



Santa Monica Daily Press

SOMERS PLANS TO REBUILD
STATE PAGE 7

Since 2001: A news odyssey

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DAILY LOTTERY

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Meganumber: 13
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6 10 20 42 45
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Fantasy 5
16 20 33 34 36

DAILY 3
MIDDAY: 7 6 7
EVENING: 0 1 8

DAILY DERBY
1st: 09 Winning Spirit
2nd: 05 California Classic
3rd: 08 Gorgeous George
RACE TIME: 1:42.14

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Condoms are proving such an attractive target for shoplifters, according to Phoenix's Arizona Republic, that some stores are putting them in locked display cases that require a customer to call a clerk for help. However, as an official of the Arizona Public Health Association pointed out, condoms are a purchase that consumers choose to make in low profile. A spokesperson for a condom maker mentioned a recent incident in a CVS pharmacy in which a clerk, assisting a customer, shouted several times, "Who's got the key to the condoms?"

■ National Public Radio reported in October that perhaps thousands of prison inmates are using cell phones (which are contraband in all correctional facilities) and that the problem has gotten so bad that Maryland state Sen. Ed DeGrange said he was sitting at his desk recently when an inmate called him on a cell phone with a list of general complaints. Also, a warden in Texas reported getting a call from the mother of an inmate, demanding that the warden do something to improve cell-phone reception in the prison so she can chat more easily with her son.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1964 U.S. Surgeon General Luther Terry issued the first government report saying smoking may be hazardous to one's health.

WORD UP!

coxcomb (KOKS-kohm), *noun*:
1. obsolete. A cap worn by court jesters; adorned with a strip of red. (Now cockscomb). 2. archaic. The top of the head, or the head itself.

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Find your place in the world 21-23

Homegrown business



Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

STICKS TO THE RIBS: 'Hot Dogger' Brittney Meyers, 22, manager of the Hot Dog on a Stick just south of the Santa Monica Pier, prepares a corndog for a customer on Wednesday. Hot Dog on a Stick is just one of several businesses with roots in Santa Monica. Businesses tend to favor Santa Monica for its proximity to the entertainment industry and the picturesque scenery.

Several internationally and nationally known businesses call SM home

BY MELODY HANATANI

Daily Press Staff Writer

OCEAN FRONT WALK — Donning the bright yellow, blue and red hat and uniform, Brittney Meyers is a celebrity in the Santa Monica tourist circles.

That is because Meyers is the smiling face who stands behind the window of a free standing red shack nestled next to the Santa Monica Pier on Ocean Front Walk, across from where volleyballs fly freely and the original Muscle Beach once lured bodybuilders.

Hot Dog on a Stick is one of several nationally and internationally known business ventures that had its start in Santa Monica, a city known to be a desirable place to start a busi-

ness because of its picturesque oceanic views.

"It's a beautiful place to work," said Jim Lynch, president of the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. "It has wonderful amenities because with the attraction of tourists come the nice restaurants and shopping."

"When you have a place like this, it's going to be a magnet for good retention and recruitment of good employees," Lynch said.

The chamber is planning an installation in 2007, honoring the employees of businesses that have been in Santa Monica for decades. Many of the honorees were businesses that originated in Santa Monica.

See SM BUSINESSES, page 10



Seeking fair pay

Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

Emily Russell, a clerk who has been working for Los Angeles County for more than 20 years, leads a group of about a dozen county clerks from the Superior Court during a lunchtime protest in front of the Santa Monica Court House on Wednesday. The clerks, who had been seeking a 15 percent pay raise received an offer of 2 percent from the county, and allowed their current contract expire on Dec. 31.



REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

ONE MAN'S TAKE ON CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Long day's march into early morn

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — Following nearly 30 minutes of discussion on when would be the best time for the City Council to delve into a comprehensive report on the city's homeless services network, residents were left wondering: What is going on in City Hall?

City Council spent a good deal of time during a day-long study session on Saturday mulling ways in which to make their meetings more

SEE RELATED STORY

■ A clean debate

PAGE 3

See LONG MEETING, page 11

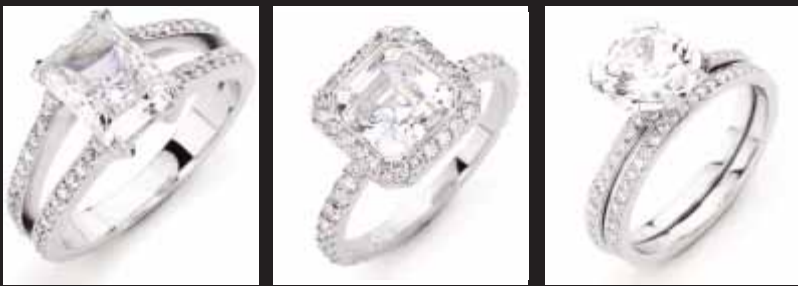
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Calendar

Santa Monica Daily Press

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2007

A newspaper with issues

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Laughter Yoga group

717 Broadway, 11 a.m. — noon

Laughter Yoga combines yoga breathing and laughter exercises. For more information, call Kim at (310) 471-5773.

Fitness Class (Mambo Mania)

1711 Stewart St., 7 a.m. — 8 a.m.

Weekly LeTip Business networking group

11th Street and Wilshire Boulevard, 11:30 a.m. — 1 p.m.

Weekly networking over lunch at El Cholo. Call to reserve a spot, (310) 356-7519.

Yappy Hour @ Tails of Santa Monica

2912 Main St., 6 p.m. — 8 p.m.

A social gathering for dogs and their people. For more information, call (310) 392-4300.

Salvation Army Youth Night

1533 Fourth St., 6 p.m. — 8 p.m.

Open to kids ages 5-12. Activities include games, crafts and Bible lessons. A meal is also included.

Friday, Jan. 12, 2007

"Across the Atlas" Presentation

402 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m. — 8 p.m.

In August of 2006, six adventurers completed a journey through the undiscovered Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. Hear the adventurers share their experience.

Register for flag football

Locations and times vary

Register now for five-man, all-passing flag football leagues in Monrovia, South Pasadena, Van Nuys-Sherman Oaks, Monterey Park, Pico Rivera and Santa Fe Springs. Evening and weekend leagues begin in late January. Must be 18 and over to play. Call (877) 846-3178 for information or to register, or visit www.TopGunFlagFootball.com.

Fitness Class (Mambo Mania)

1711 Stewart St., 7 a.m. — 8 a.m.

Santa Monica Rotary

1250 Capri Drive, Pacific Palisades, noon — 1:30 p.m.

Guests are welcome for lunch. For more information, contact June M. Doy at (310) 922-6274 or (310) 917-3313.

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.



Janitorial services at source of debate

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — A disagreement over who should be taking out the trash and cleaning bathrooms at the Santa Monica Pier has highlighted the need for elected officials and city staff to work aggressively on reorganizing City Hall's management structure, as well as formulating a new policy for when it's proper to contract with private firms.

After hearing objections from those with close ties to the pier, the City Council decided to postpone action on a potential three-year, \$1.09-million custodial contract with The Resource Collection.

The contract is for one year, with two additional one-year renewals. The contract also includes a termination clause that requires a 30-day notice, city staff said.

"With both the pier tenants association and ... Pacific Park, the biggest tenant on the pier, both opposed to this, I think it makes sense to me that we not approve this," said Councilman Ken Genser. "I would hope that we give staff the greatest flexibility to maintain interim services so that staff can come back quickly, if it works, with a plan for bringing this in-house."

The debate was an extension of a discussion held Saturday on City Hall's contracting policies. There have been calls for doing more work in-house because city employees tend to have more pride in their work and are more dedicated than contract employees.

Roughly \$16 million, or five percent of the City Hall's total operating budget, is spent on contracting services that include everything from tree trimming to toxic waste disposal.

Since the living wage ordinance was passed, the amount of money saved by contracting out has been reduced for some duties, some have argued.

In the case of the pier, merchants and members of the Pier Restoration Corporation (PRC), which manages the

See PIER CUSTODIANS, page 13



New Year under the sun

Chinese dancers were on hand, performing just east of the Santa Monica Pier over the weekend to promote a Chinese New Year show at the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood.

Christine Chang news@smdp.com

Giving their regards to Dogtown

Community leaders and skateboarders unite to find ways to commemorate Zephyr site

BY MELODY HANATANI

Daily Press Staff Writer

OCEAN PARK LIBRARY — A two-part series of workshops aimed at brainstorming ways in which to commemorate the birthplace of modern skateboarding in Santa Monica is set to begin here tonight.

Community leaders and skateboard advocates have organized the sessions, the second of which will take place on Jan. 25 at the same location, to generate ideas on how best to honor the significant cultural history that occurred as a result of a surf and skate business inside a small rundown building at the corner of Main and Bay streets.

It was in that building, in a small shop

called Zephyr and Jeff Ho Productions, where a group of street kids from Dogtown formed the Z-Boys team and helped usher in a new era in the world of skateboarding by introducing a more aggressive style during a competition in 1975.

The building itself became a hot topic in the local community late last year when its longtime owner drew up plans to demolish the structure and erect a mixed-use "green" complex in its stead, potentially eradicating much of the history that occurred at 2001-2011 Main Street.

Those plans have been placed on hold, for now.

Today, surf and skate followers flock to Horizons West Surf Shop, located in the

same building where Zephyr and Jeff Ho Productions once did business.

After receiving a push from the Landmarks Commission to explore ways of honoring skateboarding's history, community activists have decided to host the two-part meeting as a starting point, beginning with this evening's 7 p.m. gathering.

Juli Doar, the granddaughter of the property owner, will speak tonight about the proposed replacement structure and her commitment to preserve the cultural significance of the building. The new building, which would seek certification by the federal government as an environmentally friendly structure, would include 14 rental units, with retail on the first floor.

Doar has shown interest in welcoming back Horizons West Surf Shop.

"A plaque is not enough and doesn't

See SKATEBOARD HAVEN, page 15

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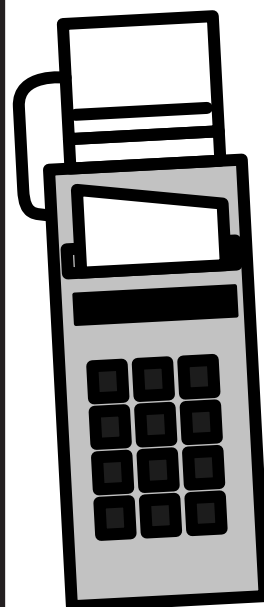
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Lovin’ that SaMo architecture

Editor:
I’ve already taken half a dozen co-workers to see the emerging housing project on the corner of 15th Street and Broadway. My game as we approach the side of the building going north on Broadway is: “What do you think those rectangles are made out of?” Wild guesses abound. Finally, someone recognizes a Coke or Sprite can. There is much laughter and delight. The frontage on Broadway is powerful and exciting. As with all breakthrough projects, there is at first, complaint. There were mass protests when the TransAmerica pyramid building went up in San Francisco – of course, now it is a proud symbol of the great city by the Bay.
Hurrah for fun, daring and breakthrough architecture. May we have more and may our beautiful city be known for great architecture.

