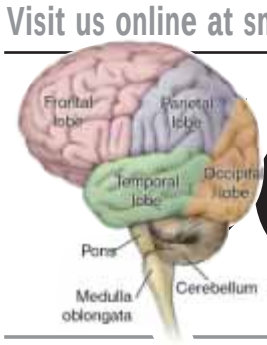

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2010

Volume 9 Issue 46



Santa Monica Daily Press

FOOTBALL'S EFFECTS ON THE BRAIN
SEE PAGE 12

We have you covered

THE GETTING BACK INTO THE GROOVE ISSUE

Greyhounds flooding dog adoption market

BOB SALSBERG & CARRIE ANTLFINGER
Associated Press Writers

KENOSHA, Wis. Seven dog tracks halted racing across the country last year, forcing hundreds of greyhounds into an uncertain future. With fewer tracks available for them to race, the sleek long-limbed dogs are now flooding the adoption market at a difficult time.

Economic hardships are preventing many dog lovers from adopting, or worse, forcing them to give back animals they can no longer afford to keep. Misconceptions about the breed — that greyhounds are hyperactive and crave constant stimulation and exercise — also scare away some potential owners, advocates say.

And most have spent their lives inside racetracks and kennels with little exposure to families, kids or even the most basic household activities, say greyhound lovers like Rhonda Mack, who took in two dogs from the Dairyland Greyhound Park in

SEE DOG PAGE 8

2009 tourism down but NYC is top US destination

SAMANTHA GROSS
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK The number of visitors to New York City fell last year for the first time since 2001 when terrorists struck. But tourism declines elsewhere across the U.S. made it the most popular destination in the country for the first time in almost two decades, tourism officials said Monday.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg painted the 3.9 percent decline — an estimated 45.3 million visitors — as a victory, saying that amid the recession the city had anticipated losing as much as 10 percent of tourists. The city expects to recoup most of the loss this year and remains on track to hit its longstanding goal of 50 million yearly visitors by 2012, the mayor said.

Other hot spots were hit harder, making New York America's No. 1 destination for the first time since 1990, the mayor said. For nearly two decades that title was held by

SEE TOURISM PAGE 9



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

COME AND GET IT: **Sushi chef Ryuta Hamazaki of Fishlips Sushi creates fast sushi dishes for people waiting at the food truck stop on 14th Street and Santa Monica Boulevard Monday afternoon.**

City home to first food court on wheels

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

SM BLVD The evolution of the food truck phenomenon in Southern California officially entered a new phase on Monday with the debut of the "Santa Monica Gourmet Food Truck Corner" — the area's first attempt at creating a permanent gathering place for mobile vendors to hawk their meals.

Located in a vacant lot at the corner of Santa Monica Boulevard and 14th Street, for truck operators the appeal is to avoid pesky city parking restrictions. For foodies, the makeshift food court promises to offer a rotating roster of gourmet trucks serving lunch and dinner, Monday through Saturday.

A lunch crowd began to gather about noon on Monday, many of them notified about the kick-off via the social networking Web site Twitter. There were four trucks on hand for the "soft opening," with organizers promising seven to 12 trucks per day as word spreads.

Ross Klein and two colleagues drove from Century City after hearing about the lot through a Web site.

"I'd come here every day if I could," Klein said after finishing a meal from India Jones Chow Truck. "This is heaven."

In a way, the lot is a perfect example of recession-inspired entrepreneurial spirit. Both the vendors and the man who owns the lot, Steve Taub, saw the venture as a solution to an economic problem.

Taub said he bought the property two years ago with thoughts of leasing it to a car dealership but found that demand had fallen off. After trying to operate a used car business himself on the site, he recently closed up shop. He credits his real estate broker, Barbara Tenzer, with coming up with the food court idea to wring revenue from the property.

Taub said he plans to charge the vendors a daily rent for using the property but declined to specify how much.

Meanwhile, the owners of gourmet food trucks — there's now more than 50 trucks in the Los Angeles area — are finding themselves under pressure from restaurants that say the trucks swoop in and steal customers while avoiding the overhead costs that "brick and mortar" places pay.

From the Third Street Promenade to Abbot Kinney to Downtown Los Angeles, food vendors say it's becoming more difficult to do business in the most popular spots. They also worry new regulations could be in the pipeline.

In Santa Monica, the Bayside District Corp., which manages Downtown, has

SEE TRUCKS PAGE 9

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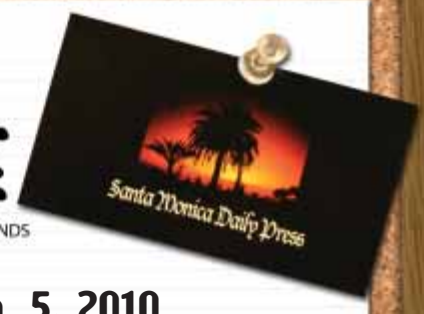
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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2010

Write away
Fairview Branch Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 12 p.m. — 3 p.m.
Published and closet writers are welcome to seek inspiration, guidance and support at this weekly writer's group. Call (310) 899-0361 for more information.

Well versed
Barnes & Noble
1201 Third Street Promenade, 10:30 a.m.
Mixing enlightened analysis with innovative authorship, join Bill Robertson of Santa Monica Emeritus College and strengthen your poetry dedication, appreciation and creation. Please visit www.greenpoets.com for more information.

Wednesday, Jan. 6., 2010

Divorce Detox
212 Marine St., 12:30 p.m. — 1:30 p.m.
Everybody needs a break, especially with the added stress of divorce, which, after all, sometimes feels like you're in a war zone. This one-hour class provides a brief break from the challenges and hurdles in your day and gives you the opportunity to de-stress, refocus, and revitalize yourself. Sign up 48 hours in advance and get lunch included. For more information, call (310) 439-8964.

You go girl!
YWCA
2019 14th St., 6:30 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.
This five-week workshop is designed to help women who are concerned about their finances empower themselves by developing strategies for financial well-being and wealth building in this tumultuous economy. Investments, portfolios, tax strategies and more will be covered. Sponsored by Libbie Agran Financial Literacy Center and moderated by Hollis Harman. For more information call (310) 452-3881. Cost: $45 (includes dinner and materials).

Thursday, Jan. 7, 2010

Pole position
Isabelle's Dance Academy
1334 Lincoln Blvd., 7 p.m. — 9 p.m.
Get the best workout of your life while learning some sexy moves to entice your partner at this fun pole dancing class. It will make you stronger at every level, from your body to your spirit, your sense of self esteem and it will help you get more in touch with your sensuality. For more information, call (310) 392-3493. Cost: $39 for two hours.

For more information on any of the events listed, log on to smdp.com and click the "Events" tab for the given day's calendar.



END OF AN ERA

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Walter Rivera of Martell Electrical Sign and Lighting starts to take down the Pacific Sands Motel sign on Ocean Avenue Monday morning in preparation for the demolition of the motel, along with the adjacent Travelodge. The sign will be sold to Nick Metropolis who collects vintage furniture. A new, LEED-certified hotel will replace the two motels. It is slated to open July, 2011.

State board accuses octuplet doctor of negligence

SHAYA TAYEFE MOHAJER
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES The California Medical Board is accusing a fertility doctor of negligence and violating professional guidelines in the case of a woman who conceived octuplets.

The state licensing body said Monday that Beverly Hills fertility doctor Michael Kamrava acted beyond the reasonable judgment of a treating physician by repeatedly providing fertility treatment to a woman identified only by her initials "N.S" in the documents.

Nadya Suleman previously identified Kamrava as her doctor. The documents say his patient became pregnant with octuplets.

Suleman gave birth to the world's longest living set of octuplets on Jan. 26, 2008. She already had six other children.

No hearing date has been set on the medical board case.

Environmentalists sue Long Beach over truck deal

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONG BEACH, Calif. Environmentalists are suing the port of Long Beach over its decision to settle a federal lawsuit challenging its authority to regulate trucking in and around the port.

The Natural Resources Defense Council and the Sierra Club filed a lawsuit in state court last week over the closed-door deal. They claim port and city officials violated state law requiring public involvement and an environmental review before agreeing to a deal with the American Trucking Associations.

The deal involves settling certain aspects of the Clean Trucks program, which is aimed at reducing diesel emission around the port.

Long Beach City Attorney Robert Shannon said a federal judge approved the settlement with the ATA, and that the new lawsuit doesn't belong in state court.

Hearing set in Polanski sex case

ANTHONY MCCARTNEY
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES A court spokesman says a Los Angeles judge has scheduled a hearing Wednesday in Roman Polanski's criminal case.

Superior Court spokesman Allan Parachini says Judge Peter Espinoza will convene a status conference at 3 p.m. PST.

It's the first time the 30-year-old sex case will be back in court since a state appeals court last month rejected Polanski's bid to have it dismissed.

Polanski is under house arrest at his Swiss chalet. He was arrested in late September on a fugitive warrant.

Swiss authorities have not yet ruled on whether to extradite Polanski to Los Angeles. The "Chinatown" director fled the U.S. in 1978 on the eve of sentencing after pleading guilty to having unlawful sex with a minor in 1977.

A phone message left for Polanski's attorney, Chad Hummel, was not immediately returned.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

11th STREET

Erase the waste

The American Red Cross of Santa Monica is collecting old electronics – stereos, television sets, telephones, computers and more – at the Santa Monica Red Cross Chapter, 1450 11th St. (at Broadway) weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. through the end of March.

Consumer electronic recyclables will be collected for a three month period in association with Coastal E-Waste, a private electronic waste management company based in Chatsworth. A portion of the proceeds obtained from the electronic recycling drive will benefit Santa Monica Red Cross disaster preparedness and emergency relief programs.

State law prohibits disposing old and used electronics, including batteries, in the trash. Electronic items including electronic office equipment must be disposed of properly and that includes recycling. Items that can be recycled include CRT monitors and television sets, regular and cellular telephones, phone answering machines, cell phones and accessories.

Stereo equipment including loudspeakers, tape and cassette players and recorders, DVD and VCRs, computers and computer peripherals, scanners and fax machines, batteries, printer cartridges, audio and video tapes and floppy discs are all recyclable.

The Santa Monica Red Cross and Coastal E-Waste suggest that personal files and data be erased from hard drives of any computers, cell phones and phone answering devices turned in for recycling to assure protection of privacy and prevent identification theft.

For additional information or to inquire about other Red Cross programs or assistance call (310) 394-3773 or go online at www.redcrossofsantamonica.org.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Promenade restrooms needed

Editor:

As a resident in Santa Monica for a good portion of the last 35 years, I take pride in being in the city that has provided so many wonderful memories and has been a most beautiful place to live. I care very much for the city and it is with that reason that I bring up a most bothersome problem that I believe detracts from the inviting and compassionate nature of the city.

As I often walk around The Third Street Promenade, buying from some of the many wonderful stores, watching an occasional movie, or just window shopping, I feel there is a great need for more restrooms.

There are thousands of people, who like me, enjoy the promenade. It is a real disservice to those people who shop but need to stop for an occasional visit to the restroom. People of all ages, from the very young to the elderly, should have a convenient place to take care of their business. The last time I was there, my daughter and I needed to use the restroom. There was no public restroom located nearby. There were plenty of restaurants, but usually there were greeters at the door and was not awkward or not allowable to simply barge in and use their facilities. We walked a block south to a food court to use their facilities. There were long lines. The experience was unbecoming of a city that prides itself on being inviting and friendly to visitors. It sends the wrong message!

