

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

19 21 24 35 41
Meganumber: 21
Jackpot: \$26 Million

FANTASY 5

9 12 21 31 35

DAILY 3

Daytime: 4 6 0
Evening: 9 3 1

DAILY DERBY

1st: 06 Whirl Win
2nd: 03 Hot Shot
3rd: 01 Gold Rush

RACE TIME: 1.47.61

NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

The Chicago Sun-Times reported in November that Illinois officials had decided to spend \$115,000 in federal money to distribute 2.4 million condoms to help reduce sexually transmitted diseases among the young, but also concluded that the young might need special incentives to actually use the condoms. Consequently, bureaucrats decided that 900,000 would be in colors (orange, green, red or blue) and that 300,000 others would be flavored (orange, lemon, grape, cherry), to encourage their use in oral sex. State Sen. Steve Rauschenberger objected to the distribution of what he called "French ticklers" and suggested that all condoms should be "army green, utilitarian, low-priced." (Update: Gov. Rod Blagojevich subsequently eliminated the colors/flavors option.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

In 1968, Apollo 8 was launched on a mission to orbit the moon.
In 1971, the U.N. Security Council chose Kurt Waldheim to succeed U Thant as Secretary-General.
In 1978, police in Des Plaines, Ill., arrested John W. Gacy Jr. and began unearthing the remains of 33 men and boys that Gacy was later convicted of murdering.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Many human beings say that they enjoy the winter, but what they really enjoy is feeling proof against it."

RICHARD ADAMS
ENGLISH AUTHOR

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Bit part



John Wood/Daily Press

Construction worker David Amavizca, 33, of West Covina, and a supervisor help guide a drill Monday at the old Pioneer Boulangerie property on the north end of Main Street. Denver-based developer Archstone-Smith bought the property and approvals this fall for an undisclosed amount of money. It plans to build a 170,000-square-foot, four-story, 133-unit housing and retail development. Work on the project began days after Archstone bought the property and has stopped only on Sundays.



File Photo

Rapper 'Young Buck' faces up to eight years in prison for allegedly stabbing a man at the Vibe awards ceremony last month.

'Young Buck' charged in Vibe awards stabbing

By Daily Press staff

Charges were filed Monday against rap recording artist "Young Buck" and a second man in connection with a stabbing and assault during last month's Vibe awards ceremony at the Santa Monica airport.

David Darnell Brown, 23, who records under the name "Young Buck," was charged with one count of assault with a deadly weapon by means likely to produce great bodily injury, according to Deputy District Attorney Hamid Towfigh. Brown surrendered to authorities in Santa Monica days after the incident and was freed on \$500,000 bail. If convicted, he faces up to eight years in state

prison.

Brown is suspected of stabbing Jimmy James Johnson, 26, after Johnson allegedly punched rap star and record producer Dr. Dre, whose real name is Andre Young, in the face after requesting an autograph. The attack touched off a chair-throwing brawl that spread through the crowd. Young was attending the Nov. 15 ceremony to receive a lifetime achievement award.

Roger Rosen, Brown's lawyer, has said Brown was at home when the stabbing took place. Several videotapes of the chaos reveal that three men were seen holding knives, one of whom was identified by police as Brown. At one point in the videos, Brown is allegedly seen lunging over another

man and swinging the knife at Johnson while he was looking away, according to police.

A native of Nashville, Tenn., Brown is a member of 50 Cent's G-Unit group, which is part of Dr. Dre's Aftermath label. He released his first major solo album, "Straight Outta Ca\$hville," in August.

Also Monday, a felony complaint was filed charging Johnson with one count of assault by means likely to produce great bodily injury, Towfigh said. Johnson, who is in custody on a parole violation, will be arraigned Jan. 10. Brown was scheduled to be arraigned Monday but delayed the proceeding until Jan. 14, a spokeswoman for the District Attorney's Office said.

Elderly woman paid \$700K after bus crash

Witnesses said Amalia Hernandez flew 30 feet in the air after being struck by a Big Blue Bus on Ocean Park Boulevard last year

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

SUNSET PARK — Nearly two years after she was struck by a Big Blue Bus while crossing Ocean Park Boulevard in Santa Monica, 80-year-old Amalia Hernandez accepted \$700,000 this month to drop her lawsuit against City Hall.

Hernandez was carrying a birthday cake for her son when a Big Blue Bus turned left off of 17th Street and hit her in the crosswalk. The impact broke her left wrist and right kneecap, and knocked out her two front teeth, according to court records.

Bus driver Candice Hayes reportedly said, "Oh my God, I didn't see her!" immediately after hitting Hernandez, according to passenger Sahar Sajedi. Another five witnesses also riding on the No. 8 bus said they saw Hernandez walk up to the inter-

See BUS CRASH, page 6



John Wood/Daily Press

A 2003 police photo, contained in court documents, shows Amalia Hernandez, now 80, shortly after she was struck by a Big Blue Bus in Sunset Park. Hernandez spent eight days in the hospital after the crash. She agreed earlier this month to settle a lawsuit against City Hall for \$700,000.

