

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

1 5 13 18 42
Meganumber: 12
Jackpot: \$16 Million

FANTASY 5

4 16 23 31 34

DAILY 3

Daytime: 2 3 8
Evening: 2 1 5

DAILY DERBY

1st: 08 Gorgeous George
2nd: 05 California Classic
3rd: 11 Money Bags

RACE TIME: 1:46.91

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

Karen Stolzmann, 44, was arrested in October in Portage, Wis., and charged with possession of stolen property, specifically, her long-dead boyfriend's ashes, which police say she dug up more than 10 years ago, perhaps to taunt his family, with whom she never got along. Other items that had been buried with him were found in her possession, and authorities speculate that the beer the family buried as tribute had long since been drunk by Stolzmann. (The couple reportedly had a stormy relationship, and the family believes she provoked his suicide.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

In 1981, Israel annexed the Golan Heights, which it had seized from Syria in 1967.

In 1986, the experimental aircraft Voyager, piloted by Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager, took off from Edwards Air Force Base in California on the first non-stop, non-refueled flight around the world.

In 2000, the Federal Trade Commission unanimously approved the \$111 billion merger of America Online and Time Warner.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"You can close your eyes to reality but not to memories."

STANISLAW J. LEC
POLISH AUTHOR (1909-1966)

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NFL player Smith awaits jury verdict

Lawyers fire last missives in Santa Monica arson trial

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

LAX COURTHOUSE — Alleged arsonist Anthony Smith for the second time is waiting for a jury to decide his fate.

A standout defensive end with the LA/Oakland Raiders for nine seasons, Smith has been in custody for 18 months as a suspect in the February 2003 fire that gutted Simply Sofas on Lincoln Boulevard.

Lawyers delivered closing arguments in the case and handed it to jurors late Monday afternoon. This capped a seven-day trial that included testimony from Smith and his wife, fire specialists and investigators, and two homeless people who were on the street the night of the fire.

Smith stood trial on the felony arson charge in June, but a jury

"Did he count on those bottles burning up? Yes. Did it happen? No. Why? Because he didn't know the physics of fire."

JEAN DALY

Deputy district attorney

deadlocked and Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Keith Schwartz declared a mistrial. Judge Schwartz said at the time Smith likely would be convicted in a second trial and ordered him to remain in custody in lieu of \$1 million bail.

Prosecutors argue Smith lit the fire after arguing with store owner

See SMITH, page 6

In yet another risky move, Schwarzenegger takes on nurses

BY BETH FOUHY

AP Political Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Only in the strange world of Schwarzenegger-era politics can the governor take the podium at a women's conference, boast about angering workers in a female-dominated profession and enjoy rousing applause from the mostly female audience.

And this from a governor who has acknowledged behaving "badly" toward women in the past and faced accusations of unwanted groping by more than a dozen women.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger made the remarks in Long Beach last week as he opened the first day of the California Governor's Conference on Women and Families. This year's annual gathering was hosted by his wife, Maria Shriver.

While presenting himself as the "opening act" for Shriver, it didn't

take long for Schwarzenegger to grab the spotlight for himself.

He took on a group from the California Nurses Association that was protesting his decision to impose a three-year delay on impending changes to the state's nurse-to-patient ratio. The change would have lowered the ratio from 1-to-6 to 1-to-5.

Schwarzenegger sided with hospitals, which have argued that the new rules would impose a costly burden by forcing them to hire more nurses.

When a small group of nurses inside the convention hall unfurled a banner reading "Hands Off Our Ratios" — a not-so-veiled reference to the previous groping allegations — Schwarzenegger hit back.

"Pay no attention to those voices over there," he said. "They are the special interests, and you know what I mean. The special

See POLITICS, page 7

Tree time



Susan Tam/Special to the Daily Press

Jack Hellwig, 23, (right) and another resident from the Delaney Street Foundation unload a Christmas tree to be sold on their lot, located at Pacific Street and Main Street. The Delaney Street Foundation is a rehabilitation program for former criminals.

City Hall's demolition to cost \$2.5 million

(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 SUSAN TAM

Special to the Daily Press

COUNCIL CHAMBERS — More than \$3.6 million will likely be spent tonight on everything from tearing down part of City Hall to beefing up the planning department's staff to promoting Santa Monica as a tourist destination.

The City Council is expected to spend \$2.475 million to demolish the east part of City Hall, according to city staff reports. The empty building, located behind City Hall, used to house the Santa Monica Police Department. When the SMPD moved to the new \$72 million Public Safety Facility last year, it left the city responsible for the empty building's maintenance and security. As a result, city officials devised a two-phase plan to get rid of the structure and replace it with a courtyard. The courtyard is only temporary — public officials have not yet determined what to develop on the site, according

to city staff.

The original City Hall, built in 1939, was a U-shaped structure and is historically landmarked. In 1958, a three-story building was added in the back to allow room for the SMPD to expand. However, the SMPD outgrew its space.

MORE EMPLOYEES AT CITY HALL

The City Council also will inject \$533,000 into the planning department so it can hire more employees from outside firms. The decision is based on recommendations made by the Matrix Consulting Group, which was hired by City Hall for \$75,000 to study why the planning department operates inefficiently.

The department has been under fire by residents, developers and business owners for being notoriously slow and bureaucratic. They complain that getting what should

See CITY HALL, page 7

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Work late tonight, Virgo

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)
 ★★★★★ What lurks in your mind as a fleeting thought or idea might be quite workable. Toss your hypothesis out among associates and/or friends. You might be surprised by the feedback you get. Meetings emphasize success. Tonight: Where the gang is.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 ★★★ Handle research and long-distance calls in the morning. Your leadership and talents will be in demand later in the day. Share more of your inspired thoughts with a trusted associate or partner. Together as a team success will follow you. Tonight: Burn the midnight oil.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 ★★★★★ Someone shares a key concern, which pushes you to find experts or more solutions. Do not feed into office gossip, please. Work with facts, but also use your imagination and creativity. Music soothes your nerves. Tonight: Be where the music is.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 ★★★★★ Others make many requests. For your own sake, you need to zero in on what is important. Take time with a key individual you trust whom you can brainstorm with. Each of you serves as a muse to the other. Tonight: Don't join the crowd. Choose to be with one person.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 ★★★★★ Emphasize work and what must be done this morning. By the afternoon, activity forces you to deal with many other people. You might want to network away or let a meeting take a slightly social twist. Tonight: Just don't be alone.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 ★★★★★ Tap into your creativity one more time this morning as you push a work-related project. Once you get into it, you might have a difficult time clearing out and finding some thinking time. Prepare to sink into a project. Tonight: Work as late as you need to.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 ★★★★★ Move on from a personal issue. Let go of it for now. If you allow yourself to tap into your imagination, answers will surface left and right. Give some thought to a loved one who needs some attention and time with you. Tonight: Live life as if there is no tomorrow.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 ★★★ Make calls early on. You will want to sink into your work and close the door in order to get as much done as possible. Think about working from home. The privacy might enhance your concentration. Tonight: Stay home.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 ★★★ Expenses could overwhelm you, but you'll find a way out of the problem. Tap into the minds of those who are in the know. You find endless ideas and resources heading in your direction. Your energy is stimulated. Tonight: Chat up a storm.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 ★★ Move on key issues in the a.m. Think through a financial decision in the p.m. Investigate different ideas, but don't think that you have to make a decision right now. Be careful handling money, as you could lose your wallet or have funds slip through your fingers. Tonight: Pay bills.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 ★★★★★ You feel a huge energy swing mid-day. The Moon highlights you, giving that extra oomph to do whatever you want. Follow through on what has been a dream up till now. Take the first step. Others back you. Tonight: Your wish is another's pleasure.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
 ★★★ Do people-oriented tasks in the morning. You feel the need to become a recluse later in the day. Of course, this need to pull away doesn't mean you won't be accomplishing what you want. Follow your instincts with a boss. Tonight: Get some extra zzz's.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

A home for the holidays

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica residents can donate to Habitat For Humanity this holiday season and help a low-income family buy a home.

Shoppers can go to a local Lowe’s store and make a voluntary donation to Habitat For Humanity and add to the more than 150,000 homes in more than 3,000 communities that have been built for low-income families.

Homes are sold with zero interest using no-profit mortgages.

For more information, contact Carolyn Brann at (310) 666-8706 or at info@absolutions.com.