I believe that each block of the promenade should have restrooms similar to ones located at the Santa Monica Pier. There are a multitude of well maintained and aesthetically acceptable restrooms. Surely, the promenade serves more people and takes in more revenue for the city and I believe the public good needs to be better served in this important area. Perhaps the initial cost will be considerable but given the fact that the promenade serves as major revenue source I believe it is well worth it.

Santa Monica is a wonderful city and I don't like it when I see the need for public facilities not being addressed in such a vibrant and populated city hub that the promenade represents.

Marc Van Klooster
Santa Monica

Common sense solution

Editor:

I greatly appreciate the letter from Walt and Joan Walston in the Dec. 30 issue ("Neighbor against neighbor?"). They have a common sense, good neighbor approach to the leaf blower problem. All of us can contribute to satisfactory solutions, with no expense and no antagonism. Be a good neighbor.

Rose Kaufman
Santa Monica





Back to Nature

Reese Halter

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Leonardo da Vinci, great Renaissance sage

LEONARDO DA VINCI, BORN IN THE MIDDLE of the 15th century, was the founder of modern science and an interpreter between nature and humans.

He sought to understand the nature of life two centuries before the microscope was invented. He believed the Earth was a living, self-organizing and self-regulating system.

Leonardo had exceptional powers of observation and a powerful visual memory. And his "sublime left hand" (as his friend and mathematician Luca Pacioli, called it) drew in excess of 100,000 drawings in over 13,000 pages. Some 6,000 pages were preserved as manuscripts now in libraries and private collections, others in larger forms known as codies are held by the British royal family and Bill and Melinda Gates.

As a young man Leonardo trained as a painter, sculptor and engineer in Florence. Astonishingly, he was a self-taught scientist, inventor, designer, mathematician, linguist, systemic thinker, cartographer, geologist, ecologist, botanist, hydrologist, complexity theorist, humanitarian and physicist.

He was humble, compassionate, graceful, talented, sensitive, regal spirited, physically beautiful, eloquent, charming, practical joker and he possessed an insatiable thirst for knowledge.

Over 100 years before either Galileo or Bacon, Leonardo developed a new empirical approach to science — systemic observations of nature, logical reasoning and some mathematical formulations, all the backbones of today's scientific methods.

Leonardo's uncanny ability to draw complex swirls of turbulent water and swift movements of birds was so accurate that nothing could match it until the advent of photography over 300 years later.

He believed that in order to paint nature he must first understand it. By studying patterns in nature this enabled him to transcend all boundaries.

His studies of muscles and bones lead him to invent gears and levers, interrelating physiology with engineering. His observations and recordings of turbulence in water enabled him to understand the flow of air, which in turn allowed him to explore sound, theory of music and the design of musical instruments.

His experiments in mathematics on continuous quantities were as a result of his incomparable drawings in nature. His science was inexorably linked to his art and vice versa.

The lists of his inventions — some 300 — are phenomenal including: wind and humidity gauges, odometers, small submarines for marine warfare, air bags, goggles and flippers for frogmen to bore holes in the planks of enemy ships, table lamps with variable intensities, opening and closing automatic doors using counter weights, folding furniture, revolving theatrical stages, a spit with variable speeds based on the intensity of the roasting fire, a press for olive oil, sewing-, spinning-, weaving-, twisting hemp-, trimming felt-machines.

A 10-year project on a monumental bronze horse that was never cast resulted in an extraordinary treatise on horses, which is now part of a special volume of the Royal collection at Windsor Castle.

As an architect he focused on design, which included villas, palaces and cathedrals, and he was often consulted as an expert on architectural problems. His architecture was interwoven with complex geometry; and central to every villa and palace that he worked on were its gardens.

In 1482 he witnessed the Bubonic Plague in Milan and quickly deduced the city's appalling sanitation as the culprit. He submitted a proposal to rebuild the city with decent housing, shelters for animals and streets to be regularly cleaned by flushing them with water.

He designed ideal cities to contain no more than 30,000 people with two levels — upper for pedestrians, lower for vehicles with stairs interconnecting them and underground canals to carry sewage away.

In 1980 the World Health Organization modeled it Healthy Cities Program based on Leonardo's design of a city as a living system — 500 years later.

Leonardo worked on the human eye for over 20 years and his research on optics, anatomy and neuroscience ranks amongst his finest achievements.

His drawings of trees, plants, water and rocks are breathtaking.

Leonardo's work on human anatomy was based on hundreds of postmortems; and he brilliantly diagnosed that one older man died due to thickening of his arteries — 300 years before arteriosclerosis was discovered.

His renowned inventions of flying machines were truly amazing and all based upon thousands of hours of observing the birds on the hills outside Florence. Recently, his glider model was built and tested on the cliffs of southeastern England and its engineers noted that it super ceded the first attempts of the Wright Brothers in 1900.

A self-proclaimed vegetarian, Leonardo felt that with movement animals could experience pain. He often went into the marketplace, bought caged birds and immediately released them.

His belief that all inventions came from nature's blueprint occurred 500 years before the applied engineering field of biomimetics was created.

His love of nature and passion for all life stands as a beacon for all that is good in humankind and I can't help but think that even the master Renaissance designer, engineer and scientist knew so "Read me, O reader, if in my words you find delight, for rarely in the world will one such as I be born again."

DR. REESE HALTER is a public speaker, conservation biologist and founder of the international conservation institute Global Forest Science. His most recent book is "The Incomparable Honeybee and the Economics of Pollination," Rocky Mountain Books. Contact him through www.DrReese.com.

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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 editor@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.



What's the Point?

David Pisarra
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Slow down, enjoy the race

LIFE HAS A FUNNY WAY OF TEACHING YOU lessons. Sometimes they come easily, like when you were a kid and your mom caught you stealing a candy bar and made you take it back to the grocery store and admit your wrongs. That was a long car ride. But it was a lesson that I've never forgotten.

Other times the lessons are harder to come by.

I have a friend who for the past 10 years has dated the same girl. Sometimes she has red hair, sometimes she's brunette. Sometimes she's a model, other times she's a makeup artist. One time she was a dancer. The women all looked different, or they had different jobs, but they were always the same girl on the inside. There have been probably five women that he was sure he was going to marry. "This is the one," he'd say with enthusiasm and excitement. I'd sit back and just wait. You don't want to burst that bubble of joy that people have when they say they are in love, but you can see that it's a train wreck waiting to happen.

The hard part of seeing your friends make these decisions is not being able to speak up. It's a hard call. They invariably ask, "What do you think of her?" Do you tell him that you think she's just like all the others, and that he's going to end up in court with a restraining order against her, and he'll be paying the rent on the house they rented together even though she'll have kicked him out? No. You can't do that.

You smile, you say, "She's great! I love her laugh." It's that non-obligatory positive comment we make to reassure our friends that they need, because deep down, somewhere in the bottom of their soul, they know it will not work out, but they are hoping it will anyway, and are looking to us for support. For me, it's a difficult place to be. I want to be honest with my friends, but when that question comes, I feel like Jack Nicholson in "A Few Good Men." My heart is screaming, "You can't handle the truth," so my lips say some true but innocuous statement like, "I think she's really beautiful." But I'm just waiting for the phone call that will eventually come: "Dude, I don't know what happened. Can I sleep on your couch?"

I guess this is why relationships are so hard. So few people want to hear the truth, and even fewer want to speak it. I deal with the fallout of failed relationships all the time. My title is attorney and counselor at law. I'm supposed to counsel people on the law, but some days it seems I do more relationship counseling than lawyering.

We all want to be in that romantic bubble of love, we'd love for it to be permanent, but the reality is that it wont last. When we let it blind us to the realities of the people we are dating, we will inevitably repeat the mistakes of the past.

It's hard because a lot of money is made by companies that sell us the idea of the perfect relationship, with 2.5 kids, a white picket fence and eternal bliss. I think it is very sad how many ruined lives there are, because we keep trying to buy a figment of some marketer's imagination.

The Valentine's Day onslaught has begun. Yes it's six weeks away. Yes, it's a day of sugary sweetness and false ideals. I'd like to tell people to take the day off, but the restaurants, the florists and the retailers will just keep pushing.

DO YOU TELL HIM THAT YOU THINK SHE'S JUST LIKE ALL THE OTHERS, AND THAT HE'S GOING TO END UP IN COURT WITH A RESTRAINING ORDER AGAINST HER, AND HE'LL BE PAYING THE RENT ON THE HOUSE THEY RENTED TOGETHER EVEN THOUGH SHE'LL HAVE KICKED HIM OUT? NO. YOU CAN'T DO THAT.

As the new year has begun, and as we move forward into a new decade, let's try a new way of looking at things. Something that is perhaps a bit more forgiving of where we are, and with a more realistic view of how we fit into the world.

I want to quote the "Everybody's Free" song, "Maybe you'll marry, maybe you wont, maybe you'll have children, maybe you wont, maybe you'll divorce at 40, maybe you'll dance the funky chicken on your 75th wedding anniversary … whatever you do, don't congratulate yourself too much or berate yourself either — your choices are half chance, so are everybody else's."

Go easy on yourself, go slower, and remember that the "race is long, and in the end, it's only with yourself."

DAVID PISARRA is a family law attorney focusing on father's rights and men's Issues in the Santa Monica firm of Pisarra & Grist. He can be reached at dpisarra@pisarra.com or (310) 664-9969.

The Q Line

Seeing into the future

With the new year comes much speculation. Will City Hall land the Broad Museum? Will the Expo light rail project stay on track? How will the new city manager do? The possibilities are endless.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:

What do you predict will make headlines in 2010?

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Mommie Brain

Rachel Zients Schinderman
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Losing baby weight takes a leap of faith

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO FOLLOW THIS column, you know that a little ways back I made a very grand and public declaration about my commitment to lose those last 10 pounds from my pregnancy and get back into shape. I started working out with a trainer (Laura Hebert of SantaMonicaSweat.com), I returned to Weight Watchers, I vowed to try any and all exercise classes in and around Santa Monica and I promised to document my efforts here for you, so I could be held accountable.

Well, something happened on the way to my skinny jeans.

PERHAPS I WOULD EVEN BE GOOD AT THEM. SOMETIMES THINGS ARE HARD AND FRIGHTENING, LIKE LOSING WEIGHT OR GETTING IN SHAPE, BUT YOU HAVE TO TAKE A LEAP (LITERALLY).

True, I lost weight at first pretty easily, 4 pounds, thanks to Laura's circuit training and friendly support. But then it was Thanksgiving. Then, I wanted to sleep late on Saturday and skipped my Weight Watchers meeting. Then, I ordered the cheesecake, then another. Then, the scale started inching back up, eventually passing where it had been when I'd started. Then, I was embarrassed and skipped my Weight Watchers meetings completely. Then, I found other things to write about in this column instead of rehashing my recent stumbles.