Linda Jassim
Santa Monica

America needs to clean house

Editor:
America is a house divided and this house is falling apart before our eyes.
We want to befriend everything that conflicts with what we, as Christians, know of as the truth. Have you ever had to follow the orders of two bosses? It’s a nightmare-gone-wild, to say the least. Democrat versus Republican is why our political house stays in so much chaos. Rich versus poor, white versus black – it goes on and on. This is how the devil works to destroy that which is good. We can’t be tolerant of evil and stand against it at the same time.
This government takes it’s cut, under the table, behind closed-door sessions, to look the other way and say, “I didn’t know.” We have let more wolves into our pen. We are just like sheep, having not a care in the world, besides what in front of our faces. Christians are silent, asleep and or afraid to look this world in the eye and tell it the truth. Americans should not have to wonder what new perils await on their doorsteps. Let us clean the inside of our own cup and the outside will be clean.
This is my home and even though I am surrounded by evil, I fear only God. We all have internal cleaning that needs to be done, but there are stumbling blocks that need to be removed. We are a nation of many colors and hues, but we have to be of one accord if we want victory. Islam is not the only problematic issue, but right now, it must not grow in my borders.

Raphael Hameed
Santa Monica

GUEST COMMENTARY BY ANTHONY GREGORY

What makes a great president?

Gerald Ford has passed away at the age of 93. Commentators everywhere have been chiming in on his merits and weaknesses as a president, commander-in-chief and politician. Some have noted his relatively pacifistic approach to the Cold War, contrasting him to the hawkish stance of Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon before him, and even the comparatively more active militarism of Jimmy Carter, to say nothing of Ronald Reagan, after him.
Whenever a president dies, the media go to great lengths to shore up support for the presidency, and thus the American federal government with all its current domestic and international power. Back in 2004, they nearly elevated Reagan to the status of a deity in processions and an endless barrage of television reflections and montages. Even those whose political views were at total odds with what Reagan had actually done in the White House bent over backwards to praise him.
We can expect a little less hagiography for Gerald Ford, the man who pardoned Nixon and slowed down the Cold War. For the establishment, it is proper to see evil in the person of “Tricky Dick,” but to them, the basic morality of his bombings and imperial adventures abroad should not be questioned. Thus does Ford, the president who killed a tiny fraction of the innocents his predecessor did, get very few votes for being a great president.
The leftist columnist Alexander Cockburn, writing for Counterpunch, has called Gerald Ford “America’s Greatest President,” mainly because of Ford’s relatively noninterventionist foreign policy and also for the rise of social spending as a percentage of the budget under Ford. Cockburn’s analysis makes sense, since the Republican Ford was arguably much more to the left than Jimmy Carter (who championed deregulation) or Bill Clinton (who bombed Belgrade). Leftists who support increased domestic spending and much less war should find a good amount to admire in the Ford presidency.
From the point of view of liberty, very few presidents can be considered success stories. Martin Van Buren cut government and revived Jeffersonianism in national politics. Grover Cleveland vetoed many attempts to increase federal power, upheld the

Constitution better than perhaps any other, and was humane to American Indians. Warren Harding shrank the state and released from prison the dissidents unconstitutionally jailed by Woodrow Wilson.
The presidents most admired by the pundit class, academia, big media and the government itself, however, are the ones who waged huge wars, dramatically increased the power of the presidency and the federal government, and treated civil liberties like garbage. Lincoln suspended habeas corpus, censored hundreds of papers, detained thousands of peaceful dissidents and introduced conscription to the United States — and he is considered number one. Franklin Roosevelt prolonged the Great Depression with his monstrous New Deal, firebombed legions of innocent foreigners, put 110,000 innocent Japanese Americans into internment camps, and developed the first nuclear weapons — and he is considered number two.
Although Gerald Ford oversaw a rapid increase in domestic spending, surpassing the rates of social spending growth under Nixon, Carter, Reagan, Bush I, or Clinton, he probably did little to expand the power of the presidency, especially in foreign affairs, compared to most of these other presidents, and certainly compared to the worshipped administrations of Washington, Polk, Lincoln, Teddy Roosevelt, Wilson, FDR and Truman. Years from now, Ford is much less likely to be considered a great president than the more ostensibly belligerent Reagan. Ford simply didn’t flex the muscles of the American empire enough to qualify.
It is a sorry sign for American politics that those who believe in limits on government power would regard someone like Ford, who was far from a consistent proponent of liberty and free markets, as perhaps one of the better presidents of the 20th Century. In today’s dismal world, maybe the best we can realistically hope for in the short term is to once again have a president who is too inactive and quiet to be considered “great” by the establishment.

ANTHONY GREGORY is a writer and musician living in Berkeley, California. He is a research analyst at the Independent Institute, and a policy advisor for The Future of Freedom Foundation.

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

EDITOR
Michael Tittinger
miket@smdp.com

STAFF WRITERS
Kevin Herrera
kevinh@smdp.com

Melody Hanatani
melodyh@smdp.com

NIGHT EDITOR
Lori Bartlett
lorib@smdp.com

Lori Luechtefeld
sandytoes@smdp.com

SANTA MONICA PARENTING
Nina Furukawa
nina@smdp.com

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Fabian Lewkowicz
fabianl@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
Robbie P. Piubeni
rob@smdp.com

Rob Schwenker
schwenker@smdp.com

Andrew Swadling
andrews@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ASSISTANT
Cynthia Vazquez
advertising@smdp.com

TRAFFIC MANAGER
Connie Sommerville
connies@smdp.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Alejandro Cesar Cantarero II
alex@smdp.com

PRODUCTION ARTIST
Tessa Vergara
tessav@smdp.com

CLASSIFIEDS SALES MANAGER
Annie Kotok
anniek@smdp.com

CIRCULATION
Keith Wyatt
Glenn Bolan

INTERNS
To apply for internships email
editor@smdp.com

SPECIAL PROJECTS
Dave Danforth
dave@smdp.com

EDITOR-AT-LARGE
Carolyn Sackariason
csackariason@smdp.com

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1427 Third Street Promenade, #202
Santa Monica, CA 90401
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
FAX (310) 576-9913

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A child is calling for help.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Phillips joins Activist Support Circle

Michelle Phillips, the film and TV actress and founding member of The Mamas and the Papas, as well as an out-spoken anti-war activist, will be the special guest speaker at the Wednesday, Jan. 31, public gathering of the Activist Support Circle. The gathering will take place at the Friends Meeting Hall, 1440 Harvard St., and begin at 7 p.m.

The Activist Support Circle is an emotional support group for progressive activists. The purpose of the monthly gatherings are to:

- Guard against activist-related burnout.
 - Share activist-related frustrations and fears, as well as hopes and aspirations, in a supportive, safe environment.
 - Turn feelings of despair into feelings of empowerment.
 - Learn helpful coping skills and ideas from other like-minded supportive activists.
- The gatherings are free and there is free parking.

For information, call the Activist Support Circle at (310) 399-1000 or on the Web at www.activistsupportcircle.org.



MICHELLE PHILLIPS

DP

Going to the Fair

Find out how you can make a difference in the new year by contributing your time, energy and expertise to the community. Dozens of local organizations will be on hand at a Community Volunteer Fair to explain their programs and how volunteers can help meet critical community needs. Featuring a wide array of volunteer opportunities in Santa Monica and on the Westside, the fair will take place at the Fairview Branch of the Santa Monica Public Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd., from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Jan. 27. Refreshments will be served and there will be a prize drawing.

Agencies include those serving the arts, literacy, the environment, social services, emergency preparedness and populations such as at-risk youth, senior adults, women's shelters and more. The fair is a collaborative effort of the Santa Monica Public Library, the Santa Monica Volunteer Program and WISE Senior Services.

The program is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact the Santa Monica Public Library at (310) 450-0443; or on the Web site at www.smpl.org.

DP

Films that sustain

The Santa Monica Public Library presents Sustainable Cinema. The library is showing four films that examine the relationship between humans and planet Earth. The films will be shown monthly from February through May. All films will screen in the Martin Luther King Jr. Auditorium in the Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd.

The series begins with a screening of "Who Killed the Electric Car?" on Wednesday, Feb. 7, at 7 p.m.; a panel discussion with environmental experts will follow. In March, the film "Super Size Me" is featured; it will screen at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 6. Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth" will be shown on Wednesday, April 4, at 7 p.m. The final film in the series, "Fast Food Nation," will screen on Wednesday, May 16, at 7 p.m. This program series is co-sponsored by the Environmental Programs Division of the City of Santa Monica.

These programs are free and open to the public. Seating is limited and on a first-arrival basis.

For more information, contact the Santa Monica Public Library at (310) 458-8600; or on the Web site at www.smpl.org.

DP

New center helps residents navigate legal system

County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky will be on hand today to open the new Self-Help Legal Access Center at the Santa Monica Courthouse during a 10 a.m. ceremony.

The center will assist self-represented residents as they complete court forms, file documents and prepare to appear in court. Trained staff will navigate visitors through legal procedures from family law and housing matters to small claims and name changes.

The Los Angeles Superior Court, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles and Neighborhood Legal Services are collaborating to operate the center.

The county-funded legal information facility is located on the second floor of the courthouse at 1725 Main St.

For more information, call (213) 893-0528.

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For their consideration ...

The City Council is scheduled to take action Tuesday on an ordinance that would exempt all affordable housing projects with 50 or fewer units from the standard development review requirements called for in multifamily neighborhoods and select commercial and multi-use districts, negating opportunities for public input.

This week's Q-Line question:

Is City Hall on the right track by easing the review process for affordable housing projects, or does Santa Monica have more than its share already?

Call **(310) 285-8106** before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your answers in next weekend's edition of the Daily Press. Please limit responses to a minute or less.

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Borrowing proposals

Schwarzenegger proposed plans to build new prisons, schools, dams in state of state speech

BY LAURA KURTZMAN
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger proposed this week another huge round of borrowing to build prisons, schools and dams in a state of the state speech that also called for cleaner fuels to help curb global warming.

The borrowing proposals, which add up to \$43.3 billion, are similar to ideas that were cut out of the enormous borrowing plan the governor put forth last year. The Legislature changed it and cut it in half, and voters eventually approved \$42.7 billion in bonds in November.

Addressing a joint session of the Legislature, Schwarzenegger said he was bringing the ideas back because, “We are a big state, and we have big needs. And we have made a big down payment, but the job is not finished.”

The governor, who is recovering from a broken right femur, entered the ornate Assembly chambers on crutches. Although his speech was full of ambitious proposals, his delivery was subdued.

Schwarzenegger is calling for \$29.4 billion in general obligation bonds, which require voter approval, and \$13.9 billion in lease revenue and other bonds, which the administration says would not need to be approved by voters.

He said the state needs new prisons to relieve overcrowding, which he called a disgrace. The prisons are so full that the federal courts are threatening to intervene by capping the inmate population and potentially ordering early releases of criminals.

“Here are the court-ordered choices we face,” Schwarzenegger said. “We build more prisons or the court takes money from education and health care and builds the prisons



WE BUILD MORE PRISONS OR THE COURT TAKES MONEY FROM EDUCATION AND HEALTH CARE AND BUILDS THE PRISONS ITSELF. NOW I AM NOT IN FAVOR OF RELEASING CRIMINALS.”

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

itself. Now I am not in favor of releasing criminals. I am not in favor of taking money from classrooms and emergency rooms to build prison cells.”

