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THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2007

Volume 6 Issue 57

ADVERTISER IS UP WITH 'FED
SEE PAGE 17

Santa Monica Daily Press

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE TWO SHIPS IN THE NIGHT ISSUE

COLD FRONT

Fabian Lewkowicz *fabianl@smdp.com*

SOUR TASTE: **Customers of Gless Ranch were none too happy to be forking over more money for navel oranges at the Farmers' Market in downtown on Wednesday. A 25-pound bag of the fruit, $6.50 one week ago, was priced at $13 as cold temperatures have taken a toll on regional crops.**

Chilly winds dampen spirits, damage fruit

BY KRISTIN MAYER
Special to the Daily Press

DOWNTOWN Farmers from across the state rolled into the Santa Monica Farmers' Market Wednesday with heavy hearts and cold produce. Every couple minutes, a customer approached a vendor with a bleak face and asked for the verdict: Did the crops survive the cold spell, and how much will it lighten my purse?

Weekend temperatures that plummeted into the upper teens coupled with vicious winds to destroy 70 to 80 percent of citrus crops in the San Joaquin Valley, where vendors like Oliver Garner load up on fruit and vegetables before heading south to LA-area farmers' markets, such as the one in Santa Monica.

Shoppers and vendors alike worried that this might be the last week before prices soar to compensate for the damaged citrus.

"It's amazing, but it does really hit hard," said Garner, who manages a stand at the Arizona Avenue market for Burkart Farms in Dinuba, Calif. "It could be the last week. It could be the last month. I'd be happy with even that much."

Orange crops normally last until peach season begins in May. But citrus farmers will be lucky to see even a few more weeks of business, Garner said.

"This is a farmer's main crop for the winter. This is what he lives off of and uses to pay his bills," Garner said.

SEE FROZEN MARKET PAGE 12

Fabian Lewkowicz *fabianl@smdp.com*

HEAT IS ON: **A promenade vendor employs a hand warmer while doing business this week.**

Costs of cold weather

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

THIRD STREET PROMENADE Santa Monica or Fargo, N.D.?

On another cold and dreary day, with evening lows expected in the 40s, the city's famous outdoor shopping destination was sparsely scattered with pedestrians dressed in layers, many with a scarf draped over their neck and a beanie warming their head.

It was a strange scene for Santa Monica,

SEE COLD CALLS PAGE 12

Hospital gets a shot in the arm

Donors give $35M to stabilize St. John's

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

MID-CITY Thirteen years after the devastating Northridge earthquake rocked St. John's Health Center, forcing it to evacuate 300 patients and completely demolish its north wing, officials at the hospital celebrated a $35 million gift on Wednesday that will fund the completion of a new inpatient facility and help begin planning for a new south campus.

Officials are renaming the future facility the Chan Soon-Shiong Center for Life Sciences to honor a $25 million grant from Michele B. Chan, a former actress, and her husband, Dr. Patrick Soon-Shiong, a leader in medical research whose company, Abraxis, developed a ground-breaking treatment for those suffering from breast cancer.

Another $10 million from the couple will go towards the development of a new south wing for the hospital, as well as a center for translational sciences.

"This is a very special day for St. John's," said Lou Lazatin, president and chief executive officer of the health center. "Thirteen years ago, the Northridge earthquake rum-

SEE ST. JOHN'S PAGE 11

Kevin Hererra *kevinh@smdp.com*

HEALTHY, WEALTHY AND WISE: **St. John's Health Center President Lou Lazatin (left) shares a laugh with Dr. Patrick Soon-Shiong and his wife, Michele Chan while celebrating the couple's $35 million gift to help build a new inpatient facility and a center for translational medicine.**

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS

Weekly LeTip Business Networking Group
11th Street and Wilshire Boulevard, 11:30 a.m. — 1 p.m.
Weekly networking over lunch at El Cholo to provide additional leads and referrals to your line of work. Only one person per profession may join. Call now to reserve a spot, (310) 356-7519.

Salvation Army Youth Night
1533 Fourth St., 6 p.m. — 8 p.m.
Event is open to kids ages 5-12. Activities include games, crafts and Bible lessons. A meal is also included.

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.
For more information, call (310) 515-4840.

Enchanted Lunchtime Theatre
1211 Fourth St., 11:30 a.m. — 1 p.m.
For more information, call the Playhouse box office at (310) 394-9779, ext. 2 or visit www.SantaMonicaPlayhouse.com.

Church Mice
1220 Second St., 3:15 p.m. — 4:30 p.m.
Music, art projects, Bible stories, games and snacks are offered every Thursday in the Christian Education Building of First Presbyterian Church of Santa Monica. Children 3 years of age through second grade are welcome. For more information, call Rebecca Hall at (310) 451-1303, ext. 26.

Pacific Crest Trail presentation
402 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m. — 8 p.m.
Robert Francisco, a 2006 PCT thru-hiker, will speak about his journey on foot from Mexico to Canada at REI.

No More Kings at the Gypsy Lounge
23600 Rockfield #3A, Lake Forest, 8 p.m. — midnight
Check out this pop/funk/rock band as they sing about zombies, Smurfs and the Karate Kid.

Westside Enrichment Community Adult Classes
11800 Texas Ave., times vary
For details, visit www.westsideenrichment.com or call (310) 312-8727.

Joan Collins and Linda Evans in "LEGENDS!"
11301 Wilshire Blvd., 8 p.m. — 10:30 p.m.
Tickets are on sale at the Wadsworth Theatre box office or online by visiting www.WadsworthTheatre.com. Tickets can also be purchased at all Ticketmaster outlets.

The Anatomy of Dance
2903 Santa Monica Blvd., call for times
Call (310) 829-9556 or visit www.TAGTheArtistsGallery.com for more information.

Friday, Jan. 19, 2007

Fitness Class (Mambo Mania)
1711 Stewart St., 7 a.m. — 8 a.m.

"Her Heart Community: A Women's Heart Health Education Event"
11022 Aviation Blvd., Los Angeles, 11:45 a.m. — 1 p.m.
A national education initiative to educate women on the importance of early detection, diagnosis and treatment. This free event features nationally renowned expert and American Heart Association spokeswoman Dr. Jennifer Mieres, and local survivor Irene Redondo-Churchward, who will share their lessons and experiences. Lunch will also be served. RSVP required. Please call (888) 541-9160 to register. For more information, visit www.herheartcommunity.com.

Enchanted Lunchtime Theatre
1211 Fourth St., 11:30 a.m. — 1 p.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.

Joan Collins and Linda Evans in "LEGENDS!"
11301 Wilshire Blvd., 8 p.m. — 10:30 p.m.

Westside Enrichment Community Adult Classes
11800 Texas Ave., times vary.

The Anatomy of Dance
2903 Santa Monica Blvd., call for times.

Odetta at McCabe's Guitar Shop
3101 Pico Blvd., 8 p.m.
Tickets for this performance are available by calling McCabe's at (310) 828-4497.

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.

STATE

West's apartment dwellers absorb big rent increases

BY MICHAEL LIEDTKE
AP Business Writer

SAN FRANCISCO Landlords socked apartment dwellers with substantial rent increases through much of the West last year, triggering a recent backlash that could swing the pricing pendulum in the opposite direction if more people find cheaper places to live.

Average rents during 2006 rose by at least 4.5 percent in 12 major Western markets surveyed by market research firm RealFacts, with the biggest shifts occurring in California. The report, to be released Thursday, covered thousands of apartment complexes located in 20 metropolitan markets spread across nine Western states.

The spike in apartment rents coincided with a deepening slump in home sales as eroding property values discouraged people from buying real estate. With more people choosing to lease, apartment landlords have been able to raise rents more easily.

A five-year economic expansion also has fueled apartment demand by creating more jobs and raising incomes so more people could afford to rent their own homes.

But as 2006 ended, it appeared some renters were getting fed up with the rising costs. Vacancies rose in all 20 surveyed markets between September and December, a sign that the market is starting to cool off, RealFacts said.

The about-face already is beginning to affect some markets such as Riverside and San Bernardino counties, where the average occupancy rate in apartments dropped from 95.1 percent in September to 91.4 percent in December. While 2006 rents in the two-county market still rose by 4.9 percent to $1,141, the change represented a slowdown from 2005's 7.4 percent increase.

For now at least, apartment landlords still have the upper hand in most Western markets.

The most severe price shocks jolted the heart of Silicon Valley in Santa Clara County, where average apartment rents shot up 11.5 percent to $1,482. That increase drove up renters' bills by $119 per month, or $1,400 annually.

Despite that rapid run-up, rents in the high-tech hotbed are still well below the Santa Clara County peak of $1,959 per month reached in early 2001, just before paychecks began to evaporate in the dot-com bust that prompted many unemployed work-

SEE TAKE A HIKE PAGE 6

The winter of their content

Fabian Lewkowicz *fabianl@smdp.com*

A couple of men find comfort on the sidewalk, and on each other, during a recent nap on Bay Street.