Well, here I am. Embarrassed or not, I'm ready to make my report. Losing weight is hard. And while I professed that I wanted to lose the last 10 pounds of the baby weight, to be honest, I lost that long ago. What I am carrying around now is toddler weight. It's finishing my son's mac-n-cheese. It's sharing ice cream with him. It's having tempting snacks in the house. It's being too busy or too tired to head to an exercise class. Sometimes as a mom it is hard to get it all done. It is hard to take care of yourself as well as you take care of your child. And so I don't.

And though I am down on myself, I'll give myself props because I am still actually showing up to work out with Laura two times a week. And the way I have been eating, if it weren't for Laura, I would have gained twice as much.

Well, the holidays are over and I am done with that as my excuse. Besides indulging in poor food choices, the one thing that I have been terribly remiss about is changing up my routine and trying some fun new classes. I talk about how I want to check out this yoga class, or that spin class or take ballet or jazz. I used to love to dance. But I always find an excuse not to go. I needed to do something bold.

So I signed up for trapeze class.

For those who don't know, there is a trapeze school on the Santa Monica Pier, right next to the arcade (www.trapezeschool.com).

It's a spectacular spot. You can see the ocean all around and the Ferris wheel spinning and you can't help but be thankful that this is where you live.

But the view was not the star of the day. That was being shown by the staff that I could do these crazy feats. Before I knew it, I was leaning out to grab the bar of the trapeze, and then when they told me to, I jumped and swung through the air, high above the tourists below. After a few turns, I was hanging from my knees, catching someone else's arms on another trapeze and doing back flips. I even got an applause from the crowd below.

It was great and very freeing to do something that was so out of my element and so scary. While the adrenaline was pumping, the fear did not subside. The shaking continued each time as I climbed the ladder to the top. And yet I kept going.

They told me I was good at it too, that they could tell I used to be a dancer. I told my husband, "They probably just want me to sign up again for more classes." And he wondered why I am always so down on myself and asked me why can't you just be good at something?

And I realized that I've been completely in my own way. If there are things I want, I can get them. I just have to do them. I just have to try. Perhaps I would even be good at them. Sometimes things are hard and frightening, like losing weight or getting in shape, but you have to take a leap (literally).

I talk a lot about doing stuff, like exercising. But if I want it I have to just do it. Because I can do it. I can go down to the pier and climb high above and lean out over a big net and twirl through the air and come back down with my hands sore and red and feel energized and terrified all at once and still get back up on the stairs to go again.

So after swinging through the air, with a back flip over the Pacific Ocean, I knew that I was becoming more than just a talker. And while trapeze was tremendous, my childhood dream was not to run away and join the circus, it was to sing and dance on Broadway.

So the next day I got up and went to dance class.

RACHEL ZIENTS SCHINDERMAN lives in Santa Monica with her family. She can be reached at Rachel@mommiebrain.com.

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Car seats: What's a parent to do?

HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH
Associated Press Writer

FAIRWAY, Kan. Anne Epperson thought little of it when she flipped her daughter's convertible car seat around so she could face forward after her first birthday.

But if car seat advocates get their way, parents like Epperson will be delaying the switch, possibly for years.

The American Academy of Pediatrics is revising recommendations that they hope will clear up confusion over how long children should spend riding rear facing in car seats and make them safer in the process.

Some experts, citing a much-touted 2007 study, say tots are being put at risk switching to the forward-facing position at 1 year of age and 20 pounds, currently the minimum guideline from the pediatrics group and the National Transportation Highway Safety Administration.

That's because the extreme forces in some frontal crashes can jerk the heads of forward-facing children away from their immature bodies, creating a risk of spinal cord injuries. Rear-facing children are safer because their entire backs absorb the force of the crash.

The issue becomes confusing because both groups also advise that children are safer if they remain rear facing until the upper height and weight limit of their car seats. Many seats top out at 35 pounds in the rear-facing position, a weight many children don't reach until somewhere between their third and fourth birthdays.

It's rare in the U.S. for children to remain rear facing that long, although several countries require their youngest passengers to ride rear facing until they are 4 or 5 years old and 55 pounds.

The issue has attracted growing attention since a 2007 article in the journal Injury Prevention showed that U.S. children are five times less likely to be injured in a crash between their first and second birthdays if they are rear facing.

"We rarely if ever see spine injuries in children in rear-facing car seats," said Dr. Marilyn J. Bull, the contributing pediatric researcher in the study. "We will see head injuries or we will see a few other injuries, but the vast majority of serious injuries occur when children are forward facing."

The AAP is still discussing how it is going to revise the recommendations.

Dr. Dennis Durbin, who is leading the effort to update the group's policy on child passenger safety, said the emphasis will be more on remaining rear facing to the upper weight limit of the seat. The academy is hoping to introduce the new guidelines late next year.

Durbin said he is well aware of the research and said one of the goals with the revision is to reorder the policy and "really state what the ideal is."

That's good news to safety advocates.

"When it is written one year and 20 pounds, parents don't pay attention to the rest," complained Pam Holt, the previous chairwoman of the National Child Passenger Safety Board and the trauma prevention coordinator at St. John's Hospital in Springfield, Mo.

Count Epperson among the confused parents. The 35-year-old said she doesn't recall getting advice to keep her 23-month-old daughter or 3-year-old daughter rear facing longer.

"I've read a lot of books, but I've never heard that," Epperson said as she picked her daughters up from a church daycare in the Kansas City suburb of Fairway, Kan. "I had no idea."

Pediatricians get some of the blame, said Dr. Benjamin Hoffman, part of an American Academy of Pediatrics committee that helps educate parents and doctors about injury prevention. The Albuquerque, N.M., pediatrician said some are still promoting old guidelines that say children must be turned forward at a year.

Hoffman, also a certified car seat technician, came across a mother recently whose pediatrician had given her that old advice, and she balked when he suggested she keep her 1-year-old son in the rear-facing position.

"I don't care what you think," she told Hoffman. "You aren't my pediatrician."

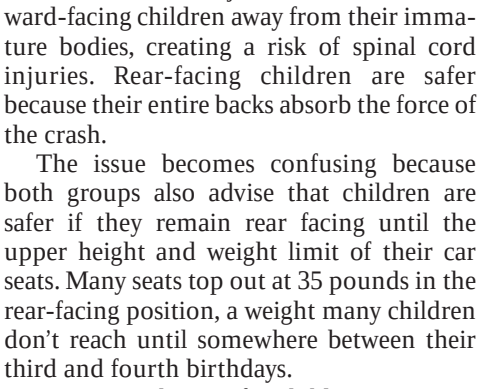
Stories like these make activists shake their heads. Motor vehicle crashes are the single leading cause of death for U.S. children, claiming an average of about four lives a day. Hoffman said it is tragic that "people are not operating on the best information they possibly could."

"The bottom line is that in a crash, a child who is rear facing is going to have all the crash forces spread over their entire back, from the tops of their head to the tips of their toes," Hoffman said. "And spreading all that force out over such a wide area significantly decreases the risk of injury."

Experts said part of the problem is that parents often have viewed switching their children to the forward-facing position as a rite of passage.

"It's like graduating from preschool into kindergarten," Hoffman said. "They view it as a good thing. What we need to do is work on changing people's attitudes so that they recognize that every step you make from rear facing to forward facing to booster, you lose some safety, and that people should switch only when absolutely necessary. It's not necessarily a negative step but neither is it a positive step.

"And the fact of the matter is the kids don't know any different. And if our first priority was to keep the kids as safe as possible, it would be a no-brainer."



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Industry defends treatment of dogs

FROM DOG PAGE 1

southern Wisconsin, which closed last week.

"You bring a dog home ... They've never been outside the racetrack," said the 50-year-old from Lake Zurich, Ill., who now has three greyhounds, including new additions Lexi and Jack. "They go into your house — they don't know what a window is, they don't know what stairs are. They walk right into windows like they aren't even there."

The track in Wisconsin ran its last dog race on New Year's Eve; another in Phoenix and one in Massachusetts also ended dog racing last month, bringing the total to seven tracks that pulled the mechanical rabbit in 2009.

There are no precise figures, however greyhound advocates estimate more than 1,000 greyhounds now need new homes. That's in addition to the best racers, who will be sent to tracks that remain open elsewhere or to breeders.

Since greyhound racing began decades ago, there's always been an issue of what to do with retired race dogs. Previously they largely found homes through a fragmented network of breed adoption and other placement groups, but the recent deluge of dogs in need of dwellings has magnified the issue.

"It is a domino effect," said Michael McCann, president of The Greyhound Project Inc., a Boston-based nonprofit that provides support and information about greyhound adoptions. "Everything that happens in one state affects ... the dog adoption effort in other states."

It doesn't help that the economic downturn has made some people hesitant to become dog owners and pushed others to give up their pets because of the costs of caring for them. The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals estimates that as many as 2 million pets have been abandoned since the recession began in December 2007.

Modern day greyhound racing started in 1919 in California and at its height in the 1990s, more than 50 tracks operated nationwide. The number of tracks offering races has steadily decreased in the past decade, from 46 in 15 states in 2001 to 30 at the start of 2009. This year, no more than 23 tracks in eight states will operate dog races.

Year-round racing in some states has pushed seasonal tracks out of business or track owners aren't able to afford the high taxes, said Tim Horan of the National Greyhound Association, which represents greyhound owners. Competition from other sporting events and gambling hasn't helped, he said.

In Massachusetts, two tracks ended racing last year after voters approved a ballot question sponsored by the group Grey2K, which claimed widespread mistreatment of greyhounds, including confining them in small cages in warehouse-style kennels.

The racing industry nationwide vigorously defends its record on the treatment of dogs during and after their racing careers.

With so many dogs needing homes, Kevin Neuman of Overland Park, Kan., started the nonprofit greyhoundcentral.org, which he hopes will serve as a clearinghouse for greyhound adoption.

The aim is to connect available dogs to owners, as well as people willing to transport animals from kennels in one state to new homes in another, said Neuman, who has adopted 11 greyhounds over the past 16 years.

When Woodlands Greyhound Park in Kansas City closed in 2008, Neuman said his group found homes for some 500 dogs, including about 200 placed in adoptive homes in the area.

He worries the outcome won't be as positive for these canines.

"There are many ways for these dogs to disappear, to go to tracks that might be outside the country, in Mexico for example," where the dogs might be run harder and get less adequate care, he said.

Still, there are some safeguards.

Wisconsin state law requires that all greyhounds be adopted, sent to another racetrack or returned to their owners.

The Massachusetts Racing Commission requires that no greyhound be euthanized unless all "reasonable efforts" to place the dog for adoption have been exhausted. Owners must provide the commission with a detailed explanation as to why a dog was put down rather than adopted.

And in New Hampshire, where two tracks ended racing, only greyhounds that sustain severe injuries while racing can be euthanized.

In Wisconsin, the Dairyland track has offered a $5,000 incentive to its kennels to find all dogs homes by Feb. 5. General Manager Bill Apgar said even if that deadline is not met, the kennel compound will remain open until all are placed.

On a recent visit to the track's kennel, there were some positive signs. Almost all the dogs' cages had "adopted" signs on them. The message on the scoreboard read: "Retired greyhounds make great pets. Visit our 1st floor adoption office to find out more!"

"We are just besieged with adoption requests," Apgar said.