Shots for tots and teens

By Daily Press staff

Free immunizations will soon be available for Santa Monica children.

“Shots for Tots and Teens” is a one-day event at St. John’s Health Center at which all children under 18 can get free shots and TB skin tests.

The immunizations will protect against diphtheria, hepatitis B, measles, rubella, hemophilus influenza, mumps, polio, tetanus and whooping cough — diseases known to infect small children as well as teenagers.

Since its inauguration more than 10 years ago, Shots for Tots and Teens has immunized more than 2,000 children, free of charge.

The event will take place Dec. 18 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the St. John’s Health Center cafeteria on the ground floor, located at Arizona Avenue and 22nd Street.

For more information, call (310) 829-8234.

Labyrinth walk making steps forward

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monicans will gather on New Year’s Eve to participate in an ancient walking meditation that dates back to the 13th century.

The First United Methodist Church is holding a “Labyrinth Walk” on New Year’s Eve using a portable replica of the Chartres labyrinth laid in the floor of the cathedral in 1220 C.E.

The walk is free and open to the community. It will take place Friday, Dec. 31, from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. The last entry is at 8:15 p.m.

For more information, call Mary Garbesi at (310) 393-8258.

Raffle ticket could let you eat like a king

By Daily Press staff

Spend \$10 on a raffle ticket and you could be dining out once a week for a year at some of the best Santa Monica restaurants.

The Ocean Park Community Center is raising money for its Turning Point Transitional Housing program by offering 52 gift certificates from a variety of restaurants as a raffle prize.

Turning Point provides transitional housing for men and women trying to make the transition from homelessness toward self-sufficiency. The program also offers a array of services to assist clients in reaching their goals of permanent housing and financial stability.

Tickets are \$10 for one and \$50 for six.

See BRIEFS, page 7



Eddie Greenberg is this week’s mystery photo winner. The photo was taken on the Third Street Promenade. Greenberg has won a gift certificate to Nawab, an Indian restaurant on Wilshire Boulevard. Check out the Monday edition for the next mystery photo.

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SURF REPORT

On Tuesday look for mainly old WNW swell (280-300) to mix with some modest W wind swell. The better exposed Northern LA spots see waves in the knee- to waist-high range. South Bay beaches see waist surf at many breaks, while top breaks through the north half of the bay hit chest-high+ sets. New WNW looks best by Wednesday afternoon. Light winds in the morning turn moderate onshore WNW'erly for the afternoon

Today the water is:

59°

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

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	1:21	2.0	3:04	-1.5	7:43	7.0	9:36	3.9
SUNDAY	2:04	2.1	3:52	-1.7	8:26	7.2	10:30	3.9
MONDAY	2:50	2.3	4:42	-1.6	9:12	7.1	11:27	3.9
TUESDAY	3:42	2.5	5:35	-1.4	10:02	6.8	N/A	N/A
WEDNESDAY	4:42	2.6	6:29	-0.9	12:27	3.9	10:56	6.2
THURSDAY	5:59	2.8	7:26	-0.4	1:30	4.0	1:57	5.5
FRIDAY	7:35	2.7	8:22	0.1	2:32	4.3	1:10	4.8

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The Q-Line

It’s been suggested that the vacant RAND building across from City Hall should be converted into a homeless shelter instead of being torn down, and made into a park and other governmental facilities.

City Hall owns the property and spends about \$2 million on homeless services each year. Some have suggested that City Hall should redistribute that money into its own shelter. The idea is that the shelter would provide transitional housing and would be tied to work and educational programs, as well as addiction and mental illness programs.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, “Is this a good idea? Why or why not?”

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

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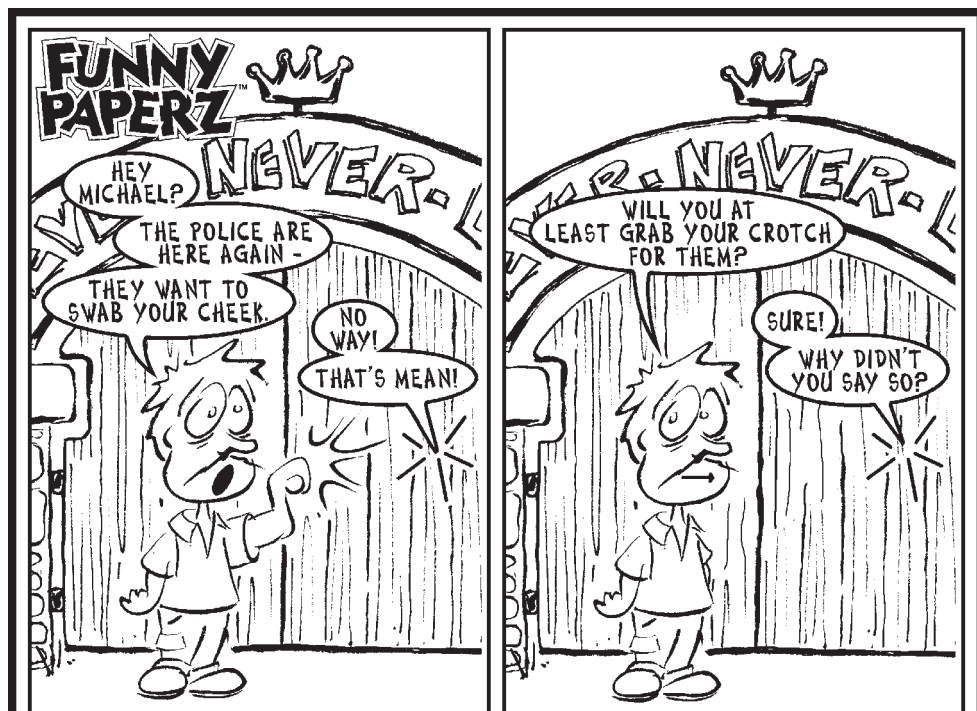
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OPINION



You don't need a warrant -- you just have to know how to ask...

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Keep it short downtown

Editor:

I wanted to call public attention to item 8-C on Tuesday's City Council agenda. City staff is requesting that City Council disregard Santa Monica's General Plan and permit eight-story towers on the civic center site. I would hope that it is self-evident that over-development by municipalities is just as harmful as over-development by private-property owners. I do not think the General Plan could more strongly state the desire to keep Santa Monica a low-building-height community. I suspect that I am not the only resident who enjoys sunlight and fresh air. If we liked the architecture of Westwood and Century City, we would be living there, not here.

Irregardless of one's opinion on eight-story towers, I would hope the City Council would be concerned with process. It is unimaginable that a decision as important as to whether or not to allow a huge variance on the General Plan would be conducted without consideration by either the Architectural Review Board or the Planning Commission, and the important feedback from their public hearings. It appears that city staff has once again decided to dispense with the public process for expediency. I would hope that in the very least, the City Council would direct city staff to go through an appropriate public process if they want a variance on the General Plan.

Jeff Segal
Santa Monica

SM due for a change

Editor:

Regarding: "Moratorium on new development in Santa Monica proposed" by John Wood, (SMDP, Dec. 10, page 1). A lot of Santa Monica's residents don't want the town to change much, they say they like things as they are and that is understandable. People don't like change much, but things always change whether you like it or not. They want Santa Monica to be for their use and really don't want share it much with outsiders. These are the same people who miss the run-down look of the Promenade from 10 or 12 years ago. They miss all the greasy restaurants, smoky head-shops, over-priced vintage clothing stores, etc. They say they don't like change, but they can't live without the Borders or Barnes & Noble.

So maybe change isn't all that bad. These are the same folks who also don't want to see their various city taxes go up, but go up they will if the city does not draw enough tourists and shoppers to the area stores and hotels. They want all responsibility for paying for Santa Monica's many and constant improvements placed on the shoulders of the wealthy apartment owners because as they see it they are still being overcharged on rent-controlled rent that is a small fraction of what the market would bear. I was over at the Grove at Farmers Market on Friday night several weeks ago, and the heavy crowd of shoppers remind me of the Promenade of the old days.

Perhaps the Macerich Company will have to close Santa Monica Place and let it remain closed for five or 10 years. It seems so empty most of the time, how can they make any money on their investment?

