traditional names available. In her book, “The Baby Name Wizard,” national researcher and demographics expert Laura Wattenberg explores some prevalent trends in names today.

Traditional names and their variations
In the 1950s, names like Robert, Carol, Linda and William were highly popular. The girls’ names were short to begin with, and the boys’ names could easily be shortened to become Bob or Bobby, Bill or Billy.
Today, Carols and Lindas are not as common, but Robert and William are back in the top 10. These little boys, however, are no longer shortening their names. Instead they join the Henrys and James on the playground, leaving Hank and Jim and Bill and Bob to their fathers. In parallel, little girls are also bearing longer names. Jennifer and Abigail have regained popularity, and are seldom shortened to diminutives.

Ethnic heritage
In the early 1900s, immigrants to America were quick to shed their traditional names. Seans became Johns, Wilhelms became Williams, Emmets became Edwards, and Annelises and Hannahs became Anns. Today, names that reflect a cultural heritage — even if it isn’t your own — are popular.
Sean is a favorite name, as are Liam, Jacob and Dillon.

African Americans, many of whose ancestors were forcibly renamed upon arriving in America, began adopting African names in the 1970s, following the Black Power Movement. These names have remained popular.

Girls are returning to Annelise and Hannah.
African Americans, many of whose ancestors were forcibly renamed upon arriving in America, began adopting African names in the 1970s, following the Black Power Movement. These names have remained popular.

Name forecast
Mary and John have had their ups and downs, but they remain the most consistently popular names throughout the ages. With thousands of names available — and the ability to make up a name if wanted — many parents find it easiest to stick to the classics, or name their baby after a family member.
A forecast of popular girl names includes: Ainsley, Annalise, Willow, Susannah and Estella. Boy names include: Asher, Jude, Declan, Emmett and Hudson.
Regardless of what name you choose for your baby, it is essential that you find a good pediatrician to help you keep them healthy and well. During pregnancy, even before names become an issue, it is good idea to begin interviewing doctors.

(To find a pediatrician (or any type of physician), log onto the Saint John’s Web site at www.stjohns.org. Select “Find a Physician” and respond to the computer prompts. Browsers can choose from a wide range of specialists, which are then sorted by location, gender and language. The service instantly refers patients to one of Saint John’s experienced and caring physicians.)

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FRI. & SAT., NOV. 4 & 5

THE WIZARD of OZ BALLET by the LA Youth Ballet Theatre
7:00 p.m. Friday, 2:00 & 7:00 p.m. Sat. Enjoy this jitterbug version of Dorothy's adventures over the rainbow. \$15 adults, \$10 children. Madrid Theatre, 21622 Sherman Way, Canoga Park, 818-347-9938.

SAT., NOV. 5

AUTUMN FESTIVAL -9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. The Aquarium of the Pacific, Long Beach, celebrates the cultures of Japan, China, Korea and the Philippines with crafts, music, dance, demos and art. Featuring taiko drums, martial arts, origami and feng shui. Free with admission: \$18.95 adults, \$10.95 kids 3-11, free for under 2. 100 Aquarium Way, Long Beach, 562-590-3100.

HARRY POTTER VIDEO FILMMAKING WORKSHOP – 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Learn the art of video filmmaking including scene writing, cinematography, directing, editing, lighting, acting for the cameral and other aspects. Ages 7-12, \$290 for two days. Kids on Stage, Crossroads School, 1737 21st St., 314-0035, www.kidsonstage.com.

SUN. NOV. 6

SUNDAYS at the SKIRBALL CULTURAL CENTER

1:15 – 1:45 p.m. – Hear stories read by actors from BookPALS. November's theme is "Tales from Near and Far." Ages 3 and up. FREE! 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. – ARCHAEOLOGY ADVENTURES – learn about the ancient Near East and handle actual pottery shards. Expeditions to outdoor dig depart hourly, weather permitting. All ages. FREE with admission. \$8 ages 12 and up, free for kids under 12. Skirball Cultural Center, 2701 Sepulveda Blvd., 440-4636.

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. Nov. 1 – The Weather Man starring Nicolas Cage, Michael Caine and Hope Davis. Comedy-Drama, 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.

Current 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 –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. Current 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.rhythmachild.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, current session thru 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. Current session thru 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 – 10:00 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.childsplayonline.net

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

Planetarium Show at SMC's John Drescher

Planetarium, 7:00 p.m. - Night Sky Show, 8:00 p.m. – featured program. \$5 adults, \$4 children. Pico and 17th St., 434-3000.