Over their dead bodies

LA City Council compensates developers for excavating burial site, despite objections

By Daily Press Staff

DOWNTOWN LA — Despite objections from tribal leaders, the Los Angeles City Council agreed Wednesday to reimburse a developer with $11.4 million worth of infrastructure bonds for excavating an American Indian burial site to make way for the Playa Vista project in Playa del Rey.

The council agreed to use Mello-Roos bonds to reimburse developer Playa Capital for hiring a team of archaeologists to exhume the remains of more than 400 Gabrielino Tongva tribal ancestors, the original inhabitants of the Los Angeles basin.

"This request from the developer is a shame and an ongoing attack on our culture," said Anthony Morales, tribal chairman and chief of the Gabrielino Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians.

"Instead of asking for compensation, they should be talking to us about a reburial," Morales said. "Our ancestors have been out of the ground for several years and in storage. This action is an injustice and genocidal."

Playa Vista officials agreed to work with the tribe and Councilman Bill Rosendahl's office to rebury the remains near the original site.

Costs to unearth the American Indian bodies from the massive housing development were estimated at nearly $2 million when the dig began three years ago, but soared to more than $11 million, due to the unexpectedly high body count, according to George Milstein, an attorney representing Playa Capital.

"We worked with the tribal leaders during the excavation in an endeavor to honor their culture, their history and their ancestors by conducting the work at the highest professional standards," Milstein told the council.

"We certainly appreciate the difficulties that this situation presented and the emotions associated with it, and truly regret any misunderstanding or anguish that may have been caused by these endeavors," he said.

Mello-Roos bonds pay for public infrastructure, such as sewers, parks and traffic improvements. The bonds are repaid from additional property taxes paid by property owners within the district.

Tribal officials argued that using the bond funds to unearth the bodies was improper, but a report issued by the city's administra-

SEE PLAYA VISTA PAGE 11

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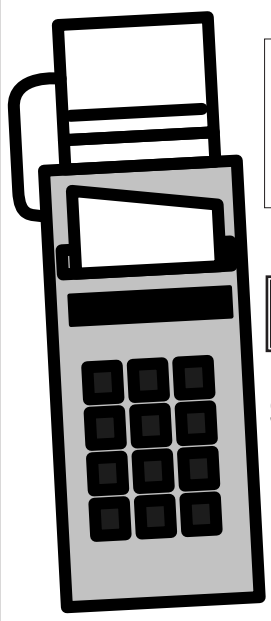

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bright lights need dimming

Editor:

(Last) Wednesday morning, my baby boy got me up before dawn, so he, the dog and I hoofed over to Peet's on Main Street to drink coffee and read the paper.

That day's edition of the LA Times carried a front page article noting that 2006 was the warmest year on record in the lower 48 (states) and that global warming was irrefutably the cause of this climate shift.

The boys and I the ambled down the beach path towards the pier just prior to sun-up. Lights were blazing on the Ferris wheel, the roller coaster and Bubba Gump – as they had been all night long, and as they seem to be every night (this was not my first dawn patrol walk by the pier).

I guess the lights are a marketing tool, a gaudy come hither gesture to lure folks to the pier. But who's the target at 3 a.m.? Migrating gray whales? Dozing pelicans? What's the point of consuming all that energy to light the pier overnight when the polar ice caps are melting? Isn't this city supposed to be dedicated to sustainability?

Perhaps city officials and the Pier Restoration Corporation have little control over how and when the pier tenants turn on their lights. But the 1550 parking lot operated by City Hall south of the pier also is lit up through the night. Isn't this just conspicuous and unnecessary waste?

Ted Winterer
Santa Monica

Malibu best be prepared

Editor:

Residents of Los Angeles County, and Malibu in particular, have the right to know that despite numerous warnings and offers of free assistance from Malibu Medical Reserve Corps (MMRC) over the past two and a half years, the emergency preparedness in the city of Malibu remains knowingly and willfully inadequate.

Despite the fact that there were no human casualties in a recent Malibu fire, the lack of a local emergency/critical care facility and the lack of surge capacity in the city of Malibu continues to endanger both residents and visitors alike.

Robert Donin
Director of Public Affairs and Government Relations
Malibu Medical Reserve Corps

Admit it, Mr. President

Editor:

Notice that George W. Bush never says, "I made bad decisions," or "My decisions were bad." He says, "There were bad decisions made," or "No question, decisions have made things unstable."

He still will not admit that he, himself, has erred.

Flo Ginsburg
Santa Monica

Iconoclast Blast

Seth Barnes — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Don't worship false iDols

WE'RE IN THE MIDST OF A REVOLUTION. Didn't you know? The clunky cell phone in your pocket that felt pretty darn futuristic just a few years ago is about to morph into something totally amazing, something that will markedly improve the quality of your day-to-day existence.

Soon, in the palm of your hand, you will literally hold everything you need to survive on planet earth: phone, e-mail, Internet, daily calendar, maps, GPS, iTunes, text messaging, camera and stock quotes. Of course, I'm talking about the iPhone — Apple's recent entry into the mobile device marketplace.

And if we're really lucky, subsequent editions of the iPhone will control human breathing and decision-making. Think about all the excuses we'll be able to make: "I'm sorry I lost my temper with you, my iPhone is on the fritz" or "I don't think I can exercise today, my iPhone wants to see 'Pirates of The Caribbean 6.'" Is it possible that, one day, when a devoted "user" passes away, he or she could be cremated and laid to rest inside their phone? You know, an iCoffin.

If you think about it, they should just call it iEverything or iGod. Who needs this pesky free will thing anyway?

In case you're brain dead or still use a rotary phone, let me explain a few things. Several years ago, after telecommunications firms outfitted all six billion people on the planet with mobile phones, the executives in charge of these massively lucrative companies decided there were even more market opportunities to pursue. If everyone (man, woman, child, rich, poor, smart, dumb) was willing to pay a relatively hefty fee to carry their phone around with them, how much would they pay to lug their computer around? In business parlance, we call this "Extracting Revenue From Suckers."

Sure, there are plenty of on-the-go business people for whom real-time e-mail and document access is convenient, and even borderline necessary, but does the average Jane or Larry really need this technological smorgasbord at their fingertips? Combine this phenomenon with the explosion of the iPod over the past five years, and it was inevitable that Apple was going to build a device combining it with these smart phone features.

I won't lampoon or criticize the ascension of the iPod. It's a genuine hit product that has changed the way people listen to music. I just don't use mine. Ever. And I think sometimes the large technology companies (and popular media/culture) cast a wide net in assuming that every single person wants and needs instant access to 3,000 songs in their hip pocket (by the way, when did we get to the point that we all loved thousands upon thousands of songs ... aren't there still some songs and albums that stink to high heaven and deserve to sit under your bed in their jewel cases for all eternity?).

Hey, I love listening to a nice jingle on the radio once in awhile, but music doesn't do it for me as much as other people. I certainly don't want to waste my free time fiddling with the "music library" on my computer, setting up playlists and downloading the totality of my CD collection. But when my grandkids look back on this era, they'll assume grandpa skipped from place to place with jangly white headphones hanging down from his ears like everyone else in the history books.

On the same point, I don't blame Apple for the idiotic notion of "convergence" that demands every cell phone going forward combine the computing power of a NASA space shuttle with almost limitless music capacity. Cell phone manufacturers are already trying to ram unwanted features down our throats. I dare you to find a phone on the market without "play," "stop" and "pause" buttons on the front facade. It's just that Apple is so adept at making sleek, accessible consumer products that I know we're headed for a tipping point where smart phones will be the rule rather than the exception.

I suppose it's worthless to stubbornly stick my head in the sand while the winds of change swirl all around us. So this June, when the iPhone is released, maybe I should head down to the nifty Apple store on The Third Street Promenade and just take my medicine. After all, it will probably be the last decision I make on my own without my new, shiny iFriend.

SETH BARNES can be reached at barnes-seth@hotmail.com.

MUSM: miss you so much
BF: boyfriend
OLL: online love
POS: parent over shoulder
WTGP: want to go private?
LMIRL: let's meet in real life
HDOP: help delete online predators

Every day, children are sexually solicited online.

Ad Council

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

GUEST COMMENTARY BY JOHN W. WHITEHEAD

Without the family, there is no freedom

ACCORDING TO A 2006 STUDY RELEASED by the Barna Institute, 86 percent of Americans are "concerned about the moral condition of the country" — and they should be. The family — the bedrock of our society and our freedoms — is in a heap of trouble.

Consider the statistics: Approximately 50 percent of all marriages — even among professed evangelical Christians — end in divorce. That's according to the National Marriage Project, a research organization at Rutgers University. And for the first time in American history, as the U.S. Census Bureau recently reported, married couples make up less than 50 percent of American households.

Nearly 40 percent of all U.S. children are born out of wedlock. According to a recent government report, the number of unmarried-couple households with children has risen to more than 1.7 million — up from under 200,000 in 1970. The ramifications are alarming. For example, children living with a single mother are six times more likely to live in poverty than are children whose parents are married. The same study found that children in stepfamilies and single-parent families are almost three times more likely to drop out of school than children in intact families. Living in a single-parent home also causes a disconnect among children between family and marriage.