Schwarzenegger also wants to spend \$4 billion to build two new dams, an idea Democrats and environmentalists vehemently oppose. He wants to spend another \$500 million on ground water storage.

Schwarzenegger said the dams are necessary to store more of the water from Sierra snowmelt, which could be reduced by global warming. Two-thirds of Californians depend on the snowmelt for drinking water. Central Valley farmers also use it to irrigate their fields.

The school bonds would build 15,000 new classrooms and renovate another 40,000, in addition to the \$10.4 billion school bond voters approved last year.

Schwarzenegger’s finance director, Mike Genest, said the state can afford the new borrowing because it is paying off early the bonds voters authorized in 2004 to pay off the budget deficit that ballooned after the dot-com crash.

Major earthquake of 150 years ago is little remembered

BY ALICIA CHANG
AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES — It’s the California earthquake hardly anyone has heard of — strong enough to rip 225 miles of the San Andreas Fault and make rivers run backward, but leaving nothing like the cultural scar inflicted by the San Francisco Quake of 1906.

Tuesday marked the 150th anniversary of the magnitude-7.9 Fort Tejon quake, which was blamed for just two deaths in what was then sparsely populated California.

No museum exhibits or musical tributes will mark the 1857 event, sometimes referred to as the forgotten quake. There will be no public gatherings or bells tolling to mark the moment the ground split open, as there were for the 1906 centennial of the San Francisco quake, a catastrophe that left 3,000 people dead and reduced much of the city to ash and rubble.

“It’ll never have the same hold on the public’s imagination as the 1906 earthquake,” said Sean Malis, an interpreter at Fort Tejon State Historic Park, a 70-mile drive high into mountains north of Los Angeles. “It’ll continue to be a footnote in history.”

Still, scientists do not want to pass up the opportunity to warn the public about the threat the fault poses and how to prepare for it. They say a repeat of Fort Tejon in the now-populous Inland Empire region east of Los Angeles — one of the fastest-growing areas in Southern California — could kill thousands of people and cause of tens of billions of dollars in damage.

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Free Workshop
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SANTA MONICA —An extremely popular free workshop is being held for the parents of college bound high school students during the month of December at various Santa Monica locations.

The workshop will focus on little-known ways of getting money for college, no matter how much income you make, or how good of a student you have. The class will include such topics as how to double or triple your eligibility for free grant money, the secret to sending your child to a private or UC school for less than the cost of a junior college, and the single biggest mistake that 9 out of 10 parents make when planning for college.

The workshop dates are Thursday, January 18th at the Santa Monica Main Library, Saturday, January 20th at the Santa Monica Main Library

at the Santa Monica Main Library 10:15 a.m. to 12 p.m, and Tuesday, January 23rd at the Montana Avenue Library The classes on Tuesday and Thursday 7:15pm to 8:45pm & Saturday Morning 10:15 a.m. to 12 p.m. The workshop will be taught by Shanee Chavis an affiliate of the College Planning Network, Inc. the nation’s leading expert on paying for college. Ron Caruthers the President of the College Planning Network is a continuous guest of KUSI TV News, Author of “How To Give Your Child A 4-Year College Education Without Going Broke”, and an instructor at Palomar and Mira Costa colleges.

Seating is free, but limited by the size of the room. To reserve your seat, call 310-581-7954 leave a message and receive a confirmation returned phone call.

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Wildfire danger haunts Malibu's scenic beauty

BY JEREMIAH MARQUEZ

Associated Press Writer

MALIBU, Calif. — The blue Pacific lapped at the shore as Suzanne Somers poked through charred rubble.

"It was a beautiful house, it was a beautiful place to live," the actress told reporters Tuesday.

Beautiful indeed: The morning after a brief but fierce wildfire destroyed and damaged an estimated \$60 million worth of beach homes was the kind of day that feeds the desire to live in Malibu despite its long history of devastating fires.

"We'll rebuild," Somers promptly pledged. "I really think that we'll learn something great from this, and what else can you do with a tragedy but look for the opportunity to grow spiritually and emotionally."

Monday's sunset blaze, whipped by Santa Ana winds, destroyed five homes and damaged six others including a guest house, said Los Angeles County Fire Chief P. Michael Freeman, explaining that those numbers had fluctuated because addresses were consumed by the flames and the structures were very close together.

Investigators were still trying to determine the cause of the fire, which erupted in brushy Malibu Bluffs Park and was blown downslope over about 20 acres and across Malibu Road into side-by-side homes on the beach. With nowhere to go but the ocean, the fire quickly ran out of fuel.

The point of origin was believed to be above the park along Pacific Coast Highway, Freeman said.

"At this point nothing is being ruled out in terms of the cause," he said.

In addition to the cause, officials were concerned about why the fire spread from the park's natural area into homes. The geography of Monday's fire is not unique in celebrity-studded Malibu, which stretches 21 miles along the seaward side of the rugged Santa Monica Mountains west of Los Angeles.

Mayor Ken Kearsley said locals have long objected to state restrictions on the amount of brush that can be cleared away from homes.

He asserted that California Coastal Commission rules limit brush clearance to as little as 100 feet in many parts of the city to preserve vegetation and wildlife, even though a state fire commission recommended 300 feet.

A message seeking comment from the Coastal Commission was not immediately returned Tuesday.

Kearsley stopped short of saying the restrictions led to the fire's spread, but he voiced concern that other areas of the city could be in danger.

"It's absolutely frustrating," Kearsley said. "As far as the city is concerned, homeowners are first. It's our responsibility to protect life and property."

Malibu's history includes a 1993 inferno that burned hundreds of homes and killed three people. Since then, the city has taken a number of steps to deal with natural disasters, including hiring an emergency coordinator and saving \$10 million to rebuild any infrastructure destroyed by fire or floods.

The city also set up caches of food and supplies in different areas and an emergency operations center and practices emergency scenarios several times a year.

In the fire area Tuesday, retiree Howard Smith, 65, was relieved to find his home damaged but still largely untouched by the

flames that gutted his next-door-neighbor's home.

Part of his guest house burned, beams over a patio were blackened and a wicker outdoor couch looked melted.

"I think that's history," Smith said, pointing to the couch. "But hey, it's minor ... compared to next door I feel very lucky, very fortunate."

✉ **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

■ Send letters to editor@smdp.com

STATE BRIEFS

PALM DESERT

A Certain retirement

Hundreds of parishioners bid farewell to St. Margaret's Episcopal Church pastor Robert Certain, whose retirement comes after officiating at services for former President Gerald R. Ford.

A retirement Mass was said Sunday for Certain, who was thrust into the national spotlight as Ford's parish priest. Certain presided at Ford services at St. Margaret's, the National Cathedral in Washington and Ford's burial in Grand Rapids, Mich. Ford died Dec. 26 at the age of 93.

Bishop James R. Mathes of the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego alluded to Certain's recent national exposure during a two-hour farewell Sunday evening.

"You showed the Episcopal Church as a place of grace and prayer and joy," the bishop said.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Adding airport parking

Flights could jump at Los Angeles International Airport if the Airport Commission approves a \$154 million plan to take over several terminals to provide more parking spots for low-cost carriers.

Airlines such as Southwest have sought more airport gates for years, but five carriers under long-term leases control a majority of aircraft parking spots. The city's airport commissioners have been unable to accommodate multiple requests by other airlines to add flights.

To receive the leases, airlines used bonds to finance terminal improvements.

AP

RIVERSIDE

Illness hits nursing homes

A digestive illness has struck three more nursing homes in Riverside County.

Ten long-term facilities in the county reported about 280 cases of sudden diarrhea and vomiting by the end of December, county disease control chief Barbara Cole said. She wouldn't identify the facilities.

No deaths have been reported. The illness usually lasts one or two days and then goes away.

The symptoms could be those produced by a norovirus, a common stomach bug that spreads rapidly in confined spaces such as nursing homes and cruise ships, health officials said previously.

Last week, San Quentin State Prison was closed to new inmates and visitors as officials fought to contain a gastroenteritis outbreak among about 500 convicts and staff members.

State Department of Health Services spokeswoman Norma Arceo said she didn't know how many outbreaks had been reported statewide.

AP

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South of Wilshire	= \$ 886,000	\$ 696,375
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Feeling the effects

NASA scientist says unless global warming efforts are launched, species will disappear

BY TOM GARDNER

Associated Press Writer

MAMMOTH LAKES, Calif. — The effects of global warming are being felt around the world and unless international efforts are launched within the next 10 years species will disappear and the earth will be a vastly less habitable planet by the end of the century, according to NASA scientist James E. Hansen.

"Global warming is already starting, and there's going to be more of it. I think there is still time to deal with global warming, but we need to act soon. Humans now control global climate, for better or worse," Hansen said Tuesday at an annual gathering of meteorologists.

Hansen, who came under fire from the White House after a December 2005 lecture in which he called for prompt reductions in greenhouse gas emissions to slow global warming, delivered his keynote speech by satellite at the 14th annual Operation Sierra Storm meeting at Mammoth Mountain Ski Area. Global warming is the theme of the conference.

Hansen, who said he was not speaking for NASA, said that after the warming of the past three decades, the world is within 1

degree Celsius of its warmest period in the past 400,000 years. He predicted that if greenhouse gas emissions continue at the same rate, the warming this century will approach 3 degrees Celsius, or about 5 degrees Fahrenheit.

He forecast that such a change would eliminate up to half the species on earth and would melt polar ice caps. Subsequently rising ocean levels would inundate Florida, most of Louisiana and much of the East Coast, Hansen said.

"We don't know how long it would take for that to happen," he said.

He said warning signs are appearing in Greenland where ice is melting twice as fast as it was five years ago. Ocean levels globally are edging up about 3.5 millimeters a year.

Hansen said samples of the Antarctic ice cap spanning 400,000 years show almost parallel changes in temperatures and greenhouse gasses — primarily carbon dioxide and methane that until now were produced by natural changes in the earth.

"The amount of greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere is now completely under the control of humans," he said. "Another Ice Age cannot occur unless humans become extinct."

Critical to the reduction of greenhouse gasses is international agreement to curtail

the use of fossil fuels — the primary source of carbon dioxide and other pollutants, he said.

Hansen's call came one day after the chief of the United Nations' effort against climate change said that despite widespread recognition of the seriousness of global warming, a lack of leadership has created a sense of helplessness.

Yvo de Boer, executive secretary of the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change, told The Associated Press during a visit to Paris that he will ask the new U.N. secretary-general to coordinate a worldwide response and organize a conference of world leaders.

Such a meeting would be a first step toward a post-Kyoto agreement on climate change, he said. The 1997 Kyoto Protocol requires 35 industrial nations to cut production of globe-warming greenhouse gases by an average 5 percent below 1990 levels by 2012, when the accord expires.

In his speech, Hansen urged development of more efficient technologies to sharply reduce carbon emissions, use of coal only in power plants that scrub the emissions and a gradual increase in taxes on fossil fuels to discourage use.

He touched only briefly on his dealings with the Bush administration, saying that scientists have ethical responsibilities much the same as doctors have to their patients.

The Commerce Department and NASA launched an investigation in November into whether the administration tried to prevent government scientists from speaking freely about climate change.

