

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO
34 38 40 44 46
Meganumber: 18
Jackpot: \$32 Million

FANTASY 5
13 15 24 25 34

DAILY 3
Daytime: 9 6 6
Evening: 9 8 1

DAILY DERBY
1st: 06 Whirl Win
2nd: 10 Solid Gold
3rd: 01 Gold Rush

RACE TIME: 1:49.12

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

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

In Fargo, N.D., in September, Justin W. Fraase enthusiastically called the police to tell them that he had a videotape that would prove that the woman who had a judicial stay-away order against him actually wanted him back. The tape was of the two having sex, and when authorities viewed it, they realized that, for one thing, the sex itself violated the judicial order and, second, the woman appeared not to be enjoying herself at all. (Indeed, she later said that Fraase had coerced her, and he was charged with three felony counts relating to the assault and the violation of the stay-away order.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 347th day of 2005.
There are 18 days left in the year.

On Dec. 13, 1862, Union forces suffered a major defeat to the Confederates at the Battle of Fredericksburg.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"A society in which men recognize no check upon their freedom soon becomes a society where freedom is the possession of only a savage few."

JUDGE LEARNED HAND
AMERICAN JURIST (1872-1961)

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The ties that bind



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

A litany of discarded shoes hang from electrical wires over Speedway, an alley in Venice. Urban legends exist on why people adorn the wires with wasted shoes. The theories on why this practice persists range from drug dealers marking their territories, to teens celebrating sexual milestones, to serving as beacons for low flying aircrafts.

Authorities look to stamp out schemers

BY RYAN HYATT
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — A couple has been arrested and charged in a mail fraud scheme that used a rented

Santa Monica mailbox to allegedly bilk hundreds of thousands of dollars in payments from victims. Maciej Noworyta and Brenda Chaidez Diaz were arrested at their Chino Hills home on Friday, Dec.

2, and taken to Los Angeles County Jail after the Santa Monica City Attorney's Office filed a 30-count criminal complaint against

See MAIL FRAUD, page 6

Council in a Big Blue state of mind

(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 CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — Elected officials are expected to spend nearly \$1

million tonight, mostly on fixing up Big Blue Bus operations. Just more than \$700,000 is expected to be allocated to the Big Blue Bus for work to be done on

bus transmissions, detailing services, body repair and painting, and cleaning up the bus yard.

See CONSENT, page 7

Citizens wary of raising the roof

BY RYAN HYATT
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — Just how far into the sky the new apartment buildings at the Civic Center extend is a point of contention among some citizens, who are raising their eyebrows at a proposal that would allow for an additional nine feet.

Elected officials are expected to approve an agreement tonight which will authorize a developer to oversee the creation of the Village, a development which will include housing in the \$120 million Civic Center project.

The Santa Monica City Council on Tuesday is expected to hear from city staff regarding its recommendation that the Related Companies of California be hired to oversee the construction of the Civic Center's Village. It's recommended the City Council choose Related — one of 16 project applicants — because the firm's proposal demonstrates an extensive analysis of the site's design opportunities, according to a memo from city staff.

Meanwhile, some residents have indicated they plan on speaking during the meeting about Related's proposal. They are concerned about a schematic option presented by Related which would allow Village building heights to increase from 56 to 65 feet, if the City Council allows it.

Overall, the Civic Center plan calls for the creation of parks, fountains, pathways, housing, and city service and cultural buildings to serve as the focal point of the city's public space.

In July, the City Council agreed to shoot for 325 total units to be created in the Village's three buildings, to be located near the future intersection of Ocean Avenue and

See CIVIC CENTER, page 6



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HOROSCOPE

Keep smiling, Gemini

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)

★★★ Take care of a gift or special token of affection before lunch. Highlight communication this afternoon. You might think you or someone else is speaking gibberish. Instead of reacting, work for clarity. Tonight: Hang out with a friend and share your day and general news.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Act in the morning, when you can do no wrong — well, nearly. Your smile is also exactly what you want. You can find out more than you originally anticipated. Confusion surrounds finances. Say no this afternoon. Tonight: Your treat.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★ You might be slow to get your day going. Caring evolves, especially this morning. Listen to someone who cares a lot but might not be able to communicate it. Do a better job of listening, even though you might not agree. Tonight: Keep smiling.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ This morning you hit the bull's-eye. Don't stall, but rather move quickly, as the afternoon will take on quite a different tone. You might be nervous and high-strung. Be ready to pull away and do your own thing. Tonight: Play ostrich.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ You handle what comes down the path well, especially this afternoon, when others seem to be losing it. Certainly you will be more inventive and creative than many. Laughter marks different situations. Tonight: Help others see the humor in what might be going down.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ See what is going on with someone at a distance. Make that call; don't hesitate any longer. You also might want to seek out some expert feedback. Do just that this morning. By midafternoon, you could feel as if you are in a pressure cooker. Tonight: Work late.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Work with a partner. He or she has a lot to share. Have an early lunch or late breakfast together. You are able to see life through another's eyes. You might be working with mixed messages this afternoon. Tonight: Take an overview.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ Review a situation carefully. Examine what has happened with a friend or loved one. Let go and allow someone else to run the show. Confusion surrounds a money matter. Allow others to express their individuality. Tonight: Don't do anything financial.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ You accomplish more than your share of work this morning. At the same time, something you say or a smile makes someone feel very good or on top of his or her game. You encounter a mix-up later on. Tonight: Sort through your invitations.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Your creativity comes forward, and you are able to see life from a more upbeat perspective. You might want to think through a decision carefully, especially if you are worried or uptight. Tonight: Find a way to relax.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ You might want to consider a family member or someone you live with this morning. What he or she wants needs to be a higher priority. A meeting in the afternoon won't go the way you expect. Tonight: Easy does it.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ If you can, make phone calls or reach out to someone you care about. Laughter helps you get what you want. Return calls in the morning, when you'll get more positive feedback. You might want to retreat this afternoon. Tonight: Happy at home.



AUDIT PENDING

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

RAND taps Brzezinski for sense of security

By Daily Press staff

Zbigniew Brzezinski, who was national security advisor to President Jimmy Carter and the principal architect of the Camp David Accords that resulted in the Egyptian-Israeli peace agreement in 1978, has been appointed chairman of the Santa Monica-based RAND Center for Middle East Public Policy Advisory Board

“Zbig’s experience as one of the world’s leading foreign policy thinkers, as well as his extensive knowledge of the key issues facing the Middle East, will help the RAND Center for Middle East Public Policy as it works to seek solutions to some of the most challenging problems facing the region,” said RAND President and CEO James A. Thomson. “I am honored to have him leading this board and look forward to working with him.”

The RAND Center for Middle East Public Policy focuses on research projects and programs that advance peace, promote mutual understanding and promote political, social, and economic development in the region. The center produced a three-volume study titled “Helping a Palestinian State Succeed” in April, and is working with the Palestinian Authority to assist it in implementing the report’s recommendations.

“RAND has done some truly innovative work on how to advance Israeli-Palestinian peace and I am happy to pitch in,” Brzezinski said.

Brzezinski is currently a counselor at the Center for Strategic and International Studies and Robert E. Osgood Professor of American Foreign Policy at the Paul Nitze School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University in Washington, D.C.

Brzezinski’s contributions to U.S. security policy span both government and academic sectors. In addition to serving as national security advisor from 1977 to 1981, Brzezinski was a member of the National Security Council Defense Department Commission on Integrated Long-Term Strategy from 1987 to 1988 and was a member of the President’s Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board under President George H.W. Bush from 1987 to 1989. He also served as co-chair of President Bush’s National Security Advisory Task Force in 1988.

Author of more than eight books, Brzezinski most recently published “The Choice: Global Domination or Global Leadership.” He is a past member of the board of directors of Amnesty International, The Atlantic Council, the National Endowment for Democracy, and the Council on Foreign Relations. In 2004, he served as co-chair of the Council on Foreign Relations-sponsored independent task force titled “Iran: Time for a New Approach.”

SNOW AND SURF REPORTS

CONDITIONS

DATA PROVIDED BY ONTHESNOW.COM

BEAR MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 12"-12"	LIFT HOURS 8:30am - 4:00pm	RUNS OPEN 3	LIFTS OPEN 2
CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Made, Machine Groomed, Hard Packed				

MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 24"-36"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 10:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 150	LIFTS OPEN 21
CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Groomed, Obstacles				

MOUNTAIN HIGH

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 12"-24"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 10:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 10	LIFTS OPEN 6
CONDITIONS: Machine Made, Machine Groomed, Hard Packed				

MT. BALDY

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 0"-1"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 0	LIFTS OPEN 0
CONDITIONS: N/A				

SNOW SUMMIT

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 12"-12"	LIFT HOURS N/A	RUNS OPEN 6	LIFTS OPEN 4
CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Made, Machine Groomed, Hard Packed				

SNOW VALLEY

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 12"-0"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 3	LIFTS OPEN 3
CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Made, Hard Packed				

JUNE MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 12"-24"	LIFT HOURS 8:30am - 4:00pm	RUNS OPEN 35	LIFTS OPEN 6
CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Groomed, Obstacles				

CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 60°

DATA PROVIDED BY WETSAND.COM

SWELL FORECAST (4-6FT)

Tuesday the 13th looks to have slightly smaller surf in the chest to shoulder high zone as the NW swell starts to back down.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

NW peaks in NCal today, tomorrow in SoCal...