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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)
★★★★ Insight surrounds the Winter Solstice, but so does responsibility. Others clearly depend on you. If you want a change or less of a load, you are going to have to be less available. Learn to say "no" nicely. All eyes are on you. Tonight: In the limelight.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Your mind relaxes and your imagination wanders. You finally unwind. Once more, a friend acts in an unpredictable manner. Instead of being upset, think of this person as a source of excitement, a veritable jack-in-the-box. Tonight: Don't do the norm. Break patterns.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Continue to deal with others individually, and you are bound to be more successful. Finally, you feel as if a burden has been lifted off your shoulders. Be freer with your words and actions. A meeting proves to be essential. Your instincts guide you. Tonight: Where the action is.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ You still carry the ball at work or with some other key happening. Be honest with yourself. You enjoy being the lead player. Surprises arrive from a distance. Just hope it isn't unexpected houseguests! Go with the flow. Tonight: Don't count on making it an early night.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You are ready for the unusual and different. In fact, you crave variation and a change of pace today. Just be careful not to upset someone else too much. A partner or associate could be taken aback. Remember, ultimately you do care about your public image. Tonight: Relish the moment.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Take time with key people in your life. Surprises come from those you have always considered to be stable. Work as a team, both financially and emotionally. Curb flirting, as someone might take your attention as more. Others are very sensitive. Tonight: Play as if there is no tomorrow.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Let others play their cards and demonstrate their leadership skills. In some way, their actions make life easier. You'll gain keen insight into a key person's financial sense and emotional intentions. You could be a bit taken aback. Tonight: Quality time with a loved one or a special friend.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ If you are not sure, ask. Your creativity surges, yet where you place your libido energies is your call. "Spontaneity" becomes your byword. Explain and talk with those your actions could impact. A key friend or loved one makes the first move. Tonight: Just say "yes."



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You need to hold yourself back, especially with spending. You also might discover that a boss or family member makes unanticipated demands. Be aware of how much you have to offer. You don't have to prove yourself. Tonight. Off running last-minute errands.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Your sensuality and imagination might startle even you. Flow with ideas and let more spontaneity into your life. A child delights in your mood and joins in. Share the holiday spirit in a way that counts. Tonight: Enjoy the moment.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★ You could be overwhelmed by work, people and all the last-minute holiday details. Take a personal day if you can. Try to isolate yourself, and you will feel much better. Everyone needs downtime, even the electric Aquarian. Tonight: Remain mysteriously gone.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Once more, you are spontaneous but also unpredictable to even you. Friends delight in your company, even it is work buddies at a meeting. Infuse the holiday spirit into your interactions. Remember someone who might be alone for the holidays. Tonight: Don't worry about tomorrow. Live in the moment.

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LOCAL

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Group to discuss 'Amateur' things

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica Public Library will debut a new book group at the Montana Avenue Branch Library with a discussion of *The Amateur Marriage*, by Anne Tyler, on Jan. 19.

The group will discuss a different novel the third Wednesday of every month from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Montana Avenue Branch, 1704 Montana Ave. Discussion on Feb. 16 will center on the critically acclaimed *Life of Pi*, by Yann Martel.

For more information, call (310) 458-8600.

Celebrating the King

By Daily Press staff



PAUL F. CUMMINS

Paul F. Cummins, a long-time Santa Monica educator and currently executive director of the New Visions Foundation, will be the keynote speaker at the celebration of the birthday of The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Jan. 17, 2004, at the First United Methodist Church, 1008 11th St. in Santa Monica.

The free event — which has reportedly become one of the largest celebrations of its kind in Southern California — is scheduled for 9 a.m. The event is coordinated by the Martin Luther King Jr. Westside Coalition, a nonprofit coalition whose mission is consistent with King's legacy. It is cosponsored by Santa Monica College, the City of Santa Monica and the SMC Associates.

The multi-ethnic, interfaith program will also include inspirational readings, music and presentations of scholarships. Immediately following the program will be a Community Involvement Fair with refreshments and informational booths of various community organizations. The theme is "State of the Union: A Time for Love, Not Hate, for Understanding, Not Anger, for Peace, Not War."

Cummins, who is best known as founder and headmaster of Crossroads School in Santa Monica, as well as the New Visions Foundation and PS Arts, received his bachelor's degree from Stanford, master's from Harvard and doctorate from USC.

He founded Crossroads in 1970 and, under the aegis of New Visions, he was the primary founder of New Roads School; a co-founder of Camino Nuevo Charter Academy; creator of CEO (Center for Educational Opportunity), which places foster children in independent schools; and founder of Families Helping Families, which redirects low-income families.

In addition, New Visions has instituted an after-school program at Camp Gonzales, a probationary incarceration school, to redirect and relocate juvenile students.

His publications include several articles on education and numerous poems that have appeared in journals such as *The New Republic*, *Poetry LA*, *Whole Notes*, *Wild Bamboo Press*, *Bad Haircut Quarterly*, *Wordwrights*, *Slant* and more. He is also the author of several books.

Cummins and his wife, Mary Ann, live in Santa Monica. They have four daughters.

For more information about the event, call (310) 434-4003.

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



SURF REPORT

On Tuesday look for an increase in both WNW ground and wind swell. Northern LA spots with decent WNW exposure see surf in the waist-high range, with chest-high+ sets at top spots. Most South Bay breaks see waist- to chest-high waves, while standouts hit head high. Winds are light and variable in the morning and build out of the W in the 8- to 10-knot range 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	9:17	2.3	9:18	0.6	3:28	4.6	2:38	3.1
SUNDAY	10:44	1.7	10:10	1.1	4:17	5.0	4:12	3.7
MONDAY	11:50	1.0	10:57	1.5	4:59	5.3	5:38	3.5
TUESDAY	12:42	0.4	11:40	1.9	5:37	5.6	6:48	3.5
WEDNESDAY	N/A	N/A	1:25	-0.1	6:11	5.8	7:45	3.5
THURSDAY	12:19	2.1	2:03	-0.4	6:43	6.0	8:32	3.6
FRIDAY	12:53	2.3	2:37	-0.6	7:14	6.1	9:13	3.6

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The QLine

City officials have proposed opening a sobering center, or "drunk tank," to help curb the problem of public drunkenness in Santa Monica. Some officials champion the idea as a way to save the city money and address its homelessness problem. Others say the plan would do little to reduce vagrancy in the area.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know,

"Do you think a sobering center in Santa Monica is 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 a minute or less. It might help to think first about the wording of your response.