Engineer found fatal flaws in plans for weapons dust cloud test

BY KEN RITTER

Associated Press Writer

LAS VEGAS — A professional engineer who specializes in air quality says he found fatal flaws in federal plans for a weapons test that U.S. officials say will generate the first mushroom-shaped dust cloud in decades at the Nevada Test Site.

A draft environmental assessment on the "Divine Strake" test didn't look at the likelihood that the smallest measure of dust and debris, 2.5 microns, could be churned up and sent airborne, Algirdas Leskys said.

"The modeling is inaccurate," said Leskys, 44, a data analyst with the Clark County Department of Air Quality and Environmental Management who stressed that he was not acting in his official capacity.

He provided eight pages of comments this week to officials for the National Nuclear Security Administration and Defense Threat Reduction Agency hosting a public "open house" in Las Vegas about the proposed weapons test. Similar sessions were planned Wednesday in Salt Lake City and Thursday in St. George, Utah.

"Given the right meteorological conditions, it is possible that some portion of the PM 2.5 emissions generated by the proposed detonation could settle in either Utah or Las Vegas," Leskys said in an interview late Tuesday.

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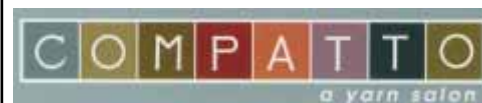
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Bush plans to send more troops to troubled areas

BY ANNE FLAHERTY

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — President Bush is telling lawmakers that he will send thousands more U.S. troops to Iraq's two most troubled regions, but before he can unveil the plan it is facing stiff challenges from Congress' majority Democrats.

Bush on Wednesday will announce a new war strategy, and has decided to call for 20,000 additional troops, said Sen. Gordon Smith, R-Ore., who was among more than 30 senators briefed by the president on Monday.

The extra forces would be sent to Baghdad, which has been consumed by sectarian violence, and the western Anbar Province, a base of the mostly Sunni insurgency and foreign al-Qaida fighters, Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, said following the session with Bush.

A day before Bush's nationally televised speech describing his proposal, Sen. Edward Kennedy, a longtime critic of Bush and the war, will propose legislation denying him the billions needed to send more troops to war unless Congress agrees first. Though it was unclear whether the bill would ever reach the full Senate, it could at least serve as a rallying point for the most insistent foes of the Iraq conflict.

Democrats seem divided on whether to block funds for troop increases, but many were not ruling it out. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said Democrats would "look at everything" in their power to curb the war, short of cutting money for troops already in the field.

The bill by Kennedy, D-Mass., is guaranteed to fuel the debate among lawmakers on how far they should go to try to force the president's hand on the unpopular war.

Under the Constitution, the president has broad war-making powers, while Congress controls spending. Democratic leaders have swiftly rejected any suggestion of withholding money from troops already in combat zones.

Kennedy says his plan would prevent additional troops from being sent and not stop the flow of money to troops in the field now.

"The best immediate way to support our troops is by refusing to inject more and more of them into the cauldron of a civil war that can be resolved only by the people and government of Iraq," Kennedy said in prepared remarks he was to deliver at the National Press Club on Tuesday.

If brought to the floor by Democratic leaders, Kennedy's proposal would force Republicans to put themselves on record regarding the war for the first time since the Nov. 7 elections, when the GOP lost control of Congress to the Democrats in large part because of the war. Most Republicans say they back the president, or are at least willing to hear him out, but a few GOP moderates say there is no indication U.S. troops would make a difference.

"The president's speech must be the beginning — not the end — of a new national discussion of our policy in Iraq," Kennedy said in his prepared remarks.

According to senators who attended the meeting Monday with the president, a promise to send more troops to Iraq would be conditioned on criteria met by the Iraqi government, such as reaching political deals on sharing the nation's oil resources and dispatching more of its own troops to Baghdad. Bush told the senators that Iraqi Prime

Minister Nouri al-Maliki suggested the plan when the two met in late November in Amman, Jordan. The senators said the president expressed confidence that the Iraqi government could meet certain milestones in exchange for additional U.S. support.

"We've had these benchmarks before and to no avail," Sen. Olympia Snowe, R-Maine, said after meeting with Bush. "Why should we increase our exposure to risk?"

Whether Snowe and other GOP skeptics of Bush's plan, including Smith and Sen. Susan Collins of Maine, will agree to Kennedy's plan is doubtful.

"It would be a dishonorable thing for the Congress to budget away the bullets at a time when their commander in chief had ordered them to hold their place in the battlefield," said Smith.

Collins, who recently returned from Iraq, said she remained unconvinced that more troops could help salvage the situation. She said one or two brigades might be needed in the Anbar province, which is showing signs of improvement, but that those forces could be reallocated from elsewhere in the country.

✉ WHAT DO YOU THINK?

■ Send letters to editor@smdp.com

Dolce & Gabbana ad criticized by British watchdog agency

By The Associated Press

LONDON — A British watchdog agency criticized Italian fashion house Dolce & Gabbana on Wednesday for ads that showed models aggressively brandishing knives.

The Advertising Standards Authority said the company acted irresponsibly and breached standards of good taste in publishing the ads, which showed male models waving knives while surrounded by glamorous women models, in poses inspired by the paintings of French romantic artist Eugene Delacroix. One man was shown lying on the ground with a gunshot wound to the head.

There was no immediate comment from Milan-based Dolce & Gabbana.

The ruling amounts to a slap on the wrist and doesn't ban the ads.

The independent authority, which regulates the industry, issued the report after 166 people complained that two ads, which appeared in The Times and Daily Telegraph last October, glorified knife and gun crime.

It upheld complaints that Dolce & Gabbana had shirked its social responsibility and breached standards of decency. But it dismissed a complaint that the ads would encourage people to harm themselves.

One of the ads in The Times appeared opposite a story about knife crime; the authority said this was likely to cause serious offense.

Dolce & Gabbana says the ads were printed around the globe but the only complaints had come from people in Britain. The company argues the ads were "highly stylized and intended to be an iconic representation of the Napoleonic period of art."

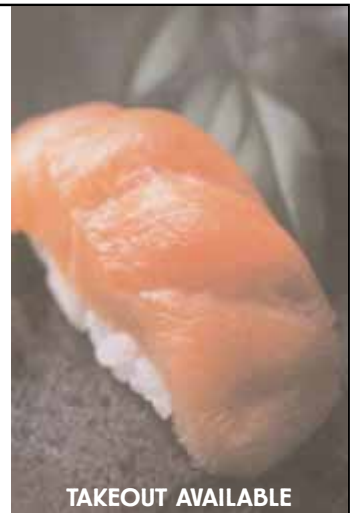
Dee Edwards, a founding member of Mothers Against Murder and Aggression and one of those who complained, said she hoped the ruling would send a message to other advertisers.

"These adverts were at best distasteful and at worst dangerous," she said.

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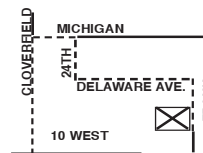
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Hot Dog on a Stick recently celebrated 61 years

SM BUSINESSES, from page 1

Businesses like social web community MySpace.com are based in Santa Monica. Other businesses that were already established overseas, such as Red Bull, made its national debut in Santa Monica.

Dietrich Mateschitz founded Red Bull in 1984 in Austria, modeling the drink after the tonic drinks that were popular in Asia. By 1992, the company was able to expand overseas, introducing the product in Hungary.

In 1998, Red Bull made its United States debut in Los Angeles, choosing the city after identifying it as one of the top markets in the country. Santa Monica was chosen as the headquarters because its proximity to the entertainment industry, creative arts, global and marketing companies.

"The US is a very important market for Red Bull," said Patrice Radden, spokeswoman for Red Bull.

Perhaps the most well-known and beloved brand in the city is Hot Dog on a Stick, which calls both Ocean Front Walk and Santa Monica Place, home.

Meyers has served corndogs and fries at the original Hot Dog on a Stick for six years, spending much of her time squeezing fresh lemons into lemonade while chatting with the tourists who are excited to see the original corndog stand that made the red, yellow and blue uniforms a fashion icon for fast food.

"I'm probably all over the world," Meyer said of the pictures in which she's appeared.

It all started in 1946 when Dave Barham

took his mother's cornmeal recipe and his own special lemonade formula and opened the first Hot Dog on a Stick on Muscle Beach, right across from where he played volleyball every day.

His business plan was simple, take 100 percent turkey dogs, to appeal to the health conscious bodybuilders, and stick them on paper sticks.

The business started out with only female employees because "Dave was at the beach and finding cute and friendly girls," joked Marnie Purvis, spokeswoman for Hot Dog on a Stick. The female employee theme stuck as most Hot Dog on a Stick stands in malls across the country are manned by women even today, although there are more male employees than ever before, Purvis said.

The business survived the move of Muscle Beach to Venice Beach in the late 1950s because it had already established a strong and loyal clientele.

Barham was popular with his employees and essentially allowed them to inherit the business when he passed away in 1991. All adult employees who have worked in the company for a certain period of time are awarded a stake in the business.

"He was infamous for showing up late to work and grabbing employees into a game of volleyball," Purvis said. "Sometimes, if there were new employees, he would throw a volleyball at them [to make sure they were tough]."

In 1973, Hot Dog on a Stick opened its first mall stand in Salt Lake City. Today, there are 103 stores in 17 states.

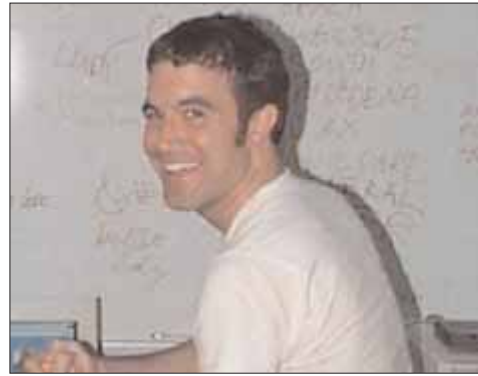


Photo courtesy

OPEN SPACE: Tom Anderson, the founder of the social web community MySpace.com, choose to start the company in 2003 in Santa Monica.

The company has received correspondence from customers from around the world, raving about the corndogs on a stick.

"It's amazing for us to read stories about people who go to California and have to look for the Hot Dog on a Stick stand," Purvis said. "If people have been to Santa Monica, they have definitely been to a Hot Dog on a Stick."

Good businesses can be born anywhere, Lynch said, using McDonald's as an example, which was founded in San Bernardino by Mac and Dick McDonald and later franchised by Ray Kroc, who opened his first McDonald's in Illinois.

"They start out with a good idea and good leadership and get moved along regardless of its origin," Lynch said. "It's mostly the company leadership [and employees] that create the success."

VENICE'S CONTRIBUTION

The famous Harrah's Casino can trace its roots to a small bingo parlor on Venice Beach.

The Great Depression caused William F. Harrah to drop out of UCLA at the age of 18 while he was working toward a degree in mechanical engineering. In 1929, shortly after dropping out of school, he went to work for his father, John Harrah, a former mayor of Venice and a well-known attorney, at his bingo parlor called "Circle Game."

The business struggled over the next few years and John Harrah decided to sell the business to his son, now 20 years old, for \$500 in 1932.

Within two years, the parlor amassed \$25,000 in profits under William Harrah's ownership.