NW swell being tracked for 18th-19th...

TIDE FORECAST FOR SANTA MONICA

MONDAY
LOW TIDE: 1:36PM -0.4FT N/A N/A
HIGH TIDE: 6:23AM 6.3FT 7:57PM 3.7FT

TUESDAY
LOW TIDE: 12:34PM 2.0FT 2:18AM -0.8FT
HIGH TIDE: 6:58AM 6.4FT 8:49PM 3.7FT

WEDNESDAY
LOW TIDE: 1:12PM 2.3FT 2:57PM -1.0FT
HIGH TIDE: 7:32AM 6.5FT 9:36PM 3.7FT

THURSDAY
LOW TIDE: 1:50PM 2.1FT 3:41AM -0.1FT
HIGH TIDE: 8:09AM 6.1FT 10:04PM 3.1FT

FRIDAY
LOW TIDE: 2:34PM 1.8FT 4:36AM 0.0FT
HIGH TIDE: 8:42AM 5.8FT 10:34PM 2.9FT

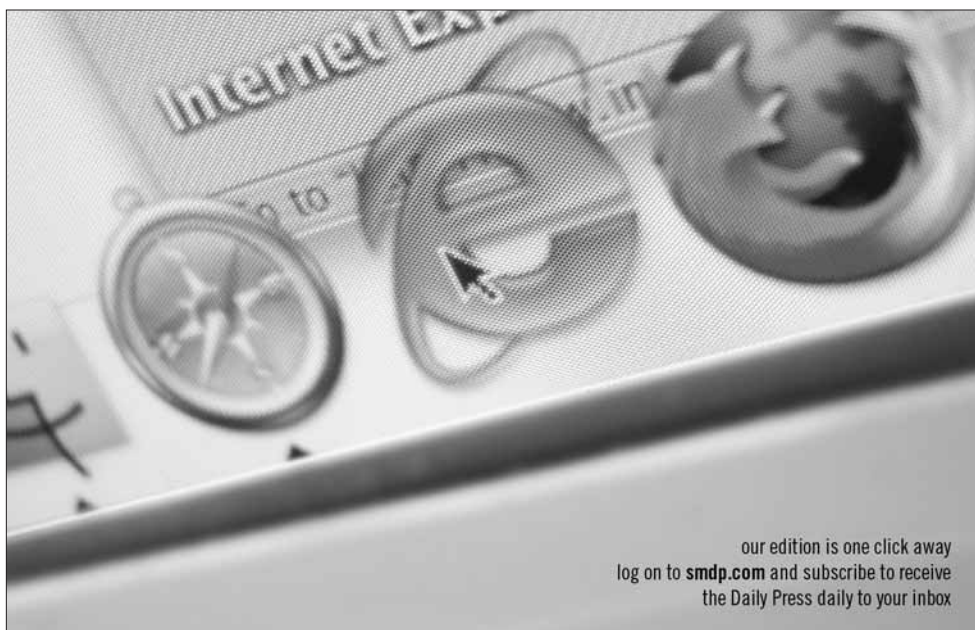
SURF AND SNOW QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS? EMAIL ALEX@SMDP.COM



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The QLine

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Dozens of tenants who were evicted from the Lincoln Place apartment complex by their landlord, Denver-based Apartment Investment Management Co., have set up a tent city to protest the loss of their affordable housing. The company, one of the largest real estate management companies in the country, plans to redevelop the land into condos. The ex-tenants and their supporters say they will stay put until the landlord agrees to renegotiate a settlement that will allow them to return to their apartments.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, **“Do you think a compromise can be reached between the tenants and their former landlord? If so, what form should it take?”**

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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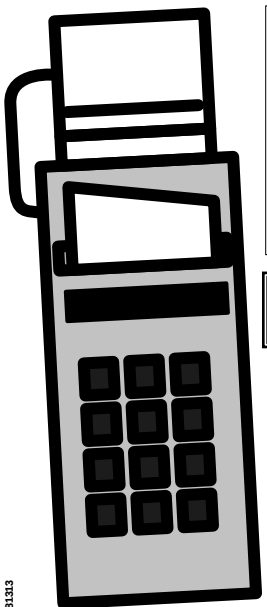
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OPINION

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Don't place 9/11 at Clinton's feet

Editor:

Mr. Jonathan Metzger should understand by now that some powerful people thrive on chaos and despair (SMDP, Dec. 8, page 4). In other words, they would rather see planes fly into buildings than watch Israeli settlers voluntarily leave the West Bank and Gaza Strip, link arms with Palestinians in the streets of Jerusalem.

Mr. Metzger has suggested that we should take into account Bill Clinton's and his cabinet's foreign policies prior to January 2001 as in effect being the roots of the current constant brutality that adolescents are being exposed to.

The first systematic attempt to establish the synthesis of eventual peace between Great Britain and Northern Ireland was made by President Clinton in 2000. Encouraged by this development, and his successful liberation of Yugoslavia without American and allied casualties, from genocide against Muslims by Croats, Mr. Clinton began the same process by constant Camp David talks between Israel's progressive Labor Party's equivalent to our Democrats Baruk and Arafat also in 2000 in spite of achievement envy by the GOP. The very fact that Ariel Sharon has dissolved the Zionist-based Likud party, that in 2000 and 2001 was equivalent to our Republicans, is ample proof of his culpability for the tragic events that unfolded here on Sept. 11, 2001. Had President Bush held Sharon's feet to the fire to let go of the Gaza and West Bank in January 2001, the fact that we had troops in Saudi Arabia would not have been enough of a reason for Osama bin Laden's Sept. 11 attempt to square a double standard, that President Clinton and his cabinet so wisely attempted during their tenure.

Frank Muller
Santa Monica

'Apparently' no one's paying attention

Editor:

In your Dec. 8, 2005 issue, a front page sidebar read, "John Lennon was shot ... by an apparently deranged fan." "Apparently?" Who writes these stories, the Rolling Stones fan club? I would say anyone who shot John Lennon was "mos def" deranged, to update the parlance.

Well, back to my victory in Iraq victory garden, if the City Council will allow.

Henry Rosenfeld
Santa Monica

GUEST COMMENTARY BY JOHN W. WHITEHEAD

Spirit of giving is all we need for Christmas

"Make us worthy, Lord, to serve those people throughout the world who live and die in poverty and hunger. Give them through our hands, this day, their daily bread, and by our understanding love, give them peace and joy."

— Mother Teresa

Money and greed dominate the Christmas season. This is especially true in the U.S., where the amount spent on Christmas gifts continues to rise. In 1994, \$55 billion was spent on Christmas. Just 11 years later, it is estimated that \$160 to \$200 billion will be spent on presents this Christmas season. That's more than two-thirds of the U.S. defense budget.

In the process, the real emphasis of Christmas — striving for peace and helping the less fortunate — has been lost in the vulgar haze and crass glitz of commercialism. And with the continual distractions thrown at us by the entertainment and media industries, it is little wonder that we fail to ponder the realities of a tragic world — one in which our fellow human beings are engulfed in chaos, pain, fear and death.

Indeed, 2005 began with a natural disaster of immense proportions. An Indian Ocean earthquake caused a great tsunami to engulf Southeast Asia, killing between 170,000 to 275,000 people. The actual death toll may never be known due to the amount of bodies swept out to sea.

Then there was the massive earthquake that occurred in Pakistan this past October. The official death toll is now over 88,000 and rising. Nearly 3.3 million have been left homeless, and approximately 4 million may die as temperatures drop in the snowy, mountainous terrain where it occurred. Already, 2,000 to 3,000 people have had limbs amputated because their injuries could not be treated in time. And in many affected areas, the stench is overwhelming because so many dead bodies have yet to be removed.

The famine in Niger, West Africa, due to a shortage of rain at the end of the 2004 season, locust damage, high food prices and chronic poverty, is so severe that anywhere between 2.4 million and 3.6 million people are at risk. Around 3.3 million people will be affected by this food shortage, including 800,000 children in Niger, where starvation and poverty are rampant. According to the United Methodist Committee on Relief, every 30 seconds a child in Africa dies of hunger.

AIDS is a disease that affects 34.3 million people around the world, with 24.5 million living in Africa. Nearly 19 million people have already died from AIDS. In 1999 alone, 2.8 million people died from AIDS, with 85 percent of the deaths in Africa. The U.S. Census Bureau projects that AIDS deaths and the loss of future population from the deaths of women of child-bearing age means that by 2010, sub-Saharan Africa will have 71 million fewer people than it would otherwise. And by 2010, an estimated 40 million AIDS orphans will be

living in Africa.

Inhumane regimes still dot the globe. There are human rights violators such as China, which are in part propped up by American corporations. Then there are the evil empires like North Korea, which have an overarching policy of atrocious human rights abuses. For example, the prison camps in North Korea hold between 150,000 to 200,000 inmates for political reasons. Pregnant women inside these camps reputedly either have forced abortions or the newborn child is killed. In some camps, former inmates say the annual mortality rate approaches 25 percent.