Finally, 43 percent of all U.S. women will have at least one abortion before their 45th birthday. In fact, according to the Guttmacher Institute, the most common surgical procedure in the United States is not by-pass surgery or even cosmetic surgery — it is abortion. Indeed, in 2002, approximately 1.29 million women in the U.S. had an abortion, and 49 percent of all unintended pregnancies today result in abortion.

These statistics tell some painful truths about America at the dawn of the new millennium. First, they show that our priorities have clearly shifted. Despite the billions we spend on child care, toys, clothes, private lessons, etc., a concern for our children no longer seems to be a prime factor in how we live our lives.

Second, they suggest (as many have been saying for years now) that major religious institutions have virtually little to no moral impact on American society — apart from politics, that is. The Christian church is a prime example. Having become intensely political, Christian leaders today work feverishly to enact such anti-gay measures as same-sex marriage amendments while doing little to shore up the traditional family.

Third, the data supports the premise that the decline in the family leads to a decline in our democracy. Indeed, the family is where children should learn self-government, basic moral values and the beliefs that determine the future of democratic institutions. Thus, it stands to reason that without stable families, we can have no hope of producing self-reliant, responsible citizens.

Fourth, the increasing loss of the family structure leads to destabilization in society of "mediating structures" — neighborhoods, families, churches, schools and voluntary associations. When they function as they should, mediating structures limit the growth of the government. But when these structures break down, society — that is, people — look to mega-structures, such as the state, as a source of values. In America, the state-financed public schools and day care centers have increasingly assumed the role of providing "values" for children.

Finally, traditional marriage plays a critical role in the structure of free societies by interposing a significant legal entity between the individual and the state. None other than D. H. Lawrence once recognized: "The marriage bond is the fundamental connecting link in Christian society. Break it, and you will have to go back to the overwhelming dominance of the State, which existed before the Christian era. The Roman State was all-powerful, the Roman father represented the State, the Roman family was the father's estate, held more or less in fee for the State itself. Now the question is, do we want to go back, or forward, to any of these forms of State control?"

There can be no easy fix for these problems. Certainly, there are no legislative or governmental solutions. Morality and the decline of the family have become convenient platforms for those on both sides of the political aisle. Having reduced the very real problems plaguing America's families to soundbites bandied about in the quest for political dominance, today's politicians are the last people to look to for a solution.

The solution, if there is one, is to be found where the problems start: with each man, woman and child taking responsibility for keeping their family together. So for a moment, let's forget about politics. Forget about the debates over who gets to marry whom. Instead, let's look around at what's left of our neighborhoods, what's left of our communities and what's left of our families and put our kids first.

Because the bottom line is this: without the family, there can be no true freedom.

JOHN W. WHITEHEAD can be contacted at johnw@rutherford.org.

The Q Line

PROUDLY BROUGHT TO YOU BY

Get on board...

Community meetings are being held to determine the fate of a building at Main and Bay streets — now home to Horizons West Surf Shop — and how to pay homage to the Z-Boys skateboarders that emerged from a skate shop once located there. The present owner wants to demolish the structure and erect a mixed-use "green" building in its stead. At the suggestion of the Landmarks Commission, meetings are being staged to collect public input of how to properly commemorate the site.

This week's Q-Line question:

How should the former Z-boys spot be remembered? Suggestions run the gamut from a mural to a skate park to a Z-Boys walk of fame. Or should the original building remain?

Call **(310) 285-8106** before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your answers in next weekend's edition.

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Renters feeling the sting

FROM TAKE A HIKE PAGE 3

ers to leave the area in search of new jobs.

A malaise has now seeped into the San Francisco Bay area's home-buying market, which is mired in its deepest funk in a decade, according to Dataquick Information systems, a market research firm.

The West's most expensive apartments remained in Southern California's largest market, an expanse covering Los Angeles and Orange Counties, where the average monthly rent climbed 7.4 percent to $1,567.

Ventura County narrowed the pricing gap as average rents there increased 8.8 percent to $1,485 at the end of 2006.

The Pacific Northwest's priciest apartments were in Seattle, where the average monthly payment increased 8.3 percent to $977 in 2006.

Apartment rents declined in just one market, Colorado Springs, Colo., where the average monthly payment dipped by 0.1 percent to $702.

Rents even advanced at a brisk pace in the West's least expensive market, Tucson, Ariz., where the average monthly payment increased 5.3 percent $650.

ON THE NET
http://www.realfacts.com

THROUGH THE ROOF

A look at average rents in major Western markets as of Dec. 31, and the percent change from previous year

LOS ANGELES/ORANGE COUNTIES
$1,567, 7.4 percent
VENTURA COUNTY, CALIF.
$1,485, 8.8 percent
SAN JOSE, CALIF.
$1,482, 11.5 percent
SAN FRANCISCO/OAKLAND
$1,446, 6.8 percent
SAN DIEGO
$1,315, 4.9 percent
SAN BERNARDINO/RIVERSIDE COUNTIES
$1,141, 4.9 percent
SOLANO COUNTY, CALIF.
$1,115, 2.1 percent
SEATTLE
$977, 8.3 percent
SACRAMENTO, CALIF.
$948, 2.3 percent
LAS VEGAS
$862, 4.6 percent
DENVER
$855, 0.2 percent
RENO, NEV.
$853, 3.9 percent
PHOENIX
$799, 5.5 percent
PORTLAND
$798, 6.3 percent
FRESNO, CALIF.
$771, 3.8 percent
COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO.
$702, -1.0 percent
SALT LAKE CITY
$713, 5.0 percent
BOISE, IDAHO
$706, unchanged

Source: RealFacts Inc.

Exxon is appealing order to pay $2.5B for '89 oil spill

By The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO Exxon Mobil Corp. is asking a federal appeals court to reconsider its December decision demanding the oil giant pay $2.5 billion to compensate thousands of fishermen and other Alaskans for the 1989 Valdez tanker oil spill.

The disaster, the worst oil spill in U.S. history, soiled 1,500 miles of Alaskan coastline.

An Anchorage jury had ordered the company to pay $5 billion in punitive damages, which are meant to punish a company for misconduct. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, in the third time it heard one of the nation's longest running cases, cut the award in half, saying $2.5 billion was enough punishment.

Late Friday, the company asked the San Francisco-based appeals court to rehear the case with the same three judges or to empanel a 15-judge panel to hear it.

Irving, Texas-based Exxon maintains it should have to pay no more than $25 million because, among other things, it has spent more than $3 billion to settle federal and state lawsuits and to clean the Prince William Sound area.

The court has no deadline to answer Exxon's request.

The case is Baker v. Exxon Mobil Corp., 04-35182.

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Farmers want a hand from U.S. lawmakers

BY MARK JOHNSON
Associated Press Writer

ALBANY, N.Y. Farmer Jim Bittner wanted to add thousands of peach trees to his 500-acre fruit farm last year, but canceled his order, concerned about whether he'll have enough hands to harvest the crop.

A grower of apples, peaches and cherries northeast of Buffalo, Bittner said he needs to see what type of immigration package comes out of Washington this year — and how it will affect farm laborers — before making any major changes.

"Peaches have to be hand-pruned and hand-harvested," he said. "This past harvest time I didn't stop worrying that I wouldn't have help every morning. We're just holding tight to see what happens."

Although labor shortages have had the widest impact in places nearer to the U.S.-Mexican border, like California and Texas, Northeastern farmers have also been forced to adjust. Growers went to Washington last week to campaign for a new Senate bill that would create a guest worker program to grant as many as 1.5 million farm laborers legal status to keep working in the United States.

A similar proposal was defeated last year after legislators stonewalled immigration reform. But farm lobbyists are betting the stand-alone bill — co-sponsored by Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., and Sen. Larry Craig, R-Idaho — will find new supporters in the Democrat-controlled 110th Congress.

"We're cautiously optimistic," said Austin Perez, an immigration specialist with the American Farm Bureau. He noted however, that neither House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of California nor Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid have made immigration reform a top priority.

New York Farm Bureau President John Lincoln, who runs a 160-head dairy farm in Bloomfield, south of Rochester, said many farmers face trouble with bank financing because the once steady supply of workers is no longer guaranteed.

"That's the thing our farmers are most nervous about," he said. "If they do not have a secure and adequate labor force, it could jeopardize getting loans."

Lack of workers in California left fruit to rot on the vine late last year. That's led some growers to reconsider how they do business, said Jack King, manager of the national affairs office for the California Farm Bureau.

"There's no question that decisions are being made with future labor supplies in mind," King said. "We've seen crop shifts. There is more of a preference for crops that lend themselves to machine harvesting."

Peach farmers in California have started replacing that crop with almonds because production and labor costs are much less, King said.

King and others say efforts to replace foreign-born workers have come up empty, with most Americans simply unwilling to do the hard manual labor.