Since bingo was viewed somewhat of an illegal activity, state authorities periodically shut down the parlor. In 1937, after a trip to Reno, Harrah decided to close shop and move his business to Nevada, where he observed that the bars don't close and the police don't harass casino owners.

A casino empire was born.

"It's very modest beginnings for our company," said David Strow, spokesman for Harrah's Entertainment. "We really don't count his experience in California as part of company history. The history starts when he opened in Reno."

✉ WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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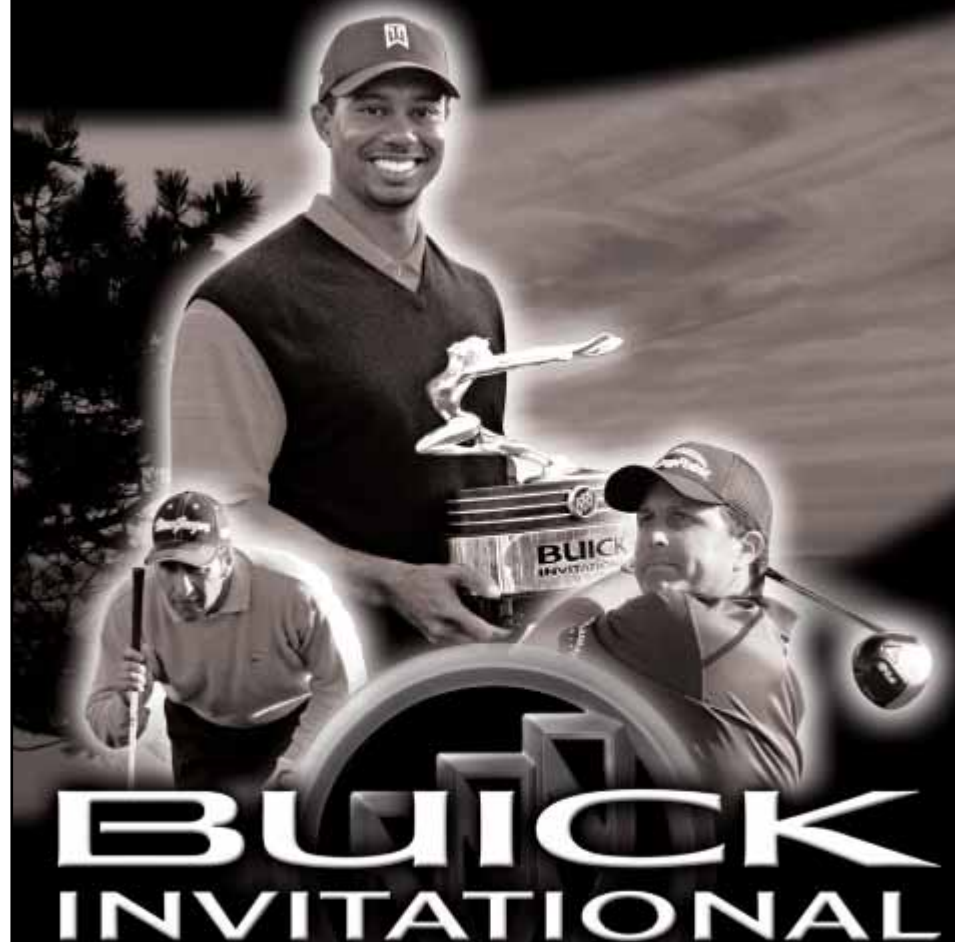
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Hefty agenda cut down due to time constraints

LONG MEETING, from page 1

concise. The result? Elected officials pushed the proceedings well past the witching hour.

The homeless services review was presented, but the council decided not to dig deep because of an already hefty agenda, which was cut considerably that night because of time constraints.

Also, the nearly 200-page report had just been released a few days prior to the meeting, giving neither the council nor the public ample time to review it, according to both Mayor Richard Bloom and Councilman Bobby Shriver.

If that was going to be the case, why even bring it before the council in the first place?

Bloom said city staff was hoping to get some direction from the council as it moves forward with spending priorities for the next fiscal year. In the end, staff got nothing.

There is talk of adding an extra meeting at the end of the month, so there still could be a chance for some guidance, however, it seems that something should have been worked out ahead of time, given staff and the council knew they would have a backlog because of the holiday recess.

Perhaps council members should meet over the holidays. Staff is working, why shouldn't they?

"At first blush, I knew it was an impossible agenda," said Councilman Bob Holbrook. "I can understand Richard saying right off the bat that we might as well schedule more meetings because we hadn't met in about five weeks. We will probably need extra meetings just to get caught up on this."

MEETINGS ARE A 'GUESSING GAME'

Now, the rationale for hefty agendas is this. If city staff were to place only a few items before the council, and there was no controversy, then the meeting could proceed rather quickly and everyone would be home by 9:30 p.m.

That may sound great to those with kids at home or facing an early morning commute, but the problem lies with Council adjourning for the evening too early, wasting an opportunity to handle more of the city's business.

Instead, agendas are jam-packed with the hope that all issues can be addressed. If not, they are simply placed on hold, leaving those interested in the yanked items sitting in the council chambers, wasting away, when they could be at home watching the Lakers or spending time with the family playing Pictionary.

It's really a guessing game, Bloom said. Everyone acknowledges the meetings are long, and the council and city manager are working together to address that, but no one really knows for sure just what issues are going to get people's blood to boil.

"The answer is simple," Bloom said. "We have too many things to do. We have a lot of work because we are a very active city with a budget that is close to half-a-billion dollars ... The council's business ebbs and flows and there are times when we are anticipating a good deal of public comment on an issue and it doesn't materialize ...

"Then there are times when there is tons of public comment and that happened last night."

NO SWEARING, UNLESS IT'S THE CHIEF

Tuesday's meeting — Bloom's first as mayor in two years — was chock full of events, starting off with the swearing-in of

the new police chief, Timothy Jackman.

It was standing-room only as everyone from former Mayor Nat "Mr. Santa Monica" Trives, St. Monica Parish Monsignor Lloyd Torgerson and schools Superintendent Diane Talarico showed up to wish the top cop well.

"I am very excited about you coming here and the enthusiasm you are bringing to the job," Councilman Ken Genser told the chief. "This is a journey we will be going on and I hope this journey takes us to wonderful places."

Jackman replied, "I plan on being here for awhile."

Following the administration of the oath, a few photographs and a speech or two, the council emptied out quickly as guests went to the Public Safety Facility to spend some time with Jackman.

I DON'T KNOW WHY 36 PEOPLE SPOKE ... WHEN IT WAS A SLAM DUNK."

Bob Holbrook
Councilman

THE BEST OF THE REST

Sticking with his pledge to keep things moving, Bloom, who performed well at the helm, moved quickly into the consent calendar, which rarely brings heated discussion. But then again, Tuesday night was a different kind of meeting.

Several speakers criticized awarding a custodial contract to an outside firm for the Santa Monica Pier (see related story). That lasted for almost an hour, as the council went back and forth over what they should do next. They eventually decided to not grant the contract, and instead move forward with an overall discussion on contracting out versus going in-house.

That was around 7 p.m. Then came closed session.

The council returned about 45 minutes later and, once again, scores of people filed into the council chambers to view a presentation of a report on the homeless services network. Homeless Czar Ed Edelman gave his report on the status of the regional activities and legislation aimed at reducing the homeless population.

Edelman also introduced Santa Monica resident Rebecca Isaacs, the new director of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, the regional body that governs homeless funding and policy. Isaacs kept her comments short, focusing on the 2007 Homeless Count, which will begin on Jan. 24. Isaacs said she is still seeking volunteers to help with the effort.

After hearing from more than a dozen speakers, the council instructed staff to bring the report back for further discussion, and then moved on to the next item, an appeal by property owners living along San Vicente Boulevard who wish to divide their plot into three.

Neighbors complained the division would create more traffic and dangerous conditions because of the narrow streets in the area. They also said the division would change the character of the neighborhood.

See LONG MEETING, page 12

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Christine Chang news@smdp.com

BUILDING UP: Construction continues on an affordable housing complex at the intersection of Main and Pacific streets. The project was approved under a temporary ordinance that exempted structures of 50 units or less that were entirely devoted to affordable housing from development review by the city's Planning Commission.

A stacked agenda draws considerable public interest

LONG MEETING, from page 11

The owners of the property said their neighbors were being greedy and selfish.

As they went back and forth, a couple of young women from the plastics industry were bored out of their minds and tried to entertain themselves by taking goofy pictures of themselves on their cell phones. One of them was pretty fond of the pouting pose.

The council eventually decided to give the property owners two lots instead of three.

TO EXEMPT, OR NOT TO EXEMPT

Then came the biggest item of the night — the first reading of an ordinance that would make permanent an interim law that exempts 100 percent-affordable housing developments of less than 50 units from certain types of review, reducing the time required for approval and reducing costs to the developer, which is often Santa Monica Community Corp., the largest developer of low-cost housing in the city.

Supporters, including representatives from Community Corp. and Step up on Second, said the law is in step with the city's goals of creating more affordable housing, and tried to emphasize that zoning restriction would still apply so that giant buildings could not be built next to one-story homes.

Margaret Mills, who supports the law, said her autistic son would not be able to live on his own if it wasn't for affordable housing.

"When he was in Special Ed classes in Santa Monica, I always wondered would he be able to work and live independently," Mills said. "And now at the age of 45, he works as a courtesy clerk for a local grocery company and lives independently in a safe, decent, well-managed studio apartment in downtown Santa Monica ... I often hear that low income people don't deserve to live in Santa Monica. This law gives workers a decent place to live."

Those opposed said they support low-cost housing but were afraid of diminished public review and how this may affect the scale of neighborhoods.

"I have been a full supporter of affordable housing in Santa Monica and have been for the last 20 years or more," said former City Councilman and former Planning Commissioner Kelly Olson. "But the removal of discretionary approval, taking

away the public's right to talk about projects, is really a mistake and actually hurts affordable housing. In the long run, (the law) turns people against it. If they have a say (in affordable housing projects) they will buy into it more."

The council majority supported the law, with Council members Shriver and Holbrook casting votes against it.

"I just think that a project of 50 units is big," Holbrook said. "It's a big building ... I would be willing to exempt up to 25 units, but 50 units is such a big property and such a tall and large building that not to have any review at all is troublesome for me."

What struck Holbrook as odd was the number of people who came out to speak on the law even though it seemed from the beginning that it had enough votes to pass. With so much ground to cover, it would have been better, Holbrook said, if one person could have spoken on behalf of their particular group, something which Bloom suggested several times throughout the course of the meeting.

"I don't know why 36 people spoke ... when it was a slam dunk," Holbrook said. "It was going to pass, so I was wondering why there were members of (Santa Monicans for Renters Rights) there. Politically, it's an interesting thought."

With that matter settled, the council quickly approved a ban on non-recyclable plastics used to serve food. The ban applies to "to-go" containers made from non-recyclable plastic, such as expanded polystyrene — better known as Styrofoam — and clear polystyrene, both of which carry the No. 6 recycling symbol and are commonly used in food and beverage containers. The ban does not affect recyclable plastics, paper, coated paper, foil or bio-based products.