The ongoing conflict in Darfur, Sudan has caused an unbelievable loss of life, with the risk of genocide becoming frighteningly real. Though mostly ignored, the UN has called it one of the world's worst humanitarian crises. Since the war began in 2003, approximately 400,000 people have died from starvation, disease and the conflict surrounding them. Another 2.5 million have been forced to flee their homes, and there is a constant threat of famine.

War always exacts a heavy price. Consider Iraq, where living conditions of the average Iraqi have greatly declined since the American occupation. Illiteracy, malnutrition, unemployment and loss of power and water are some of the major problems. But it is the children who are affected the most. Over one-quarter of children 6 months to 5 years old are malnourished — with many starving.

Americans live in a country where even disasters such as Hurricane Katrina, as devastating as they are, are minuscule compared to the pain and suffering of other countries. And contrary to much of the world, we still have the freedom to attend religious services and disagree and protest against injustice. But our priorities often become muddled. This is no more so than with those who profess to practice Christianity. Televangelists, plush churches and pastors who live in mansions, preaching the prosperity doctrine of accumulating wealth, betray the message of Christ — that is, eschewing storing up wealth and helping the poor and oppressed. As Christ told the rich young man who sought to be his disciple: "Go sell what you have and give to the poor and you'll have treasure in heaven. And come follow me."

As we gather together this Christmas, some of us will read the Christmas story, which epitomizes the spirit of giving and of offering hope for humanity, to our children. If we take it seriously, it should divert focus from the greed that rules over us during the holidays.

As Mother Teresa once said: "When a person dies of hunger, it has not happened because God did not take care of him or her. It has happened because neither you nor I wanted to give that person what he or she needed."

(Constitutional attorney and author John W. Whitehead can be contacted at johnw@rutherford.org.)

GOOD THING YOU RECYCLE YOUR PAPER...
CHANCES ARE YOU'RE READING IT AGAIN.



Santa Monica Daily Press





Sugar plum sightings rare in LA Christmas



ANY DAY IN LA

BY HEIDI MANTEUFFEL

Right around the 13th of December, all things holiday are brought upon us in mass quantities. The classic Christmas songs are played nonstop on the radio, and classic movies monopolize the DVD player. School teachers have their children recite famous Christmas verses for loving parents and drag along friends of the family.

Although, I have to say, I attended one of these so-called Christmas recitals and it's nothing I remember learning as a kid. Here's the version of "The Night Before Christmas," this LA teacher taught to her third-graders:

'Twas the night before Christmas and all through LA,

Not a Hummer was stirring, not even a Protégé.

The freeways were stopped at all mergers with care.

The off ramps, the on ramps — not a soul could get anywhere.

The children were nestled all snug in their beds

With visions of PSP 3's dancing in their heads.

Mama in her Uggs and I in my Von Dutch hat

Had just settled on getting Joaquin a pilates mat.

When out on the 10 there arose such a clatter,

I looked up from the diamond-studded leather wheel to see what was the matter.

I rolled down the automatic windows as fast as they could.

Dismantled the anti-theft alarm, and opened the BMW series 5 hood.

When what to my Coffee Bean espreso-laid eyes should appear,

But Britney Spears and eight tiny reindeer.

She performed a quick set on the road's overpass —

My wife mumbled to me, "Apparently, fame is catching up to her fast."

More rapid than eagles she ripped off a layer of clothes.

"Someone's had a baby," a reindeer jeered, "and look how it shows."

"Now Dasher, Now Dancer — "and then a long pause."

"Aww, what the heck is y'all's names, and where's Santa Claus?"

"He couldn't come tonight, Brit. He has his own gig."

Another reindeer added, "It's this thing called Christmas — it's pretty big."

"Well, no one put me on that VIP list."

"That's that new club on Sunset — I can't believe I got dissed."

With no response for the pop star, the reindeer took off.

"Y'all are so mean," Brit said, "but my pants are so soft."

While Brit scampered off to buy five iced mochas

My wife and I sipped our soy milk hot cocoas.

"We're never going to get Joaquin's palates mat at this rate," my wife said.

As we looked at the 405-10 merger, traffic completely dead.

But with a wink of my eye and a twist of my head,

My wife and I knew the solution with not a thing said.

She spoke not a word and went straight to work,

Clicking and scrolling my Treo, and turned with a jerk.

"Do you want overnight shipping?" she asked. I replied with a nod.

"I'll have them gift wrap it too — it's part of their job."

Two hours later, we found an off ramp and sped

Past Broadway, past Wilshire and went straight to bed.

I knew what would come next as we snuggled into our faux feather duvet.

"Marcus, we should have bought the dang thin on eBay."

Sure I clapped with the rest of the audience at the munchkins' production, but it certainly wasn't what I was expecting.

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

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LOCAL

City, developer debate height of apartments

CIVIC CENTER, from page 1

Olympic Drive. Of those, 30 percent, or approximately 110 units, would most likely be affordable, according to the City Council's earlier request. Councilmembers said they wanted to stay as closely as possible to the suggested 56-foot height limit on the Village buildings. Clear advantages would need to be explained to the City Council for development proposals which called for taller buildings.

Representatives from Related didn't comment on its proposal.

Andy Agle, City Hall's interim planning director, said on Monday there may be several benefits from developments that call for taller buildings.

In particular, increased heights may allow for more affordable housing units to be built for families. The City Council in the past has requested as many affordable apartments as possible. Two- and three-bedroom units take up more space, and added height would allow more of them to be built, Agle said.

Another benefit of various building heights would be enhanced visualization. Agle said varying heights may be more pleasing to the eye.

City Councilman Richard Bloom believes that any discussion related to increased building heights at tonight's meeting ought to focus on trying to provide the best possible architecture, since

he believes the design parameters have been adequate to provide the requested number of units.

"I don't think there needs to be a trade-off between building heights and the number of (affordable) units," Bloom said. "The project already called for approximately 500 units to be built, and we reduced that to 325.

"It might make sense to have one building a little higher or the other a little lower, which might enhance the project and quality of its architecture."

According to a staff report, there were several factors which attracted the attention of city staff to Related's proposal. One was the firm's environmental design vision. Related intends to use the latest technology to make the best use of resources used to support the Village. This vision includes solar panels; micro-turbines, which would produce electricity, heating, cooling and hot water; solid waste reduction technologies; storm water mitigation; gray water recycling; and building designs that maximize sunlight for heat, light, airflow and cooling.

Interim City Manager Gordon Anderson said staff also is requesting that the developer host community workshops regarding the site plans. The idea would be to provide residents with an opportunity to advise the developer on the Village's physical layout, including building heights.

Couple allegedly bilked \$20K from victims during one week

MAIL FRAUD, from page 1

the couple charging them with conspiracy, grand theft and false advertising.

The complaint is based on evidence which suggests at least hundreds of victims paid \$20 each to sign up for work stuffing envelopes at home. Noworyta and Chaidezdiaz have been accused of sending out false advertising to induce victims to send the \$20 to secure employment and then providing them with nothing more than worthless documents, according to the City Attorney's Office.

It's alleged the couple used a mailbox at the UPS Store at 1223 Wilshire Boulevard in Santa Monica to receive payments. According to the allegations, the couple was able to obtain hundreds of thousands of dollars per year for several years from victims. In a one-week period in October, the defendants' Santa Monica mailbox received more than \$20,000 in payments from more than 1,200 victims around the country.

If convicted, Noworyta and Chaidezdiaz face up to 22 years in jail and \$45,000 in fines each.

Last week, Noworyta and Chaidezdiaz were released on \$200,000 combined bail. As conditions of their release, Noworyta and Chaidezdiaz had to surrender their passports, were ordered to remain in Southern California and were prohibited from selling their real estate or motor vehicles, according to Adam Radinsky, deputy city attorney.

"Consumers should always be wary of so-called employment offers that require them to pay any money," Radinsky said. "If you're working for them, they should only be paying you."

Radinsky also warned that all solicitations – whether by mail, telephone, or e-mail – should be treated with healthy skepticism.

"If they contact you, and not the other way around, be very careful," Radinsky said.

Jerry Kaplan, attorney for the couple, said there's no question that Noworyta and Chaidezdiaz had a mail-order business. However, to his mind, the issue of whether or not advertising associated with that mail-order business was intended to misrepresent the services it offered would be a key issue hashed out in court.

If convicted, Noworyta's and Chaidezdiaz's penalties could include one year in jail and a \$2,700 fine for each of the 14 counts of grand theft; six months in jail and a \$6,500 fine for each of the 14 false advertising counts; and up to one year in jail and \$2,700 in fines for each of the two counts of conspiracy.

Radinsky said the City Attorney's Office became involved in the case after receiving at least three different complaints from victims of the alleged scam, beginning in September. Shortly after, the City Attorney's Office was contacted by federal investigators, who had begun their own investigation, Radinsky said.