Greyhound lovers are constantly trying to clear up misconceptions about the breed. Despite their athletic training and competitive instincts, the dogs are calm, easy to care for and do not require constant exercise as might be assumed, they say.

"If you want a dog to go play Frisbee with, this isn't it," said Kari Morrison Young, director of Arizona Adopt-A-Greyhound.

Lynn Rapa of Methuen, Mass., has adopted six former racing dogs.

As "sight hounds," they are bred to chase a lure, so that chase instinct could be a problem in homes with cats or other small pets, she said. Rapa recommends that greyhounds be kept in a fenced backyard or on a leash.

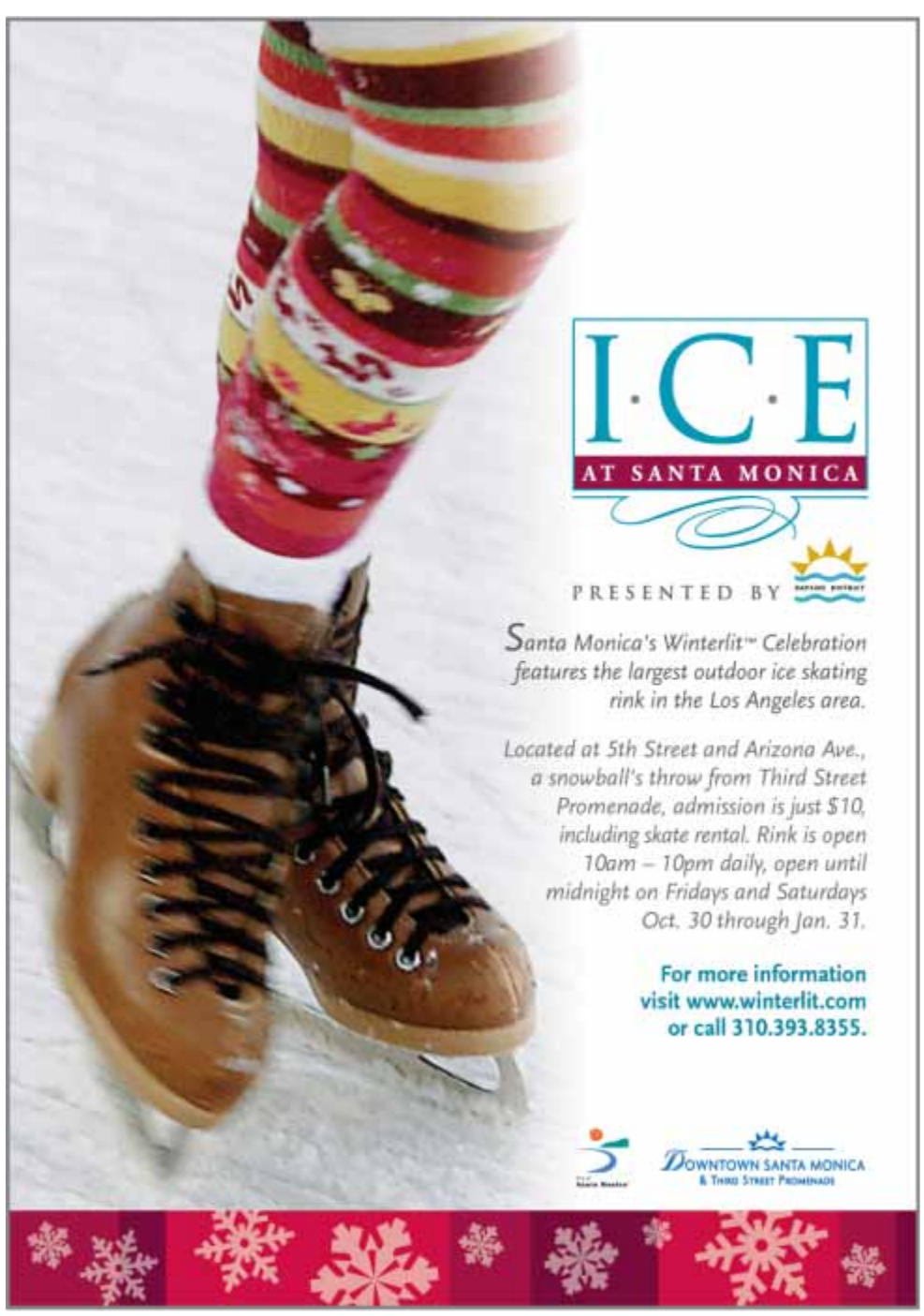
Dogs who have spent their lives in track settings also benefit from transitional foster homes, where they can learn how to do things like go up and down stairs and become acclimated to unfamiliar household noises such as microwaves or vacuum cleaners, she said.

Mack, who adopted the dogs from the Kenosha track, agrees.

"I had a huge dog that came home ... Two minutes it took him to figure out the stairs, but his back legs, he hopped like a bunny. It was this gigantic dog hopping like a bunny down the stairs," she said, laughing.

Greyhounds walk great on a leash, sleep 22 hours a day and are "couch potatoes," she added. "They are very, very laid-back dogs."







City Hall reviewing food court for code compliance

FROM **TRUCKS** PAGE 1

already said it will formally ask the City Council to look into additional restrictions for food vendors.

Suzanne Pardal, whose husband owns India Jones, said it's already near impossible to do business next to Third Street.

"We've been chased out of a lot of places," she added.

Enter the Southern California Mobile Food Vendors Association, the brand new entity that's responsible for bringing vendors on board with the food court idea. Besides setting up the lot, the group is aiming to advocate for food truck vendors the same way restaurant associations represent their members.

Matthew Geller, vice president of the association, said the vendors need a unified voice, especially as jurisdictions consider ways to regulate food trucks. He said he hopes the association can help vendors "self regulate" and prevent cities from enacting stricter operating rules.

The association launched on Sunday and so far has gathered about 17 members. Geller said the truck owners are happy to work together.

"They're in competition with each other but everybody wants to see everybody succeed. They're friendly competitors," he said.

One vendor at the lot on Monday, Takeshi Kimura, owner of Fishlips Sushi, said the lot offers a welcome refuge from seeking out parking on the street. He said when he parks in Little Tokyo he's used to being harassed by restaurant owners.

"Some people tell [you to leave] nicely, but some people not," he said.

IT'S A MORE CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT. WE DON'T HAVE TO FIGHT FOR PARKING.

Coleen Craig
managing partner of Don Chow Tacos and a co-founder of the vendors association

Coleen Craig, managing partner of Don Chow Tacos and a co-founder of the vendors association, agreed doing business on private property beats life on the streets.

"It's a more controlled environment. We don't have to fight for parking," she said.

On Monday, customers, too, were allowed free parking on part of the lot.

While the Santa Monica Police Department said there were no complaints or incidents related to the lot by Monday afternoon, City Hall's code compliance department is reviewing the situation to see if the food court is allowed under city zoning laws.

Pat Martin, a code compliance officer, said "there possibly could be some zoning violations" but added that it's routine for City Hall to review a new business venture for compliance. He said he expects City Hall to make a determination by today.

nickt@smdp

Border security, swine flu to blame for dip

FROM **TOURISM** PAGE 1

either Las Vegas or Orlando.

"We have made our city cleaner, safer and more exciting than ever," Bloomberg said at a press conference at a Brooklyn restaurant. "I do think we'll continue to see even more tourists on our streets as the economy improves, and I think that we'll continue to fare better than other cities."

While many travelers stayed home simply because money was tight, the mayor also attributed the decline in international visitors to swine flu fears and concerns over border security measures.

Foreign visitors — traditionally the biggest spenders — fell to 8.6 million in 2009, a drop of almost 10 percent from the year before. That echoed a milder national trend, with international visitors to the U.S. down 7 percent in the first 10 months of the year compared to the same period the year before.

Still, some attractions, including the Statue of Liberty, reported jumps in visitation. And the city's leisure and hospitality industry — which provides one-tenth of the city's private sector jobs — actually grew in 2009.

The decline in visitors was modest partly because the city's hotels offered deep discounts, with some dropping rates by as much as 40 percent, said Bjorn Hanson, a professor at New York University's Tisch Center for Hospitality, Tourism and Sports Management.

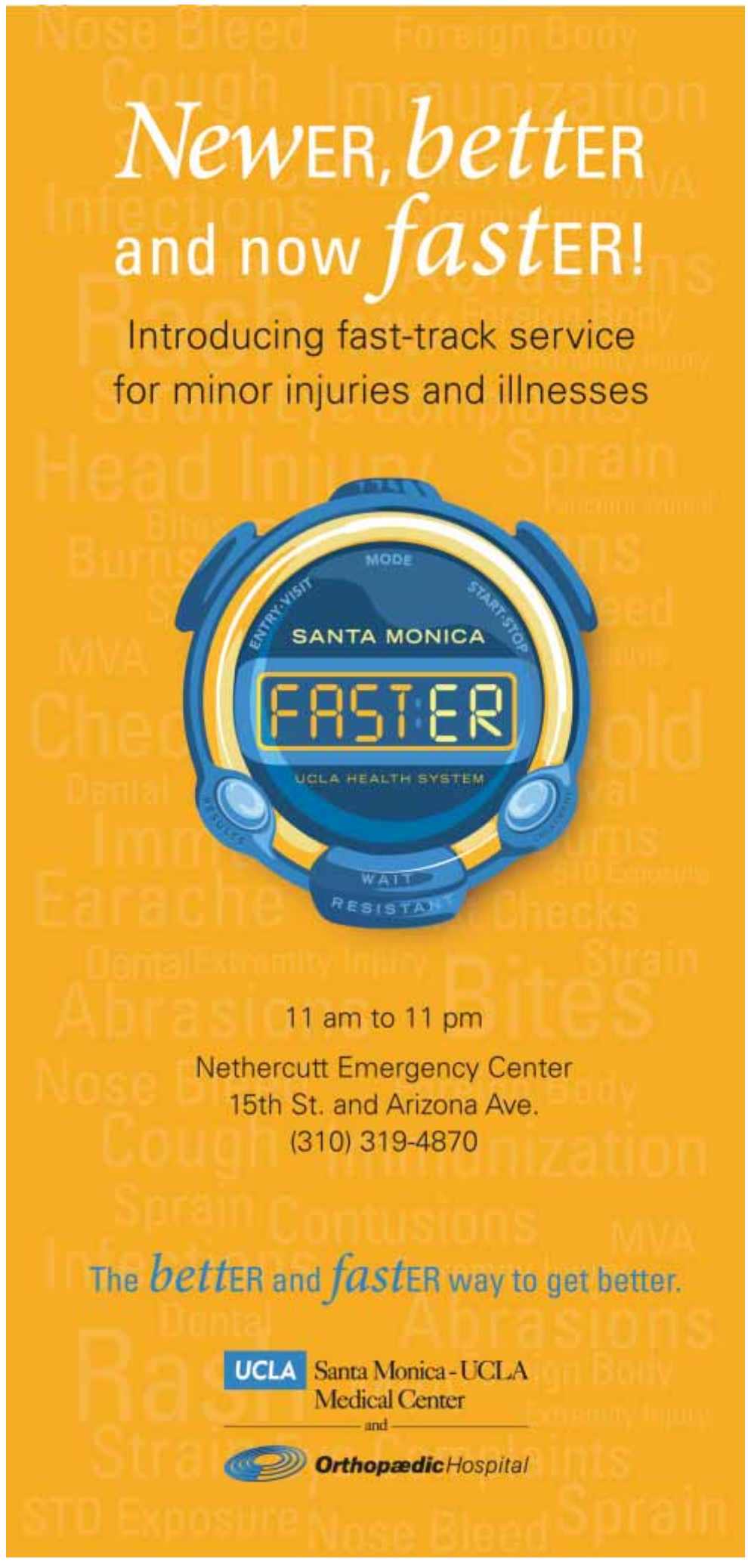
"The lodging industry really is using discounting to stimulate demand," he said, adding that the price drops have significantly boosted "the city's ability to maintain the level of tourism that it's had."