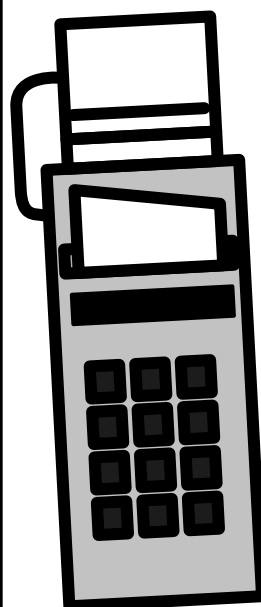
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(Editor's note: Former schools superintendent Dr. Neil Schmidt, 63, died Wednesday after reportedly suffering from a heart attack brought on by a bee sting. The top educator, who had retired to work on an avocado farm in Fillmore, also headed districts in Lodi, Calif., and Conejo Valley, Calif.)

Tribute to Dr. Schmidt

Editor:

I am writing this letter as a tribute to Dr. Neil Schmidt, past superintendent of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, the Conejo Valley Unified School District in Thousand Oaks and the Fillmore Unified School District. His passing last week was felt throughout all three communities.

Dr. Schmidt's impact on our community cannot be overstated. He was involved in so many charitable acts: Fillmore Lion's Club, Fillmore Boys and Girls Club, co-founder and chair of the Mentorship Program of Fillmore, Fillmore Pool Committee, and many other committees and programs that had a real and positive influence on children. But Dr. Schmidt was not just involved, he was a leader, and one that worked tirelessly on behalf of our children and community. He was always willing to open his heart and his home to causes that benefited Fillmore.

Dr. Schmidt was always positive, assuming the best in people that he worked with. He would always come up and say hello, and offer words of encouragement to those around him. Whether it was playing poker, volunteering to chair a committee, or being superintendent of a school district, Dr. Schmidt's energy and enthusiasm always shone through.

Although Dr. Schmidt is gone, his legacy in Fillmore will be felt for a very long time. He has affected people in so many ways, many of whom never had the opportunity to meet such an outstanding human being. My family and I count ourselves fortunate that we could call him "friend."

John Garnica

Board member, Fillmore Unified School District

A sense of equality needed

Editor:

Imagine the quality of life in our special city if officials treated the homeless with the same fundamentalist vigor as anyone who wants to build anything in Santa Monica.

The comparison is valid because city administration policies and actions regarding both reveal a hypocrisy that is deep and abiding, and ultimately destructive to our neighborhoods and daily living.

Consider: If you want to build here, you are forced to comply with a set of laws and design regulations that make it uniquely difficult, expensive and time consuming. Anybody who has dealt with city hall knows this. The guiding principal behind the anti-building policies is one we all agree with: Preserving our quality of life — though we may disagree with Taliban-esque 'design standards' and all the city 'red tape.' And yes, building does occur here, because architects and homeowners will abide by the law, no matter how strict, if they choose to build.

But why can't these same city officials apply equal focus and passion to enforce laws such as trespassing? Defecating in public? Panhandling? Sleeping in parks, doorways and sidewalks? Illegal food giveaways? Public intoxication? Not to mention the way the city ignores the physically sick and mentally ill who need help.

If the homeless choose to flock to our city and live on the streets, then that freedom comes with the responsibility not to break the law. If some who wander our neighborhoods and sleep in our gutters are there not by choice but by misfortune or sickness, we should help them all we can.

Judging from election returns, letters to the editor and simple day-to-day experience here, Santa Monica residents are weary of the way the homeless are mistreated, ignored and allowed to break the law. A house-cleaning is in order — from the city manager down to the city attorney to the chief of police, if necessary. And council elections are only two years away.

Mark Shepherd

Santa Monica

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The business of junk

WHAT'S
THE POINT?

BY DAVID PISARRA

American consumerism is at an all-time high, thanks to the efforts of every major retailer that tells us we just can't live without the latest gadgets and googaws. Things like the electric hot chocolate maker and the Coleman BBQ Caddy Radio, which allows one to carry the mayo and listen to the shrill rantings of Dr. Laura Hypocrite at the same time, are clogging the lifestyles of America today.

This mad rush to acquire more, hold on to everything and buy an electric tool to do what grandma used to do with her hands, is creating a fat, bloated, lazy, physically weak society filled with people scared out of their wits that they might lose out on something that will change their world and finally make them happy.

We have been beaten over the head with a message of fear and potential loss for so long that we are now incapable of letting go of our useless junk and, instead, we store it.

My partner and I have just moved. I carried with me boxes of old letters, my Freshmen Greek manual (for when I have time to go back and study some more... yeah, that's likely) and other junk. There are other boxes of stuff I have moved from West LA to Burbank to Venice to Santa Monica and now to Topanga, and yet I haven't used any of it once in the last 15 years.

I have a old china cabinet from my mother. It doesn't even vaguely fit in with the style I like, yet I am having a hard time deciding what to do with it. I don't want to store it, yet I don't want to use it in my house.

Why do we have such an easy time collecting things and such a hard time letting go of the past? Is it this vain idea that someday I might be famous and my "papers" will be good fodder for a retrospective?