Classes

YWCA – A Place for Parents –Toddler & Me Class - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. – 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.santa-monicyoga.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

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

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

Precious Prints – Ceramic Heirlooms for a Lifetime

Second Saturday every month at The Pump Station, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Contact Kristan Ritchie at 310-802-8013 or visit [\[ciousprintsstudios.com\]\(http://ciousprintsstudios.com\) for more info.](http://www.pre-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

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 parking 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

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

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

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STATE BRIEFS

Catching red eye proves elusive for gator wranglers

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Reggie is probably getting very sleepy in chilly Machado Lake. Gator wranglers have all gone home until spring because Harbor City’s elusive alligator Reggie will likely be hibernating as temperatures fall. But Los Angeles Zoo officials haven’t completely given up on catching Reggie this year.

Zoo reptile curator Russ Smith spotted the gator swimming in the lake late last week. “I saw those nice, red eyes looking at me. We’ll go out (this week) again to take another look,” said Smith, noting alligators hibernate from October to March.

But unseasonable 80-degree temperatures forecast with the arrival of more Santa Ana winds may allow his capture.

“If we do have the chance, we’ll go ahead and see if we can net him or snare him,” Smith said. “We would hope that the warm weather will bring him out and we’ll have a chance.”

Once the alligator goes into hibernation, Smith said, “We don’t really expect to see much of Reggie until spring.”

Zoo keepers continue to maintain a regular watch on the 53-acre lake in Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park.

Guilt-stricken cabbie admits to striking man

By The Associated Press

REDONDO BEACH — Two hours after a taxi struck and severely hurt a 70-year-old man on a bicycle, a cabbie telephoned police and said he wanted to surrender, authorities said.

The Torrance bicyclist, whose name was withheld, was hospitalized at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center in critical condition after being struck Sunday morning by a taxi making an illegal U-turn on Harbor Drive, investigators said.

Wilfredo Oswaldo Ortega, 24, of Los Angeles sped away after the bicyclist was hit, police Sgt. Wayne Windman said. Ortega was chased by witnesses, and he crashed the cab into a light pole in Hermosa Beach, the sergeant said.

“At that point he abandoned his car, which we recovered,” Windman said.

Two hours later, Ortega called Redondo Beach police and turned himself in, Windman said. The incident is being investigated.

First responders have trouble going with the flow

By The Associated Press

OXNARD — Heavy traffic in this rapidly growing city is hampering Fire Department and ambulance response times.

“Obviously the amount of cars on the road affects how fast we can travel,” Battalion Chief Brad Windsor said.

A report given to the City Council last week provided a 10-year forecast of fire-fighting services and showed heavy traffic, narrow streets, speed bumps and cars failing to yield to sirens and flashing lights were increasing problems.

Oxnard is expected to grow from its current population of 188,849 to about 250,000 in 2020.

Response times are measured against a national firefighting standard that calls for the first truck to arrive at an emergency within five minutes of a dispatch call at least 90 percent of the time.

In 2001, Oxnard firefighters achieved that standard on 70.4 percent of calls. In 2004, it dropped to 66 percent.

The so-called “deployment issues” — heavy traffic, narrow streets, speed bumps or cars not yielding to fire trucks — occurred in 13 percent of calls in 2001. In 2004, that number increased to 17.3 percent.

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High Court will mull over immigrants' case

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court agreed Monday to clarify the rights of longtime illegal immigrants to seek permission to stay in the United States.

Justices will decide if a provision in a 1996 federal law that tightened restrictions on illegal immigrants applies to people who were already in America when the law took effect.

The law says that once someone illegally re-enters the United States after being deported, they have limited options to become legal residents.

The high court will hear the case of a longtime Utah resident, Humberto Fernandez-Vargas.

The court's decision will affect many people — perhaps hundreds of thousands of immigrants, Washington lawyer David

Gossett told the justices.

Fernandez-Vargas has lived in America since the 1970s. He was deported several times, most recently in 1981. Since then he has been a model citizen, Gossett said in court papers, marrying an American, running his own trucking company and fathering a son who is now a teenager.

In 2001 he filed paperwork with the government to become a legal resident. Citing the 1996 law, however, officials arrested him while he was being interviewed about his visa petition, and later sent him to Juarez, Mexico. His family still lives in Utah.

Solicitor General Paul Clement said that immigrants do not have grounds to complain that the restrictions are unfair, because they broke the law in re-entering the United States.