It might end up like the old Hawthorne Mall which was closed up for years, if anyone remembers that shopping center. In other words, it can happen. I would hate to see that happen since I eat lunch there at least three times a week because I am in downtown Santa Monica at least five days a week. I personally love the place, but I can see that it has lost its edge, seems very dated, and I can imagine it as it might be if it were redeveloped with some style and grace. And a wealthy crowd of new residents downtown might make up for the homeless thugs who lay in every doorway drinking and smoking, who I guess those not wanting change can easily make apologies for, or maybe never really see that often because they are actually else-

See LETTERS, page 5

Steroid criticisms reveal our society's hypocrisy



WHAT'S THE POINT?

BY DAVID PISARRA

America's favorite pastime, baseball, has been undergoing a drug scandal. Two famous players have been detailing each other's drug use. Jason Giambi and Barry Bonds have finally made public the open secret of steroid use in Major League Baseball.

The shock is not that Major League Baseball players have been using steroids, the shock is that people are shocked that athletes use steroids.

The American public has thirsted for faster, better, stronger athletes. The owners of any baseball franchise are forced to pay their athletes bigger salaries, which means that they must have greater attendance in order to afford the high-priced athletes. The owners are requiring the players perform better, break long-standing records and become bigger than life.

As humans, we always want our heroes to be pure. But the reality is that in order for anyone to achieve greatness, they must by definition step outside the boundaries of what is normal. On the one hand, we expect our athletes to use only their natural God-given skills and abilities to impress us; on the other, every time they impress us, we raise the bar on them.

There are those who say the use of steroids is amoral, unnatural and should not be allowed. These are the people who wish to keep the dream alive, who wish to believe that athletes are Demigods — individuals who by luck of birth stand above the general masses. These people wish to hold athletes to a higher standard. They also are hypocrites.

They are hypocritical when it comes to our athletes. They want them pure and drug-free, yet they love to hear the stories about drunken carousing, drug use and womanizing. Those stories are what makes the tabloids sell, and the TV celebrity new shows focus on them.

Athletes are just like everyone else. They're going to take advantage of every tool at their disposal in order to achieve success in their industry. They are highly paid entertainment. People don't look at a movie star and say they shouldn't have plastic surgery, breast implants, personal trainers, personal chefs and all the trappings of success.

Entertainers change and manipulate their bodies all the time in order to maintain their star status. Americans expect their entertainment to be pretty, in shape and flawless. We want our men rugged and our women demure.

And it is hypocritical to allow movie stars to get their faces lifted, botoxed and implanted, and not let an athlete do what-

ever they want to improve their physical features to get better results on the playing field.

We hypocritically don't want to believe they rely on outside help, yet we demand that they do so. What movie star today would not have plastic surgery to reduce those "fine line" wrinkles around their eyes?

I believe that the shock over athletes using steroids is really nothing more than another example of America's prudish behavior of saying one thing and doing another. On the one hand, we advertise tobacco, alcohol, sexual-performance-enhancing drugs, contraceptives and guns. On the other, we tell our children not to smoke, don't drink, don't have sex, and we don't allow widespread distribution of contraceptives. And we say that guns are bad.

There is a widespread feeling that steroids should be banned in professional sports. The international Olympic Committee doesn't allow them. Most professional sports associations also don't allow them. The reason for this is that we wish our athletes to set an example for our youth.

I believe that if we wish to set an example for our youth and clean up our society, we should pick our battles more wisely.

The youth of America, like all humanity, want the quick and easy reward for the least amount of effort. One hour of MTV watching ought to show anyone that the message the youth of today are receiving comes not from our athletes but from our musical artists. Artists who are perpetuating an ideal of fast cars, loose women, drunken debauchery and fast money.

The work ethic that made this country great is not being demonstrated by our musicians, our athletes or our political leaders. We have a president who made his money the old fashioned way — he came from it. One of the highest rated shows on TV these days is "The Fabulous Life Of ..." which is dedicated to showcasing celebrity excesses. "Cribs" on MTV was all about the big house and the big garage full of the expensive cars.

Making the MLB change its rules on steroid use is nice, but let's not fool ourselves. It doesn't counter balance the message that getting rich quick is better than working hard.

We are a society that loves the story of the poor kid who came from the projects and made it big. And so long as the media sells that story, America will buy it.

(David Pizarra is a business development lawyer and partner in the Santa Monica law firm of Pizarra & Grist. He can be reached at (310) 664-9969 or by e-mail at dpizarra@pizarra.com).



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OPINION



Charitable giving by force — bah humbug

ANY DAY IN LA

BY HEIDI MANTEUFFEL



'Tis the season to do a lot of things, but one of them just pisses me off. You're driving home after a draining day of work, and dangit, you remember that carton of milk you need. So you drag yourself to the grocery store — dragging because the guilty bell and drum girl wait for you vigilantly in the parking lot.

Yes, I know I'm probably one of the few who get frustrated by charitable giving. But the whole thing about charity is that it comes from people choosing to give, and it doesn't feel like a choice when you get puppy-dog stared every time you go to Von's for milk.

Here's the scenario: Tired worker locks her car and heads briskly to the entrance of Pavilions. Only the door is blockaded by some man with a can. He smiles and wishes you a Merry Christmakwanzakka. Once you pass, his smile drops to a frown of disappointment, and he wishes you a blessing in spite of yourself.

You might think I'm kidding, but I'm not. Yesterday a girl literally stopped ringing her bell whenever someone passed and didn't donate. Every single time.

One of those times I just wanted to say, "Listen, it has nothing to do with you. The fact that I'm worn out from people asking for one more report or 30-minute call to Noenglishstan for tech support is not your problem. I just at this very moment have nothing to give to you."

But I don't think she got it. Some feel

like an insistent Jewish grandparent to me who measures your love for them by the number of weekly visits. Why don't you call?

Because I don't even know you! It's a Pavlovian response to me. I don't give you money. Disappointed. I do give you money. You like me, you really do. Listen, I don't like or not like you, I merely want to choose when and where I give my charity. Is that crazy?

Maybe it is. But it honestly feels like most volunteers are hurt if I don't give a dollar right then and there. I will give a dollar, but I don't need someone deciding that now is the time, because no, now is the time to get Pillsbury cookie dough and watch two hours of Ben Stiller in "Dodgeball."

I'm not saying that charities shouldn't be able to solicit in front of grocery stores. I know it's a great source of income for many of them, especially around the holidays. And I feel like a lot of them are for commendable causes. I just wish they weren't so second grade about it. Stop acting like you didn't get picked for the team every time someone has a busy day. You can play dodgeball tomorrow.

So yes, I am one of those mean people that doesn't want to deal with the bells and that shaking can every time I need more lunch meat. It's partially out of sensed guilt and partially from the guilt I instill in myself. But I like to choose when and where I give my Christmas spirit and not feel like "A Christmas Carol" will start the moment I step into my car. Back off the clutch, Jacob Marley. I am giving this holiday season. Just on my own time without the bells and dodgeball.

(Despite her Scrooge demeanor, Heidi is all about Christmas. Let her know what you like or dislike about the holidays by e-mailing her at anydayinla@gmail.com).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LETTERS, from page 4

where most of the time.

Santa Monica Place's only function now is to serve as a clean place to go to the restroom, since the city can't afford public-airport-style restrooms on the Promenade. Yet, perhaps the city should not put in restrooms since they would soon be taken over by organized groups of professional panhandlers who reside as thick as fruit flies on rotting fruit in all the city's once-beautiful parks. One thing can be said about tired old Santa Monica is that it's sure beginning to show its age. The Friday night excitement has disappeared as the money-to-burn crowd has gone on to find more interesting places to stroll, shop and be seen. Santa Monica's own big spenders seem to like shopping outside of Santa Monica. Why try to run a gauntlet of screaming, raging drunken public welfare-fed psychopaths to get to the baby store? It's a lot easier to drive over to Culver City and do your everyday shopping there. Perhaps the oppositional groups would like to see Santa Monica Place turned into a homeless museum or extra-large rent-controlled group home for drug abusers and drunks. Think about it. How fitting. And no one is going to fly to Santa Monica from Shanghai or Tokyo to go to the Gap. They need more than that. That's the reason the Chinese tourists don't even stop in Los Angeles anymore, they fly straight to Las Vegas and never set foot in California. The message gets around fast when your town has nothing to offer its guests anymore. I feel that the residents of Santa Monica need to work and develop Santa Monica Place.