Businesses have until next year to make the switch from the non-recyclable containers.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:57 a.m. in memory of Herman Louisa, one of the operators of H & H Body Shop, and Miguel Martin, who was killed tragically two weeks ago in a drive-by shooting on Pico Boulevard near Virginia Avenue Park.

✉ WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Send letters to editor@smdp.com

kevinh@smdp.com

City staff waiting for council to make contract policy

PIER CUSTODIANS, from page 3

city's most popular landmark, said private companies have provided poor service and their employees are hardly the type of ambassadors that should come in contact with the estimated 4 million people who visit the pier annually.

"The PRC board and many on the pier feel it is very important to bring custodial services in-house, and the time is now," said Ben Franz-Knight, executive director of the PRC. "Janitorial staff is in constant contact with the public and the pride of ownership you see in city employees is just the sort of thing we need to see on the pier.

"We need a flexible workforce," Franz-Knight added as he pointed to the cleaning of an historic plaque as a case when a contract may need to be amended, whereas city employees could simply be directed to perform the task without having to get permission from corporate headquarters.

"Bottom line ... the pier is a unique venue that requires in-depth knowledge of weight limits, structure of the deck board and all things vital to the successful operation of the pier," Franz-Knight said.

Representatives from The Resource Collection could not be reached for comment.

Franz-Knight said the PRC had not been consulted about the contract.

At least one board member expressed displeasure that the contract was even presented to the council given the strong opposition.

"It is extremely frustrating and happens all too often," said one PRC board member who did not want to be identified. "What is the point of having a pier board or any other citizens oversight commission if city staff can't be bothered to consult with us.

"Just the fact that this was on the consent calendar when everyone involving in running the pier has been against it for months shows just how out of touch City Hall is," the board member added.

Economic Development Director Miriam Mack, who oversees the pier, said the PRC

board was not consulted about the contract because it was standard practice to contract out custodial services on the pier.

Mack said she is fully aware of the complaints expressed by merchants and the PRC about service provided by prior companies, and there were clauses in the current contract that would require employees to speak English and be representatives of the pier.

She also said there was an agreement that

THE PRC BOARD AND MANY ON THE PIER FEEL IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO BRING CUSTODIAL SERVICES IN-HOUSE, AND THE TIME IS NOW."

Ben Franz-Knight
Executive director of the PRC.

the contract could be terminated at the council's discretion if elected officials decided to bring the services in-house.

City staff is waiting for the council to come up with a concrete policy on when to contract out as well as how to restructure City Hall, both of which are currently underway.

"We certainly anticipate (contracting) to be dealt with as part of the reorganization of the departments, but we knew that would be taking place in a larger context and while that was taking place, we wanted to make sure we had still had janitors on the pier," Mack said. "We are fully aware of the criticisms of the past and we are looking forward to getting a new contractor in place to provide better services."

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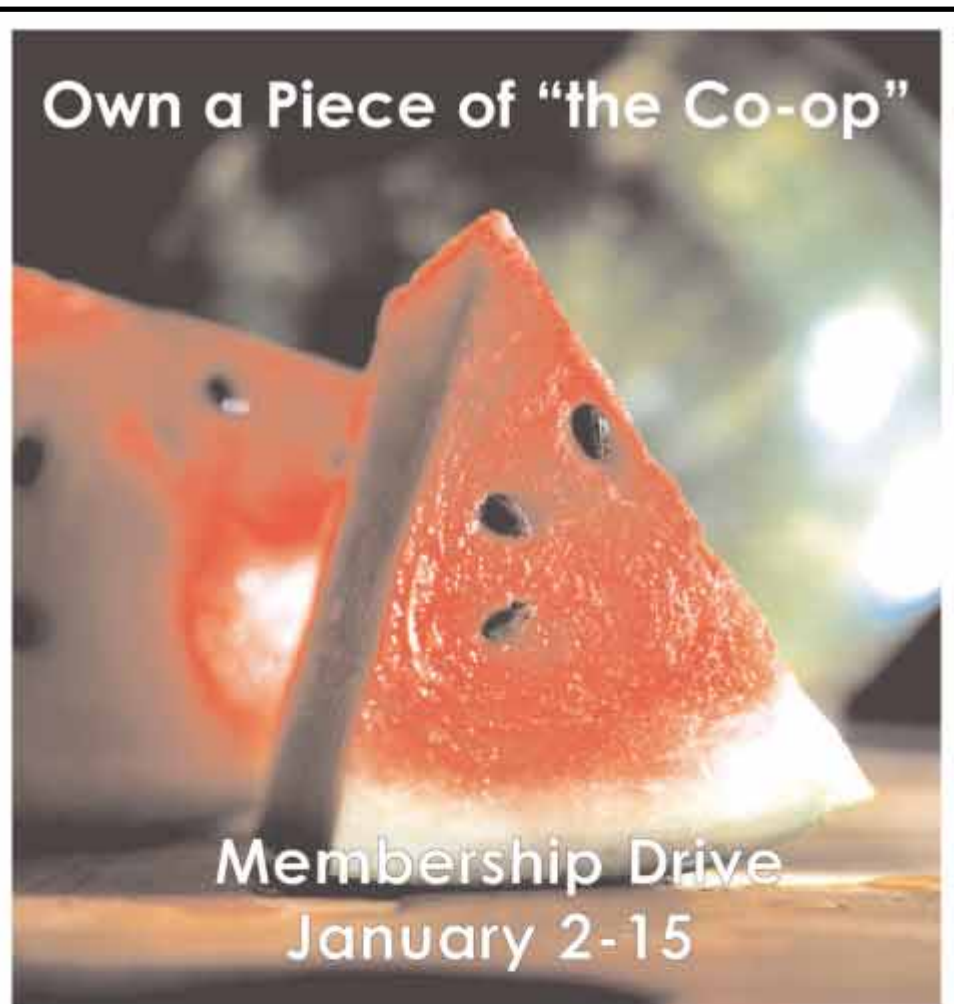


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Market Matters

Brian Hepp

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Investing in large-cap stocks

WHEN TALKING ABOUT INVESTMENTS, you often hear about some companies — or other investment vehicles, for that matter — referred to by interesting nicknames. While you may be familiar with the term “blue chips,” other terms such as “The Big Kahuna,” “The Big Fish” or the “Giants of Wall Street” have been used by some to describe the stocks of companies that are categorized as large cap. But what does this mean?

The word “cap” is short for a company’s capitalization, which is a measure by which we can classify a company’s financial size. Market cap refers to the value of a company, and it is found by taking the company’s current stock price and multiplying it by the total number of shares outstanding. The classification of companies into different caps can help investors to gauge their growth versus risk potential. The universe of publicly traded common stocks can usually be divided into

three main categories, classified as “large-cap,” “mid-cap” and “small-cap,” stocks.

Historically, large-cap stocks have typically experienced slower growth with lower risk, while smaller caps have experienced higher growth potential, but with higher risk. That’s because it is easier to imagine a smaller company having greater potential to double its sales and/or profits in each of the next five years than it is to imagine an industry giant or conglomerate doing the same. Past performance is never a guarantee of future results, but speaking in general terms, these trends have held for many years. Keep in mind, an investment in stocks will fluctuate with market conditions and may be worth more or less than your original amount upon redemption.

To help us understand large caps a little better, let’s start by identifying a few common characteristics of these stocks. Generally, a company would be considered

LARGE-CAP COMPANIES HAVE USUALLY BEEN IN BUSINESS FOR MANY YEARS AND HAVE, THEREFORE, BEEN ABLE TO GENERATE A TRACK RECORD OF SUCCESS.

large cap when its market capitalization reaches a level of \$10 billion or greater. As the name implies, these companies are also very large in size and scope. Generally, large-cap stocks represent the largest publicly traded companies that are oftentimes leaders in their respective industries. In addition, large-cap stocks are usually considered to be relatively stable because they represent investments in huge companies (bigger companies are typically expected to have less business risk than smaller companies), and generally, these stocks are also widely held by investors.

DOES SIZE MATTER?

In a word — yes. Different sized companies perform differently in the financial markets. Markets tend to move in cycles, sometimes favoring small caps versus large caps. b

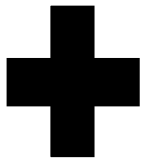
Because of their size, these companies can generally weather higher interest rates and a cooling economy better than small companies. Additionally, large-cap companies may have stronger cash flow and greater access to credit than small businesses. As a result, they often pay attractive dividends.

When you consider adding large caps to your portfolio, it’s important to remember that there are many other factors to consider, including your investment personality, your financial goals and objectives, and your personal risk tolerance. That being said, you may want to take a look at large caps to see how they may fit with your current investments.

BRIAN HEPP is a financial consultant for Santa Monica-based A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc. Member SIPC. He can be reached at (310) 453-0077 or at brian.hepp@agedwards.com.

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Wineries see Oregon as perfect place to produce champagne

BY JOE MOSLEY

Associated Press Writer

EUGENE, Ore. — From the infancy of Oregon’s wine industry, the elevation and soil composition of Willamette Valley vineyards have been known to be ideal for growing pinot noir and chardonnay grapes. In the past few decades, those two varieties have put Oregon on the viticultural map.

So it shouldn’t come as much of a head-scratcher that several local wineries have begun dabbling in the production of champagne and other sparkling wines. Pinot noir and chardonnay grapes, after all, are two of the three varieties used in champagne.

“That’s our passion, and why we started the winery and what we do best,” says Buzz Kawders, managing partner of Domaine Meriwether, a specialty winery with roots in both Eugene and Carlton, northwest of Salem.

“The reason Meriwether settled in the Willamette Valley was (that) the idea was to produce Old-World, classic champagne,” Kawders says. “The search was made literally around the world. Ultimately, it was decided the best region to produce what we wanted to produce was the Willamette Valley.

“There’s no better place to grow pinot noir than the Willamette Valley.”

Domaine Meriwether, which has its business office in Eugene and its production facility at the cooperative Carlton Winemakers Studio, produces about 5,000 cases per year of champagne in four cuvees, or blends. It produces another 2,000 to 3,000 cases of still — or nonsparkling — wine. (Although “champagne” is a protected term in many countries, referring only to the wines produced in the Champagne region of France, the term is often used in the United States to refer to domestic sparkling wines.)

Other local winemakers with sparkling wines include LaVelle Vineyards, which produces about 500 cases of champagne per year of 100 percent pinot noir grapes; Silvan Ridge/Hinman Vineyards, which produces 5,000 to 6,000 cases per year of sparkling wine from muscat grapes; and J. Albin Winery, which releases about 150 cases of sparkling wines including blanc de noir (French for

“white wine from red grapes”) in most years.

Jonathan Oberlander, winemaker at Silvan Ridge, says a previous winemaker happened onto the muscat-based sparkling wine that has become one of the company’s biggest sellers. In contrast to true champagnes, the sparkling muscat takes less than a year of aging.

“It was kind of one of those things where winemakers get bored and find things to do,” Oberlander says. “It kind of came out of an experiment, I think, but it’s been served at the White House a number of times.”

True champagne can require eight years or more of aging, and a process that requires handling the wine as many as 40 times. The labor-intensive methode champenoise — which involves an initial cask fermentation and a secondary fermentation in the bottles — gives pause to many winemakers and increases costs to producers and consumers.