What is the source of our societal passion for hoarding?

I think it comes from two places. One is our desire to keep up with the neighbors. If they have something, we want one just like it, but a little better. It is this constant competition that allows marketers to introduce new products every year with the ever popular "new and improved" moniker that is so cherished, particularly for soap. Seriously, does soap ever get improved?

The second one is the sense of fear that we are fed on a daily basis. Not just of the Al Qaeda variety, but the fear that we might need something and not have it. We get this message from our parents, from our Scout leaders, from the television and newspapers. My parents grew up in the Depression, and my mother instilled in me a sense of, "Better to have it and not need it than need it and not have it." Which probably applies more to extra food supplies than that old wooden monkey head Dad got in the Philippines during the war.

Reporters are always warning us about some dire emergency right around the

corner and asking us if we are prepared for the next firestorm, winter storm, earthquake, hurricane, tornado or depression. It is this sense of impending doom that keeps us always wanting to hold tighter to the past. This feeling that somehow we will lose out if we let go of the junk.

All this fear mongering results in a tremendous business opportunity. There is a staggering amount of money to be made in the "storage business." There are several companies that do nothing but take investors' money to build these boxes of boxes for storing boxes, and they make money hand over fist. It is a great business in which to be. They buy a piece of low-cost land, like under a freeway, where no one wants to build housing, or office or retail space; they then build a cement block square building of rabbit warrens. This is the cheapest development, because all they have to run is electricity and enough plumbing for a fire sprinkler system. There's none of that expensive sewage and gas plumbing to do, no windows, and only interior walls and doors.

Property is rented or leased on a per-square-foot basis. That translates into a value for the land and buildings on it. When regular office space is renting for \$2.65 a square foot, that is considered to be a medium to high price. An example would be an office located in a nice building close to, or on, the Promenade.

In the storage industry, people are paying \$100 a month for a 5-foot-by-5-foot cement block closet in which to store their old wrestling shoes and ballet slippers or their latest eBay treasures. I know of people who have two or three of these storage units filled to the brim with old trinkets. That means that a storage unit is generating \$4 a square foot in monthly rent.

This is a very good business in which to be. The storage companies have actually found a way to make even more money by using warehouses in outlying areas, and having you amass a pallet-sized tower of trash that they then store in an even more compact way, at a cheaper facility. But they still charge you a lot of money for it. At first it looks like a great idea to just get "a little extra storage," but frankly, if you can put it away for a year and not need it, chances are you don't need it at all and should just throw it out.

The other way to look at this issue is this: Is there anything you are storing for a year that costs what you are paying to store? If you pay \$100 a month for a year, you've spent \$1,200. If you threw out all that is in your storage unit, and then in the future had to replace something you've disposed, what would it cost to replace? If the answer is a few hundred dollars, you need to do a junk-ectomy and just toss your trash.

And in a year when you decide that you really need that electric hot chocolate maker, go buy a new one. It's improved, you know.

(David Pizarra is a business-development lawyer in the Santa Monica firm of Pizarra & Grist. He welcomes your questions and comments. He can be reached at dpizarra@pizarra.com or (310) 664-9969).

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.

OPINION



Learning to embrace SM's alleyway bargains



ANY DAY IN LA

BY HEIDI MANTEUFFEL

I don't understand the dynamics of Santa Monica.

We have expensive apartments with no air conditioning. We have scarce parking and get fined when parking on the correct side of the street. There are \$10 movies — which comes to \$17.50 with soda and popcorn — right next to street performers who sing, dance and psychic-cat their hearts out for free.

I guess that's the part I don't get — free. Yet within my first week here, I already had noticed an unusual practice that I find, for the moment, to be specific to Santa Monica: the alleyway giveaway.

Living in the Midwest, I'd seen people leave refrigerators out on their front lawn, old television sets, etc. But there's a good reason it's out there in the first place — it's broken. It wasn't until I moved to Santa Monica, though, that I realized that the stuff placed behind my apartment was not only free, but actually usable.

I quickly noticed people dumped perfectly good couches and complete table sets right next to the mammoth recycling

and garbage cans. It completely baffled me. I'm used to the old-fashion method of bringing my junk to a Salvation Army and getting a tax deduction for it. But in your very own alleyway here, you can get used books and a nightstand with a table-sized lamp. What blows my mind is that the lamp actually lights up.

My parents taught me to doubt anything with the word "free" attached to it. Free means a deal with Columbia House where you sell your soul for \$9.99 month and receive a selection of Kenny Rogers, Jon Secada and Raffi's children sing-alongs. So in the first few weeks of this "free" furniture lying about, I made sure not to touch the couch or the queen-size mattresses, as they were probably infested with termites or, at the very least, Cheetos.

However, as I was typing away on my makeshift Ikea chair whose seat falls off if you don't get your landing right, I noticed this state-of-the-art computer chair right outside my bedroom window. I knew better than to touch it. But there it was, glistening in all its glory in the early morning rays, and there I was, smack on the floor from an unsuccessful landing.

I quietly walked down to the alleyway, inspected the chair, and brought it home for a test run. No slipping to the floor, no intense itching — nothing. It was bizarre — a \$100 chair at my disposal, and it was

free.

This wonder chair broke me in to the trend of the alleyway giveaway. Between my boyfriend and myself, we've gotten a bookshelf, a dresser, a nightstand and a desk all from the parameters of my alleyway. Not to mention I rolled an old-timey bureau from three blocks away as passers-by stared at me due to the screeching.