And I dare any of the oppositional group members to stand back and take a real good look at those two parking garages and still claim that they are not the ugliest thing they ever saw in any city in any state in any country.

Ken C. Arnold
Santa Monica

OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to sack@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite 202, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

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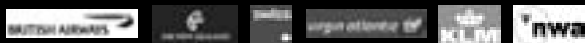
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LOCAL

Homeless woman said she saw store's arsonist

SMITH, from page 1

Marilyn Nelson over the value of some items he left at the store to be sold on consignment. Smith's name and address were printed on 21 partially burnt items found inside makeshift firebombs used to ignite the blaze.

"Did he count on those bottles burning up? Yes. Did it happen? No. Why? Because he didn't know the physics of fire," Deputy District Attorney Jean Daly argued at the close of the trial Monday. "He, like many people in terms of watching television shows, expected everything to burn up in a great big conflagration.

"Didn't happen that way." Smith's lawyer, Michael Evans, accused investigators and Nelson of lying and of ignoring key evidence in their zeal to convict Smith. He said Nelson profited several hundred thousand dollars in insurance payouts, and told jurors the fire was lighted from inside the store.

As evidence, Evans pointed out that one of the three firebombs was found upright and partially beneath a desk inside the store, meaning it must have been placed there from inside. The firebombs were made out of five-gallon water jugs filled with paper scraps and gasoline.

Prosecutors claimed the jugs were thrown or rolled through a window. Both sides agreed the only way the jugs would fit through the window was sideways.

"There is no way it could be in this position," said Evans, who paced back and forth in front of the jury box and raised his voice emphatically. On several occasions, he pointed at both the lead investigator in the case and Nelson, who listened as lawyers gave their closing arguments. "It had to have been placed from the inside."

Evans further argued that Nelson intentionally kept the security system off. He put an official from ADT on the stand last week to testify there had been no calls for service on the alarm system for more than a year. Nelson had testified the alarm was left off because it didn't work properly.

As to the presence of the documents in the firebombs, Evans painted an alternative scenario that involved day laborers hired by Smith mistakenly throwing away boxes of personal documents in a trash bin outside of Simply Sofas when they were at the store to retrieve several unsold items. Those documents could have been retrieved by the real arsonist, Evans suggested.

Evans also pointed to the testimony of a homeless woman who was on the street the night of the fire. That woman said she heard a cracking sound when the window was broken and saw a skinny black man near the store. She also testified she saw a gold van leaving the scene shortly after the fire was set.

Smith stands at 6 feet 4 inches tall and,

at the time of the fire, weighed 360 pounds. Though his car is gold, it is an SUV and not a van, and the homeless woman was very clear that the car was a van, Evans argued Monday.

Dressed in a gray suit with a white shirt and a yellow tie, Smith watched quietly and displayed little emotion during the closing arguments. During court breaks, and before he was led back to a holding cell by a sheriff's deputy, Smith turned to smile at his wife, Teresa, and several other well-wishers who attended the trial, including two reverends from Smith's Santa Monica church and several friends. On the other side of the courtroom was Nelson, her daughter, two employees and several other supporters.

Deliberation among the jury of 11 men and one woman was expected to resume this morning. In the first trial, jurors took less than two days before giving up on reaching a consensus. They split 7-5 in favor of Smith.

The case against Smith rests largely on the documents discovered inside the bombs. Santa Monica Police Department Sgt. Robert Almada said Smith, after being shown the documents, hung his head and said, "I'm sorry, I'm so sorry."

Smith admitted he responded that way but said it was because Almada wrongly told him two firefighters were injured battling the blaze. Smith testified he was emotional about the firemen because an accidental house fire killed his stepmother and stepsister, and injured his stepfather. Smith never knew his biological father, and his biological mother died when he was very young.

Additionally, Evans pointed out that Smith offered to take a polygraph test while being interrogated at police headquarters by Almada in July of 2003, on the condition he be released if he passed the test. Almada refused to administer the test and said he couldn't guarantee Smith's release, videotapes of the interrogation show.

Teresa Smith, an attorney, last week testified she was with her husband all night the night of the fire. She said she would have known if her husband had left their Marina del Rey condominium because she was up several times during the night to breast feed the youngest of their three children.

Daly on Monday criticized the testimony of both Smiths by pointing out that Teresa Smith in the first trial testified that the night of the fire didn't stand out in particular, but that her husband normally slept through the night with her. Daly also targeted Anthony Smith's response after being asked under oath whether he was at home with his wife through the night on Feb. 13, 2003.

"Smith said, 'More likely than not,'" Daly said. "Not, 'Yes, I was there.'"

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Consultants for human resources to cost \$150K

CITY HALL, from page 1

be simple approvals costs them thousands of dollars in time and delayed plans.

But officials within the department, who say they are short-staffed and City Hall's complex laws and policies slow down the process, hadn't until recently been ready to take action on fixing the problems.

Among the expenditures will be \$300,000 in contracts with two firms that will provide construction plan review and inspection services. An additional \$233,000 will be added to existing contracts with outside firms that provide

engineering geology services and field review services, according to city staff reports.

A \$2 MILLION MARKETING PLAN

The City Council also plans to spend another \$500,000 in next year's budget to help the Santa Monica Convention and Visitor's Bureau promote tourism in Santa Monica. City Hall will now give the bureau \$1.9 million annually, according to city officials.

The additional funds will come from revenue generated by Measure N, which was approved by Santa Monica voters this past November. As a result, Santa

Monica's hotel bed tax will be raised in January from 12 percent to 14 percent. Nightly rates at local hotels will be raised by an average of about \$4.

The bureau is charged with advertising the city as a "walkable" city, a center for arts and a fine-dining destination. The bureau also targets longer-stay visitors, namely international tourists, who are known to spend more and have less impact on traffic and parking. Money in the past has gone to the downtown visitor's center and special promotional projects. The bureau has a contract with City Hall that will expire in 2009, according to city staff reports.

LEASES, CONSULTING EQUALS \$211,766

Another \$150,000 is expected to be spent on a three-year extension of an ongoing contract between the City Hall's human resources department and consulting firm AON Consulting. AON provides consulting for employees regarding their benefit plans, according to city staff.

City Council also will likely spend \$61,766 to extend a lease for another year for City Hall's finance department, which doesn't have space in the City Hall. The current lease at 1717 Fourth St. expires in March of 2005.

Schwarzenegger criticizes nurses as 'special interests'

POLITICS, from page 1

interests don't like me in Sacramento because I am always kicking their butts."

With that, most of the 10,000 women in the audience cheered wildly.

The moment represented a deft sleight of hand for Schwarzenegger.

He bolstered his image as the special interest dragon-slayer by singling out a union representing nurses, a profession that's almost 90 percent women. And he did so at a conference that was paid for by large corporations with business before the state, including BP, Allstate, Citigroup and Bank of America.

Since taking office a year ago, Schwarzenegger has managed to thumb his nose at California's political correctness while suffering little political blowback.

Even deriding Democratic legislators as "girlie men" last summer produced only the most predictable level of high dudgeon from feminists and gay activists. Everyone else seemed to chuckle.

Schwarzenegger even reprised that line at the Republican National Convention, again to raucous cheers.

And here again — no harm, no foul for this governor. He was even praised at the conference by actress Jamie Lee Curtis as

having the "heart of a woman" himself.

"He gets away with it because people don't view him as a politician," said Barbara O'Connor, director of the Institute for the Study of Politics and the Media at California State University, Sacramento.

"It just doesn't register as much as we would think it would when he makes these aberrant comments. He shoots from the hip, and we keep waiting for the public to say, 'Wait a minute.' And it doesn't happen."

Predictably, nurses said they are outraged and that Schwarzenegger's remarks have become a rallying cry for further activism.

"I represent a group of nurses who are mostly Republican, and they are disgusted with him," said Susan Weinstein, president of a competing nurses union, SEIU 121 RN, which counts about 7,000 nurses in Southern California as members.

The matter already has percolated beyond the state's border, said Roseanne DeMarco, president of the union at the center of the controversy, the 60,000-member California Nurses Association.

"We are getting calls from nurses all over the country saying I would never support this governor for president," DeMarco said. "I'm not kidding, this is

deep. This is extremely deep."

The controversy over nurse-to-patient staffing ratios is only one small piece of the larger national problem of delivering affordable health care to as many people as possible.