While the final numbers aren't in, Hanson estimates that New York City hotels dropped their average daily rate about 29 percent to between $200 and $235 last year. In a city where even mid-range hotels often have an initial investment of $500,000 per room, the discounting has come with a price.

Of the city's hotels, "more than half will not be able to meet their debt service obligations in total this year," Hanson said.







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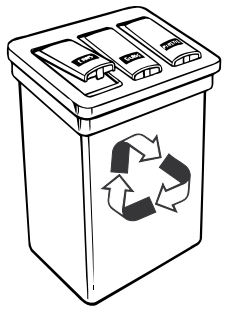


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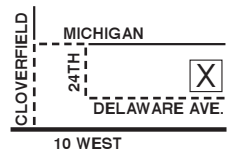


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Calif. watchdog: Historic reviews slow stimulus

TOM VERDIN
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO, Calif. Dozens of construction projects funded with federal stimulus money are being delayed in California because the office that oversees historic preservation is overwhelmed with applications, the state's stimulus watchdog said Monday.

In a letter to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, Inspector General Laura Chick asked that more staff be made available to accelerate the review process. She said the backlog will grow because the bulk of stimulus money for public works projects is just beginning to flow to states.

"This is trying to get the problem from getting worse," Chick said in an interview.

At stake are desperately needed jobs for Californians that would be created through new construction and retrofits, she said in her letter.

The state Office of Historic Preservation, part of the state Department of Parks and Recreation, is just one of many agencies that must sign off on construction projects before they can begin.

For example, if an alternative energy company is proposing a solar project, the office must make sure the land does not include Native-American artifacts. Similarly, modifying a building that is a registered historic landmark cannot undermine its architecturally significant features.

Chick said many of the projects in question are small, such as installing a new heating and air conditioning unit. Nevertheless, the preservation office has been overwhelmed by the volume of project applications.

In her letter to Schwarzenegger, Chick said the governor could extend the work weeks of historians, archaeologists and other key personnel by modifying his furlough order, transferring workers from other government agencies or temporarily hiring retired state workers.

Schwarzenegger created Chick's position last spring to make sure federal stimulus money headed to California was spent efficiently and as it was intended. Chick said she brought the backlog to the attention of the governor's Recovery Task Force, the entity that tracks the stimulus money, last fall.

Asked what response she received from the task force, Chick responded, "I can only say the problem still exists today. So whatever the response has been needs to become more vigorous."

The state parks department referred inquiries to the governor's office. Camille Anderson, a spokeswoman for the Recovery Task Force, said the governor's office will ensure that adequate staff is available to handle the applications.

"Like the inspector general, we are completely unsatisfied with ... efforts to address this and, accordingly, last week we ordered the backlog to be cleared within 30 days," she said in a statement.

Qualified workers will be transferred from other state agencies while additional workers will be trained to handle the historic review process, Anderson said.

Google to unveil new phone

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif. Google is expected to kick off the new year by unveiling its vision for how a mobile phone should be made and sold. It's the latest step in the Internet search leader's quest for more control over how people surf the Web while they're on the go.

The company's catalyst for change apparently will be the Nexus One, the first phone designed by Google's own engineers.

Google has said little about the Nexus One since giving the device to its employees last month for final testing.

The first details about Google's plans for the phone are expected to emerge Tuesday during a press conference at the company's Mountain View, Calif., headquarters.

Cal school official's killing may be cartel hit

MARTHA MENDOZA
Associated Press Writer

GOMEZ PALACIO, Mexico The killing of a suburban Los Angeles school official and five others was probably a drug cartel hit, a spokesman for Mexican prosecutors said Monday.

A Durango state attorney general's office spokesman who is not authorized to be quoted by name said officials suspect drug gangs are involved in the killing of 33-year-old Augustin Roberto "Bobby" Salcedo.

Salcedo, a 33-year-old assistant principal and school board member from El Monte, Calif., was found shot to death on Thursday, a day after gunmen stormed into a restaurant and abducted him and five other men.

The killings bore the hallmarks of a cartel hit, but the spokesman said investigators haven't established whether the victims, six friends who were sharing a table near a pool table, had any organized crime links.

Salcedo's wife Betzy told the Los Angeles Times that no one in her group was involved in drug trafficking.

They had been visiting family and friends in her hometown of Gomez Palacio, an industrial city that's been wracked by a brutal drug war.

While two gangs of narco-traffickers battle for territory over the last year in northern Durango, federal police in Durango have intercepted shipments of crystal meth and cocaine bound for the U.S. border.

Drug gangs lobbed grenades at police stations in Durango on Dec. 14. Gomez Palacio's former police chief was gunned down Dec. 2 and its former mayor was kidnapped last month and later released.

On New Year's Eve, a few hours after Salcedo's body was found, two detectives were kidnapped. Their bodies were left in the bed of a pickup on a major highway on the outskirts of town.

Many such crimes in Mexico go unpunished.

"We were just going out with a group of friends," Betzy Salcedo, a physician, told the Times. "You are careful, you look around, but you never think this kind of thing can happen . . . to innocent people. We were having a good time. Then we were in the mouth of the wolf."

Spotty enforcement for new US air screening rules

ERIN MCCLAM
Associated Press Writer

On the first day of what was supposed to be tighter screening ordered by the U.S. for airline passengers from certain countries, some airports around the world conceded Monday they had not cracked down.

The United States demanded more careful screening for people who are citizens of, or are flying from, 14 nations deemed security risks. But enforcement of the U.S. rules appeared spotty.

"Everything is the same. There is no extra security," said an aviation official in Lebanon, one of the countries on the list. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak publicly.

The Obama administration ordered the changes after what authorities say was a failed attempt by a Nigerian man to blow up a jetliner bound from Amsterdam to Detroit on Christmas Day.

The U.S. Transportation Security Administration said the enhanced screening techniques would include full-body pat-downs, searches of carry-on bags, full-body scanning and explosive-detection technology.

On Monday, passengers arriving on international flights reported they had been patted down individually, or had their luggage inspected by hand — steps that have been in place on many international flights since the failed bombing.

Passengers on a flight from Stockholm to Newark, N.J., were patted down and had their bags checked at the gate, flier Mark Biddle said. He said no passengers had been singled out for special attention.

In Nigeria, one of the nations on the U.S. list for additional security, there were long lines on the first day of the new rules. At the airport in the capital of Lagos, Mine Oniovosa, a 24-year-old student, said she had been told to show up more than seven hours ahead of time for a flight to Atlanta.

A Nigerian official pledged that everyone would be patted down at the country's international airports. In Lagos, guards wearing latex gloves combed through bags, spending more than a minute on each one.

But at international airports in Lebanon, Syria and Libya, all on the list, there were no visible changes in screening. And several European governments, including Germany, France and Spain, said they were still studying the rules before tightening security any further than the steps they took after the failed Christmas attack.

"We will continue to work with our airline and international partners to ensure they meet both international and TSA security standards," TSA spokesman Greg Soule said.

Among the 14 nations are four — Cuba, Iran, Sudan and Syria — that the U.S. government considers state sponsors of terrorism. The list also includes Afghanistan, Algeria, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Somalia and Yemen.

Passengers arriving at U.S. airports on international flights described a wide range of screening methods — from being separated by gender and patted down to nothing more invasive than normal airport security.

Lydia Habhab, a consultant for the World Bank who flew from France to Amsterdam and on to Detroit, said she was subjected to a full-body scan and her luggage was opened and inspected.

The additional security caused her flights to leave an hour later than scheduled, said Habhab, who is originally from Detroit and now lives in Washington.

"I felt personally violated, but I understand why the procedures are necessary," she said.

Passengers on a charter flight from Havana to Miami said they did not notice any additional security in either Cuba or the United States.

"It was the same as always. There was no problem," said Adriana Vallester, 46, who was returning from a holiday visit to her family in Cuba.

A U.S. intelligence official said the government had moved the names of dozens of people onto its terrorism watch list and its no-fly list after reviewing the government's database of suspected terrorists.

The man arrested in the Christmas incident, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, had been in a database with about 550,000 other terror suspects since late November. But officials said the government did not have enough information to put him on the no-fly list.

Authorities say Abdulmutallab tried to bring down Northwest Flight 253 by igniting explosives concealed in his underwear, but the material failed to detonate, causing only a small fire. Passengers put out the fire and restrained Abdulmutallab.

While screening for international flights has been tightened since Christmas Day, there have been few changes at domestic airports.

On Sunday, officials at the Newark airport emptied a terminal and forced passengers to go through screening again after a man passed through a security checkpoint going the wrong way. His identity and whereabouts remained unknown Monday.

The failed Northwest attack has led to calls for wider use of full-body scanners, now in regular use at only a few U.S. airports. Dutch officials announced Monday they would buy 60 more of the scanners. There are already 15 in use at the Amsterdam airport alone.

Saudi Arabia said it had placed additional security personnel at its airports, and a Nigerian minister said the government there would perform whatever security checks the U.S. asked for.

"It is for the good of everybody that everybody is searched thoroughly," Information Minister Dora Akunyili said.

Still, she questioned Nigeria's inclusion on the list. While Abdulmutallab is Nigerian, she noted he had lived and studied abroad for years.

"It is unfair to discriminate against 150 million Nigerians over the behavior of one person," Akunyili said. "It is outside of the shores of this country that he developed this nasty tendency to do what he tried to do."

Associated Press writers Jon Gambrell in Nigeria; Mike Householder in Romulus, Mich.; David Porter in Newark, N.J.; Raphael G. Satter in London; Laura Wides-Munoz in Miami; and Daniel Woolls in Madrid contributed to this report.

Legal fight in lesbian custody dispute ratchets up

JOHN CURRAN
Associated Press Writer

MONTPELIER, Vt. A Vermont woman locked in a child custody battle with a former partner who has since renounced homosexuality asked a judge Monday to hold her ex in contempt and help find her and their 7-year-old daughter.

A lawyer for Janet Jenkins filed an emergency motion for contempt for not surrendering the couple's daughter, Isabella Miller-Jenkins, on Friday.

The motion seeks court sanctions and the assistance of law enforcement in locating Lisa Miller, whose last known address was Forest, Va., but whose whereabouts are now unknown.

"I am so worried about Isabella," Jenkins said in a written statement issued by her lawyer, Sarah Star. "I do not know where she is or whether she is okay."

Miller's lawyer, Mathew Staver, didn't immediately return a call seeking comment.