“I think in terms of what it takes to make sparkling wine, as a winemaker you have to ask yourself, ‘Do I really want to go there?’ “ says John Albin, a winemaker at King Estate Winery and proprietor of his private label, J. Albin.

“Often the answer is no,” he says. “But Oregon has the climate and has the fruit. Personally, I think it has to be done.”

Doug LaVelle, owner of LaVelle Vineyards in Elmira, says he has produced champagne only periodically in past years and has sold it exclusively to members of his wine club or through tasting rooms at the vineyard and Eugene’s Fifth Street Public Market.

But he points out that champagne uses primarily pinot noir grapes that are picked earlier in the ripening process than those used for table wines, so he intends to begin producing a sparkling wine every year.

“Sparkling wine is made from under-ripe pinot noir, and we have a lot of that in Oregon — at least in off-years,” LaVelle says. “On paper, this should be a great area for growing and producing sparkling wine.”

Most agree that Argyle Winery in Dundee is Oregon’s largest producer of sparkling wines. The winery carries four varieties — three from blends of pinot noir and chardonnay grapes, and a fourth exclusively from chardonnay.

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Public input sought for skating symbol

SKATEBOARD HAVEN, from page 3

symbolize the outlaw nature of the skateboarding culture,” said Abby Arnold on Tuesday. “That is why we’re holding these community meetings — so people can learn about what is planned for the site and give input about how that site will be a permanent landmark for skateboarding culture.”

Similar historical monuments have popped up across Southern California, where buildings have come down. In 2005, a brick wall with a plaque honoring the Beach Boys was erected at the site where their house once stood in Hawthorne.

Ideas have floated around since mid-December when the Landmarks Commission gave the directive to community leaders and activists — like Arnold, an Ocean Park resident who ran for City Council a few years ago — to reach out to the community and gauge the best ways to honor skating history. One suggestion gaining momentum is a mural near the building.

SEEKING A COMPROMISE

Former Z-Boy Nathan Pratt said he will make an attempt to attend the meeting in two weeks. Pratt worked in the Zephyr store and took over operations when the store closed in 1976. In its place, he opened Horizons West Surf Shop a year later and ran the business until handing the keys over to

current owner Randy Wright in 1987. Pratt still owns the licensing rights to the Horizons name.

“I don’t really think the building needs saving per se,” Pratt said on Wednesday. “I don’t consider us as that big of heroes. It’s not the birthplace of a president.”

Pratt believes the best way to commemorate the site’s cultural significance would be to build a skatepark at an existing park on Bicknell Hill.

“There is a park there that is used only by transients,” he said. “Bicknell Hill is where we used to skateboard all the time.”

Arnold and company will be asked to report back to the Landmarks Commission in a few months. The commission is looking to see if there can be a compromise reached between the community and the owner of the building.

“It’s the cultural significance we want to recognize, and if we can find a way to do that through the community group, that will be better than landmarking,” said Nina Fresco, chairwoman of the Landmarks Commission. “If we feel we will lose everything, then we might have to take a different path.”

✉ **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**
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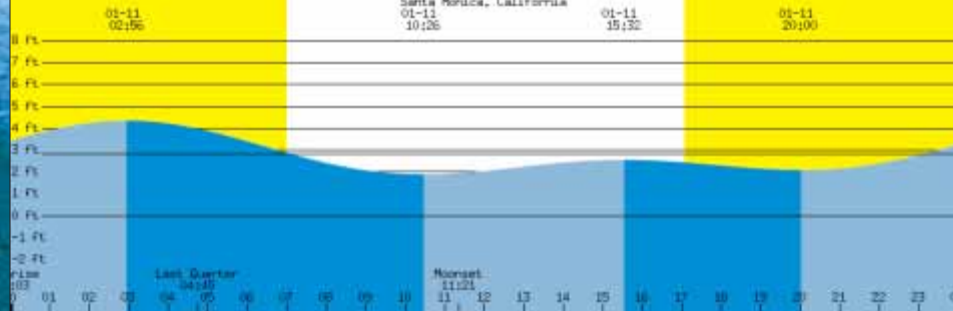
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Number of wet days -- 13
Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 39 / 28
Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 7 / 13

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Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	A+	A+	Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence	A+	B
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	A+	Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachusa and Los Aliso creeks	A+	A+	Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain	A+	D
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	A+	Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua)	F	F
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	B	Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	A+	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	A+	Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	A+	F
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	F	Santa Monica Municipal Pier	F	A
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	A	F	Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain	C	F
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	A+	A+	Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms)	A+	B
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	A+	B	Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	B	C
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach	A+	A+	Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain	A+	A+
Puerto State Beach at creek mouth	A+	A+	Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	A+	B
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerto Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	F	A+	Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A	A+	Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	A+	A
Surfrider Beach (beach location)- daily	F	F	Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St.	A+	A+
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	A+	B	Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower	A	A
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	F	F	Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth	A	F
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	A+	A	Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain	A+	C
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	A+	A+	North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach	A+	A+
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	A+	Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty)	A+	A
Tuna Canyon	ns	A+	Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A+	C
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	A	A	Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant	A+	A
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	F	Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	A+	B
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A+	A+			
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	A+			

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 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.

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Spread your wings, Leo

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS
The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

★★★★★ Dynamic ★★★★★ Positive
★★★ Average ★★ So-So ★ Difficult



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

HHHH Confirm that everyone is on the same page. Misunderstandings can happen quite easily. Finding an expert proves to be the right idea when faced with a decision. Revise your plans with new knowledge. Tonight: Be a good listener.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

HHH You might be waffling over a decision, but you can be sure someone else knows precisely what you want. Working with one other person just might be the right answer. Discussions clear the air. Tonight: Easy does it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

HHHHH Add that extra touch that you are so noted for. Ideas will come easily as long as you brainstorm. Someone might annoy you, encouraging you to back off and not talk. Say "yes" to differences. Learn through different perspectives. Tonight: Go into weekend mode.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

HHH Someone clearly doesn't like what you are doing. You could decide to take this person's comments personally, or you could thank him or her for sharing and being honest. Which do you think will draw better results? Still, stay close to home. Tonight: Put your pad in order.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ You might mean well, but someone could be quite reactive. You cannot change this person, but you can give him or her the space to work through his or her feelings. Focus. You could be accident-prone. Tonight: Spread your wings.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ A child or loved one creates an uproar. This person wants what he wants and lets you know how unhappy he is. Don't risk financially. You'll see gains in the near future. Let them happen before spending any money. Take your time. Tonight: Buy a plant or a new book.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Accept all the attention with grace. Though you might be happy, someone close to your heart could be the source of uproar. You might need to make an adjustment. If you revamp your communications, you might be surprised by the results. Tonight: A token of affection goes a long way.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ Much is happening that, once more, you choose not to talk about. Make that OK. You could have a strong reaction that could push people away. Ask yourself where this behavior is coming from. Stay focused. Tonight: Nap and then decide.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ You come off far more strongly than you realize. Someone might find it difficult to say "no" to you. Be aware of this fact, as you might get a rather strong reaction from someone you care about, which you don't understand. Tonight: Schedule private time.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ You might come off as bellicose or ready to disagree. Stop and look at what is really irritating you. If you feel as if you don't have enough control in making a decision, you might need to stop dead in your tracks. Tonight: Time to relax with a friend.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Your ability to see the big picture helps you relax and understand. Friends or associates move on an idea a bit more quickly than you'd anticipated. If you feel irritated, you might be upset at something other than what you think. Tonight: A must appearance.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ A partner acts in a decisive and creative manner. Given time and space, you could be delighted by what emerges. An overly assertive friend might stir up what you feel is already working. Remember, you have the power to say "no." Tonight: Relax that overactive mind.

Born Today

Actor Rod Taylor (1930)
Singer Naomi Judd (1946)
Actress Amanda Peet (1972)



Happy Birthday!

This year, work with your good sense of timing. Impatience frequently bursts out and marks your interactions. Take some time to see where this energy is coming from. You have many responsibilities. This behavior could sabotage the best-laid plans. Often, responsibilities tumble on your shoulders. With planning, you'll head down the winning path. Guidance and patience will be necessary assets. If you are single, you might be too focused on your commitments.

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>
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Hard day

Talks under way to save Starr's childhood home

The childhood home of **RINGO STARR** may be saved from the wrecking ball. Negotiations are under way to dismantle the condemned Liverpool row house and rebuild it as part of a major new museum in the northwestern English city, officials said Wednesday. The Liverpool City Council approved the demolition of the tiny Victorian

house on Madryn Street, one of more than 400 properties to be razed for a redevelopment project, in 2005, despite protests from Beatles fans. The council ruled that the house, where Starr lived for about three months before his family moved to another street nearby, had no historic significance.

Starr, 66, has criticized the plan to demolish the homes, saying they should be restored. National Museums Liverpool said talks were under way with the council and the house's owner to preserve the home as part of the new dockside Museum of Liverpool, slated to open in 2008. City councilor Flo Clucas

said the house has major cultural significance, both for Beatles fans "and to help tell the story of streets like Madryn Street to the wider world." The childhood homes of John Lennon and Paul McCartney are both owned by the National Trust heritage group and are open to the public.

ASSOCIATED PRESS



RINGO STARR

ALL THAT GLITTERS

Former British glam rocker **GARY GLITTER**, convicted of molesting two Vietnamese girls, may be released early from his three-year sentence, a prison official said Wednesday. Glitter, 62, is on a list of inmates being considered for early release as part of next month's Lunar New Year celebrations, said Tran Huu Thong, director of the Thu Duc detention center, where Glitter is being held. Vietnam traditionally reduces the terms of inmates with good prison records at that time of year. If his sentence is reduced, Glitter could be released as early as May. Glitter, whose real name is Paul Francis Gadd, was convicted in 2006 of committing "obscene acts with children." AP



BROOKE BURKE

Burke's new little 'Rock Star'

It's a girl for television host **BROOKE BURKE** and actor-singer David Charvet. Burke, 35, gave birth Monday to Heaven Rain Charvet in Santa Monica, her publicist Nancy Iannios said. "They're doing great and resting at home now," Iannios said Tuesday. It was the third child

for Burke, who has daughters Neriah, 6, and Sierra Sky, 4, with former husband Garth Fisher, a plastic surgeon who has appeared on ABC's "Extreme Makeover." Burke and Charvet, 34, were engaged in August and plan to wed this spring, Iannios said. Burke hosted the CBS

reality series "Rock Star: Supernova" last year and the E! cable channel's "Wild On..." from 1999 to 2002. In the '90s, Charvet had roles on the TV shows "Baywatch" and "Melrose Place." A native of France, he has recorded several pop rock albums released in Europe. AP

Michael says he was good to go-go

GEORGE MICHAEL pleaded innocent Wednesday to charges of being unfit to drive and possessing marijuana. The 43-year-old singer was arrested Sept. 30 after police responded to complaints that a car was blocking an intersection in north London. Police said Michael was found passed out inside the car.