Yet since he became governor, Schwarzenegger consistently has sided with corporate interests in the health care debate.

He opposed legislation by former state Senate leader John Burton to require companies to provide health care for workers and vetoed bills that would have helped consumers buy cheaper prescription drugs from Canada.

Schwarzenegger has made job creation and protection the centerpiece of his governorship and has pointed out that health

care costs are one reason businesses are fleeing California.

But picking a fight with nurses is another matter, ranking up there with bad-mouthing mom and apple pie. A national Gallup poll, released Friday, showed that Americans for the third year in a row rated nurses as "the most ethical and honest professionals" in the country.

In the end, most Californians, who have watched nurses care for elderly relatives or hold a woman's hand as she goes through labor, don't view them as a special interest.

By denigrating them, the governor risks sounding like a bully and shining a brighter light on his own relationship with corporate special interests, which he famously vowed to sweep out of Sacramento.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 3

The drawing will take place on Monday, Dec. 20, but the winner does not need to be present to win.

For more information, call (310) 828-6717 or go to www.opcc.net.

Give from the heart this season

By Daily Press staff

Get rid of unwanted clothes and toys and share in some holiday cheer with homeless families at the same time.

By donating clothes and toys, unwrapped, to the Heartfelt Foundation, Santa Monica residents can help make the holidays a bit nicer for more than 2,000 homeless and at-risk kids, as well as 1,000 homeless men and women living in downtown Los Angeles.

The most needed items are socks, T-shirts and new toys for children from birth to 12 years old.

Items need to be delivered by Dec. 15 to the Heartfelt Foundation at 2101 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 117, in Santa Monica.

There will be a wrapping party from Monday, Dec. 13, to Thursday, Dec. 16, from 12 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the same location.

For more information, call (310) 829-7857.

INTERESTED IN YOUR DAILY FORECAST?
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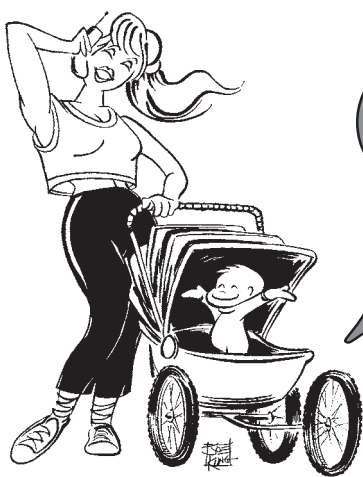
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HUMAN HANDS

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Santa Monica

A weekly look at events and programs for



DEAR DORIE

Mom feeling the holiday pressure

Dear Dorie,

The winter holidays are around the corner and I still feel hungover from Thanksgiving. My 2-year-old is challenging the holiday traditions, to say the least. Meals are crazy, behavior just never seems to please the relatives, and the notion of regular sleep is non-existent. As a rational adult, I know that the holidays won't always be this way, but I'm having a hard time not crawling into a closet until they're over. Any advice?

— Mom in Holiday Hell

Dear Mom,

It appears you're still in the "surprise, holidays-with-young-children-are-ridiculous" shock from Thanksgiving. It's a difficult but unavoidable part of parenting. Rest assured, it gets easier as they get older. Rituals become understood, schedules become more flexible, and, believe it or not, sleep eventually becomes less of an issue. In the meantime here are a few tips:

- 1) Take care of yourself. Rest. If not actual sleep, try meditation and exercise in your preferred style. As a parent, your No. 1 job is to protect that little one, and you can't do that if you are sick or stressed out.
- 2) Guide your toddler to quiet time whenever possible. If he gets over-stimulated, remove him from the situation and the inevitable criticisms from relatives (i.e., "My children just didn't behave like that.")
- 3) Allow him his usual rituals. If he drinks a bottle of milk before bedtime at home, but you're embarrassed to give him a bottle in front of your mother, swallow your pride. He doesn't know your mother's issues, all he wants is his usual bottle.
- 4) Stay close. Well-intentioned relatives tend to demand hugs and kisses pretty frequently. Your child might feel overwhelmed and frightened.
- 5) Identify your expectations. If they seem unrealistic for either you or your toddler, change them. Family holiday traditions are dynamic. Ultimately, the holiday season is a magical time for children, and family is one of the most meaningful and important parts. Good luck.

(Dorie Meek is director of the Infant & Family Support Program, provided by Saint John's Health Center with the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. Submit your questions concerning children 5 years and younger to meek@smmusd.org, or call (310) 452-6132).

BEAT THE HOLIDAY BLUES

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GUEST COMMENTARY BY DR. WALLY GHURABI

Holiday pointers to ensure a safe, festive season

'Tis the season to be jolly, so don't let an unexpected injury or illness spoil your family's holiday celebrations.

As an emergency physician, I have seen too many holiday accidents and illnesses that could have been prevented by simple, common-sense precautions. Below are some holiday pointers to help ensure a safe and festive Yuletide season.

■ Keep holiday plants, such as holly and poinsettias, out of reach of small children and pets. Many parts of these and other household plants are poisonous, if ingested.

■ Use shatterproof ornaments to decorate trees.

■ Make sure tree and house lights are grounded to reduce the risk of electrical shock or fires.

■ Have your tree fireproofed and place it a safe distance from your fireplace, wall heater or vents.

■ Trim any branches that toddlers might pull or trip over, causing the tree to tumble over on them or someone else.

■ Keep a fire extinguisher and first-aid kit in your house at all times.

■ Consider safety in all gifts for small children and inspect toys for removable parts or unsafe features.

■ Eat and drink in moderation. Overindulgence can lead to gastrointestinal problems and other unhealthy consequences.

■ Don't drink and drive. The combination can be deadly.

Best wishes for a healthy, happy holiday season. If you or a loved one needs emergency care, the Santa Monica-UCLA Emergency Center is open 24 hours: (310) 319-4765.

(Dr. Wally Ghurabi is medical director of the Santa Monica-UCLA Emergency Center and a fellow of the American College of Emergency Physicians).

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SPECIAL EVENTS

WINTERLIT – DOWNTOWN SANTA MONICA LIGHTS UP THE HOLIDAYS
NOW THRU DEC. 24 – VISIT SANTA CLAUS at SANTA MONICA PLACE!
NOW THRU DEC. 19 – ChiPs for KIDS will collect toys inside Santa Monica Place.

TOYS for TOTS at the SANTA MONICA FIRE DEPARTMENT

Drop off your donation and check out the fire trucks – fun for the little ones! Toys being accepted at all locations now through Dec. 23 - 1444 7th St., 222 Hollister, 1302 19th St., 2450 Ashland Ave.

TUESDAY, DEC. 14 – HANUKKAH PUPPET SHOW – 3:30 p.m.
Montana Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave., 829-7081. Ages 3 and up.

THURSDAY, DEC. 16 – WINTER HOLIDAY STORIES & CRAFTS – 3:30 p.m.
At the Fairview Branch Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 450-0443. Ages 5 and up.

NOW thru Jan. 2
CAVALIA – A MAGICAL ENCOUNTER BETWEEN MAN and HORSE
Under the big top at the Santa Monica Pier. For the first time on stage, the equestrian arts are presented with unprecedented magic and emotion in this innovative multimedia extravaganza. Blending dramatic visual effects, live music, dance and acrobatics with the bold presence of over thirty magnificent horses, including the incredible Lusitanian stallions. \$79 adults, \$59 ages 12 and under. Call 866-999-8111 or visit www.cavalia.net for showtimes, tickets and more info.

NOW THRU DEC. 19 at the FILLMORE & WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY CHRISTMAS TREE TRAIN – SAT. & SUN., departs 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.
Ride the train to pick out a Christmas tree and meet Santa onboard. \$20 adults, \$10 ages 4-12, \$6 under 4. Tree price not included. Reservations recommended.
NORTH POLE EXPRESS – FRI., SAT. & SUN., departs 6:00 p.m. on Fri. & Sat., 5:15 p.m. on Sun. Come dressed in your PJ's and travel to the "North Pole" to pick up Santa. While onboard the elves read "The Polar Express." Sing carols, enjoy chocolate milk and cookies, then visit with Santa back at the station. Reservations required. 250 Central Ave., Fillmore, 805-524-2546.