"When farmers say they have a difficult time getting local workers to do the job, that is true to a great extent," said Thomas Maloney, a senior extension associate in applied economics and management at Cornell University. "Some of these jobs are difficult, labor intensive jobs. With Hispanic immigrant workers, farmers have found a work force that works at the moment."

The American Farm Bureau Federation has warned labor shortages could cause $5 billion in losses to the agriculture industry. The Farm Credit Associations of New York, in a statement supporting immigration reform, said New York could lose more than 900 farms over the next two years because of the labor shortages.

Rural dentists are filling a void in great outdoors

By The Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska A new dental training program that opened on Monday is attempting to expand tooth care services in rural Alaska, where cavity rates far exceed the national average and dentists rarely set up shop.

But state and national dental societies object to the program, saying it allows participants the authority to do work traditionally performed by dentists.

The program's dental therapists, who are health aides with special training, take on the tasks of examining patients, taking X-rays, administering local anesthetics, extracting teeth and filling routine cavities under the long-distance supervision of a dentist.

"We're trying to educate community-oriented health providers — to have a person from the community for the community," said dentist Marco Alberts of the University of Washington. The university launched the program through a $2.8 million grant from the Kellogg Foundation.

The first seven students in the new program started orientation Monday at the Tribal Health Consortium next to the Alaska Native Medical Center.

Students Sheena Nelson, 22, a Tlingit from Yakutat, and Daniel Kennedy, 47, a dental assistant from Klawock, are among the first class of students in the new school. Both said they plan to return to their hometowns to practice.

"I had a bad toothache a couple of years ago," said Nelson, explaining why she signed up. "I didn't get to see anybody for a long time." She said a dentist usually comes to Yakutat every six months.

Students will spend one year in classroom studies at a clinic in Anchorage before taking on clinical work in a rural community. They are required to spend another three months training with a dentist before earning certification as a dental therapist.

Eight dental health therapists trained in New Zealand are already working in rural Alaska and three more are nearly ready.

Aurora Johnson, one of the New Zealand graduates, has been seeing patients in Unalakleet since April, and regularly visits other villages in the western Alaska region.

She does fillings, extractions and exams. And she delivers fluoride treatment to school once a week, and shows children the proper techniques for brushing their teeth.

"They're in pain for such a long period of time," she said, referring to the more remote villages. "When they're no longer in pain they're ever so grateful. This is why I'm here."

The Alaska Dental Society and American Dental Association are attempting to stop people who aren't dentists from drilling or pulling teeth with a lawsuit against the university pending in Anchorage Superior Court.

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Ocean Park	=	$ 1,541,583	$ 1,186,381

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Commercial jet with missile defense takes flight

BY JOHN ANTCZAK
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES An MD-10 cargo jet equipped with Northrop Grumman's Guardian anti-missile system took off from Los Angeles International Airport on a commercial flight Tuesday, the company said.

The FedEx flight marked the start of operational testing and evaluation of the laser system designed to defend against shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles during takeoffs and landings.

Adapted from military technology, Guardian is designed to detect a missile launch and then direct a laser to the seeker system on the head of the missile and disrupt its guidance signals. The laser is not visible and is eye-safe, the company said.

"For the first time, we will be able to collect valuable logistics data while operating Guardian on aircraft in routine commercial service," said Robert L. DelBoca, vice president and general manager of Northrop Grumman's Defensive Systems Division.

During the current test phase, which concludes in March 2008, nine MD-10s equipped with the Guardian system will be in commercial service. Katie Lamb-Heinz of Northrop Grumman Electronic Systems said all those aircraft will be freighters. The ultimate goal is to defend passenger airliners.

The testing is part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Counter-Man Portable Air Defense Systems program. BAE Systems has also been working for the government on a similar airliner defense system and has successfully tested it.

John Pike, a defense analyst at GlobalSecurity.org, an Alexandria, Va., think tank, suggested that development of the system was the lesser of issues for the airline industry.

"I think the problem is making the numbers work in the sense of figuring out who's going to pay for it," he said.

More than capital costs, airlines are likely to be most concerned about the costs of maintenance and aircraft downtime, he said.

"They've gotten these airliners now (so) that they are just remarkably maintenance-free. They've also gotten these airlines to the point that they've got razor thin margins," he said.

Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., viewed the plane on Monday and said she was encouraged.

"This program is very promising because it's already met the operational testing. Now it's a question of how does it actually work in terms of stresses on the system while the airplane is in operation for several hours," said Boxer, a longtime proponent of equipping planes with anti-missile technology.

Boxer said her first priority is to equip the Civil Reserve Air Fleet, more than 1,000 commercial airplanes operated by airlines that contract with the Pentagon to make military flights during emergencies.

No passenger plane has ever been downed by a shoulder-fired missile outside of a combat zone. But terrorists linked with al-Qaida are believed to have fired two SA-7 missiles that narrowly missed an Israeli passenger jet after it took off from Mombasa, Kenya, in November 2002.

The first commercial flight with the Guardian system followed 16 months of tests on an MD-11, an MD-10 and a Boeing 747 using simulated launches of shoulder-fired missiles.

The Guardian system appears as a pod with eye-like features attached to the belly of the FedEx MD-10, a freight version of what was originally the three-engine widebody DC-10 airliner.

DHS gave Northrop Grumman and BAE Systems $45 million each in 2004 to adapt military defense systems to civilian airliners, requiring improvements because military systems need too much maintenance and mistakenly fire too often.

A government report obtained by The Associated Press last summer said that both the Northrop Grumman and BAE Systems prototypes still don't meet the reliability standards set by the DHS, and it could be 20 years before every U.S. passenger airplane has such a system.

Billions of dollars would have to be spent to protect all 6,800 commercial U.S. airliners.

The report said testing showed that the systems can be installed on commercial aircraft without impairing safety; at least one company can supply 1,000 systems at a cost of $1 million each; and operation and maintenance will cost $365 per flight, above the $300-per-flight goal.

Northrop Grumman said Tuesday that during the 16-month flight test program a ground-based "electronic missile surrogate" was used to simulate launches and each time Guardian functioned as designed, automatically detecting the simulated launch and mock missile.

"Had the threats been real, an invisible laser beam safe to humans would have disrupted the missile guidance system and protected the aircraft," the company statement said.

Woman spends cold night in car

By The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY With the temperature near zero, a 40-year-old woman spent the night in the rear seat of her car after the vehicle went off Interstate 215, smashed through a fence and landed in a muddy canal, authorities said.

A Questar Gas employee spotted the silver Dodge Neon with Aimee Beaudrot inside Wednesday morning, at least 80 feet below the highway.

"This lady poked her head out — scared the life out of me," Kevin Beckstead told KSTU-TV.

The South Jordan woman, wearing a light jacket, was conscious but in poor condition with signs of hypothermia, said Trooper Preston Raban of the Utah Highway Patrol. Beaudrot was taken to LDS Hospital.

"Once they got her warmed up, she was doing a lot better," Raban said.

The overnight low temperature in Salt Lake City was 4.

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Boxer-Rice exchange has women talking

BY JOCELYN NOVECK
AP National Writer

NEW YORK A "leap backward" for feminism, the White House spokesman calls it. Nothing of the sort, feminists reply. Mean-spirited, say some. Perfectly appropriate, say others.

However one interprets Sen. Barbara Boxer's remark last week to Condoleezza Rice that the secretary of state, single and childless, doesn't have a "personal price" to pay in Iraq, the brief exchange still has people debating.

And for some women, it highlights a larger question: Just how do you define "personal price" when talking about your country's war?

Boxer's comment came during a contentious Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing last week, as Rice was grilled on Iraq by mostly skeptical senators. "Who pays the price?" asked Boxer, a California Democrat. "I'm not going to pay a personal price. My kids are too old and my grandchild is too young. You're not going to pay a particular price, as I understand it, with immediate family. So who pays the price? The American military and their families."

The reference to Rice's personal status was an instant catalyst for vigorous chatter on blogs, TV and talk radio, ranging from the conservative Rush Limbaugh (Boxer hit "below the ovaries") to the liberal Joy Behar on ABC's "The View" (Rice "deserved it.")

As for Rice, who assured Boxer she understood the sacrifice of military families, she later had a more pointed response, telling Fox News: "Gee, I thought single women had come further than that." On the same network, White House spokesman Tony Snow called Boxer's remark "a great leap backward for feminism."

Not to the country's most prominent feminist, Gloria Steinem, who said Snow's remark "takes your breath away."

"It had nothing to do with feminism," Steinem told The Associated Press. "It was perfectly reasonable, and it could have come from anyone — a grandfather as well as a grandmother. Sen. Boxer was trying to draw a parallel" between herself and the secretary.

For Christina Hoff Sommers, a scholar at the conservative American Enterprise Institute, Boxer's comments were not so much a "leap backward" as merely "mean-spirited and thoughtless," not to mention "sexist and politically absurd."