Michael, who was referred to by his birth name, George Panayiotou, wasn't in court, and the pleas were entered by his attorney, Keima Payton. Judge Katherine Marshall provisionally set a trial date for April 23, but Payton said blood samples taken on the night of his arrest weren't legal, meaning the trial should be scrapped. AP

"Are you saying prosecution should not take place because it is unfair?" Marshall asked. "Indeed," Payton said. Arguments were set for March 7 to discuss whether the blood sample taken from Michael was inadmissible. The judge excused Michael's attendance for that hearing, too. AP

Santa Monica Daily Press

MOVIEGUIDE

AERO THEATRE
1328 Montana Avenue
(310) 395-4990

Thursday
Apocalypse
7:30

Friday
Volver, Pan's Labyrinth
7:30

AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4
1441 3rd Street
(310) 458-6232

Babel (R)
1:15, 4:35, 7:45, 10:50

The Good Shepherd (R)
12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 10:35

The Holiday (PG-13)
12:50, 3:50, 7:15, 10:15

Perfume: The Story of a Murderer (R)
12:30, 4:00, 7:30, 10:40

AMC 7 SANTA MONICA
1310 3rd Street
(310) 289-4262

Blood Diamond (R)
4:15, 7:25, 10:40

Children of Men (R)
12:00, 2:40, 5:20, 8:00, 10:45

Dreamgirls (PG-13)
1:00, 2:30, 4:00, 5:30, 7:00, 8:30, 10:00

Happily N'Ever After (PG)
12:05, 2:10

Night at the Museum (PG)
12:25, 2:50, 5:15, 7:50, 10:20

Pan's Labyrinth (El Laberinto del Fauno) (R)
1:45, 4:45, 7:40, 10:30

The Pursuit of Happyness (PG-13)
1:15, 4:20, 7:15, 10:10

LANDMARK NUWILSHIRE
1314 Wilshire Blvd
(310) 281-8228

Miss Potter (PG)
1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45

Notes on a Scandal (R)
1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 9:55

LAEMMLE'S MONICA FOURPLEX
1332 2nd Street
(310) 394-9741

Curse of the Golden Flower (Man cheng jin dai huang jin jia) (R)
1:35, 4:25, 7:20, 10:10

Letters From Iwo Jima (R)
12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 10:15

Little Children (R)
4:10, 9:45

The Queen (PG-13)
1:40, 7:10

Volver (R)
1:45, 4:35, 7:30, 10:15

MAIN'S CRITERION THEATRE
1313 3rd Street
(310) 395-1599

Casino Royale (PG-13)
12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 10:20

Charlotte's Web (G)
11:40am, 2:00, 4:20, 6:50, 9:30

Code Name: The Cleaner (PG-13)
12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:10

Eragon (PG)
11:10am, 1:40, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40

Freedom Writers (PG-13)
11:00am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:30

Rocky Balboa (PG)
11:30am, 2:10, 4:50, 7:20, 10:00

More information email news@smdp.com

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LIQUID ICE ENERGY DRINK

Janric Classic 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 Bronze (easiest) to Silver to Gold (hardest).

Difficulty
BRONZE

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

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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 LAST PUZZLE

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

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Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

AND WHEN I'M NOT WORKING, I SKI OR PLAY BASKETBALL

THAT'S GREAT. MY BOYFRIEND'S AN ACCOUNTANT

I LIKE HOW YOU JUST SLIPPED THAT IN THERE

SLIPPED WHAT IN THERE?

THAT YOU HAVE A BOY-FRIEND. THAT'S GOOD. YOU'RE VERY CRAFTY

WELL, I BELIEVE YOU SHOULD KNOW WHERE YOU STAND RIGHT AWAY

ACTUALLY, I PREFER IT WHEN GIRLS JUST LEAD ME ON

1/11

girlsandsports.com

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FEINSTEIN & BORUS

The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose

WHAT SHOULD I WEAR IN VEGAS? THIS OR THIS?

THAT DEPENDS. DO YOU WANT TO MEET SOMEONE SPECIAL?

OR DO YOU WANT SOMEONE TO BANKROLL YOUR EVENING AT THE CRAPS TABLE?

THE SECOND ONE.

THEN THE HANDKERCHIEF.

50%

1/11

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The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside

LARRY, YOU'D BE A LOT SAFER IF YOU INSTALLED A SET OF SNOW TIRES.

GOOD IDEA. I'LL DO IT RIGHT AWAY.

HEY, THEY ACTUALLY WORK!

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1/11

adrian@raesidecartoon.com

Garfield

By Jim Davis

STOP SHEDDING!

WHOA! THAT LOOSENED UP SOME HAIR!

ITM DAVIS 1-11

www.garfield.com

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Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson

SPLAT!

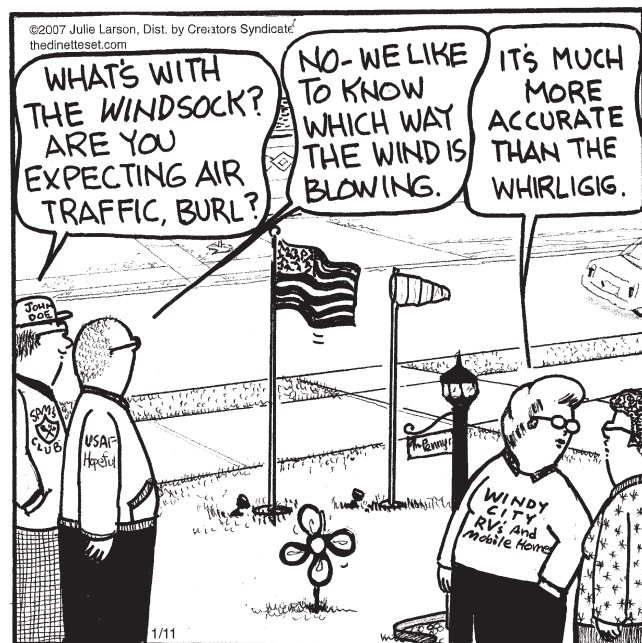
I HAVE A SNEAKING SUSPICION THAT DAD WAS AWARE OF THIS OUTCOME.

1/11

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Anderson

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Natural Selection

By Russ Wallace



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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Mystery Photo

Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@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 Hawaiian
port
5 Ham,
perhaps
10 Counter-
part
12 It flows
through
Lake
Geneva
13 Cost
14 Bucca-
neers'
base
15 Really
enjoy
16 Lot
choice
18 Takes the
helm
20 Mock
21 Land west
of Nod
23 "How I
Met Your
Mother"
role

- 24 Barber's
symbol
- 26 KGB's
home
- 28 Football's
Marino
- 29 Fizzy
drink
- 31 Historic
age
- 32 Try to
hit
- 36 Message
leavers
- 39 Unified
- 40 Utopian
- 41 To the
point
- 43 Writer
Lessing

44 Wise

- guys
45 Spare
46 Henri's
head

DOWN

- 1 Grazing groups
- 2 Poor sport's cry
- 3 Fencing move
- 4 Granola bit
- 5 Comic Johnson
- 6 Niger neighbor
- 7 Alley yowlers
- 8 Theoretically
- 9 Brought up

F	I	R	S	T	S		S	W	A	T
I	R	O	N	I	C		O	H	I	C
B	A	N	A	N	A		N	I	L	E
			P	A	R	R	O	T		
B	O	W	S			E	R	E	C	T
A	S	H		D	U	N	A	W	A	Y
S	C	I		O	N	E		I	M	F
E	A	T	C	R	O	W		N	E	E
D	R	E	A	M			W	E	L	D
		L	U	S	T	E	R			
I	S	I	S		I	D	I	O	M	S
D	A	N	E		N	I	T	W	I	T
A	X	E	D		S	T	E	E	L	Y

Yesterday's answer

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 11 French shrine site | 28 Make a choice |
| 17 Compass dir. | 30 Rowing need |
| 19 Moray, for one | 33 Paint Picassos, say |
| 22 Nature lovers | 34 Dawn |
| 24 Anomaly | 35 Singer Della |
| 25 Ready for action | 37 Den |
| 27 Pal of Frodo | 38 Lohen-grin's love |
| | 42 Chow down |

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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						39			
40						40	41		
42						42			
43						43			
44						44			
45						45			

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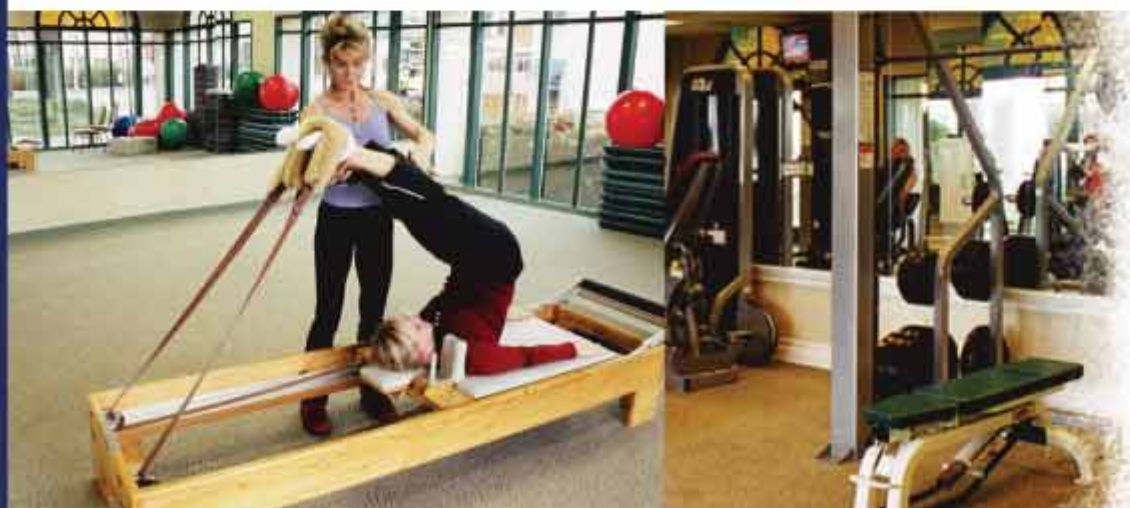
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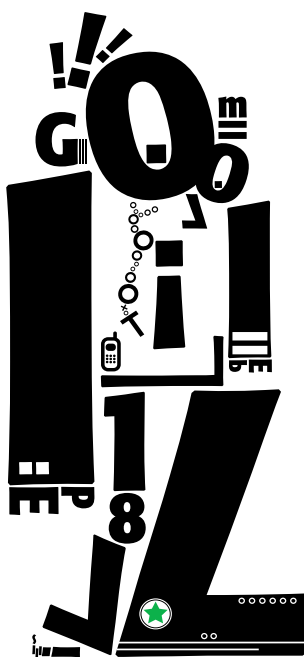
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NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: HELEN LOPEZ CASE NO. BP102229

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of HELEN LOPEZ.

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by CRESSY ROBERT LOPEZ in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that CRESSY ROBERT LOPEZ be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests the decedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The WILL and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on 02/12/07 at 8:30AM in Dept. 5 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of

Notices

first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code Section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner GERALD A. TOMSIC LAW OFFICES OF GERALD A. TOMSIC 315 ARDEN AVE., #1 GLENDALE, CA 91203 1/4, 1/5, 1/11/07 CNS-1068510# SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS

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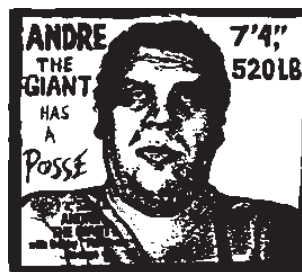
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