COMING UP THURSDAY, DEC. 16 – COUPLES PREGNANCY WORKSHOP 7:30 – 10:30 p.m., \$75. With Khefri Riley. An educational and inspiring workshop for pregnancy and labor featuring a concise overview of labor and delivery tools and techniques. Register via Ocean Oasis at 451-9900, 1333 Ocean Ave.

SANTA MONICA COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES – REGISTER NOW!
Registration began Dec. 9 for the winter session that begins the second week of January. Classes for kids include Parent/Me with infants and toddlers, dance, gymnastics, sports and more. Visit www.RecEnroll.smgov.net or call 458-2239 for more info.

TUESDAY

Movies for Moms!
Dec. 14 – "Christmas with the Kranks" starring Tim Allen, Jamie Lee Curtis and Dan Aykroyd. Comedy, Rated "PG."

11:00 a.m., Loews Broadway, 1441 3rd St. Promenade – for Moms and babies newborn – 1 year old. Doors open early for socializing and getting comfortable.
Visit www.enjoytheshow.com/reel-moms for details.

Storytelling
Main Library – held at Reed Park, corner of 7th and Wilshire.
Toddler Storytime; 10:00 a.m. For 2 year olds with adult. (not Dec. 21 & 28)
Preschool Story Time; 10:30 a.m.; for ages 3-5. (not Dec. 21 & 28)
Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.
Cuentos Para Pequenos – 10:00 a.m., six-week series in Spanish for 24 – 36 month olds with adult. Next session Jan. 4 – Feb.8.
Lap Time – 11:00 a.m, six-week series for babies 0-24 months, co-sponsored by the SMMUSD Infant & Family Support Programs. Next session Jan. 4 – Feb.8.
Twilight Story Time -7pm – an ongoing program for 3-5 year olds.
Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.
Family Story Time – 7:00 p.m., all ages.
Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St. – 310-392-3804.
Toddler Storytime, 10:00 and 10:30. Music, rhymes and stories for 24-36 month olds.
Tiny Tuesday Storytime at Storyopolis
For ages infant to 3. 11:00 a.m. 116 North Robertson, Plaza A, LA. 310-358-2500, www.storyopolis.com
Barnes and Noble at the Grove Storytime for ages 2 – 6. 10:00 a.m. 189 Grove Drive, LA, 323-525-0270

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

Yoga & Exercise
Prenatal Aqua Aerobics at the Santa Monica YMCA
10:00 – 11:00 a.m and 7:30 – 8:30 p.m; Free for members, non-members \$90 for 10 classes. (also Thursday nights 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.) 393-2721. ext. 117 for more info.
Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:40 p.m., \$15. Mommy and Me – 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.
Mommy Care – at the Dance Factory, 11606 San Vicente Blvd., Brentwood, 310-394-6711. Combined Pregnancy/Recovery Exercise Group – 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.. (babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)
Itsy Bitsy Yoga – Tots (crawling to 24 months) – 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. (Register now for new session beginning Jan. 4.) Baby (6 weeks to pre-crawling) – 11:30 – 12:30 a.m. With Khefri Riley at Ocean Oasis, 1333 Ocean Ave. Register at www.khefri.net or call 323-549-5383.
Stroller Strides – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 866-FIT-4MOM or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

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

WEDNESDAY

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

Classes
Rhythm Child Parent & Me Rhythms, Santa Monica Studios, 3025 Olympic Blvd., 9:30 – 10:15 a.m. Children explore rhythms through drum play. Ages 6 mos. – 3.5 years; \$15 per session. Call 204-5466 or visit www.rhythmmchild.net for more info.
YWCA – A Place for Parents – Parent Support (3 – 5 years) – 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.; Infant Plus (0-12 mos.) – 10:30 a.m. – noon; Parents of Adolescents Support Group – 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

Yoga & Exercise
Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45pm, \$15
Fitness for Moms – Babies Welcome! Step Aerobics, 10:30 a.m. at the YMCA, 393-2721, ext. 117 for more info. Free for members, non-members pay \$90 for 10 classes.
Stroller Strides – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 866-FIT-4MOM or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

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

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

THURSDAY

Babystyle, 1324 Montana Avenue, 434-9590
10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4.
Main Library – held at Reed Park, corner of 7th and Wilshire.
Toddler Storytime; 10:00 a.m.; for 2 year olds with adult. (not Dec. 23 & 30)
Preschool Story Time; 10:30 a.m.; for ages 3-5. (not Dec. 23 & 30)
Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.
Toddler Story Time – 10:30 a.m; for ages 2 –3. Current session thru Dec. 16.
La Hora Del Cuento – 7:00 p.m. Spanish stories, songs and rhymes for all ages.
Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.
Toddler Story Time – 10:15 a.m., for 2 year olds. Thru Dec. 16.
Preschool Story Time – 11:15 a.m.; for 3-5 year olds. Thru Dec. 16.

Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St. – 310-392-3804.
Lap Time – 9:20 & 10:20 a.m., 6-week series for babies 0-24 months, co-sponsored by SMMUSD Infant & Family Support Program. Current session thru Dec. 16.

Classes
YWCA – A Place for Parents – Toddler & Me (1-3 years) – 9:15 – 10:15 a.m. and 10:45 – 11:45 a.m.; classes in partnership with the Infant and Family Support Program. Parent Support (3 – 5 years) – 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

Yoga & Exercise
Prenatal Aqua Aerobics at the Santa Monica YMCA
7:30 – 8:30 p.m; Free for members, non-members \$90 for 10 classes. (also Tuesdays at 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.) 393-2721. ext. 117 for more info.
Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:40 p.m., \$15. Mommy and Me – 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.
Stroller Strides – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 866-FIT-4MOM or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

Breastfeeding Group
The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-826-5774 - no pre-reg required, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 4-8 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

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

Classes
YWCA – A Place for Parents – Toddler & Me (1-3 years) – 9:20 – 10:20 a.m.; Parent Support (1-3 years) – 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.
Mommy and Me Dance– celebrate the wonderful world of imagination Fridays at the Electric Lodge. 9:45 – 10:45 a.m. ages 14 - 24 months; 10:45 – 11:45 a.m. ages 2 – 4. 6 classes for \$75 or \$14 per class. First class free! 1416 Electric Ave, Venice, 306-1854.

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 – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 866-FIT-4MOM 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. Learn about and keep a record of your baby's unique development, ages 3 to 60 months. Parent-completed developmental screening, with review and feedback from a licensed clinical developmental psychologist and experienced pediatric nurse practitioner, Eileen Escarce, PhD, MSN. (PSY 18819). Introductory fee: \$15 per screening with feedback. 1137 2nd Ave, Suite 213. By appointment only 310-367-1155.

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 – story time on break until Jan. 15.
Village Books, 1049 SwarthmoreAve, Pacific Palisades – 10:30 a.m. – 454-4063.

Yoga & Exercise
Santa Monica Yoga – Pre- & Post-Natal Yoga, Saturdays – 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.
1640 Ocean Park Blvd, 396-4040, www.santamonicaayoga.com
Mommy Care – at the Dance Factory, 11606 San Vicente Blvd., Brentwood, 310-394-6711. Combined Pregnancy/Recovery Exercise Group – 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.(babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)
Stroller Strides – 9:00 a.m., Palisades Park, call 866-FIT-4MOM or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

Other
Snowwhite and Mary-Mary Quite Contrary at the Santa Monica Playhouse
Alternating Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m. thru Dec. 19th , \$12 adults, \$10 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 2 for reservations, www.santamonicaplayhouse.com

Puppetolio – 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested
Magicopolis – 2 and 8 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$20 for evening, \$15 for matinee. Call 310-451-2241 for info.
Precious Prints – Ceramic Heirlooms for a Lifetime
Second Saturday every month at The Pump Station, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Contact Kristan Ritchie at 310-802-8013 or visit www.preciousprintsstudios.com for more info.

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

SUNDAY

Snowwhite and Mary-Mary Quite Contrary at the Santa Monica Playhouse
Alternating Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m. thru Dec. 19th , \$12 adults, \$10 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 2 for reservations, www.santamonicaplayhouse.com
Main Street Farmer's Market – 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., corner of Main St. and Ocean Park Blvd. Pony rides, live music, lots of vendors and great family socializing.
Puppetolio – 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested
Magicopolis – 2 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$15. Call 310-451-2241 for info.