Japanese panel takes step toward resumption of U.S. beef imports

BY MARI YAMAGUCHI

Associated Press Writer

TOKYO — Japan took a step toward resuming imports of American beef Monday when a government panel ruled the risk of mad cow infection in U.S. beef is extremely low if proper precautions are taken.

The panel on mad cow disease forwarded its report to the full Food Safety Commission, which is expected to consider it on Wednesday.

Japan banned U.S. beef in December 2003 after the discovery of the first U.S. case of the bovine illness. At the time, Japan was the most lucrative overseas market for U.S. beef, and an increasingly impatient Washington has pushed hard for a resumption of the trade. Last week, 21 U.S. senators introduced legislation that would force President Bush to impose tariffs on Japan if it does not lift the ban.

"Based on the assumption that all precautions are taken as requested, we consider the difference in risk between U.S. and Japanese beef to be extremely small," panel Chairman Yasuhiro Yoshikawa said, reading the report to his colleagues.

News reports say the decision will lead to a resumption of imports of beef products from U.S. cows younger than 21 months old as early as the end of this year. No case of mad cow has ever been discovered in animals of that age.

Yoshikawa, however, urged Japanese officials to keep a close eye on U.S. safety measures to make sure they are sufficient, and warned that any lapses should trigger a resumption of the import ban.

"Imports must be stopped if there is a concern of a risk to humans," he said.

Approval by the Food Safety Commission will not automatically lift the

ban, however. First, the health and agriculture ministries will hold a month of public hearings on beef safety before the government will make a decision.

Agriculture Minister Shoichi Nakagawa, appointed Monday in a Cabinet reshuffle, signaled a decision was still down the road.

"We will move ahead step by step by taking the necessary procedures, considering the safety of food and seeking the understanding of the people before making a final Cabinet decision," Nakagawa said after assuming his post.

Before resuming imports, the ministries are expected to send inspection teams to the United States to check whether U.S. beef meets Japanese standards such as having risk materials like brains and spinal cords removed, Kyodo News agency reported.

Japan has tested every domestic cow for the disease since its first case in 2002, and initially demanded that the United States do the same. Japan has found 20 domestic cases of the disease so far.

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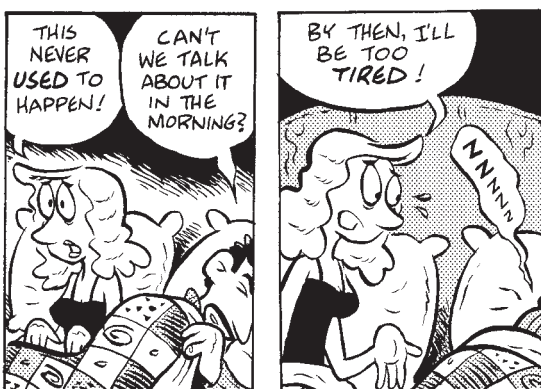
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Governor in for long haul, completes marathon

By The Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Gov. Mike Huckabee has completed the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, D.C. — his second 26.2-mile race since switching to a healthier lifestyle two years and losing 110 pounds.

Huckabee crossed the finish line Sunday in 4 hours, 37 minutes and 27 seconds, a minute faster than when he completed the Little Rock Marathon in March.

“The inspiration of having all those Marines around the route, starting at Arlington National Cemetery, realizing the incredible sacrifices people have made so that I could run through the streets of Washington,” Huckabee said after he finished. “It was incredible. I couldn’t give up.”

Huckabee’s dramatic weight loss after he started a diet and exercise regimen in May 2003 has put him in the spotlight as a champion of healthy eating and living. Now he is weighing a run for president in 2008.

His pet project, Healthy Arkansas, aims to reduce the state’s obesity, tobacco use and physical inactivity. As president of the National Governors’ Association, a role he took over this year, Huckabee expanded the initiative to Healthy America. Huckabee said that he’s going to try to complete two marathons a year. He said he chose the Marine Corps Marathon because the race director personally asked him to run.

PARIS — Gerard Depardieu told a newspaper that he’s ending his film career — and swears he wasn’t drunk when he said it.

“I’m in the process of stopping filming,” the Academy Award-nominated actor was quoted as saying in weekly *Le Parisien Dimanche*. “I’m a guy who’s leaving! A guy who’s not drunk. For once.”

Depardieu, one of France’s most prolific actors, was speaking on the set of an upcoming French film and is

scheduled to appear in a new installment of the “Asterix” series next year, the newspaper said.

But he insisted his career will soon be over.