The couple is alleged to have operated under a number of different names, including: Mayflower Publishing; Executive Publications; Ad-Ventures International; and Tri-Star Publishing. Both the City Attorney's Office and federal investigators are continuing to search for additional victims who may have made payments over the past year.

A pretrial conference is scheduled for Jan. 26 at the Los Angeles Airport Courthouse. No trial date has been set.



Czar costs included in tonight's consent agenda

CONSENT, from page 1

While another \$200,000 will be earmarked to pay former Los Angeles County Supervisor Edmund Edelman, the city's new homeless czar, by far the biggest expenditure tonight is City Hall's expected reinvestment of its bus fleet.

GUSSYING UP THE BUSES

Topping the list for the Big Blue Bus is an annual \$300,000 expenditure to hire three different companies at hourly rates of between \$32 and \$38 to repair buses that have been damaged in accidents. The services are "essential to preserve acceptable customer service levels," according to city staff. The companies that most likely will be hired are Carlos Guzman, Inc., Smith & Hartford Coach Works and

Westway Industries.

Next on the list is a contract with S&J Chevrolet, Inc. for \$190,000, which will include a year's worth of work to replace Allison transmissions on buses, plus applicable sales tax. The transmissions used in the Big Blue Bus fleet are usually overhauled at 300,000 miles, according to city staff.

The third expenditure is to hire UNISERVE Facilities Services Corp. for an annual contract of \$115,000 to detail buses on a regular basis. The interior and exterior of the buses will be cleaned and waxed to "maintain the award-winning appearance of the Big Blue Bus," according to city staff in a memo to the City Council.

The remaining expense relating to Big Blue is a \$100,000 annual contract with the Resource Collection, which will clean

the bus yard. The work includes cleaning the parking lot, repair shop, fuel island, bus wash and the warehouse at the bus yard.

All of the contracts provide two one-year renewal options and the contractors have agreed to comply with the city's living wage law, which mandates that its employees working for the city of Santa Monica be paid \$11.50 an hour.

THE COST OF A CZAR

It was announced last week that Edelman was hired as City Hall's homeless czar. He will have a one-year contract and will focus on seeking solutions to homelessness on a regional level — essentially to take the burden off of Santa Monica and find incentives for other nearby cities to help shoulder the problem.

City staff describe the timing of Edelman's hire as a "pivotal moment in which an effective regional approach will be achieved or missed." That's because a special panel of more than 80 Los Angeles leaders in early 2006 will present its 10-year plan to end homelessness in the region, and officials from the city and county of LA are reconsidering governance of homeless initiatives. The flow of Proposition 63 mental health funds to LA County also will commence, bringing new resources to bear on the dually diagnosed homeless, among other beneficiaries, according to city staff.

New City Manager Lamont Ewell, who was hired last month and will begin work in January, will oversee Edelman, whose contract may be extended for an additional six months, city staff said.

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STATE

STATE BRIEFS

Poor Behavior: Department may lose program

By The Associated Press

VENTURA — Probation officials may take over the offender drug treatment program, the Proposition 36 substance abuse service which diverts nonviolent drug offenders from jail into treatment.

The county grand jury said the program should be taken away from the Behavioral Health Department — saying the department was "lenient" and "ineffective" — and it now appears the Board of Supervisors is ready to put probation officials in charge.

Drug counselors in the Behavioral Health Department would still provide treatment, but the county Probation Agency would oversee and monitor the program. Four supervisors said they support the grand jury recommendation.

About 60 percent of California voters approved Proposition 36 in 2001, but critics of the Ventura County program said only a third of the thousands of drug offenders entering the program each year complete their sessions. The statewide rate is about the same.

"I think we can do better," Supervisor Linda Parks said. "I think we're seeing lots of people that haven't been fully monitored and aren't sticking with the program."

Parks said Ventura County would be one of the few in the state putting oversight under a law enforcement agency rather than one providing drug treatment.

Copping out: Strapped city mulls ditching police

By The Associated Press

SIERRA MADRE — The cash-strapped city is considering service cuts, including elimination of its Police Department.

Revenues are being overtaken by expenses and \$500,000 in expenses need to be trimmed, City Manager John Gillison said. Tough measures facing the City Council on Tuesday include a Sheriff's Department contract for police services and closure of the library.

"It's a very tough decision time," Gillison said, noting the budget is currently balanced. "The thing that's hard to accept is that it's not a disaster yet. We could certainly go for another year or two, but we can't go forever."

Draconian measures are needed in part because voters didn't approve the November ballot Measure F, a special parcel tax that would have bolstered annual revenues by more than \$1 million for paramedic services, equipment replacement,

See BRIEFS, page 9

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STATE BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 8

daytime Fire Department personnel and increased salaries for police officers.

The city's \$5 million annual budget is primarily based on property taxes, which have increased in recent years. But the state now takes a larger portion of property taxes so less money makes it into city coffers, Gillison said.

Additionally, contributions to the California Public Employees Retirement System have increased by more than \$1 million in the past two years, he said.

Make room in the pool

By The Associated Press

SANTA ANA — The chairman of the Orange County Transportation Authority wants Southern California freeway car pool lanes opened up to motorists driving alone during off-peak hours.

"The purpose of this idea is to help (relieve) congestion. Northern California is already doing it, and this should help spread traffic over all lanes and make it safer and free-flowing too," said Bill Campbell, who is also a county supervisor.

Campbell wants the authority's board to ask the California Department of Transportation examine regional carpool-lane policies and open the lanes to more motorists after the morning and evening commuter rush hours.

In addition, motorists would be allowed to go in and out of the car pool lane without regard to lane striping. At least five Northern California counties — Sacramento, Alameda, Santa Clara, Contra Costa and Marin — allow this flexibility. A few Southern California areas, including Highway 14 and 118, allow off-peak use by all motorists.

Brakes put on airport project

By The Associated Press

ONTARIO — A \$14 million security upgrade at Ontario International Airport has stalled.

A new perimeter fence and other security enhancements were detailed in 2002 by Los Angeles World Airports when the Ontario airport operator got a \$4.5 million federal grant for the project. A second grant for \$3 million was added in 2003 and airport commissioners approved final plans this year.

Construction has stalled, however, due to squabbling over costs. Two bids submitted in July estimated costs at about \$14 million, \$6 million higher than what the agency had initially expected.

"There are higher construction costs than we had anticipated," said Mark Massman, world airport's deputy executive director of project and facilities development. "The estimate we were comparing it to was out of date."

The project includes the replacement of eight miles of fencing around the airport as well as new security facilities at vehicle entrances to the air field and a new 20-foot wide perimeter roadway for security patrols.

Chief supports squad car cameras

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Police Chief William J. Bratton endorses a federal monitor's proposal to equip squad cars with video cameras despite the plan's \$25 million cost.

Bratton said it's necessary to spend money to save money.

"Is the city going to spend money to save money? That is how I envision it. Because you will save all this money on liability lawsuits," the chief said, noting the cameras could help the department emerge from its five-year monitoring by the federal government.

Video cameras in patrol cars was first proposed more than a decade ago by the Christopher Commission examination of the Rodney King beating.

The federal monitor overseeing department reforms in the wake of the Rampart corruption scandal said last week that the Police Department must do more to show that it is not biased toward minority groups and he recommended cameras in squad cars.

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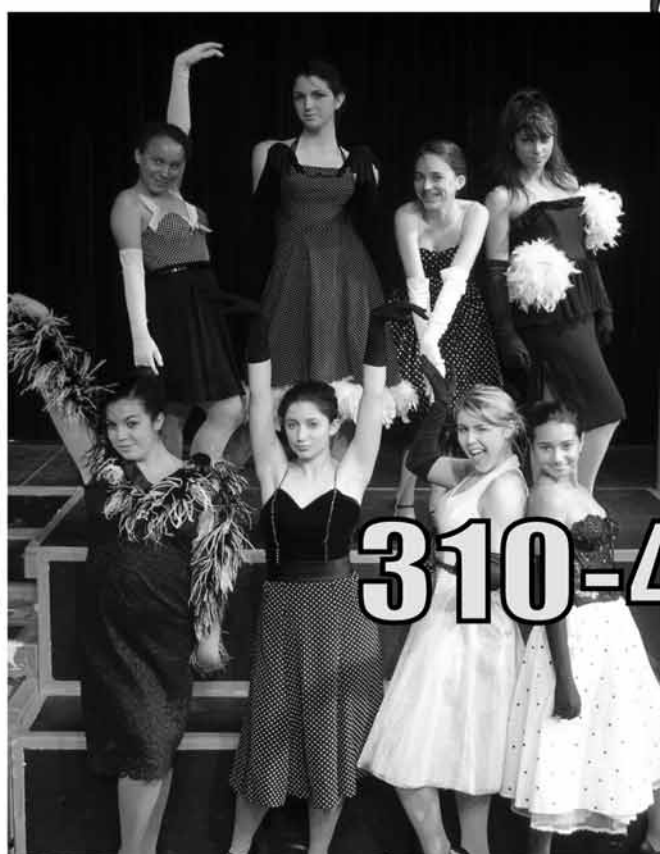


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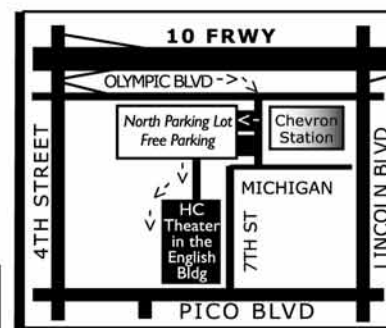
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DEAR DORIE

Just say 'no' to Christmas bling

Dear Dorie,

I have two young children and I am worried about celebrating the holidays with excessive demands for "stuff." Our relatives and friends are generous with their gifts and the kids seem to recognize that they can ask for specific items and get them just about every time. How do I control the madness?