MONDAY

Storytelling

Main Library – Lap Time at Joslyn Park, Craft Room, 9:30 a.m. A series for babies up to two years old. No lap time Dec. 20, 27, Jan. 17 & Feb. 21)
"Family Connections" – on break until Jan. Check back here for start date.
Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main Street, 310-392-3804.
"Spanish for Little Ones", 11:15 a.m. Current session thru Dec. 16.
Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade – Toddler Story Time – 10am – 310-260-9110

MOMS Club of Santa Monica – New Mother Group – for new moms with babies ages 0-6 months. Meet for conversation, support and playtime. All new Moms welcome! Call Clare at 395-7422 for time, location and more info.

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Activists boycott gas stations over immigrant license bill veto

BY JEREMIAH MARQUEZ

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Hispanic activists on Monday called for a weekly boycott of California gas stations as a way to resurrect an immigrant driver's licenses bill vetoed earlier this year by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Pro-immigrant groups urged motorists to avoid buying gas every Monday through next year or until lawmakers allowed illegal immigrants to apply for licenses.

"Our campaign isn't a day protest," said Nativo Lopez, president of the Mexican American Political Association and Hermandad Mexicana, after announcing the "Dark Mondays" boycott at a gas station in downtown Los Angeles. "It's a prolonged campaign of pressure to obtain licenses for immigrants regardless of their status."

Several outside observers questioned the effectiveness of the proposed boycott.

"Obviously people can arrange not to buy gas on Monday but arrange to buy gas on all other days," said Stephen Levy, senior economist at the Palo Alto-based Center for Continuing Study of the California Economy. "This is equivalent to a bumper sticker drive."

The strategy was designed as a response to

Schwarzenegger's veto in September of a measure approved by the Democratic-controlled Legislature that would let upward of 2 million immigrants drive legally. Schwarzenegger has said the bill ignored his requirement of key security safeguards — an identifying mark that would differentiate them from licenses held by U.S. citizens and legal residents.

"The governor's position remains firm," said Margita Thompson, a Schwarzenegger spokeswoman. "Public safety will always remain of paramount importance."

Supporters argue such licenses would strengthen public safety by requiring illegal immigrants to know the rules of the road and obtain insurance. State Sen. Gil Cedillo, D-Los Angeles, plans to introduce another license bill next month.

Battles over immigrant driver's licenses extend beyond California. At the federal level, Republican Rep. James Sensenbrenner of Wisconsin plans to introduce a measure tightening up state requirements so illegal immigrants couldn't get licenses.

That measure could prompt activists to push for a nationwide expansion of the California gas station boycott, Lopez said.

The boycott is the latest in a string of protests over immigrant licenses, including a one-day work stoppage

last year that led to the firings of some employees who briefly walked off the job.

Lopez said the current boycott would improve over other tactics by allowing activists to measure its impact through fluctuations in gasoline sales.

But experts said it was unlikely to change Schwarzenegger's stance. Unlike the successful grape boycotts of years past, the action aims to send a message to lawmakers rather than punish any one company, Levy noted.

"It won't have any effect on public policy, but it keeps the issue in the public spotlight," said Louis DeSipio, an associate professor of political science and Latino studies at the University of California, Irvine. "Economic boycotts are pretty ineffective around an issue that doesn't have a lot of popular support."

Jay McKeeman, executive vice president of California Independent Oil Marketers, which represents some gas station owners, said he was taking a wait-and-see approach to the boycott.

"At this time we are not overly concerned because it doesn't appear to be a significant issue to our members," he said.

Alaska oil spill might not be as large as feared, officials report

BY DAN JOLING

Associated Press Writer

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Salvage and recovery plans for the broken freighter Selendang Ayu continued to inch forward Monday as Coast Guard officials confirmed some good news — the initial spill off Alaska's coast may not have been as large as feared.

The federal government's incident commander, Capt. Ron Morris, said just 41,138 gallons of bunker fuel were contained in the No. 2 tank, the tank directly breached when the Malaysian soybean freighter split in two on an Unalaska Island shoal. Coast Guard officials last week said they thought the 140,000-gallon tank had been full.

Determining which tanks remain intact is a key part of developing a plan to first offload remaining oil and then eventually remove the freighter's bow and stern sections.

A break in the weather Sunday allowed a Coast Guard helicopter to place a three-man assessment crew on the stern Sunday. The helicopter did not have the same luck Monday, Morris said.

"The forward section is awash," he said. "The waves are coming over the deck."

Howard Hile of Gallagher Marine Services, who is heading the recovery for the ship's owners, said a salvage plan was between two days and a week away. He said all options are being considered and the preferred option would be to remove oil before either part of the ship is moved.

The location of the wreck will make any oil pumping difficult. The wreck is on the west side of Unalaska

Island in the Aleutian chain and directly in the path of the Bering Sea's winter savagery.

Leslie Pearson, prevention and emergency response program manager for the state Department of Environmental Conservation, said it's unlikely a vessel carrying a pump will be able to lift oil from the damaged freighter sections.

"It's just too dangerous," she said.

A more likely scenario is an airlifted pump — brought in by heavy-lift helicopter — placed on the freighter itself and oil pumped off into other tanks.

The ship was carrying 483,000 gallons of heavy bunker oil and about 21,000 gallons of diesel fuel.

The survey Sunday indicated the No. 3 tank, containing 104,448 gallons of bunker oil, had been breached and was "breathing," or rising and falling, as the tide moved in and out. However, much of the oil may be riding on a floor of water, Morris said.

Virtually no oil has been recovered.

The vessel Redeemer attempted skimming operations with equipment geared to heavy oil, said Gary Folley, the state's on-scene coordinator.

"They have been encountering heavy sheen and tar balls but no recoverable oil," he said.

Tar balls are heavy oil globs mixed with rock, dirt or sediment.

"It's not easy to recover with a tradition skimmer," Folley said.

Recovery officials have detected few animals affected by the spill. Two dead cormorants were spotted last week. Five dead waterfowl, three more cormorants and two other seabirds, were spotted Sunday, Morris said.



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Gates Foundation gives \$43 million to fight malaria

BY PAUL ELIAS
AP Biotechnology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation was expected on Monday to donate \$42.6 million to a novel, nonprofit drug company that hopes to make a cheaper malaria treatment by applying a new biotechnology recipe to an ancient Chinese remedy.

The San Francisco-based Institute of OneWorld Health will work with the University of California, Berkeley and a small Albany-based biotechnology company to turn the genetic engineering work of Berkeley's Jay Keasling into an inexpensive and effective drug to fight malaria in the Third World.

Keasling is developing a new way to manufacture artemisinin, a malaria fighter made from finely ground wormwood plants. Chinese first extracted artemisinin from the sweet wormwood plant for medicinal use more than 2,000 years ago, and since then it's been applied to a variety of ailments including hemorrhoids, coughs and fevers. But the method is expensive, time consuming and limited by access to wormwood.

"The plant can't supply a whole continent," said Victoria Hale, OneWorld's chief executive.

So Keasling and his colleagues are working on a way to eliminate the need for the plant by splicing its chemical-producing genes and yeast genes into *E. coli* and ultimately coaxing artemisinin from this creation.

Each year, 300 million to 500 million new cases of the mosquito-borne disease are diagnosed, according to the World Health Organization, and many of those who

become ill can't afford the drugs to treat it. Some 1.5 million people, mostly children, die each year, mostly in Africa and Asia. Drug resistance is also a growing problem.

It costs about \$2.40 per patient to treat malaria with a three-day drug regimen that includes the artemisinin. Many Third World malaria sufferers can't afford the treatment, and Hale said the Gates money will be used to develop a malaria treatment that costs under \$1 each within five years.

"Our goal is to make this the primary source for fighting malaria," Hale said.

Hale launched OneWorld three years ago to develop drugs to treat Third World diseases largely ignored by pharmaceutical companies because of profit concerns.

The university owns the patent covering the genetic engineering of the wormwood and has licensed it free of charge to OneWorld and Amyris Biotechnologies.

Combatting malaria is one of the primary goals of the \$27 billion Gates Foundation, which has doled out nearly \$300 million in malaria-related grants. Unlike most science grants, the Gates' money covers the whole discovery process — from basic science to drug manufacturing.

"This is an extraordinary partnership between public and private institutions that combines cutting-edge science with a commitment to affordability and accessibility for those people in need," said Dr. Regina Rabinovich, director of infectious diseases at the Gates Foundation. "I hope that UC Berkeley's participation will serve as a model for other academic institutions to apply their sci-

entific knowledge and resources to critical global health problems."