But not only can you dress up your apartment from this alleyway free-for-all, you can furnish your wardrobe as well. A neighbor of mine was putting out some of her past outfits, and asked me to come by and look through them on my way down to the laundry room. I landed an elegant dress and two sassy tops without paying 7 percent sales tax.

Earlier this week, though, as I was walking with a friend to see Paparazzi, I noticed not clothes, books or furniture, but a brightly colored bird in the middle of the sidewalk. When we got closer, we realized it was someone's pet, abandoned by accident (or possibly on purpose), now climbing the cuffs of my pants.

As the bird shimmied his way to my waist and then to my shoulders, we real-

ized we had a lost pet on our hands and no idea what to do with it. After 10 minutes of trying to help the bird find its home, and later trying with great effort to dislodge the peed-his-pants nervous bird from my shoulder, we realized we had to ditch him. We had no cage to put it in, and no way of knowing whose it was and if they wanted it back. Although I had never seen an abandoned bird, I have come across many abandoned cats in the Santa Monica alleyways without collars or places to call home.

And that's the thing. A bird or a cat isn't just another piece of furniture. Come to think of it, it's not furniture at all. And while we're at it, I'll just quickly point out that CD holders don't usually have abandonment issues. But birds have pasts and attachments to former owners. So although I'm a big fan of the alleyway giveaway and don't mind other people's computer chairs, when it comes to a living animal, there are just some things a person should really keep.

(You can e-mail Heidi at anydayin-la@gmail.com).

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LOCAL

165 claims against Big Blue Bus this year alone

BUS CRASH, from page 1

section and wait for the “walk” sign to appear before she started across the street.

“All the passengers could do was watch in horror as Ms. Hernandez was propelled 30 feet in the air,” attorney William Chapman wrote in court documents.

The bus driver denied ever admitting guilt in the crash, and City Hall initially fought the negligence lawsuit, charging in court papers that Hernandez “failed to use due, adequate, reasonable or any care for her safety.” A settlement was reached earlier this month and approved last week in a closed-session meeting of the City Council.

“This was an unusually bad injury, of course,” City Attorney Marsha Moutrie said Monday. “I believe there were third-party witnesses who said that it seemed that neither side saw the other. We would of course expect people to check the street before they walk into the crosswalk.”

Once the owner of a Mexican restaurant on Pico Boulevard, Hernandez frequented a shoe store and bakery in Sunset Park. Although the January 2003 collision put her in the hospital for eight days, during which time she suffered from a severe drop in blood pressure and hematoma, Hernandez has since recovered, Chapman said.

“She was very fortunate,” added Chapman, who said he represented Hernandez on a 40 percent contingency rate, meaning he took \$280,000 of the \$700,000 settlement. “Her injuries were severe, but she’s recovered. As normal as normal gets when you’re 80 and you’ve suffered fairly significant orthopedic injuries.”

According to the terms of the settlement, City Hall is to pay \$500,000 and its insurance carrier another \$200,000. Hernandez reportedly accrued \$150,000 in medical bills from the crash.

Jonathan Lackey, a senior liability claims adjuster for City Hall, said the city had received 165 claims for damages

related to the Big Blue Bus this year alone. The claims are from pedestrians, passengers and other motorists, and range from mere dollars into the millions, Lackey added.

“It’s the spectrum, depending on who’s in the accident and who their lawyer is,” Lackey said. “We’ve had claims for damaged pantyhose. It really varies.”

Meanwhile, merchants and residents near the busy commercial strip on Ocean Park Boulevard in Sunset Park are pushing City Hall for stronger safety measures.

Two pedestrians were taken to the hospital earlier this month after being struck by a car while crossing Ocean Park Boulevard at 18th Street, just days after merchants asked city officials for new solutions to the dangerous intersection. Currently, the intersections of Ocean Park Boulevard and both 16th and 18th streets, neither of which have stoplights, have crosswalks with painted stripes, neon-yellow pedestrian crossing signs and flashing lights that can be activated by a button.

The intersection of Ocean Park Boulevard and 17th Street has a stoplight, but that doesn’t necessarily make it safer. Lucy Dyke, the city’s transportation manager, said most accidents occur at stoplight intersections. This year alone, there have been nearly 100 pedestrian-versus-vehicle accidents, according to police, who cautioned that crosswalks can provide a false sense of security.

Hernandez likely would agree, as her encounter with the Big Blue Bus is at the heart of a commonly used cliché.

As Chapman argued in court papers, “To describe an unimaginably large force, we employ the analogy of ‘like getting hit by a bus.’ To caution against taking life for granted and to signify the fragility of our earthly existence, we remind each other of the possibility of ‘getting hit by a bus.’ Indeed, mothers would insist on their children donning clean underwear in the event they ‘get hit by a bus.’”

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STATE

Three grocery giants reach labor agreement

BY MICHAEL LIEDTKE
AP Business Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Three major grocers have reached a new labor agreement with 19,000 supermarket workers in Northern California, averting a threatened strike and laying the foundation for a possible truce with thousands of other employees in San Francisco Bay area stores.

Jack Loveall, the union leader who negotiated the tentative contract with Safeway Inc., Albertson's Inc. and Kroger Co., celebrated the agreement as a significant breakthrough for supermarket workers fighting management's cost-cutting efforts.

"Our challenge from the start was to protect the superior wages and benefits (supermarket workers) have enjoyed for decades," Loveall said in a taped message Monday. "I am pleased to report that we've succeeded in that challenge."

Details of the agreement are being kept confidential until the workers represented by United Food and Commercial Workers Union 588 vote on the new contract. After 10 months of negotiations, the two sides came to terms late Sunday, shortly before a union deadline for a strike vote.