— Holiday Homemaker

Dear Homemaker,

First, I want to congratulate you for being sensitive to the consumer patterns of young children. Based on my experience, I'm guessing your kids are about 4 and 5 years old. In holiday toy terms, this translates to Bionicles, Neopets, Barbies and a number of other interesting toys. Dangerous stuff if you want to teach a message of love and generosity. It's also just a tad early to get into the concepts of self-sacrifice and materialism. You can deal with those in a few years.

Let's start with helping your children identify the season as one of giving, not one of receiving. You can do this with gentle verbal reminders when the holidays are brought up like, "Yes, the holidays are coming. What are we going to give to Grandma this year?" Then follow-up with personal, home-made gift items versus commercial purchases.

You also can try suggestions of volunteerism as well. Take a look at local senior centers and faith-based organizations for opportunities to socialize or donate to those in need. Check with your preschool for charitable commitments (toy drives or food drives) and include your children in the process. The message here is giving of self versus giving toys. They can handle this as well.

Finally, just say "no." If they start emphasizing what they want and, my favorite, what they "need," keep the answer a firm but gentle, "no." Above all else, this example of moderation and control may teach them the most. 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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GUEST COMMENTARY BY JOEL FUHRMAN, M.D.

Recipes for your super child

Does your child's eating habits need saving? "Super-food" is coming to the rescue.

They came to earth with powers and abilities far beyond those of other foods. They fight a never-ending battle of health and the protection against future illnesses. Is it because of vitamins? Is it minerals? No, it's phytonutrients.

These strange visitors from what seems like another planet are the nutrients in contained in produce that most protect us against infections and prevent us from developing autoimmune disease or cancer later in life. Without these phytonutrients in our diet we are poorly protected from those villains placing us at the mercy of toxic drugs and a life of suffering with disease.

What are some of these phytonutrient-containing super-foods with these amazing super powers? Green vegetables, berries, beans, seeds, and tomatoes are some of the strongest super heroes.

We get made from what we eat. Without healthy foods as the building blocks of our cells we are destined for a life with medical tragedies. Yet in spite of all this recent nutritional information gleaned from the pages of scientific journals, our population is getting unhealthier, eating more poorly and our waistlines and medical costs are bulging beyond belief.

There is only one way to get your kids to eat lots of vegetables. Serve them for dinner, with no other foods to choose from. You can enjoy some delicious and nutritious vegetable main dishes. When your family has no other choices around to choose from, you will be amazed how many vegetables they will eat. Make vegetable dishes that taste great, make homemade fruit sorbet or fruit and berry shakes for desert. If possible, have your children help in the preparation and understanding of why these healthy foods are so important.

California Creamed Kale (serves 4-6)

- 2 lbs. raw kale
- cup raw cashew nuts

- cup soy milk
- 2 tablespoons onion flakes
- 1 teaspoon low-sodium powdered soup mix (optional)

Remove the thick bottom of the stems from the kale and place the leaves in a large pot with steamer. Steam 10 minutes, until soft. Remove from steamer and press the kale with a dish towel to remove excess water. Blend the remaining ingredients until smooth. Chop the kale, mixing it with the cream sauce as you chop.

Chocolate Lentils (serves 2-3)

- One can of unsalted lentils or lentils with bay leaves
- 3 pitted dates
- cup soy milk
- One tablespoon raw carob powder (Optional)
- One cup chopped plum tomatoes.

Blend dates with soy milk and carob to make cream sauce, and then mix it well with the can of lentils and the chopped tomatoes.

Cantaloupe Slush (serves 2-4)

- 1 cantaloupe
- 1 cup frozen blueberries
- 1 cup ice
- 6 - 8 dates

Blend the ingredients together in a high powered blender or food processor, until smooth. The same drink can be made with peaches or nectarines. Date sugar can be used instead of the dates.

(Dr. Fuhrman is a board certified family physician and healthy-food chef, specializing in nutritional medicine and author of "Disease-Proof Your Child." For more information visit DrFuhrman.com. Fuhrman's tips on children's health appears in the Santa Monica Daily Press every other Tuesday.)



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SPECIAL EVENTS

WED., DEC. 14, 8:00 p.m. - DECK THE HALLS HOLIDAY SING-ALONG
Families are encouraged to belt out favorite tunes of the season. Walt Disney Concert Hall, 151 S. Grand Ave., LA, \$10 - \$15, 213-972-3034

FRI. – SUN, DEC. 16,17&18 - DANCING in the WINGS

This show features dancers from the Debbie Allen Dance Academy and is based on the children's book of the same name written by Debbie Allen. The tale of a young girl becoming a ballerina despite obstacles features toe-tapping song and dance numbers with ballet and hip-hop. Expect kids to be dancing in their seats. UCLA Frured Playhouse, McGowan Hall, LA. www.tickets.ucla.edu or www.debbieallenacademy.com
Fri. – 7:00 p.m., Sat. – 2:00 & 7:00 p.m., Sun. – 2:00 p.m. Visit websites to confirm times as the schedule has changed. \$35 and \$15.

SAT. & SUN., DEC. 17 & 18 – 'TWAS the WEEK BEFORE CHRISTMAS

2:00 & 7:00 p.m. Yuletide celebration features songs of the season. Walt Disney Concert Hall, 151 Grand Ave., LA, \$37 - \$129, 213-972-3034.

SUN., DEC. 18 – HANUKKAH FAMILY FESTIVAL – 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

One of the biggest Hanukkah celebrations in LA features storytelling, music, dance, crafts and more. \$8, Skirball Cultural Center, 2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd., LA, 440-4636.

ALL ABOUT SANTA at the SANTA MONICA PLAYHOUSE

Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m. thru Dec. 18th , \$12.50 adults, \$10.50 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 2 for reservations, www.santamonicaplayhouse.com
Also Dec. 20 & 22 at 2:00 p.m.

SPIRIT of CHRISTMAS at the KODAK THEATRE

Dec. 18 – 27, various times (no performances Dec. 19 & 25)
An all-singing and dancing holiday spectacle with almost 50 cast members features Santa Claus, chorus girls and a menagerie of North Pole critters. Kodak Theatre, 6801 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood, \$25 - \$50, 213-480-3232. Use the code FAMILY to save 25% on four or more tickets.

MON., DEC. 19 – MESSIAH SING-ALONG – 7:30 p.m.

Don't miss your chance to sing along and recreate Handel's holiday tradition with the other audience members, expert soloists and organ and orchestra accompaniment. Walt Disney Concert Hall, 151 Grand Ave., LA, \$19 - \$59, 800-787-5262.

TUESDAY

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/reelmomms for details.

Storytelling

Main Library – Preschool and Toddler story-times will be held at the new Main Library beginning in January.
Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.
Cuentos Para Pequenos and Lap Time will begin again in January.
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. No stories Dec. 27.
Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St. – 310-392-3804.
Toddler Storytime, 10:00 and 10:30. Music, rhymes and stories for 2 to 3 year olds. Current session Nov. 8 – Dec. 13. Registration begins Dec. 14 for the Jan. session.
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.

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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 SM South 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 Jan. 4 – Feb. 8.

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 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 dance. 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 SM South 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 – Preschool and Toddler story-times will be held at the new Main Library beginning in January.

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. No stories Dec. 29.

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

Lap Time will begin again in January.

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 Groups

La Leche League of LA/Mar Vista – meets the 1st Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the Community Room of the Westchester Municipal Bldg., 7166 W. Manchester Ave., corner of Lincoln and Manchester. Call 310-390-2529 for info.

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 SM South Playgroups

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-playonline.net

Planetarium Show at SMC's John Drescher Planetarium, 7:00 p.m. - Night Sky Show, 8:00 p.m. - drop-in, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. 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

All About Santa at the Santa Monica Playhouse Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m. thru Dec. 18th , \$12.50 adults, \$10.50 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 2 for reservations, www.santamonicaplayhouse.com
Also Dec. 20 & 22 at 2:00 p.m.

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

Magiopolis – 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

All About Santa at the Santa Monica Playhouse

Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m. thru Dec. 18th , \$12.50 adults, \$10.50 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 2 for reservations, www.santamonicaplayhouse.com

Also Dec. 20 & 22 at 2:00 p.m.

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

Magiopolis – 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 SM South 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 – check back for details on Lap Time and Family Connections in Jan. 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

Colorado River states ponder how to stretch water supply

By The Associated Press

PHOENIX — The seven states that rely on the Colorado River for drinking water are looking beyond traditional approaches as they try to further stretch a supply already stressed by population growth and an ongoing drought.