Miller and Jenkins got a civil union in 2000, and the girl was born to Miller after a pregnancy that began with artificial insemination.

They broke up a year later, and Miller moved to Virginia, setting the stage for a custody fight that has been closely watched by gay rights advocates, as well as conservative religious groups.

Courts in Virginia and Vermont have ruled in favor of Jenkins, even though she is not the biological mother. The U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear arguments on it.

The court filings Monday were made in family court in Rutland, Vt.

Judge William Cohen, who granted the couple's civil union dissolution and has presided over the custody battle since, didn't immediately rule on the contempt citation request or set a hearing date, court officials said.

A year ago, in ruling against Miller's bid to deny visitation by Jenkins, he warned Miller she risked losing custody of the girl if she continued to violate orders. On Nov. 20, he made good on the warning, ordering the custody change.

Jenkins' lawyers say their concern is the girl's safety.

"My goal has never been to separate Isabella from Lisa," Jenkins said in her statement. "I just want Isabella to know and love both of her parents. I just want to be with her, like any parent."

Dems intend to bypass GOP on health compromise

DAVID ESPO
AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON House and Senate Democrats intend to bypass traditional procedures when they negotiate a final compromise on health care legislation, officials said Monday, a move that will exclude Republican lawmakers and reduce their ability to delay or force politically troubling votes in both houses.

The unofficial timetable calls for final passage of the measure to remake the nation's health care system by the time President Barack Obama delivers his State of the Union address, probably in early February.

Democratic aides said the final compromise talks would essentially be a three-way negotiation involving top Democrats in the House and Senate and the White House, a structure that gives unusual latitude to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada and Speaker Nancy Pelosi of California.

These officials said there are no plans to appoint a formal House-Senate conference committee, the method Congress most often uses to reconcile differing bills. Under that customary format, a committee chairman is appointed to preside, and other senior lawmakers from both parties and houses participate in typically perfunctory public meetings while the meaningful negotiations occur behind closed doors.

In this case, the plan is to skip the formal meetings, reach an agreement, then have the two houses vote as quickly as possible. A 60-vote Senate majority would be required in advance of final passage.

"I look forward to working with members of the House, the Senate and President Obama to reconcile our bills and send the final legislation to the president's desk as soon as possible," Pelosi said late last year as the Senate approved its version of the legislation.

"We hope to get a bill done as soon as possible," said Jim Manley, a spokesman for Reid.

The issue is so partisan that only one Republican, Rep. Anh "Joseph" Cao of Louisiana, has cast a vote in favor of the legislation.

GOP leaders have vowed to try and block a final bill from reaching Obama's desk. "This fight isn't over. My colleagues and I will work to stop this bill from becoming law," Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., the Republican leader, said shortly before the Senate cleared its version of the bill last month.

Both houses have already passed legislation to remake the health care system, extending coverage to millions who lack it while cracking down on industry practices such as denying insurance on the basis of pre-existing medical conditions.

There are literally hundreds of differences between the two bills, a House measure that ran to 1,990 pages and a Senate version of 2,074, not counting 383 pages of last-minute changes. The biggest differences involve a dispute over a government-run insurance option — the House wants one, but the Senate bill omitted it — as well as the size and extent of federal subsidies to help lower-income families afford coverage.

Bypassing a formal conference committee enables Democrats to omit time-consuming procedural steps in the Senate and prevents Republicans from trying to delay the final negotiations.



SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 58°

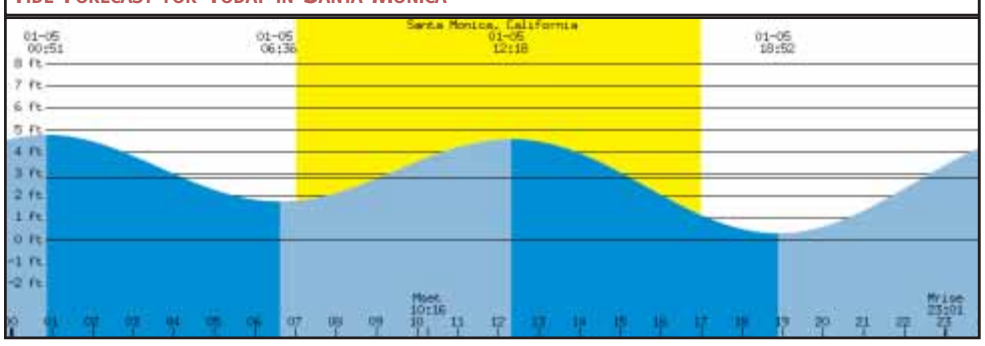
Swell Forecast

Looks smaller yet, perhaps waist+ max. Winds should once again be lightly offshore for a good part of the day.

Long Range Synopsis

Looks even smaller, perhaps just knee to waist.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous 30 days up to the ending date of **December 21, 2009**

HEAL THE BAY - 1444 9th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401 - www.healthebay.org - brc@healthebay.org - 800 HEAL BAY

QUICK STATS (in last 28 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 9
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 35 / 16
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 6 / 19

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: The Diller – von Furstenberg Family Foundation. simplehuman. SIMA

Heal the Bay reminds you not to swim or surf within 100 yards of any flowing storm drain or for 3 days after a rainstorm. After a rain, indicator bacteria counts at beaches throughout California usually far exceed health criteria in the state's Beach Closure and Health Warning Protocol.

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A	F
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechasa and Las Alisos creeks.	A+	A+
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A	C
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	F
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A+	A+
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	F
Solstice Canyon at Don Blacker County Beach.	A+	D
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	F
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	C	A+
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily.	F	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	A+	F
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	B	B
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A	F
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	C	A+
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon.	ns	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	C	A
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	C	B
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	D

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	B	B
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A+	A
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	B	F
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	D
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	A+	F
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	F	B
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	A	F
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	D
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A+	B
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	B	A
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	B	F
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	A+	F
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A+	D
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St..	A+	D
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower.	A	B
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	A	B
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	A+	B
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A+	B
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty).	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	A+	B
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	B	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	A+	B

LEGEND

DRY -- each location is graded on an A – F scale based on bacterial pollution levels present in the surf zone
WET -- grades for days of recorded rainfall and the following 3 days
ns -- no sample taken

Heal the Bay's Beach Report Card® is based on weekly water quality monitoring data provided by the City of Los Angeles' Environmental Monitoring Division and the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. Data is analyzed as soon as it is made available to us by the public agencies. Beaches are graded on an A–F scale based on the risk of ocean users becoming ill. Samples are analyzed for bacteria—enterococcus, total and fecal coliforms—that indicate biological pollution. A fact sheet detailing the exact methodology used in determining grades for each location is available from the office or on our web site. The report is not designed to measure the amount of trash or toxins found at local beaches.

The Beach Report Card is an indication of past water quality and is not a warranty of the current safety of those areas surveyed. Our lawyers are happy.

Heal the Bay is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to making Santa Monica Bay and Southern California coastal waters safe and healthy for people and marine life.

Heal the Bay

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NFL

Ex-chair of NFL brain panel denies link to disease

LARRY LAGE
AP Sports Writer

DETROIT Under questioning from Congress, a doctor who used to lead the NFL's concussion committee stuck to his position that there is no proven connection between football head injuries and brain disease.

Members of the House Judiciary Committee expressed frustration at the oral and written testimony delivered at Monday's hearing by Dr. Ira Casson, a neurologist from New York and former co-chairman of the NFL's panel on head injuries.

"There is not enough valid, reliable or objective scientific evidence at present to determine whether or not repeat head impacts in professional football result in long-term brain damage," Casson said.

Lawmakers had made a big deal out of Casson's absence at an Oct. 28 hearing on the same topic, and they went after him in direct questioning Monday. Rep. Linda Sanchez, D-Calif., also took shots at the league. She has compared the NFL's stance to that of tobacco companies who denied a connection between smoking and lung disease.

"I find it really ridiculous that he's saying that concussions don't cause long-term cognitive problems," Sanchez said. "I think most people you ask on the street would figure that repeated blows to the head aren't good for you."

Sanchez noted that the league formed its concussion committee in 1994, and wondered aloud whether the league's recent moves on concussions took far too long to come about.

"It seems to me that the NFL has literally been dragging its feet on this issue until the past few years," Sanchez said, later asking: "Why did it take 15 years?"

Casson resigned as co-chairman of the NFL's committee on mild traumatic brain injury in November. In written testimony Monday, he laid out reasons why there were flaws in recent studies — including some funded by the NFL — examining football head injuries.

"Some have suggested that scientific evidence regarding the question at hand is conclusive and that there is no need for further research," Casson said in his prepared testimony. "I strongly disagree with that position."

He said more research must be done on the effects of performance-enhancing drugs on the brains of football players. Some lawmakers questioned other witnesses about possible steroid links.

NFL commissioner Roger Goodell was not present at Monday's hearing on the campus of Wayne State University.

In October, he was grilled by lawmakers about his league's concussion policies.

Since then, the league has instituted stricter return-to-play guidelines for players showing concussion symptoms; required each team to enlist an independent neurologist as an adviser; entered into a partnership with Boston University brain researchers who have been critical of the league's stance on concussions; and conducted tests on helmets. The validity of those tests was questioned by witnesses at the hearing.

Asked for his thoughts on those changes, Casson questioned the merits of the independent neurologist mandate.

"We don't know if these independent neurologists have expertise in head injuries," he said. "We don't know if their opinions are going to be independent and reliable and stand up to scrutiny."

Rep. Steve Cohen, D-Tenn., said he sensed that the league's recent moves could have resulted from concern about lawsuits, as in, "'What did we know and when did we know it?' — and that should be secondary to the health of the NFL players and the college players and the kiddie league players and the high school players," he said.

Addressing Joseph Maroon, a team doctor for the Pittsburgh Steelers and current member of the NFL concussion committee, Sanchez asked: "Why do you think it took that long for the NFL to bring about these rules changes — or am I just being crazy?"

Maroon replied: "I dispute your position that nothing has been done since 1994."

Sanchez also pressed Casson on whether the "concept of permanent brain damage and dementia following repeated blows to the head is a very well-established and generally accepted principle in medicine."

Casson refused to give a direct answer, and Sanchez's tone grew more exasperated when she asked whether he would not "agree on something most laymen, probably most physicians, would agree with."

"We can disagree," he answered.

At one point, Casson said, "I'm not saying concussions are good for you."

"Well," Sanchez said, drawing laugher in the packed conference room, "that's the strongest statement I've gotten you to say."

Another witness, West Virginia University brain researcher Bennet Oamalu, testified it "has been established since the early 20th century" that repeated blows to the head cause damage.

Another witness, NFL Players Association executive director DeMaurice Smith, told Congress the league hasn't shared the injury data it collected from every player from 2006-2008.

"We have written the NFL a letter asking to clarify whether they have given us all the data that they have available or only a portion of it," Smith said after his testimony. "As of today, I have received an answer to that letter."

NFL

Cable says he should remain Raiders coach

JOSH DUBOW
AP Sports Writer

ALAMEDA, Calif. Coach Tom Cable met with Oakland Raiders owner Al Davis but has not yet discussed his future with the organization.