Safeway said it was "pleased" to have an agreement. Albertson's spokeswoman Stacia Levenfeld declined to comment. A Kroger spokesman didn't immediately return phone messages left Monday.

The contract covers employees working in stores stretching from Modesto to the Oregon border.

All three grocery giants are still negotiating with union leaders representing San Francisco Bay area workers. Safeway and Albertson's also are locked in a negotiating stalemate with unions representing their workers in Colorado stores.

The Bay Area talks have become progressively more tense as disenchanted labor leaders have stepped up efforts to organize consumer boycotts, hoping to pressure supermarket management before the workers' extended contract expires Jan. 15.

The accord announced Monday bodes well for the San Francisco-area talks, said Ron Lind, a spokesman for the Bay Area

coalition of unions. "It's definitely a good sign," Lind said. "We are anxious to see the details."

Loveall described the agreement as a triumph for the store employees on two key battlefronts. For one, the new contract avoids a two-tier wage system that would dramatically lower the pay scale for future workers. Secondly, the deal ensures the workers won't have to pay insurance premiums for their medical benefits.

Those issues became the flash points of a 4 1/2-month strike in Southern California that ended earlier this year with huge losses for the supermarkets and demoralizing concessions for the store workers.

Although the Southern California contract yielded long-term savings on labor expenses, the supermarkets are still nursing financial wounds opened by the dispute.

The labor showdown prompted many Southern California shoppers to buy their groceries elsewhere, an exodus that the affected supermarkets may never fully reverse. Pleasanton-based Safeway, for instance, already has attributed about \$320 million in losses to the Southern California strike and expects the after-shocks to cost the company about \$180 million next year.

Safeway and the other supermarkets have insisted they need to lower their costs to survive an aggressive expansion into the grocery business by Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the world's largest retailer. Labor leaders maintain the grocers are overstating the Wal-Mart threat to finagle concessions to boost their profits.

The financial pain caused by the Southern California strike has provided the Northern California workers with more negotiating leverage, Lind said.

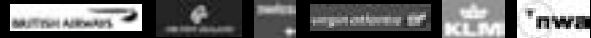
Loveall also praised the Southern California workers. "Their courageous fight and sacrifice helped win this agreement," he said.

An estimated 15,000 of the 70,000 supermarket workers embroiled in the Southern California labor dispute either never returned to their jobs or quit after the settlement.

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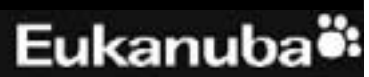
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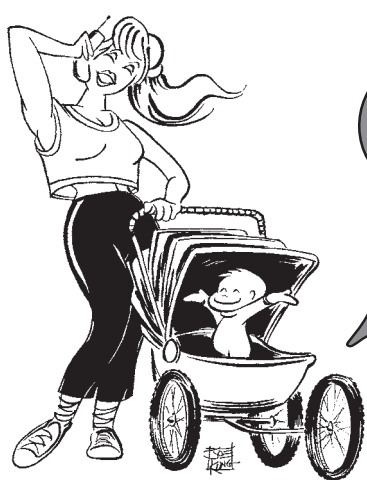


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Santa Monica

A weekly look at events and programs for

DEAR DORIE

Dear Dorie,

My children are exceptionally blessed with loving relatives who shower them with gifts around the holidays. Honestly, I am truly grateful for their involvement in our lives, but I'm wondering if there are any ideas about gift giving that can turn the holidays into something more than a present party.

— Plenty of Presents

Dear Parent,

Your letter speaks to a lot of parents in this country and this day and age.

There are many ways to let well-meaning relatives know of your preferences for gifts for young children. Here are a few of my favorites:

Call and chat with each relative about gifts. You'd be surprised how many relatives would just like a little feedback on what to give. Explain what your children are interested in and any specific no-nos — do you really need another Elmo doll?

Suggest educational toys such as art supplies, puzzles, construction sets and, of course, books.

Also, many local relatives would like to spend time with the children but don't know how. "Baby & Me" or "Toddler & Me" classes with Auntie Mame or Uncle Johnny are a perfect opportunity. How about a gift certificate to the city of Santa Monica Community Parks Division, known as a "RecCheck," for you to pick out a class for your child?

If you're definitely interested in eliminating traditional gifts, try a family story book. Ask that your relatives write down or record a story from their childhood that you could read or play to your children. Another option on this theme is the "please send a photograph that you love" approach and make it into a piece of wall art. Again, without the deluge of toys, the holidays re-focus us on the importance of family and friends. Infants and young toddlers might not appreciate the pictures now, but they will later. Trust me.

Finally, if push comes to shove, put some presents away. You are in charge of the holiday season and under no obligation to open every gift right now. This is the "season" to which parents should aspire. Good luck.

(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).

Holidays should not be a time of overindulgence for children



How Much Is Enough?

By David J. Bredehoft, Ph.D.

Thanks to the readers who sent me the following ideas that they found helpful in curbing holiday overindulgence. Use the ones that will work for you and your family. Save the rest to try at some later date.

1. Each year on the 25 days leading to Christmas we open a gift as a family. That gift is one of the kids' books. I wrap 25 of their favorite books that we already own, and we open one each day as a family. The kids rotate on who gets to open the gift each day. It's a great way to make sure we are spending time together as a family during the craziness of the holidays, and the kids also see that a gift does not have to be something just purchased but also can be the treasures we have within the house.

2. Have your children make gifts for each other. My children did this last year, getting ideas from books in the library and using materials found at home. They still talk about the gifts they made and received from each other with a sense of pride.