In a letter to Interior Secretary Gale Norton, representatives of the seven states — Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada and California — outlined proposals for dealing with or averting shortages.

The focus is on three areas, including augmenting the river's flow, operating the river more efficiently by getting more usable water from the existing flow and finding better ways to manage the overall system.

Though it sounds simple, adding to the river's flow has been part of the West's long-range plan for the

Colorado since at least 1968.

The idea was included in the legislation that authorized the Central Arizona Project canal system, which delivers Colorado River water to Phoenix, Tucson and Pinal County.

That part of the law gathered dust because few of the states were using their full shares of the river for so long. But this year, Arizona and other river states concluded they were running out of options to avert shortages.

Among the possible sources of new water, the easiest and cheapest to try is cloud seeding: spewing silver iodide, or dry ice, particles into a storm to induce more rain or snow. The technology is more than 60 years old and scientists say it works, as long there are clouds and moisture to tap.

The best hope for increasing runoff on the Colorado is

to seed clouds over the river's headwaters in the high Rocky Mountains of Colorado.

Arlen Huggins, a research scientist at the Desert Research Institute in Reno, said cloud seeding is most effective in winter and at high elevations.

"That's where most of the water is wrapped up for stream flow," Huggins said. "Water supplies out here are very closely tied to how much snow you get in the winter."

The basic seeding technology is little changed since it was discovered in the late 1940s, but Huggins said scientists have learned much about when and where to inject the particles and which storms are most likely to produce extra rain or snow.

A cloud-seeding operation can increase moisture from a storm up to 10 percent in specific areas, though the results vary over a broader river or drainage basin.

Utah, which runs one of the oldest and largest cloud-seeding projects in the West, estimates it has increased runoff an average of 13 percent a year. This year, the state and its private partners will spend more than \$400,000 on cloud seeding across four drainage areas.

Colorado, New Mexico and Wyoming have also experimented with cloud seeding and operate projects on a smaller scale. Arizona has studied cloud seeding over the years.

Larry Dozier, deputy general manager of the Central Arizona Project and one of the people working on the seven-state proposal, said cloud seeding is only a stopgap solution and not one that could cover all shortages in dry years.

He wants the states to explore even more innovative ideas, such as building a water desalination plant on the Gulf of California.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

NATIONAL



U.S. lifts two-year ban on pricey Japanese beef

BY LIBBY QUAID
AP Food and Farm Writer

WASHINGTON — As U.S. beef producers readied their first shipments to Japan in two years, the Bush administration on Monday lifted its ban on expensive Japanese beef.

The discovery of mad cow disease in both nations had prompted the trade restrictions.

Japan's action has greater financial significance. The country's market, the most lucrative for U.S. beef, was worth \$1.4 billion before mad cow disease was discovered in the U.S. in December 2003.

The U.S. appetite for Japanese beef, primarily expensive Kobe beef, is more of a niche market worth an estimated \$808,000 annually.

The first American beef shipment is planned for next weekend, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association said Monday. The group is rounding up steaks and other products from meat processing plants for a shipment that will leave Denver on Saturday.

"We're confident consumers and the Japanese government will find it goes above and beyond their expectations," said Illinois cattle rancher Jamie Willrett, chairman of NCBA's international markets committee.

Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns said Japanese inspectors will be visiting plants to certify them in the coming days.

"We know of many plants across the United States who have been anticipating this day," Johanns said from Monday Hong Kong, where he is participating in global trade talks. "They are prepared to deal with the export verification requirements, and so I'm optimistic. I think the industry will adjust very quickly."

In an interview Sunday night with The Associated Press, Johanns said, "I think

we'll see plants that are given the green light yet this week."

U.S. officials called on other Asian countries, including Taiwan, South Korea and Singapore, to follow Japan's lead.

"Now 70 countries are open to U.S. beef," said U.S. Trade Representative Rob Portman, who was with Johanns in Hong Kong. "I encourage other trading partners to move forward expeditiously."

Japan will allow beef from animals under 20 months of age, which opens the market to 94 percent of U.S. beef, Johanns said. The age restriction is because infection from mad cow disease is believed to spread with age.

Japan and dozens of other countries banned U.S. beef after mad cow disease was confirmed in a cow in Washington state that had been imported from Canada. U.S. officials in June confirmed a second case in a Texas-born cow.

Since 2001, the U.S. has imposed a ban on beef from Japan, which has found 21 cases of mad cow disease. The Agriculture Department said Monday morning it will lift the ban to allow whole cuts of boneless beef from Japan under certain conditions. That allows expensive Japanese Kobe beef, prized for its intense marbling of fat, to be sold in the U.S.

"We are ready for that market to open," Johanns said during a press conference in Hong Kong at the World Trade Organization meeting.

Mad cow disease is the common name for bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or BSE, a degenerative nerve disease. In people, eating contaminated meat products is linked to a rare but fatal disease called variant Creutzfeldt Jakob disease. More than 150 people have died of the disease, most of them in the United Kingdom, where there was an outbreak in the 1980s and 1990s.

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Immigration booms as Congress seeks control

BY STEPHEN OHLEMACHER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Immigration — both legal and illegal — continues to boom as Congress grapples with how to better control America's borders.

A new report by the Center for Immigration Studies found that 7.9 million people moved to the United States in the past five years, the highest five-year period of immigration on record.

The report, released Monday, comes as the House prepares to take up a bill to curb illegal immigration by boosting border security and requiring workplace enforcement of immigration laws.

There are 35.2 million foreign-born people living in the United States, according to the report, which is based on the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey from March. The report said an estimated 9 million to 13 million are here illegally.

"The 35.2 million immigrants living in the country in March 2005 is the highest number ever recorded — 2 1/2 times the 13.5 million during the peak of the last great immigration wave in 1910," said the report by Steven Camarota, director of research for the Center for Immigration Studies, which advocates tougher policies on illegal immigration and favors attracting immigrants with needed job skills.

About 12.1 percent of the current U.S. population was born in another country, the highest percentage since

1920, according to Census figures.

The report's estimate of the overall number of immigrants living in the United States is consistent with other analyses. But experts warn that it is difficult to accurately measure the number of people entering the country each year.

A recent study by the Pew Hispanic Center found that immigration levels peaked around 2000, then dipped in 2002 and 2003. Nevertheless, Jeffrey Passel, a research associate at the Pew Hispanic Center, said immigration levels remained high, compared with historic levels.

Audrey Singer, an immigration fellow at the Brookings Institution, said, "There's no doubt that we are at a high in immigration to the United States." Singer said immigrants are attracted by economic opportunities and social ties to people already living in the United States.

"Look at places where people come from, these are places with very limited economic opportunities," Singer said.

Mexico is the largest supplier of immigrants to the United States, followed by East Asia, Europe, the Caribbean, Central America and South America, according to the report.

A divided House Judiciary Committee approved a bill last week that would enlist military support in border surveillance and set new mandatory minimum sentences on smugglers and people convicted of re-entry after removal. Illegal presence in the country, now a civil offense, would become a federal crime.

The full House is expected to take up the measure this

week, before it adjourns for the year.

President Bush has proposed a guest worker program that could allow illegal immigrants to stay in the country temporarily to fill jobs unwanted by Americans.

The guest worker provision is not part of the House bill. Activists have been arguing for years that America needs to better secure its borders against illegal immigrants, while others argue that the American economy would collapse without the cheap labor provided by undocumented workers.

The Center for Immigration Studies report says that immigrants, on average, are less educated and more likely to live in poverty than people born in the United States.

The Pew Hispanic Center, however, says that education levels are improving among recent immigrants.

Camarota said the U.S. should work harder to expel people who are in the United States illegally.

"The obvious thing is to enforce the law, at the border and at the work site, and to deny access to bank accounts and driver licenses," Camarota said.

But Angela Kelley, deputy director of the National Immigration Forum, said it would be impossible to deport as many as 11 million illegally immigrants, who make up about 5 percent of the U.S. work force.

"There isn't fairy dust that is going to make the 11 million people go away," Kelley said. "It would be far more sensible to have them come out into the light of day ... and give them a chance to join the American family on a permanent basis."

Lawmakers convene conference on immigration

BY STEVEN K. PAULSON

Associated Press Writer

DENVER — Lawmakers from Colorado, Utah, Nevada and Arizona convened a regional conference on immigration Monday, saying they need to find solutions to the problems they share.

"I don't think the status quo is defensible or sustainable," said Colorado House Speaker Andrew Romanoff, D-Denver.

He said lawmakers need to study the benefits of illegal immigration as well as the costs.

Texas state Sen. Leticia Van De Putte, a Democrat from San Antonio and president-elect of the National Conference of State Legislatures, said lawmakers need to get past the emotional issues swirling around immigration reform.

"What we see is a lot of the emotional response and not some clear thinking," she told a crowd packed into the Old Supreme Court Chambers at the Colorado Capitol.

Texas was not an official participant in the conference sponsored by NCSL and the Colorado Legislature. Officials from New Mexico were also invited, but did not attend.