"She seems to be saying that an unmarried, childless woman should not be involved in decisions that affect traditional families," Sommers said. "By that standard, Susan B. Anthony would be disqualified. And how about Elizabeth I?"

"But I don't expect to hear much protest (from feminists)," said Sommers, "because their left-wing politics always trump their commitment to the cause of women."

Obvious political divides aside, did the Boxer-Rice incident tap into genuine feelings among ordinary Americans? Women interviewed seemed much less ready with a quick verdict on the exchange, but said it evoked struggles they're having in their own hearts and minds.

Linda Martin, owner of a graphics design firm in Miami, hasn't closely followed news of the Boxer-Rice exchange. But she understands what may have motivated Boxer's remarks, which she characterizes as an "emotional way of putting the situation."

"If you don't have kids, it's hard to put yourself in the position of someone who does," said Martin, 53, who has a 19-year-old son. Martin has opposed the war from the beginning. But as it's gone on, she's grown increasingly fearful that one day, her family might have to confront a reinstated draft.

"It's just this nagging thing at the back of my mind," Martin said. "We still don't have an idea how long this war is going to go on. My husband and I have talked about it: What would happen if there was a draft? It's an awful situation to be in."

Barbara Van Bogart is demographically in the same category as Boxer — children that are too old, and grandchildren too young. Yet asked if the draft is ever on her mind, she said, "You bet it is."

"I feel like we've dodged a bullet with our kids," said Van Bogart, 58, of Seattle, who works in the financial field. "I'm not so sure about our grandchildren. I hope they never, ever have to face this."

Marla Lasine, a year younger than Rice at 51, wasn't offended by Boxer's comments, which she didn't interpret as unfair to the secretary. She emphasizes, however, that as a single woman with no children, she feels a strong personal stake in the war like anyone else.

"This war affects me because it affects the guy next door, who does have children," says Lasine of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

"I am not distant from the consequences of this war, because this is the country that I live in."

Production companies can picture tax credits for filming on islands

By The Associated Press

HONOLULU A dozen film, television and commercial productions have applied to the state for $12 million worth of tax credits enacted last year to encourage production companies to shoot in Hawaii, according to the Hawaii Film Office.

But Rex Johnson, president and chief executive officer of the state Hawaii Tourism Authority, said he asked two of the projects to void their applications because they are being funded with state tax revenue.

They were commercials for the Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau and the Hawaii Tourism Japan, which are subcontractors to the state tourism agency.

"These types of things (film credits) are meant to stimulate productions to come here to Hawaii, and they would have done those things here anyway," Johnson said. "We shouldn't be funding our stuff with general fund money."

The credits that took effect July 1 are needed to attract film and TV productions to Hawaii and to compete with other states, such as Louisiana and New York, lawmakers said.

Many of the productions that applied for credits already have strong ties with the islands and would be unlikely to film elsewhere. Among them are ABC's "Lost" and MTV Networks' "Living Lahaina" and "Island Fever."

Two others are commercials to market Hawaii as a tourist destination, and a feature-length movie about the Transpacific Yacht Race from Los Angeles to Honolulu.

The productions plan to spend nearly $80 million on expenses that qualify for tax credits. They will also hire 774 residents and 316 nonresidents. State Film Commissioner Donne Dawson said the cost of the credits is more than offset by the economic activity and publicity for the state that they generate.

Projects with budgets of $200,000 are eligible for credits, which are capped at $8 million per production.

TV and movie productions create about 3,500 jobs per year while spending about $100 million in the islands.

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Appeals court tosses out the sentence of 'millennium bomber' for LAX plot

BY DAVID KRAVETS
AP Legal Affairs Writer

SAN FRANCISCO A federal appeals court on Tuesday threw out the sentence of a man who was convicted of plotting to bomb Los Angeles International Airport at the turn of the millennium.

Ahmed Ressam was arrested near the U.S.-Canadian border in December 1999 after customs agents found 124 pounds of explosives in the trunk of his car as he disembarked from a ferry in Port Angeles, Wash.

Prosecutors said he was intent on bombing the airport on the eve of the millennium. The arrest raised fears of terrorism attacks and prompted the cancellation of New Year's celebrations at Seattle's Space Needle.

Ressam was sentenced to 22 years in prison after being convicted off all nine charges. On Tuesday, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco reversed his conviction on one of the charges and sent the case back to a lower court to issue a new sentence and explain the rationale behind the 22-year term.

The decision does not necessarily mean Ressam will get a shorter term. Judges are given wide latitude to sentence defendants as they see fit.

After his conviction in 2001, Ressam began cooperating with authorities in hopes of winning a reduced sentence. He faced a maximum of 65 years in prison.

Over the next two years, according to court documents, he provided information on more than 100 potential terrorists and testified against coconspirator Moktar Haouari and Sept. 11 plotter Mounir el-Motassadeq.

Ressam told authorities he saw Zacarias Moussaoui at a training camp in Afghanistan in 1998. He also told investigators about the type of shoe bomb Richard Reid attempted to detonate on a U.S.-bound airline flight in 2001, and provided information about a network of Algerian terrorists in Europe.

U.S. District Judge John Coughenour of Seattle, who sentenced Ressam, said the information he provided was "startlingly helpful."

But Ressam's cooperation came to a halt by early 2003, resulting in charges being dropped against two other coconspirators. His lawyers said years of solitary confinement, broken by periods of intense interrogation, had taken their toll on his mental health and corrupted his memory.

Emily Langlie, spokeswoman for U.S. attorney John McKay in Seattle, said the government was mulling whether to ask the 9th Circuit to rehear the case with 15 judges. They maintain Ressam should get a 35-year term.

"Our recommendation at the time of sentencing was for 35 years," Langlie said. "I don't see any reason why that should change."

Two of the three appellate judges said Ressam was improperly convicted of carrying an explosive while committing a felony: lying on a customs form.

The government failed to show the "explosives somehow aided or emboldened" him to provide a false name at the border because he had not intended to detonate explosives at the border when he was arrested weeks before Jan. 1, 2000, Judge Pamela Rymer wrote for the majority.

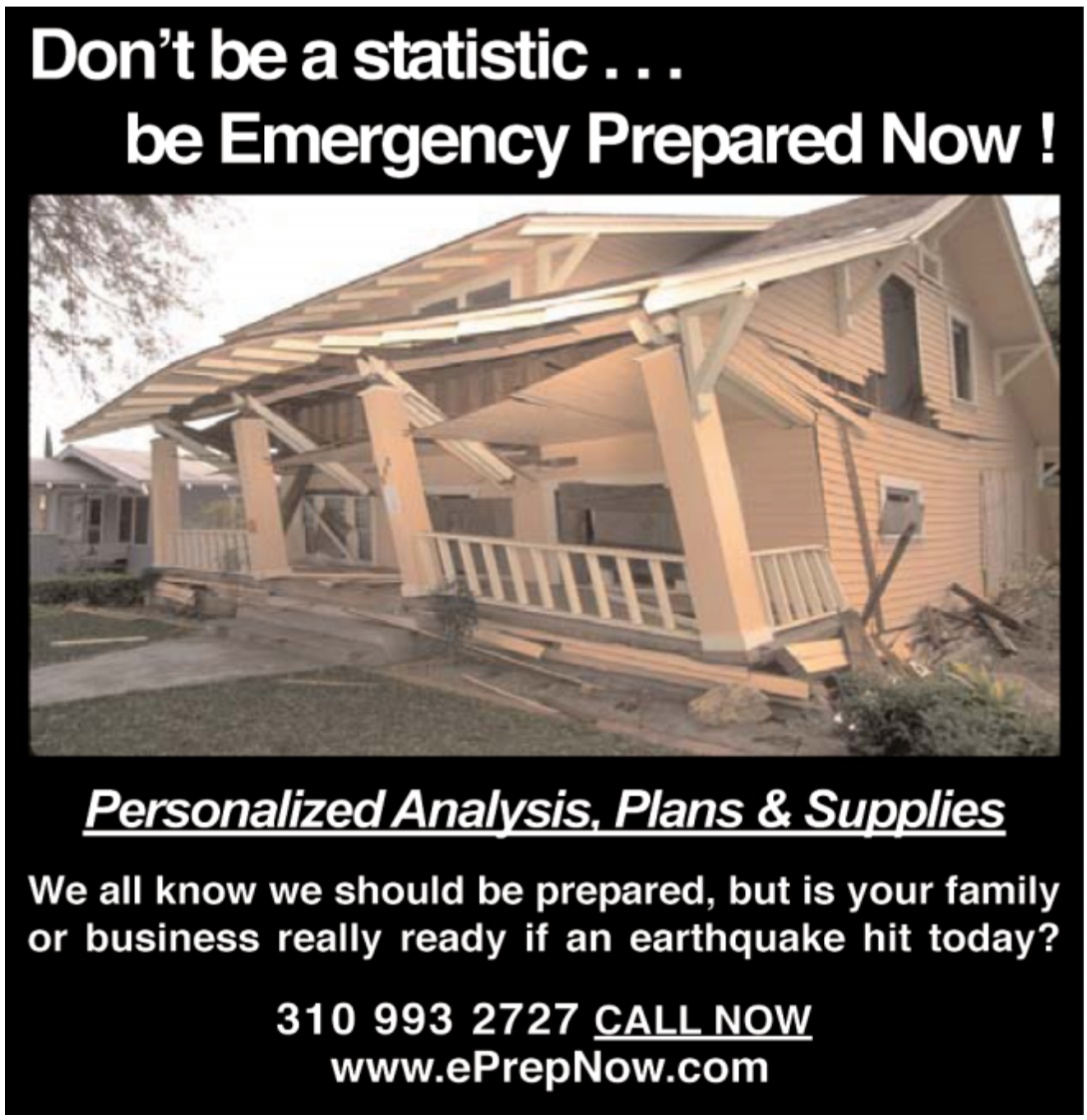
In dissent, Judge Arthur Alarcon voted to uphold that charge and he urged the sentencing judge to hand down a stiffer sentence because 22 years was "unreasonable."