3. When it's time to decorate the tree, have each family member choose three ornaments. Each family member tells three blessings they have received during the year as they hang the ornaments on the tree — continue until the tree is decorated by telling three favorite memories from the year, the three biggest accomplishments, and the three things you like about each family member.

4. Instead of making lists of things we each want to get, we all sit down at Thanksgiving and make lists of things we each want to do together as a family during the holiday season. Each person "gets" at least three or four things on his/her list: old movie night, or Monopoly marathon, or cross-country skiing at night.

5. I talk about "enough" and take opportunities to point out to my children when I've had "enough." Such as, "This food is so delicious, and I've had enough. I'm glad there'll be leftovers for later," or "I might want everything in my collection, but right now, it's enough to enjoy this one new addition." I let "Is that enough?" be a common question in my household.

6. I noticed how my kids got so focused on themselves — on "getting" — over the holidays, so we started using half of the days of Hanukkah to focus on giving. Every other night we do a "mitzvah," bringing food to the local Ronald McDonald house, jump ropes to the neighbor-

hood public school after-school program, homemade book marks to the elderly, etc.

8. Although my family and I are not Jewish, I like the tradition of making the time that candles burn be family time. We have a menorah and light the candles, and play a game, talk or cook together while the candles burn down. It takes about an hour.

9. We make a special effort to model doing acts of kindness: Shoveling a neighbor's walk, inviting a single person to a holiday dinner, offering the mail carrier a cup of hot chocolate, tipping people who don't normally receive tips, such as the cashier at the parking lot.

11. We have a "too much stuff" day prior to the holidays. This is the day they look through their toys and stuff, and figure out what they can give away.

13. We make sure that we have some traditions that the children will remember and look forward to for the next year. Because we are Swedish, we celebrate St. Lucia Day, and it is very low-key but fun.

14. No one should go into debt in an effort to celebrate the holidays. Set a realistic budget. Let your children participate in the process. Give each child a budget to follow for gifts they will purchase for others.

18. One idea our family will be trying out this year is called "Advent Angels." Each person in the family draws another person's name. He or she becomes that person's Advent Angel during the Advent season. The advent angel is to do kind things for his or her person without letting that person know who is doing it.

19. Instead of drawing names for gift giving, our family contributes to a charity of our choice and talks about it at our extended family Christmas gathering.

21. We follow the example led by the three Wise Men. They each brought baby Jesus a gift, thus he received three gifts. We give each of our children three gifts for Christmas.

22. We take different routes home in the dark to see the lights on different streets and houses.

23. Take the opportunity to have the children go through their toys and books. We all have things that are just like new but of which we are tired. And then prepare a "care package" for a needy family and involve the children in leaving it on the family's doorstep.

25. Work at a local soup kitchen/shelter serving a meal during the holiday season, or volunteer at a local hospital or nursing home.

27. Request that grandparents and others put money into an education fund instead of buying too many toys. Education funds, ideally, can be used to cover sports, music, theater, other lessons and summer camps that broaden the horizons of children and youth, but drain family budgets.

28. I use money from grandparents to buy zoo/muse-

See OVERINDULGENCE, page 10

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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.

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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.

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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

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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.rhythmchild.net for more info. **YWCA – A Place for Parents –** Parent Support (3 – 5 years) – 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.; Infant Plus (0-12 mos.) – 10:30 a.m. – noon; Parents of Adolescents Support Group – 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45pm, \$15 **Fitness for Moms –** Babies Welcome! Step Aerobics, 10:30 a.m. at the YMCA, 393-2721, ext. 117 for more info. Free for members, non-members pay \$90 for 10 classes. **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.santamonicayoga.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.

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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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MOMMY PAGE

Try new ideas to refocus your family's holidays

OVERINDULGENCE, from page 8

um annual memberships instead of more toys.

29. Even young children can be involved in making cards, small gifts and remembrances for the adults in their lives. Perhaps the best way of avoiding the holiday "gimmies" is to help the child become a giver, not just a taker.

30. We decided to say "no" to a lot of the invitations and activities of the season. We decided what the most

important things about the holiday season were and then selected one adult-only activity for the month of December, and prioritized the rest of the family activities.

32. Make a New Year's resolution to overindulge your children less this year and to reread "How Much is Enough?" to understand what to do instead.

(To participate in our on-going research on overindulgence, log onto our Web site at

www.overindulgence.info. David J. Bredehoft, Ph.D., Jean Illsley Clarke, Ph.D., and Connie Dawson, Ph.D., are coauthors of "How Much Is Enough? Everything You Need to Know to Steer Clear of Overindulgence and Raise Likeable, Responsible and Respectful Children — From Toddlers to Teens." Bredehoft is chair of the social and behavioral sciences department at Concordia University in St. Paul, Minn., and can be reached at bredehoft@csp.edu. To read more about overindulgence, go to www.overindulgence.info).



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NATIONAL



EPA takes lead in cleanup of contaminated mine

BY SCOTT SONNER

Associated Press Writer

RENO, Nev. — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency assumed the lead role Monday in directing the cleanup of an abandoned, contaminated copper mine in northern Nevada.

The federal agency is assuming primary responsibility for the cleanup of the former Anaconda copper mine under a provision of the Superfund law because of growing health and safety concerns, EPA officials said.

Federal officials said they decided to grant the state's request because of the complexity of the contaminants at the site near Yerington, about 55 miles southeast of Reno.

"As lead agency, we will be able to use the Superfund law to address technical issues at the site," said Keith Takta, director of EPA's Superfund program for the Pacific Southwest region based in San Francisco.