Colorado Republicans, who have made immigration reform a key part of their agenda next year, said the forum was put together by Democrats without their input.

The Republican Study Committee of Colorado held its own hearings on immigration Nov. 16. The committee includes 18 of the Legislature's 47 Republicans.

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Patients, soldiers begin voting

BY QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Patients, soldiers and prisoners began voting Monday in parliamentary elections, three days ahead of the general population, while insurgents said the balloting violated God’s law, and new violence killed at least 12 people.

Five Islamic militant groups denounced Thursday’s elections as a “satanic project,” vowing to continue their war to establish an Islamic regime, according to an Internet statement. But they made no threats to disrupt the process, unlike earlier balloting when militants warned they would attack polling stations.

President Bush cautioned that the elections “won’t be perfect.”

“Iraqis still have more difficult work ahead, and our coalition and a new Iraqi government will face many challenges,” he said in a speech in Philadelphia.

Asked about the number of Iraqi casualties from the war and the insurgency, Bush said: “I would say 30,000, more or less, have died as a result of the initial incursion and the ongoing violence against Iraqis.” White House counselor Dan Bartlett later said the number was not an official figure but that Bush was simply repeating public estimates reported in the media.

Iraq will close its borders, extend a nighttime curfew and restrict domestic travel starting Tuesday. Thousands of Iraqi forces will guard polling stations, with U.S. and other coalition troops ready in case of a major attack.

In a development that could affect the elections, 13 prisoners who were apparent victims of abuse were found at an overcrowded detention center run by the Interior Ministry, Iraqi and U.S. military officials said.

Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari ordered an investigation into what he described as an “unhealthy phenomenon.” A similar case surfaced last month.

“I will not allow such dealing with any prisoner,” he said.

U.S. officials hope the new parliament can help quell the Sunni-dominated insurgency so American forces can begin heading home. The 275-member assembly will be the first full-term parliament, serving for four years, since Saddam Hussein’s 2003 ouster.

Al-Jaafari said a timetable for a withdrawal would depend on the ability of Iraqi forces to take over security.

“We want the multinational forces to leave, but we don’t want security to disappear as well,” al-Jaafari said. “When the Iraqi hands are in complete control of the security situation in Iraq, then we will tell the multinational forces, ‘Thank you. Please leave the Iraqi lands.’”

At the largest election rally of the campaign, thousands of Shiite Muslims filled the streets of Baghdad’s sprawling slum of Sadr City, chanting Islamic and anti-insurgent slogans.

“Yes, yes to Islam! Yes, yes to Iraq! Yes, yes to the religious leadership!” the group yelled as they waved Iraqi flags and pictures of the sect’s top leaders amid tight security.

A new opinion poll found most Iraqis disapprove of the presence of U.S. forces in their country, yet they are optimistic about Iraq’s future and their personal lives.

More than two-thirds of those surveyed oppose the presence of coalition troops, and less than half, 44 percent, say their country is better off now than it was before the war, according to an ABC News poll conducted with Time magazine and other media partners.

Three-quarters say they are confident about the parliamentary elections and more than two-thirds expect things to get better in the coming months, the poll said.

The Internet statement could not be independently verified, but if authentic, it was a rare instance of several militant groups joining to announce their stance.

“The conspiracy in Iraq against the mujahedeen, the so-called political process ... is nothing more than a satanic project, just like those before it,” the statement said.

“To engage in the so-called political process and in the renegade election is religiously prohibited and contradicts the legitimate policy approved by God almighty for the Muslims in our constitution, which is the holy Quran,” it said.

An unsigned statement believed to be from an insurgent group and distributed in the Sunni stronghold of

Azamiyah said Sunnis could use the elections to make some political gains but that “fighting will continue with the infidels and their followers.”

In Egypt, Arab League Secretary-General Amr Moussa urged all Iraqis to vote and “participate in the building of a new Iraq,” adding that all fighting and police crackdowns should be suspended for the polling.

An empty minibus loaded with explosives blew up Monday near a Baghdad hospital, killing three civilians and injuring 13, including five police officers, authorities said.

A U.S. soldier was killed Monday by a bomb in Baghdad and another died a day earlier in a suicide blast near the city of Ramadi, the U.S. command said. The deaths brought to 2,144 the number of U.S. military members killed in Iraq since the war began, according to an Associated Press count.

Clashes killed two police officers and injured nine, police said. Two other people died in a drive-by shooting in Baghdad’s Dora district.

Gunmen killed three men and injured a woman when they opened fire on a pickup truck with Education Ministry license plates.

A roadside bomb in Muqdadiyah, about 60 miles north of Baghdad, killed a woman and injured five.

Police also said a businessman and his 23-year-old son were kidnapped in Baghdad’s upscale Mansour district.

Monday’s early voting saw the first of 1,500 patients cast ballots at Baghdad’s Yarmouk hospital, with officials bringing a box around to the bedridden in various wards, said Yousif Ibrahim, director of the election center. Police and soldiers also voted early, displaying their ink-stained fingers.

On Tuesday, the estimated 1.5 million Iraqi voters living outside the country can cast ballots at polling centers in 15 countries.

Suspected insurgents held in detention but not convicted are eligible to vote, officials said. Saddam, who is jailed and facing trial for the deaths of more than 140 Shiites in 1982, also can vote but it is not known whether he would.

Sunni Arabs largely boycotted the Jan. 30 election to protest the U.S. military presence, enabling the Shiites and Kurds to dominate parliament, a move that sharpened communal tensions and fueled the insurgency. This time, more Sunni Arab candidates are running, and changes in election law to allocate most seats by province instead of based on a party’s nationwide total all but guaranteed a sizable Sunni bloc in the next assembly.

Turnout in January was about 58 percent but less than 5 percent in the predominantly Sunni province of Anbar, a hotbed of insurgency.

Shiites are expected to win the biggest share of seats. Shiites form an estimated 60 percent of Iraq’s 27 million people, compared with 20 percent for the Sunni Arabs.

In the discovery of the 13 prisoners, a statement by the Iraqi Human Rights Ministry did not say why they needed treatment, but said an investigating judge also ordered the immediate release of 56 people apparently held without reason at the Baghdad facility _ which was inspected by investigators Dec. 8.

Opposition parties and Sunni Arab groups have accused the government and the Shiite-dominated security forces of human rights abuses.

The Interior Ministry did not say what had caused their injuries or if they were consistent with abuse or torture. An officer at the ministry, who asked not to be identified because he is not authorized to speak to the media, said the 13 were taken to a hospital due to “signs of torture.”

According to the Human Rights Ministry, the facility next to the Interior Ministry housed 625 detainees in “very overcrowded” conditions.

Last month, an inspection by U.S. troops at a building of the Shiite-led Interior Ministry in Baghdad’s Jadriyah district found up to 173 malnourished detainees, and some showed signs of torture. On Nov. 15, al-Jaafari ordered an investigation and promised results within two weeks.

Maj. Gen. Abdul-Aziz Mohammed, head of operations at the Defense Ministry, was asked by reporters if Iraqi forces had captured non-Arab foreigners such as Britons. “The defense and interior ministers said previously that foreign terrorists have been captured. They were from different nationalities, not only Brits, but even from the United States of America,” he said, without elaborating.

Racial rampage tears apart Australian city

BY MIKE CORDER

Associated Press Writer

SYDNEY, Australia — Young people riding in vehicles smashed cars and store windows in suburban Sydney late Monday, a day after thousands of drunken white youths attacked people they believed were of Arab descent at a beach in the same area in one of Australia’s worst outbursts of racial violence.

Sunday’s attack sparked retaliation by young men of Arab descent in several Sydney suburbs, fighting with police and smashing 40 cars with sticks and bats, police said. Thirty-one people were injured and 16 were arrested in hours of violence.

The rampage on Monday broke out in Cronulla and in neighboring Caringbah, said Paul Bugden, spokesman for New South Wales police. Calm was restored by early Tuesday.

Bugden said six people were arrested and one person apparently was hit by a rock in Monday’s violence. He did not have descriptions of those involved in the rampage, but he said it “obviously stems from the last 24-48 hours.”

Australian Associated Press, citing a resident who declined to be named, said men riding in up to 50 cars and wielding baseball bats converged on Cronulla, smashing cars. Ambulances were called to help at least one injured man seen lying on the side of the road.

Steven Dawson said a bottle thrown through his apartment window in the suburb of Brighton-Le-Sands showered his 5-month-old son Caleb with glass, but did not hurt the child.

Horst Dreizner said a car had rammed into his denture store and he feared the violence would escalate. “Personally, I think it is only the beginning,” he said in a telephone interview.

About 300 people of Arab descent demonstrated against Sunday’s attack outside one of Sydney’s largest mosques, amid tight security.

The riots began Sunday after rumors circulated that youths of Lebanese descent were responsible for an attack last weekend on two lifeguards at Cronulla Beach. Police said the assault was not believed to be racially motivated.

Police formed a strike force to track down the instigators of the attack, some of whom were believed to be from white supremacist groups. Police said they were also seeking an Arab man who allegedly stabbed a white man in the back.