Defense attorney Thomas Hillier II said the decision might not reduce his client's sentence but "helps in fending off the government's argument that the original sentence was too lenient."

No new sentencing date was immediately set.

The case is United States v. Ressam, 05-30422.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
■ Send letters to **editor@smdp.com**



STATE BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES
Burglars, vandals strike schools

Thieves and vandals plundered at least 19 schools during the recent winter break, continuing a trend of vacation-time campus burglaries, officials said.

"Every school is a target," Birmingham High School Assistant Principal Chuck Miller said this week.

"If they weren't targeted this break, they'll be targeted the next one," said Miller, whose campus lost over $100,000 in equipment over winter break.

School district police say there are about 400 burglaries at district campuses per year, resulting in millions of dollars in property damage or stolen equipment.

About half of the break-ins occur during long weekends and the winter, spring and summer vacations, said Mike Bowman, district deputy police chief.

School district police said the number of campuses hit over the break may grow as more schools report their losses, but that there will likely be fewer schools broken into than the previous winter break, when thieves hit 63 campuses.

School police attribute the drop to the citywide decline in crime and to better locks installed on new and renovated classrooms.

But officials said they doubt the trend will hold.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES
Councilwoman wants more

City Councilwoman Janice Hahn said she may seek to have an initiative placed on the May 15 ballot that would impose a tax increase to fund efforts to fight gang violence.

Hahn's proposal to generate $50 million through a parcel tax or sales-tax increase would need to be approved by the City Council by Jan. 24 to make it onto the ballot.

"I think we all know the problem is that there isn't enough money for anti-gang and prevention efforts – and we have to do something about it now," she said.

AP

LOS ANGELES
Housing agency slapped with suit

A coalition of lawyers and civil rights activists sued the city Housing Authority, claiming the agency broke the law when it effectively raised the rent of some 200,000 poor residents.

The advocacy groups filed suit Tuesday, alleging that the city did not give a required year's notice before decreasing residents' Section 8 rent subsidies by about $121 per month per family in 2004.

The lawsuit claims that the agency "did not make any meaningful attempt to comply," instead sending tenants a "nondescript" flier that "failed to convey any useful information."

The groups also charge that rents were increased so the agency could make up for a funding shortfall. Lawyers for tenants said it's unfair to make poor people pay more because the agency failed to manage its finances.

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Gift is one of the largest in health center's history

FROM ST. JOHN'S PAGE 1

bled the ground and literally tore this hospital apart ... Today, we are feeling a different kind of tremblor rocking St. John's"

Lazatin was referring to Chan and Soon-Shiong, whom she called "messengers of great hope," whose generosity will help St. John's continue to provide compassionate care for patients while developing the medications that will change the face of health care for generations to come.

"The research initiative spearheaded by Dr. Soon-Shiong, Michele B. Chan and their family will enable us to bring world-class faculty, basic scientists, surgeons and clinicians who are proud and honored to be associated with St. John's," Lazatin said.

"Together we will create the Chan Soon-Shiong Center for Translational Sciences at St. John's that we believe will be unparalleled anywhere in the world," Lazatin added. "In doing so, we will create new modalities for treating disease and establish a model for other translational initiatives in bio-science medicine."

Translational medicine is a branch of medical research that attempts to more directly connect basic research to patient care. Translational medicine is growing in importance in the health care industry.

Translational medicine typically refers to the "translation" of basic research into real therapies for real patients. The emphasis is on the linkage between the laboratory and the patient's bedside, without a real disconnect. This is often called the "bench to bedside" definition.

Translational medicine can also have a much broader definition, referring to the development and application of new technologies in a patient driven environment — where the emphasis is on early patient testing and evaluation.

In modern health care, there is a move to a more open, patient driven research process, and the embrace of a more research driven clinical practice of medicine.

At St. John's, translational medicine is already in practice, which is one of the reasons Soon-Shiong and Chan chose the facility. The couple also have a close, personal connection, with Chan and her mother, having been patients.

"We are exceptionally blessed to be able to give back in a way that grows and helps people in a meaningful way," said Chan, who praised St. John's doctors and nurses for their "excellent, compassionate care."

"I've come to see that this is truly a ministry," Chan said before a capacity crowd, which filled the hospital's chapel. "That is something the doctors and nurses do every single day … Thank you for welcoming us as part of your family."

Soon-Shiong said he hopes his gift can make St. John's a leader in medical research and patient care, mirroring the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Mayo Clinic.

"We need to become a model for the rest of the world," Soon-Shiong said. "The road has just begun and I'm very excited."

The inpatient facility currently under construction on Arizona Avenue and 20th Street is expected to be completed by 2009 and include 186 private rooms, 24 intensive care rooms and 48 orthopedic rooms, according to hospital officials.

✉WHAT DO YOU THINK?
■ Send letters to **editor@smdp.com**

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Developers to rebury bones

FROM PLAYA VISTA PAGE 3

tive office said the spending was appropriate.

State law allows excavation of Indian graveyards on private property, but requires that the remains be reburied under the non-binding guidance of a tribal descendent.

Construction of a drainage channel for the development was suspended when the first bones were discovered in October 2003. At the time, the Army Corps of Engineers refused to grant a permit to change location for the channel.

"We already knew that there was a burial ground there, but the developer chose to go ahead and make a corridor through there, taking up all of our ancestors and putting them in cardboard boxes," tribal member Linda Gonzales argued.

"They should have changed their plans and moved the drainage ditch over."

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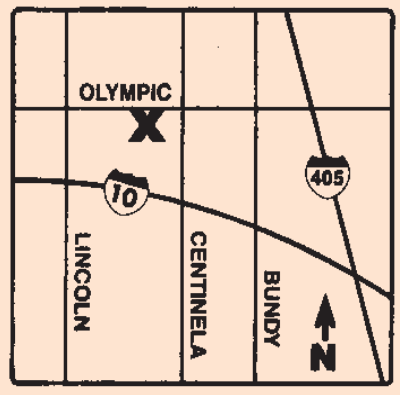

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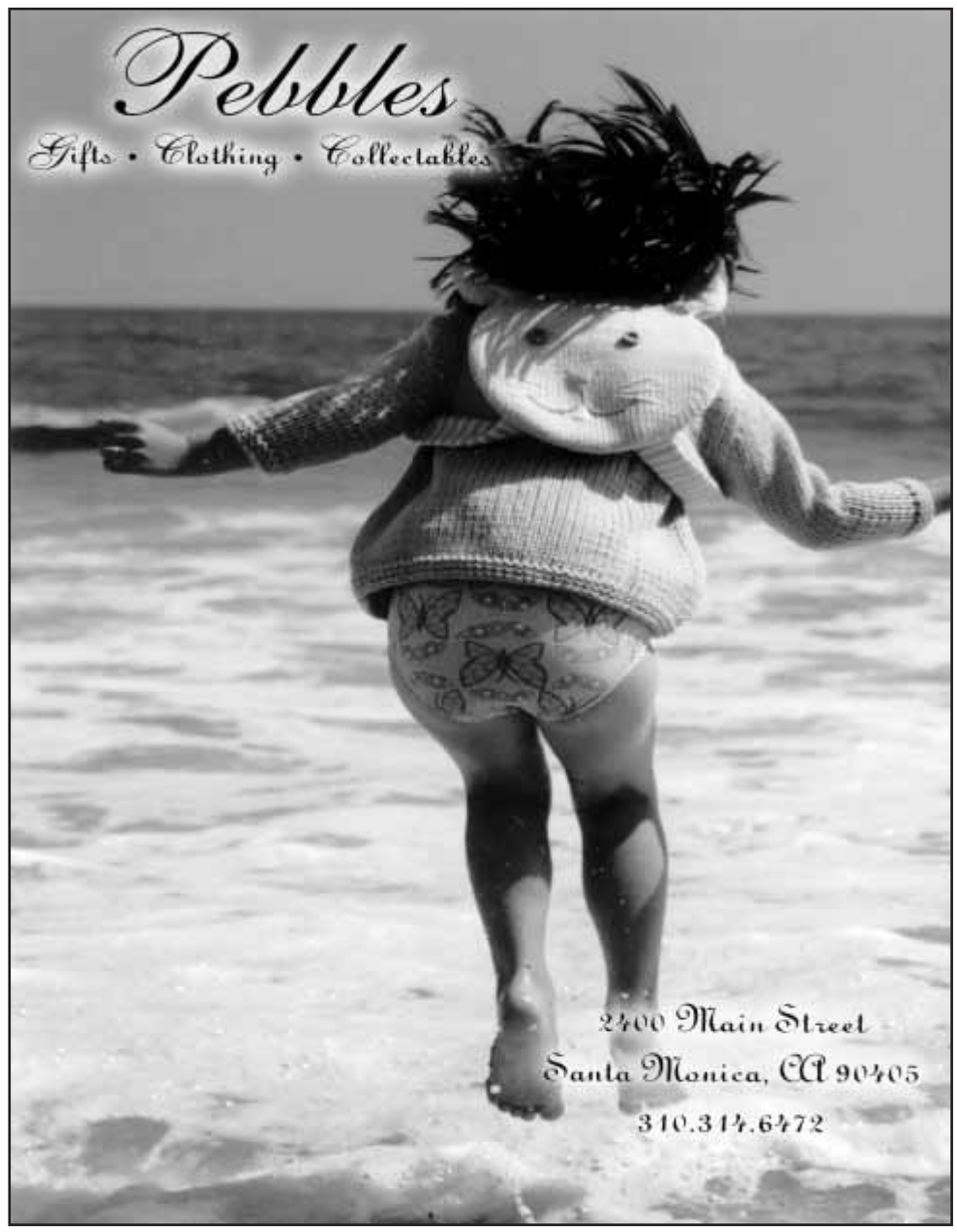