Until now, EPA, the Bureau of Land Management and the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection shared responsibility for cleaning up several metals — copper, lead, arsenic and mercury — and radioactive materials, including uranium and thorium.

Leaders of neighboring tribes, Yerington residents and an environmental group, the Great Basin Mine Watch, have expressed concerns about the potential dangers and complained that the cleanup

was moving too slowly under the committee approach.

Officials for Atlantic Richfield Co. confirmed Monday they've more than doubled the number of households around the mine they are providing with bottled water as a safety precaution to a total of 140.

Samples taken at the mine this past summer showed levels of radiation in soil samples as high as 30 times above the EPA standard, EPA officials.

Earlier this year, groundwater testing of drinking water wells around the 6-square-mile mine site showed uranium concentrations four times greater than the EPA standard. One well on the site that is not used for drinking water had uranium 200 times the standard.

The uranium apparently is present in high concentrations as a byproduct of decades of processing copper in leach ponds with sulfuric acid.

Anaconda produced copper at the mine for about 30 years until 1978. The new owner, Arimetco, went bankrupt and abandoned the site in 2000, which left Atlantic Richfield primarily responsible for cleanup as the past owner.

Since then, the state, EPA and BLM — which owns half the land — had directed the cleanup under an agreement that was "very cumbersome," said Kathleen Johnson, chief of Federal Facilities and Site Cleanup in the EPA's regional Superfund division in San Francisco.



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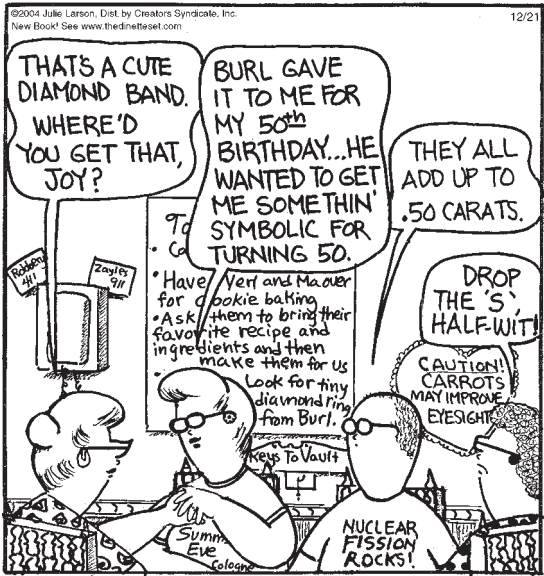
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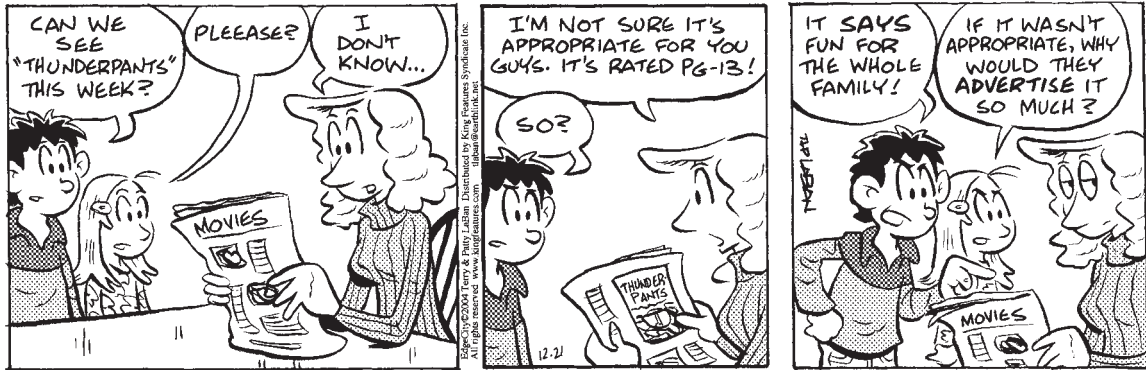


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13 Now

15 Sassy talk

16 Caboodle's partner

17 Jack, in blackjack

18 Chaotic tendency

20 Melancholy

21 City vehicle

22 Body of law

23 Ship's crane

26 Worker with a pick

27 Yale students

28 Except

29 Bouncer's question

30 Mortgage limit

34 Grass drops

35 Period of history

36 Wedding words

37 Military salute

40 Broadcast

41 Game host

42 Janet Jackson hit

43 Use money

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2 "Splish Splash" singer

3 Skilled

4 Booker T. & the —

5 Try to find

6 Veronica's rival

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DBAS

Petition for Change of Name:
Conformed Copy of original filed in Los Angeles Superior Court December 15, 2004: John A. Clarke, Executive Officer/Clerk By A. Washington, Deputy Case # SS013096

Petitioner or Attorney: Bennet Price Lientz, Jr., 848 1/2 Euclid Street, Santa Monica, CA 90403; phone no. (310) 849-2672, e-mail address email: blientz@yahoo.com, In Pro Per. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main St Rm 101, Santa Monica, CA 90401-3299, Santa Monica Courthouse. Petition of Bennet Price Lientz, Jr. for change of name. To all interested persons, Petitioner for a decree changing names is as follows: Present name: Bennet Price Lientz, Jr. filed a petition with this court for the proposed name of Bennet Price-Lientz Tchakovsky. The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Notice of Hearing: January 27, 2005 @ 9:00am in Dept. A, Room 104 Signed this day 12/15/04 by Judge Linda K. Lefkowitz, Judge of the Superior Court. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the Santa Monica Daily Press on the following dates: 12/21/04, 12/27/04, 1/3/05, 1/10/05

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