Keasling said the Gates' grant has enabled him to hire ten more researchers to complete the hunt for all the wormwood's genes needed to make the drug. So far, they've found one key gene and suspect they'll need to add three more to complete the process.

"It's an incredibly large amount of money," Keasling said. "We really need that kind of investment to get it done."

Producing such chemicals in bacteria could also preserve plants now destroyed for their chemical benefits, Keasling said. For example, the popular cancer-fighting drug Taxol is extracted from the Pacific yew tree, by only about four million Pacific yews grow in the Northwest. The researchers say Taxol could be manufactured in their genetically engineered bacteria.

U.S. researchers are investigating whether artemisinin could be used in fighting breast cancer.

Supreme Court limits pollution cleanup lawsuits

BY GINA HOLLAND
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Monday put restrictions on companies that want to clean up voluntarily their polluted land and sue former owners to share the costs.

The court ruled 7-2 against a company that in 1981 bought land in Texas that had been used for aircraft engine maintenance businesses and then went to court to recover some of the \$5 million it spent cleaning up pollution there.

The justices said the company improperly tried to use the Superfund law to sue because the government had not demanded that the cleanup be done.

However, the court left open the possibility that another part of the Superfund law could permit such lawsuits.

"There's no question this ruling will significantly diminish the incentive people have to do voluntary

cleanup," said Richard Lazarus, a Georgetown University law school professor and environmental lawyer.

Congress may be asked to change the law, Lazarus said.

The law allows the Environmental Protection Agency to designate as "Superfund" sites areas that are highly polluted, and then officials can seek money from current and former owners for the cleanup costs.

Monday's case involved a broad category of land, many thousands of properties, that have abandoned toxic plants, landfills and mines but are not a priority for the EPA.

Justice Clarence Thomas, writing for the court, said that lower courts should reconsider whether to allow the lawsuit by Aviall Services Inc. against electrical product maker Cooper Industries.

In a dissent, Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and John Paul Stevens said the Supreme Court should have settled the issue now, and let Aviall pursue help.



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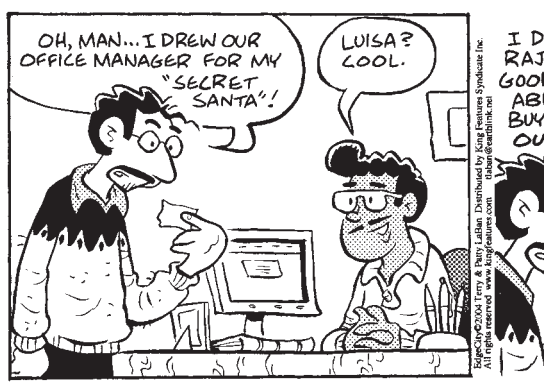


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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Smelly socks, fat suit raise money for HBO film

By The Associated Press

WATERVILLE, Maine — Smelly socks worn by Ed Harris during the filming of "Empire Falls" were among the treasures snatched up by fans during a weekend sale of props and costumes from the HBO movie.

On Saturday, about 300 people bought a variety of items used by Harris, Paul Newman, Joanne Woodward and Helen Hunt during last year's filming in the Waterville-Skowhegan area.

The sale concluded Sunday after the remaining items were marked down in price. Proceeds will help defray the costs of the film, directed by Fred Schepisi and also starring Philip Seymour Hoffman, Robin Wright Penn and Kate Burton.

The inventory included racks of clothes, shoes, license plates, jewelry, books, signs, gazebos, a couch, menus, a wet suit worn by Woodward and a "fat suit" worn by Hunt.

"I've got Ed Harris' socks, and they smell, but I'm not washing them," said Bonnie Goodwin, pulling her loot out of a plastic bag. "I've got William Fichtner's shirt and Danielle Panabaker's earrings."

The movie, to air on HBO in May, is based on Richard Russo's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel about an economically depressed mill town in Maine.

"One lady bought \$2,200 worth of items," said David Huard, who was staffing a special case of items, including ivory-colored costume earrings worn by Woodward.

Among the bigger items were several large wooden signs, including one that says Empire Falls, and gravestones that look like granite but are made of wood. They were used in a cemetery scene in which Newman appeared.

BARCELONA, Spain — The German drama "Head-On" won the prize for best European film at the 17th annual European Film Awards, while the Spanish film "The Sea Inside" won for best director, Alejandro

Amenabar, and best actor, Javier Bardem.

"Head-On," a sexually explicit drama about second-generation Turkish immigrants in Germany, won the Golden Bear earlier this year at the Berlin International Film Festival.

Director Fatih Akin, a citizen of both Germany and Turkey, said it is one of the first movies to tackle the problems of Muslim immigrants in Europe.

"Three different views are in this film: the Turkish-Turkish view, the Turkish-German view and the German-German view. We've tried to bring those three views together, to find a middle ground," Akin said following Saturday night's awards ceremony at the new Barcelona International Convention Center.

Amenabar's "The Sea Inside," which tells the story of a paraplegic man who fights for the right to end his own life, was the winner of the Grand Jury Prize at the Venice Film Festival.

"Making this movie was like a gift for me, it didn't even seem like work," Amenabar said in accepting the award.

The surprise of the night was Pedro Almodovar's "Bad Education." Although the Spanish film was nominated in five categories, including best European director, it didn't take home a single statuette.

Winners were chosen by members of the European Film Academy.

NEW YORK — Donald Trump taught Kevin Allen and Sandy Ferreira, his oh-so-close firees on NBC's "The Apprentice, a valuable lesson: go to school but don't stay too long.

"Ultimately, I think I came to the table with an entrepreneurial spirit," Ferreira, 28, told The Associated Press. "I just didn't have the degree that Trump wanted. I couldn't pull it out of the air."

On the flip side, Trump called law student Allen, 29, overeducated and underexperienced before firing him — even though finalist Kelly Perdew has the same num-

ber of degrees and Jennifer Massey has a similar amount of business experience. What gives?

"I think at that point, down to final four, Trump was looking for a specific thing," Allen told the AP. "He just couldn't find a way to articulate that when it came time to fire me."

The choice wasn't easy, according to Ferreira. Their "final four" boardroom showdown last week, which included a verbal catfight between Ferreira and Massey, took over four hours.

"We had to leave the boardroom three times," said Ferreira, "because Trump couldn't make a decision. I think he was equally impressed with all of us."

Trump will hire either Massey or Perdew during the live three-hour "Apprentice" finale to air Thursday from New York's Lincoln Center.

Both Allen and Ferreira think Perdew is the man for the six-figure salary job with The Trump Organization, but Allen doesn't think Trump will tell Perdew "you're hired!"

"I think Mr. Trump has got his eye on Jen," said Allen. "Unfortunately, I think she's going to win. She had something that Mr. Trump favored, and it's been apparent. He's been favoring her for a while. But you never know."

NEW DELHI — A group of popular American jazz artists will perform in India next month as part of a U.S. State Department-supported campaign to combat HIV and AIDS, an embassy official said.

George Duke, Al Jarreau, Earl Klugh and Ravi Coltrane will hold concerts in Bombay and New Delhi starting Jan. 13, said David Kennedy, U.S. embassy spokesman in New Delhi, on Monday.

Secretary of State Colin Powell is expected to make a formal announcement Wednesday. The tour is jointly sponsored by Black Entertainment Television.

India, with 1.06 billion people, has the world's second largest HIV-infected population, totaling 5.1 million.

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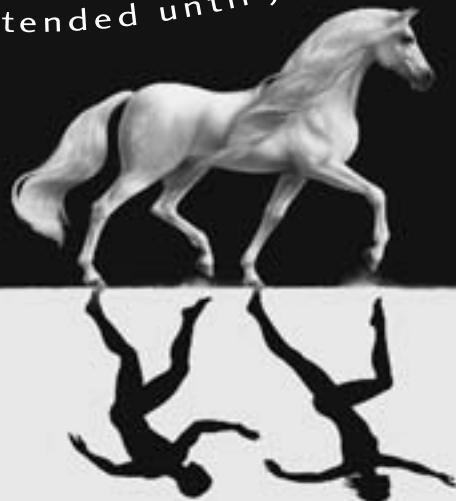
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