Morris Iemma, the premier of New South Wales state, said police would use video images and photographs to track down the instigators. “Let’s be very clear, the police will be unrelenting in their fight against these thugs and hooligans,” he said.

Prime Minister John Howard condemned the violence, but said he did not believe racism was widespread in Australia.

“Attacking people on the basis of their race, their appearance, their ethnicity, is totally unacceptable and should be repudiated by all Australians irrespective of their own background and their politics,” Howard said.

He added: “I’m not going to put a general tag (of) racism on the Australian community.”

About 300,000 Muslims live in Australia, the majority in large cities.

“Arab Australians have had to cope with vilification, racism, abuse and fear of a racial backlash for a number of years, but these riots will take that fear to a new level,” said Roland Jabbour, chairman of the Australian Arabic Council.

Police had increased the number of officers patrolling the beach in the Sydney suburb on Sunday after cell phone text messages urged people to gather there to retaliate for the attack on the lifeguards.

Police said more than 5,000 white youths, some wrapped in Australian flags and chanting racist slurs, fought with police, attacked people they believed to be of Arab descent and assaulted a pair of paramedics trying to help people escape the riot.



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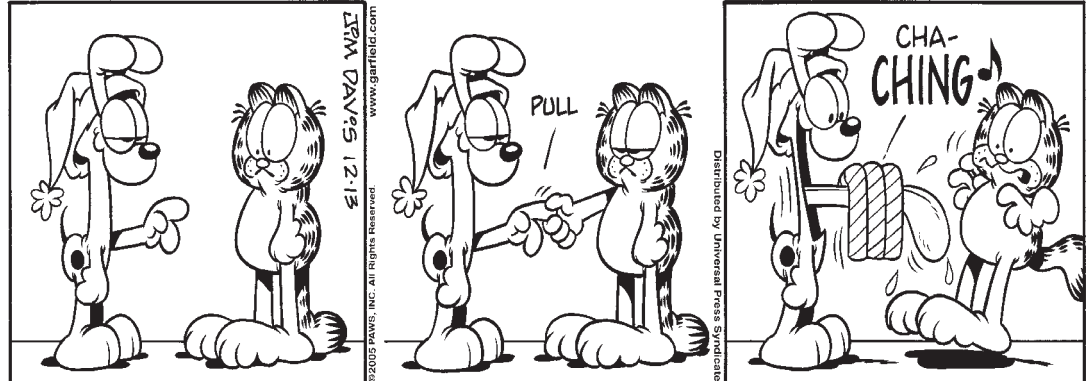
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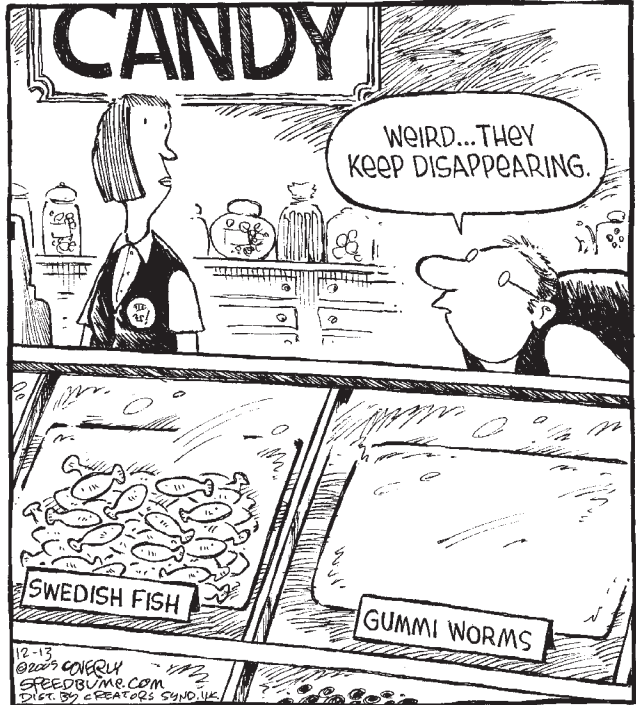
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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 2830959 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Flying Tiger Promotions, Al #/ON 2420820, 3021 Airport Ave, 103A, Santa Monica, CA 90405. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Spitfire Ventures, Inc., Nevada, 3021 Airport Ave, 103A, Santa Monica, CA 90405 This Business is being conducted by, a corporation. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/ Spitfire Ventures, Inc., President, Russ Colby
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 11/21/05. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 11/22/2005, 11/29/2005, 12/6/2005, 12/13/2005

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 2830960 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as foxc productions, clintonfox.com, 1015 3rd Street, #2. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Clinton Fox, 1015 3rd Street, #2 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)5/1/2005. /s/ Clinton Fox
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 11/21/2005. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 11/22/2005, 11/29/2005, 12/6/2005, 12/13/2005

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 2688539 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Speech! Speech!, Speech! Writing Services, Speech! Speech! Writing and Consulting Services, 4422 Louise Avenue, Encino, CA 91316. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Nazbanoo Pahlavi, 1158 26th St., #346, Santa Monica, CA 90403 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/ Nazbanoo Pahlavi
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 11/07/05. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/6/2005, 12/13/2005, 12/20/2005, 12/27/2005

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British songstress Stone proves to be a breed apart

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — When it comes to celebrity dog-parenting skills, Joss Stone is tops and Paris Hilton is the worst, according to an online poll of readers of two dog magazines.

Stone, who has a poodle named Dusty Springfield, volunteered for the North Shore Animal League America after seeing images of pets stranded in the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Wilma, said The New York Dog and The Hollywood Dog magazines.

The 18-year-old British singer also recorded a public service announcement seeking support for the homeless pets of the Gulf Coast.

"Joss is a huge advocate for shelter dogs and it's not just talk," said Leslie Padgett, editor of the magazines. "This year, despite an incredibly hectic schedule, she went out of her way to help the dogs of Katrina and Wilma."

Hilton, a 24-year-old hotel heiress and star of "The Simple Life," was voted the world's worst celebrity dog owner.

"First she loses Tinkerbell, then she ditches her for a cuter dog, then replaces that dog with a ferret, then a kinkajou monkey and then, I gather, a goat," Padgett said in a statement. "Recently Tinkerbell was spotted back in Paris' arms. But how long will she be in favor this time?"

Stone narrowly edged out Ashley Olsen, who adopted a mixed-breed from the Animal Haven Shelter in New York. Tori Spelling, a pug owner who has "tirelessly campaigned" for the Much Love Animal Rescue in Los Angeles, placed third.

The poll was conducted over a three-month period among visitors to the Web sites thenydog.com and the-hollywoodog.com. Results were released Friday.

NEW YORK — MTV's annual New Year's Eve party from Times Square will feature musical performances by Kanye West, Adam Levine, Shakira and Fall Out Boy.

The two-hour telecast, which begins at 10:30 p.m. EST (live) and PST (on tape), will have MTV VJs Damien Fahey, Vanessa Minnillo, Quddus Philippe, La La Vazquez and Susie Castillo as hosts, the network announced Monday.

Common, All-American Rejects and Young Jeezy will also perform. There will be an appearance by the Rev. Run and his family, MTV said.

"For years, New Year's Eve on MTV has always meant the best new music to our viewers," said David Sirulnick, executive vice president, MTV News and Production. "2005 is no different, with amazing performances from some of the biggest artists from the past year. We will have wall-to-wall music straight through to 2006."

MTV has been holding New Year's Eve parties since 1981. The first one was held at New York's Hotel Diplomat.

NEWARK, N.J. — The sounds of New Orleans jazz and the aroma of gumbo will be swirling around Newark for the next two years.

The New Jersey Performing Arts Center on Friday announced a residency program with the New Orleans Jazz Orchestra, funded by a \$200,000 grant from the

Prudential Foundation.

The money follows a \$300,000 grant from Prudential Financial Inc. to sponsor the orchestra's inaugural national tour, allowing it to proceed despite the loss of significant funding after Hurricane Katrina.

The collaboration with NJPAC will bring music, food, educational workshops and a Thanksgiving 2006 performance by the orchestra, said Irvin Mayfield, a trumpeter, composer and the orchestra's founder.

"We'll try to bring all those elements of New Orleans culture and jazz," said Mayfield, who also holds the title of New Orleans Cultural Ambassador. "We want (Newark) to get a feel for the brass band culture."

Mayfield, 27, said the residency would be a sensual experience, designed to give Newark many tastes of New Orleans.

"We plan for people to be able to smell the French Quarter, taste the gumbo and see the Mardi Gras Indians," he said.

HONG KONG — Louis Vuitton designer Marc Jacobs says knockoffs are the highest form of flattery even though he doesn't approve of pirated luxury goods.

"Louis Vuitton as a company won't feel good about that (fake goods) ... but as a designer, I feel flattered," Jacobs was quoted as saying in the South China Morning Post on Saturday.

Hong Kong is known for its penchant for luxury goods — both authentic and fake. The neighboring Chinese city of Shenzhen is also a popular destination for counterfeit luxury items.

Jacobs was in Hong Kong for the opening of a Louis Vuitton store, the Post said.

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