Ski, snowboard businesses embrace cold spell

FROM COLD CALLS PAGE 1

where the average temperatures in January are a high of 64 degrees and a low of 50 . That hasn't been the case the past few days, since temperatures started dipping into the 40s, leaving some Santa Monica businesses feeling the cold shoulder from customers.

It's been a pretty silent January at Mudra, a free-standing women's clothing store situated in the middle of the 1400 block of the promenade.

The weather determines business, said Kay Miller of Mudra. If it's raining and temperatures are low, shoppers will opt for the mall instead.

"If you're on the promenade and standing outside, would you want to try on this Swiss polka dot dress?" Miller asked, pointing to a pink and white polka dot dress on her rack on Wednesday.

Mudra doesn't specialize in winter apparel. In fact, the warmest item they have is a sweater dress.

But the cold weather doesn't affect what customers will purchase. Many customers who shop at Mudra are out-of-towners who want to purchase something unique that their friends back home have never seen in the chain stores.

They want to get off the plane and be told "you've been to Los Angeles," she said.

Wearing layers herself, Miller awaited customers in her small store, where even the mannequins were wearing jackets over spaghetti strap dresses.

"I thought they were looking cold," Miller joked. "And they didn't get their flu shot yet."

The slowdown in business has been the same story for Mudra's promenade counterpart, Fancy Paw, a cart selling doggy apparel, shoes and accessories.

Sales are down compared to January last year, said Debbie Perry, who owns the cart on the 1300 block of the promenade, which also sells sweaters for dogs.

It's just too cold for shoppers to go out to buy a little something for their dog, according to Perry. In January of last year, the temperature was low enough for dog lovers to think about dressing their furry friends in turtleneck sweaters and coats, but it wasn't too cold to keep shoppers from heading out the door.

"Last January was awesome," she said on Wednesday. "This past week was a disaster."

Since the cart portion of the business hasn't been performing well, Perry is relying on her Web site, which has been responsible for the majority of her revenue in January.

"I don't think it's ever been this cold in Santa Monica," Perry said. "People can barely walk to the stores."

Shoppers aren't too thrilled with the weather either.

Tiari Justin braved the drizzles and cold weather on Wednesday afternoon when she shopped on Third Street with her friend. Wearing a puffer jacket and flip-flop sandals, like a true Southern Californian, Justin was browsing through some long-sleeved shirts at Mudra.

The weather typically does not affect whether the Angeleno is in the market for winter or spring apparel. She prefers to combine the two seasons by buying a jacket and a halter top and wear them together.

"I don't like it," she said of the recent cold spell. "I'm a summer baby."

Still, not everyone in the city is frowning about Mother Nature's wrath.

"We're doing great," said Stephanie Silverman, manager of Subtle Tones, a women's clothing store on Montana Avenue.

The store has yet to roll out their spring line and many of its winter clothes are currently on sale and have flown off the racks.

"The weather hasn't affected our business," Silverman said.

All business aside, Silverman isn't too fond of frostbite weather.

LET IT SNOW, LET IT SNOW

Outdoor clothing store Patagonia on Main Street has seen a surge of customers purchasing long underwear, fleece sweaters and ski and snowboard gear.

In the past week, Mountain High, a resort in the San Gabriel Mountains, has reportedly received 2-4 inches of fresh snow.

"Heck, yes," Assistant Manager Lisa Edwards said, when asked on Wednesday whether the store has been busy. "A lot of people are going up to ski and want to re-outfit their ski wear."

Same story for Doc's Ski Haus on Santa Monica Boulevard.

"[The weather] has people thinking about skiing and snowboarding," said owner David Craycraft on Wednesday. "There is nothing like a warm sunny day to make people forget about going to the mountains."

Some customers, who have no intention of heading to the mountains anytime soon, have bought ski and snowboard jackets at Doc's to keep themselves warm in the city.

"They make a joke that they've never been skiing before and they need a jacket," Craycraft said.

Some customers are out of towners who didn't pack any warm clothes because they expected to arrive to a warm and sunny California.

The rain on Wednesday also served as another source of happiness for Craycraft. Rain in the city usually means snow in the mountains.

"Rain is awesome," he said. "I'm the only person in Southern California who likes rain."

melodyh@smdp.com

HEATING TIPS

Keep your cool and save cash

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE — The cold weather has had many Santa Monicans reaching for the thermostat.

Natural gas usage, used to heat roughly 89 percent of homes in Southern California, has increased 22 percent compared to January 2006, according to Peter Hidalgo, spokesman for The Gas Company.

Even electricity providers have seen the effects of uncharacteristically cold weather. Southern California Edison has experienced a slight increase in electricity usage system wide this month, said spokesman Tom Boyd.

In recent weeks, The Gas Company has been flooded with calls related to broken heaters or pilot lights that have gone out. Heater-related calls have increased 25 percent in January from the same time last year.

Natural gas prices this winter are actually 40 percent less than they were this time last year, offsetting some of the increase in gas bills that residents will soon receive. The Gas Company was able to purchase natural gas at a lower cost this year and pass the savings on to the consumer, Hidalgo said on Wednesday.

The gas bills this month won't be as high as they could've been under 2006 prices, but there are steps that homeowners should take to cut costs through a little conservation.

Dropping the current thermostat setting about 3 to 5 degrees could save a homeowner about 20 percent off their next gas bill. Of course, this might mean bundling up with more sweaters and blankets, Boyd said.

Sometimes you have to spend a little to get a little back. Approximately 40 percent of heat loss is caused by poor wall and attic insulation. Since heat rises, it literally goes through the roof, Hidalgo joked.

"Many homes and apartments are not adequately insulated to keep the heat in," Hidalgo said. "If you can upgrade the insulation, you can reduce your heating cost."

Heat can also escape through openings in the home. When homeowners are not using their fireplace, they should cover the opening with an approved glass fireplace enclosure, said David Lupberger, a home improvement expert with ServiceMagic.com, a site connecting consumers with more than 45,000 home service professionals.

Windows and doors should also be surveyed to be sure there isn't a draft of cold air entering through a crack. If there is a draft, a roll of weather stripping can easily solve the problem, Lupberger said.

Make good use of a programmable thermostat — set a lower temperature during naptime.

"While staying cozy seems important now, there may be a price to pay when the heating bill shows up in the mailbox," Lupberger said.

melodyh@smdp.com

Buyers feel a chill

FROM FROZEN MARKET PAGE 1

Damaged crops trickle down to hurt an entire chain of people, including farmers, pickers, brokers, truckers and, ultimately, consumers who pay more for a smaller selection at the markets.

Customers — bundled up in scarves and jackets that rarely see the light of day — welcomed the sunshine in the midst of sporadic showers Wednesday as they selected their fresh oranges, avocados and kumquats at the open-air marketplace.

Garner debated Wednesday morning whether to raise his prices, but decided to hold off until next week.

The "guaranteed" price hike in the coming days could be as much as 60 or 70 percent, Garner said. This past weekend, a 40-pound bag of oranges already jumped from about $20 to $40.

Armando Garcia, who runs Garcia Organic Farm in the Fallbrook area of San Diego County, scraped through the weekend without too much harm to his citrus crops and avoided a price boost.