Cable said the two met briefly Monday morning and will meet again next week. He says the immediate focus is on evaluating the team with his assistants. Cable says he believes he deserves at least another year as coach.

Cable won only five games in his first full season as Oakland finished up its NFL-worst seventh straight season with at least 11 losses. Cable has a 9-19 record since replacing Lane Kiffin last season.

The Raiders showed improvement offensively after Cable benched former No. 1 overall pick JaMarcus Russell. But the team only went 3-4 in those games, with Russell providing one of the wins in relief.

MOVIE TIMES

Aero Theatre
1328 Montana Ave.
(323) 466-FILM

Call theater for information.

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (PG) 1hr 28min
12:00, 12:40, 2:10, 3:05, 4:30, 5:30, 7:00, 8:00, 9:20

Sherlock Holmes (PG-13) 2hrs 14min
12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30

Up in the Air (R) 1hr 49min
1:15, 3:45, 6:45, 9:15

AMC 7 Santa Monica
1310 Third St.
(310) 289-4262

Avatar 3D (PG-13) 2hr 40 min
12:00, 2:15, 3:30, 6:15, 7:00, 9:50, 10:30

Princess and the Frog (G) 1hr 35min
12:10, 2:35, 4:50, 7:10, 9:40

Up in the Air (R) 1hr 49min
12:05, 2:40, 5:10, 7:45, 10:10

It's Complicated (R) 1hr 54min
12:45, 1:30, 3:45, 4:20, 6:30, 7:20, 9:30, 10:05

Sherlock Holmes (PG-13) 2hrs 14min
1:20, 4:30, 7:30, 10:20

Laemmle's Monica Fourplex
1332 Second St.
(310) 394-9741

An Education (PG13) 1hr 55min
1:55, 4:40, 7:30, 10:00

Young Victoria (PG) 1hr 44min
1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:40

Loss of a Teardrop Diamond (PG-13) 1hr 42min
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50

Coco Before Chanel (PG-13) 1hr 50min
4:30, 9:45

Irene in Time (PG-13) 1hr 35min
1:45, 7:20

Mann's Criterion Theatre
1313 Third St.
(310) 395-1599

Nine (PG-13) 1hr 50min
11:30am, 12:20, 2:00, 3:00, 4:40, 5:40, 7:30, 8:30, 10:10

The Blind Side (PG-13) 2hrs 6min
12:40, 3:40, 6:40, 9:40

Did You Hear About the Morgans? (PG-13) 1hr 43min
12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:30

The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG-13) 2hrs 10min
12:30, 6:30

Invictus (PG-13) 2hrs 12min
1:20, 3:30, 4:20, 7:20, 9:30, 10:20

For more information, e-mail news@smdp.com

Easy does it, Aries

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Dive into your work knowing what you want to accomplish. Even under pressure you'll get way ahead. Listen to news, and see a situation for what it is. The unexpected, though difficult, has a way of homing in on the real issues. Tonight: Easy does it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ You might want to continue to clear up a situation, fast. Yet inevitably you encounter a roadblock. Learning to work with this type of event and head in another direction could be strategic to your well-being. Your ability to adjust and do something very differently could mean the difference between success and failure. Tonight: Let the fun and games begin.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Personal matters float through your day, causing a potential work-related problem. Take a walk or learn to center quickly. Focus. Tonight: Have a long-overdue talk.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Keep communication flowing, despite various unpredictable events. Surprises occur when you least expect them, but are an eye-opener. A partner could mean well but holds you back. Tonight: Hang out.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Be aware of what others are asking, behind their words. Mixed messages often surround business and money. An unanticipated reaction from someone could have you rethinking a decision. Tonight: A discussion could be necessary, even if it is awkward.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You continue to receive your share of jolts when dealing with others. Maintain your composure and stay confident. You have made some excellent choices. Test out a work-related idea on others. Tonight: As you like.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Step back and do less. You are more proactive than you realize. Investigate alternatives that head your way. You are not yet in a position to make a decision. More information will be forthcoming. Tonight: Take your time.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Your way of handling a problem could change, as the issue seems to take on a different form. Know that nothing is written in stone. Use your renowned creativity to find other answers and solutions. Tonight: Go for fun and games.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Expand, but be efficient with a work-related matter. On some level, you could feel undermined by what is happening in your personal life. Attempt to separate these two different parts of your life. Tonight: Could be late.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Keep reaching out for a new perspective. This constant searching will pay off in multiple ways. The most obvious is the dynamic thinking that evolves. A surprise in your daily life could have you regrouping. Know what you cannot depend on. Tonight: Relax to music or some other favorite pastime.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Relate on a one-on-one level, and get to the bottom of a problem. Investigate financial options where you pull the wild card. Money matters could swing either way. Realize what is happening within a key relationship. Tonight Listen to another's opinion.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ If someone is going to toss the moment into chaos, it is you. Perhaps you don't realize the impact of others. Try to walk in their footsteps and get past a problem. You'll see life from a renewed perspective. Tonight: Beam in what you want.

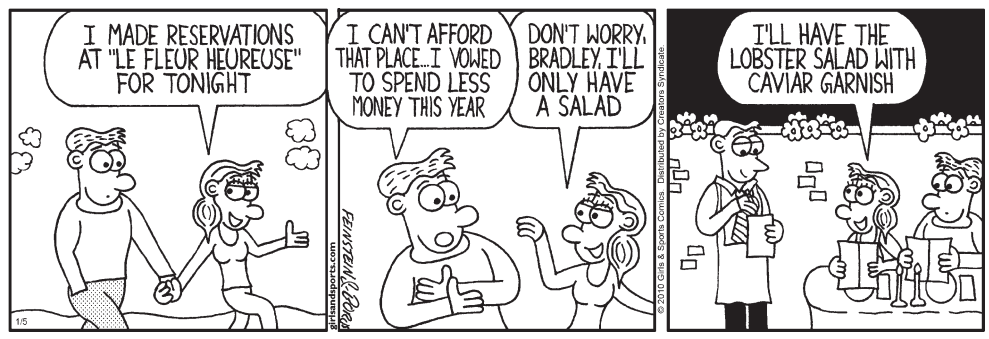
Happy birthday

This year, events encourage you to let go and see the big picture. Instead of a situation being right or wrong, look at it as changeable. Sometimes the resolution will be quite dynamic. The unexpected runs through your day-to-day life. Note if there is a theme that tells you that you can no longer depend on the status quo. If you are single, you could meet someone out of the blue. Don't anticipate that this relationship will be long-term. Just enjoy getting to know the person. If you are attached, neither of you can complain about boredom. However, a little more stability and mutuality could evolve if you let go of the status quo. Learn to flow. VIRGO pushes you to look at situations differently.

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

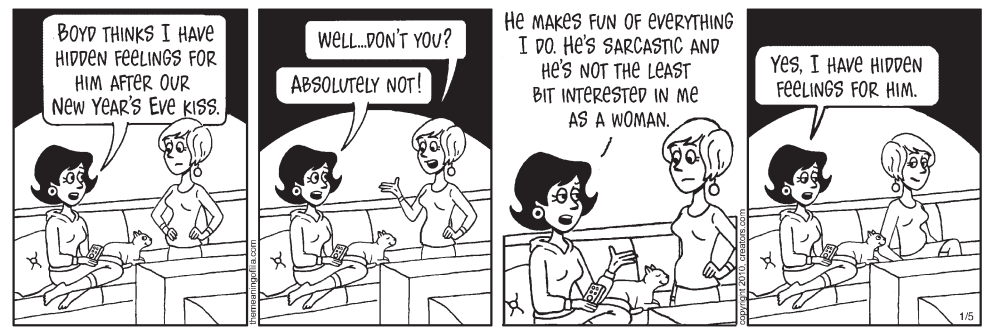
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



Garfield

By Jim Davis



Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



Your Trusted Source
Adult Day Services
For more brain boosting activities, check out our Adult Day Service Center.
• Free preview day with lunch!
• Memory jogging exercises
• Fun entertainment
• Support resources
WISE & Healthy Aging
(310) 452-7802
1510 Pico Boulevard
Santa Monica, CA

Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle. The difficulty level ranges from ★ (easiest) to ★★★★★ (hardest).

Difficulty Level ★★

7	9						6	3
				3				
8	3		9		6		4	5
		1				2		
	5			4			8	
		8				4		
2	1		4		5		3	7
				2				
6	7						2	8

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

There are many strategies to solving Sudoku. One way to begin is to examine each 3x3 grid and figure out which numbers are missing. Then, based on the other numbers in the row and column of each blank cell, find which of the missing numbers will work. Eliminating numbers will eventually lead you to the answer.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

4	3	5	7	1	8	9	6	2
1	8	9	3	2	6	5	4	7
6	2	7	4	9	5	1	8	3
8	4	1	9	5	7	2	3	6
5	6	2	8	4	3	7	9	1
7	9	3	2	6	1	4	5	8
9	7	4	6	3	2	8	1	5
3	5	8	1	7	9	6	2	4
2	1	6	5	8	4	3	7	9

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

The first person who can correctly identify where this image was captured wins a prize from the Santa Monica Daily Press. Send answers to *editor@smdp.com*.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Diminished
6 Hairstyles
11 Origami bird
12 Circle spokes
13 Fill in until the boss gets back
15 Have debts
16 Objective
17 Director Spike
18 Autumn quaff
20 UFO pilot
23 Until now
27 Toy-store buy
28 Long skirt
29 Wee hooter
31 Beat at chess
32 European nobleman
34 That woman
37 Melancholy
38 Use a ray-gun on
41 Deli order
44 Follow
45 Highway divisions
46 Title documents
47 Secret meeting

DOWN

1 Canyon sound
2 It may be furrowed
3 Hay bundle
4 Last part
5 Hold up
6 Some liqueurs
7 Lummox
8 Fan's favorite
9 Blaze
10 Location
14 Stashed
18 Star
19 Forum figure
20 Hubbub
21 Weather-map mark
22 Under the weather
24 Dieter's no-no
25 Log chopper
26 Free (of)
30 Samples
31 Early Ford
33 Fan cry
34 Storage spot
35 Sharpen
36 Different
38 Madcap
39 Ensign's OKs
40 Fence feature
42 Bad bomb
43 Disfigure

■	D	I	L	L	■	A	C	I	D	■
R	E	N	E	E	■	R	E	G	I	S
A	N	A	M	E	■	C	L	O	V	E
M	A	J	O	R	S	■	■	T	E	X
P	L	A	N	■	P	O	E	T	R	Y
S	I	M	■	G	Y	M	R	A	T	■
■	■	■	R	A	W	E	R	■	■	■
■	T	A	R	Z	A	N	■	B	E	G
K	I	S	S	E	R	■	F	E	A	R
H	A	S	■	■	E	Q	U	A	T	E
A	R	I	S	E	■	U	N	T	I	E
N	A	S	A	L	■	A	G	E	N	T
■	S	I	N	K	■	D	I	N	G	■

Yesterday's answer

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1	2	3	4	5	■	6	7	8	9	10
11					■	12				
13					14					
15			■	16			■	17		
■	■	■	18				19	■	■	■
20	21	22			■	23		24	25	26
27				■	■	■	28			
29				30	■	31				
■	■	■	32		33			■	■	■
34	35	36	■	37			■	38	39	40
41			42				43			
44					■	45				
46					■	47				

1-5

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 6 8 27 40 41 Meganumber: 21 Jackpot: $37M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 4 9 19 24 41 Meganumber: 9 Jackpot: $7M

FANTASY 5: 2 3 7 20 22

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 8 8 8 EVENING: 1 5 1

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 11 Money Bags
2nd: 07 Eureka
3rd: 05 California Classic
RACE TIME: 1.43.07

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ In Somalia, which is without a central government to speak of and where very little functions beyond an Islamic resistance and individual warlords' fiefdoms, a robust "stock market" has emerged in the city of Haradheere for "investors" in the seagoing pirate "industry," to raise money and supplies for kidnappers in exchange for a share of the bounty once a ransom is paid. According to a December Reuters dispatch, 72 "companies" are listed on the exchange, enabling "venture capital" to fund greater piracy traffic and more sophisticated looting. There even seems to be a financial "bubble" at work, in that since the "exchange" opened, pirates' ransoms have doubled to about $4 million per ship.