“I have nothing to lose,” the 56-year-old star said. “I have done 170 films. I have nothing left to prove. I am not going to hang on like a jerk.”

Depardieu was a leading French actor of the 1980s and 1990s with such hits as “Green Card,” “Jean de Florette” and “Cyrano de Bergerac,” for which he was nominated for an Oscar.

NEW YORK — Before her version of “The Apprentice” began, Martha Stewart thought she was saying “you’re fired” to Donald Trump.

While “The Apprentice: Martha Stewart” hasn’t done well in the ratings, Stewart initially had much higher hopes — even that her NBC show would eclipse Trump’s original.

“I thought I was replacing The Donald,” Stewart says in the Nov. 14 issue of *Fortune* magazine, on newsstands Nov. 7. “It was even discussed that I would be firing The Donald on the first show.”

When did Trump learn that she intended to bump him off his own show? “I don’t think he ever knew,” Stewart tells the magazine.

Instead, Trump remained for a fourth season, and he has recently suggested that his show has been diminished by Stewart’s. Trump’s “Apprentice” has been averaging around 10 million viewers a week, down 4 million from last season. Stewart’s “Apprentice” is drawing closer to 7 million viewers.

“I think there was confusion between Martha’s ‘Apprentice’ and mine, and mine continues to do well and ... the other has struggled very severely,” Trump said recently on a radio program. “I think it probably hurt mine and I sort of predicted that it would.”

Stewart also reveals in *Fortune* another unrealized

business plan: to buy Kmart. In 2002, while the retail giant was going bankrupt, Stewart floated the idea — dubbed “Kmartha” — of buying the company, which sells her Martha Stewart Everyday brand.

Stewart, 64, also says she plans to sell Turkey Hill, her famous Westport, Conn., home. “I hardly ever go there anymore. I don’t miss it.”

After serving five months in jail for lying about a 2001 stock sale, which was followed by nearly six months of house arrest, the lifestyle guru says she feels resilient.

“I have learned that I really cannot be destroyed.”

TOKYO — Helena Bonham Carter and Kichitaro Negishi were among the winners at the Tokyo International Film Festival.

Negishi’s “What the Snow Brings,” which portrays the lives of two brothers in Japan’s northern island of Hokkaido, won the \$100,000 Tokyo Sakura Grand Prix award Sunday for best film. Negishi and lead actor Koichi Sato also bagged top prizes.

“I wanted to portray the family, which is something of a tradition in Japanese film,” Negishi said in his acceptance speech.

Hou Hsiao Hsien, a Taiwanese director whose 1998 film “Flowers of Shanghai” depicted life in a 19th-century Shanghai brothel, was awarded a special prize named after the late Japanese film director Akira Kurosawa. Jin Yaqin and Bonham Carter were named best actresses. The film “Conversations with Other Women,” in which Carter starred, also received a special jury award.

Chinese director Zhang Yimou and “Memoirs of a Geisha” actress Kaori Momoi were among those who handed out the prizes in a glitzy finale held at Roppongi Hills, a futuristic entertainment complex in central Tokyo. About 267,000 people attended the festival, organizers said.

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Start this tender annual indoors two to three weeks before you intend to transplant outdoors. Herb nurserymen recommends waiting until night temperatures are above 55°F and not mulching until the soil is thoroughly warmed up. Basil likes a fertile soil, though it tolerates a wide range of pH (4.5 to 6.5). Although some folks insist that the flavor is better if basil isn't fertilized, Basil grows, tastes and looks better if it's fed continually throughout the entire vegetative cycle. Supplemental nutrients and irrigation can double yields.

Like most herbs, basil has few pests. Japanese beetles can easily be kept off with pyrethrum, which derived from chrysanthemum flowers. If slugs are a problem on new transplants, try using neem oil or a barrier of copper flashing .

A devastating disease, fusarium wilt of basil, reached North America via infected seed in the 1990s. Symptoms include sudden wilting and leaf drop, accompanied by dark streaks on the stems, usually in weather above 80°F. If you notice the symptoms, quickly dig up the infected plant, along with all soil around the roots, and discard it. If part of your garden becomes infected, avoid spreading the disease by moving soil around on your tools or tiller, and consider growing your basil in containers.

Basil is also susceptible to a few bacterial rots that show up on stems or leaf clusters, usually in cool, wet weather, in winter greenhouse production, or late in the season. Planting in well-drained organic medium, spacing plants so they dry out after they're watered, and practicing good garden sanitation are the keys to control.

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