■ Afghanistan's national game, buzkashi, is attempting a marketing transformation inspired by pro football's and basketball's growths in the United States over the last several decades, according to a November USA Today dispatch. The main hindrance is that buzkashi is often little more than violent anarchy. A team of 12 men on horseback tries to carry a goat carcass the length of a field, around a goal and back, through an opposing team "defense" that includes almost any tactic short of murder. Spectators are often trampled by riders disregarding boundaries, and horses have dropped dead on the field from abuse or fatigue. The head of the Buzkashi Federation said he aims to present the game for consideration to the International Olympic Committee.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1477 Battle of Nancy: Charles the Bold is killed and Burgundy becomes part of France.

1500 Duke Ludovico Sforza conquers Milan.

1527 Felix Manz, a leader of the Anabaptist congregation in Zürich, is executed by drowning.

1554 A great fire occurs in Eindhoven, Netherlands.

WORD UP!

enjoin
\en-JOIN\ , transitive verb;
1. To direct or impose with authority; to order. 2. To prohibit; to forbid.

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1244 Euclid 2+1 upper unit #10 stove, fridge, marble bathroom floors, carpets blinds, free standing balcony, parking, pets OK with deposit .$1675/mo (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

1248 11TH st.unit A 2bdrm/1 1/2bath, lower carpet stove, blinds, laundry, vinyl flooring, balcony parking, no pets.on site manager $1625.(310)393-6322 www.jkwproperties.com

12500 CULVER Blvd., near Marina 1+1 $975 Includes parking, laundry , elevator, gated MUST SEE Call Lenny (310)822-7282

2712 ABBOT Kinney, in Venice parking, laundry, gated. All utilities included 1+1 $1150, single $895. Call Doug (310)577-9609

833 5TH St. SM upper unit 206 single $1395 stove, carpet, blinds, swimming pool, laundry, granite countertops, wood/tile floors, intercom entry, gated parking, no pets. (310)393-2547 www.jkwproperties.com

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1037 5th St. #6 North of Wilshire 2+2 Recently refurbished $2395

1214 Idaho Ave. #8, 2+1 1/2 Townhouse, avail Jan 1, $2595

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Culver City 4058 LaSalle Unit B lower duplex unit 1bdrm/1bath, hardwood floors, ceiling fan, breakfast nook, washer/dryer stove, fridge, parking, no pets. $1575/mo (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

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Sgl, st, fr, lwr **$875**
1831 Pearl Street, #5
3+1_, st, fr, fp, Berber cpt, carport-1, upr **$2200**

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2+1_ , st, fr, hdwd **$1500**
1657 Federal Ave, #12
Bach, sm, fr, htpl, ldry, separate bath **$775**
1766_ Malcolm Ave
Sgl, st, fr, pkg, cpt, ldry **$800**
1766 Malcolm Ave
2+1, st, fr, cpt, pkg-1, ldry **$1500**
1800 Kelton Ave, #5 & #7
1+1, st, fr, cpt, pkg **$1100**
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For Rent

L.A. 1523 Holt Ave unit 1+1 large lower unit stove, fridge, hardwood, parking, cat OK with deposit, $1125, $500 off move-in (310) 578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

MAR VISTA 12766 Matteson Ave #8 2+2 $1375/mo stove, fridge, tile and vinlyn floors, blinds, parking, laundry, no pets call between 5:30-7:30pm units shown by appt.only $500 off move-in (310) 439-1928 jkwproperties.com

MAR VISTA: 11932 Courtleigh Dr. unit 9, $1025/mo. 1+1 stove, fridge, carpet, blinds, carpet, utilities include, intercom entry, laundry, gated, parking, no pets. $500 off move-in (310) 737-7933 jkwproperties.com

MAR VISTA: 12434 CULVER Blvd. unit 1 2+2 stove, fridge, AC, carpets blinds, laundry room, intercom entry, gated parking, no pets.$1375/mo $500 off move-in (888)414-7778 www.jkwproperties.com

MARVISTA-LA $1495.00 2bdrms, 2 baths, no pets, balcony, stove, refrig, dshwshr, washr/dryr, 2-car garage gas-fireplace. 12048 Culver Blvd. #202 Open daily 9am-7pm. Additional info in unit Mgr#100 or #101

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PALM/BVRLYWD ADJ.$1300.00 2 Bdrms,1-1/2 1Bath, NO PETS, stove, refrg, parking 2009 Preuss Rd., #5 Open daily 8am-7pm . Additional info in unit

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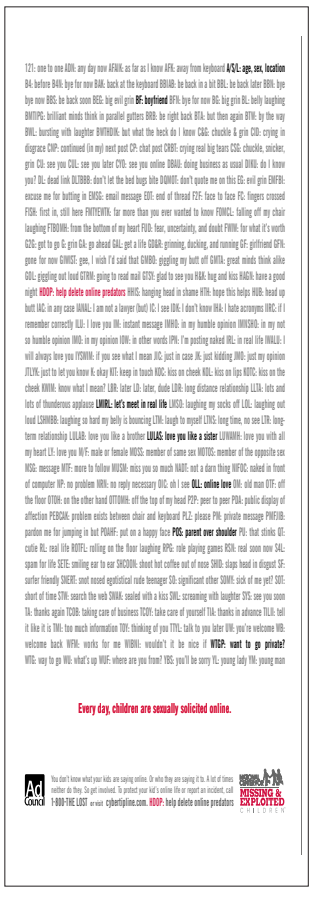
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DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20091736624 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as HILL ON BROADWAY, 825 HILL STREET, UNIT A, SANTA MONICA, CA 90405. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : KARIM ABJANI, 825 HILL STREET, UNIT A, SANTA MONICA, CA 90405 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)11/17/2009. /s/: KARIM ABJANI
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 11/17/2009. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/15/2009, 12/22/2009, 12/29/2009, 1/5/2010


121: one to one ADR: any day now AFAIK: as far as I know AFK: away from keyboard A/S/L: age, sex, location B4: before B4N: bye for now B@K: back at the keyboard BBIAB: be back in a bit BBL: be back later BBN: bye bye now BBS: be back soon BEG: big evil grin BF: boyfriend BFN: bye for now BG: big grin BL: belly laughing BMTIPG: brilliant minds think in parallel gutters BRB: be right back BTA: but then again BTW: by the way BWL: bursting with laughter BWTHDIK: but what the heck do I know C&G: chuckle & grin CID: crying in disgrace CMP: continued (in my) next post CP: chat post CRBT: crying real big tears CSG: chuckle, snicker, grin CU: see you CUL: see you later CYO: see you online DBAU: doing business as usual DIKU: do I know you? DL: dead link DLTBBB: don't let the bed bugs bite DQMOT: don't quote me on this EG: evil grin EMFBI: excuse me for butting in EMSG: email message EOT: end of thread F2F: face to face FC: fingers crossed FISH: first in, still here FITMTWTK: far more than you ever wanted to know FOMCL: falling off my chair laughing FTBDWM: from the bottom of my heart FUD: fear, uncertainty, and doubt FWIW: for what it's worth G2G: got to go G: grin GA: go ahead GAL: get a life GD&R: grinning, ducking, and running GF: girlfriend GFN: gone for now GIWIST: gee, I wish I'd said that GMBO: giggling my butt off GMTA: great minds think alike GOL: giggling out loud GTRM: going to read mail GTSY: glad to see you H&K: hug and kiss HAGN: have a good night **H2OP: help delete online predators** HHIS: hanging head in shame HTH: hope this helps HUB: head up butt IAC: in any case IANAL: I am not a lawyer (but) IC: I see IDK: I don't know IHA: I hate acronyms IIRC: if I remember correctly ILU: I love you IM: instant message IMHO: in my humble opinion IMNSHO: in my not so humble opinion IMO: in my opinion IOW: in other words IPN: I'm posting naked IRL: in real life IWALU: I will always love you ITSWIM: if you see what I mean JIC: just in case JK: just kidding JMO: just my opinion JTLYK: just to let you know K: okay KIT: keep in touch KOC: kiss on cheek KOL: kiss on lips KOTC: kiss on the cheek KWIM: know what I mean? LDR: later LD: later, dude LDR: long distance relationship LLTA: lots and lots of thunderous applause **LMIRL: let's meet in real life** LMSO: laughing my socks off LOL: laughing out loud LSMHBB: laughing so hard my belly is bouncing LTM: laugh to myself LTNS: long time, no see LTR: long-term relationship LULAB: love you like a brother **LULAS: love you like a sister** LUWAMH: love you with all my heart LY: love you M/F: male or female MOSS: member of same sex MOTOS: member of the opposite sex MSG: message MTF: more to follow MUSM: miss you so much NADT: not a darn thing NIFOC: naked in front of computer NP: no problem NRN: no reply necessary OIC: oh I see **OLL: online love** OM: old man OTF: off the floor OTOH: on the other hand OTTOMH: off the top of my head P2P: peer to peer PDA: public display of affection PEBCAK: problem exists between chair and keyboard PLZ: please PM: private message PMFJBI: pardon me for jumping in but POAHF: put on a happy face **POS: parent over shoulder** PU: that stinks QT: cutie RL: real life ROTFL: rolling on the floor laughing RPG: role playing games RSN: real soon now S4L: spam for life SETE: smiling ear to ear SHCOON: shoot hot coffee out of nose SHID: slaps head in disgust SF: surfer friendly SNERT: snot nosed egotistical rude teenager SO: significant other SOMY: sick of me yet? SOT: short of time STW: search the web SWAK: sealed with a kiss SWL: screaming with laughter SYS: see you soon TA: thanks again TCOB: taking care of business TTOP: take care of yourself TIA: thanks in advance TTLB: tell it like it is TMI: too much information TOY: thinking of you TTYL: talk to you later U4E: you're welcome WB: welcome back WFM: works for me WIIIFM: wouldn't it be nice if **WTGP: want to go private?** WTG: way to go WU: what's up WUF: where are you from? YBS: you'll be sorry YL: young lady YM: young man

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North of Montana	$2,647,450	$1,397,500
Between Wilshire & Montana	$2,400,000	$684,500
South of Wilshire	$850,000	$599,000
Sunset Park	$1,249,000	$624,500
Ocean Park	$1,380,000	$620,500

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