"I'm lucky compared to everybody else. Everybody in the valleys lost 70 to 80 percent of their crops because it gets colder," Garcia said.

Once the thermometer passed 35 degrees on its way to a low of 27, Garcia started watering to ward off the frost.

"We've been able to water all night to keep the fruit from freezing," Garcia said. "It's like putting an ice cube under running water. It can't freeze."

Thanks to the relatively warm water, only 20 to 30 avocado trees and 50 to 60 young citrus trees — out of a total of 1,000 to 1,500 trees — succumbed to the frost. Garcia lost all his guavas and tropical fruit.

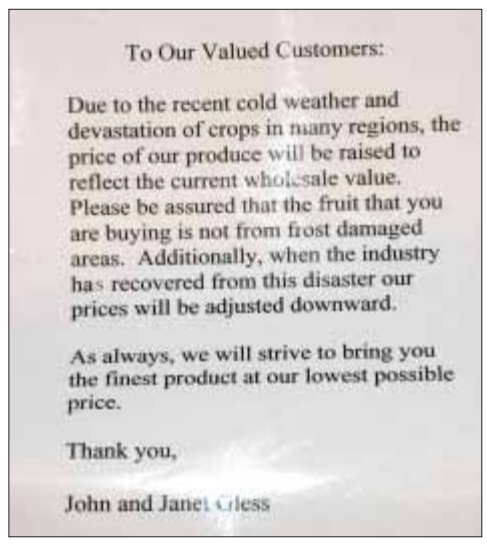
Garcia hoped the trees were not 100 percent dead so he could prune them back in the spring. But Garcia said the wind concerned him more than the cold.

"I lost a lot of avocados with the wind," he said. "The stem's so fragile, so with the wind they drop off."

Mark McNeely, a Marina del Rey resident and regular at Garcia's stand, lingered for several minutes to speak with Garcia after picking out his dose of avocados. McNeely said he was concerned for growers like Garcia, both as a friend and customer.

"How is the cold on the avocados?" McNeely asked Garner. "They're the best. They're just yummy."

Garcia decided to keep his prices constant



Fabian Lewkowicz *fabianl@smdp.com*

TOUGH STATE: **Operators of Gless Ranch warned Farmers' Market customers on Wednesday of tough times ahead.**

for the sake of loyal customers like McNeely, who make up more than 80 percent of his business and shop despite the chill.

"A regular customer shouldn't pay the price when Mother Nature gets a little pissed," Garcia said. "If I lose a lot of my crops then, yeah, but I can't see myself taking advantage of a bad situation."

Garcia said he hadn't noticed any change in purchasing trends since the temperatures fell.

McNeely assured Garcia that the crisp weather wouldn't stop him from making his regular rounds, which usually begin around 8:30 a.m.

"They're open all but maybe two weeks of the year, rain or shine. I appreciate them. They appreciate me," McNeely said.

Still, customer Devy Reinstein didn't appreciate finding his favorite oranges upped in price from $8 to $12.50 when he returned after a month working in Chile and Argentina.

"They're capitalizing on whatever they have left," Reinstein said.

Money, however, wasn't Reinstein's chief concern as he heaved 25 pounds of navels over his shoulder; he was glad to see any oranges at all.

"I would imagine that this week's crop is safe, but the next batch is the issue," Reinstein said. "That's why I came. I don't know if I can find oranges next week."

Reinstein saw the bad news dampen spirits all around the market.

"You can see the sad faces," Reinstein said. "I just talked to this orange guy, and he seemed preoccupied. What can you do? The world is what it is."

news@smdp.com

Photo courtesy

NOTHING TO RE-PEEL: **Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger toured Keith A. Nilmeier Farms on Wednesday to assess the damage done to citrus crops by the extreme cold weather.**

Prices soar for citrus crops after temperatures plummet

BY OLIVIA MUNOZ
Associated Press Writer

FRESNO Shoppers will feel the sting from a string of subfreezing nights in California's citrus groves and other farming areas, with prices for oranges, lemons, avocados and other produce poised to double or triple in coming weeks, according to industry officials.

"We may adjust the prices as we discover the full extent of the damage next week, but for now, if you bought an orange at the supermarket for 50 cents, expect to pay a dollar to $1.49 for it," said Todd Steel, owner of Royal Vista Marketing, which sells California citrus to markets throughout the country.

With the NFL playoffs in full swing, some fans may choose to go without two traditional favorites.

"Avocados are expensive enough as it is," said Joseph Vasquez, a 32-year-old school teacher from Pasadena. "We may have to do without guacamole for a while. And we may be drinking our Coronas without limes."

Nearly every winter crop is affected by the freeze, from avocados to strawberries to fresh-cut flowers, but it's the state's citrus crop that stands to take the biggest economic hit. California is the nation's No. 1 producer of fresh citrus, growing about 86 percent of lemons and 21 percent of oranges sold in the U.S., according to the California Farm Bureau. Florida produces more oranges, but those are mostly processed for orange juice.

More than 70 percent of this season's oranges, lemons and tangerines — nearly $1 billion worth of fruit — were still on the trees as nighttime temperatures in California's Central Valley dipped into the low 20s and teens on four straight nights beginning Friday. The freeze ruined as much as three-quarters of the California citrus crop, growers say; the fruit is threatened whenever the mercury falls below 28 degrees.

"Limited amounts were harvested before the freeze, so it's not like the markets are going to dry up suddenly," said Claire Smith, a spokeswoman for Sunkist Growers Inc., a Los Angeles-based cooperative owned by some 6,000 growers in California and Arizona.

Still, the diminished supply is bound to drive up prices, Smith said. Sunkist may import oranges and other fruit from South Africa and other countries.

On Tuesday, a Visalia-based citrus broker was selling 40-pound boxes of oranges for $22 to $32, depending on the variety. That's up from $6 to $14 a week earlier, and with the National Weather Service calling for at least one more night of frigid temperatures in many areas, prices could continue to escalate.

Some shoppers took advantage of still-reasonable prices Tuesday, as many of the fruit on market shelves was picked before the freeze. Shopper Lindsay Beamish, 29, was surprised to see a 10-pound bag of oranges selling for $10 at a Vons supermarket in Pasadena.

"I might just have to get 10 pounds worth because that's not going to last," she said of the price.

Damages from the current freeze will likely surpass those from a three-day cold snap in December 1998 that destroyed 85 percent of California's citrus crop, a loss valued at $700 million, state Agriculture Secretary A.G. Kawamura said.

The state also suffered a deep freeze in 1990

> **"IT'S NOT LIKELY TO HAVE A BIG IMPACT ON THE JUICE INDUSTRY BECAUSE CALIFORNIA IS NOT A BIG PLAYER IN THAT MARKET."**
>
> **Claire Smith**
> Spokeswoman, Sunkist Growers Inc.

— one that completely wiped out the $1 billion crop. It took growers two years to recover.

Labor leaders are also watching the weather closely. They estimate as many as 12,000 field workers and packing house employees could lose their jobs for the remainder of the season.

Damaged fruit from the current freeze may still be salvaged as juice, usually a byproduct for California farmers, Smith said.

"It's not likely to have a big impact on the juice industry because California is not a big player in that market," she said.

Adverse weather has also taken a toll on the Florida-dominated orange juice industry in recent years. After two nasty hurricane seasons compounded by drought and crop disease, PepsiCo Inc., which sells juice under the Tropicana and Dole labels, and Coca-Cola Co., which owns Minute Maid, each raised orange juice prices over the past several weeks.

Cell users toe the line

BY BOB PORTERFIELD
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO California cellular subscribers are paying hundreds of millions of dollars each year to subsidize landline telephone service, enriching big telecommunications companies while providing little or no benefit to cell phone users.

The subsidies are intended to reimburse the companies for providing traditional phone service in rough terrain and rural areas where stringing lines can be costly. But rampant development has transformed some of these backwaters into booming subdivisions, with no real adjustment to the distribution formula. Others, like the ocean-front celebrity playground of Malibu, are getting subsidies simply because of their difficult topography.

A complex formula for calculating the surcharges that hasn't changed in more than a decade, coupled with feeble government oversight, have meant a windfall for phone companies that are fighting to preserve it.

"It's egregious," said Kimberly Kuo, executive director of MyWireless.org, a national nonprofit advocacy group for cellular users. "By nature these fees are highly discriminatory because cell users pay in far more than they get out of it."

Industry officials say high-cost subsidies are what make it worthwhile to do business in rural areas. If they were abolished, some other incentive would be needed.

"We believe the core principle is that everyone, including cell phone callers, benefits from being able to call people in the high-cost areas," AT&T Corp. spokesman Gordon Diamond said. "If wireless customers didn't contribute, the surcharge on wireline customers would have to be higher."

Most consumers overlook the small surcharges on their telephone bills. These support a variety of programs, including those that ensure affordable telephone service for low-income and disabled customers. But the high-cost subsidies are the most expensive and possibly the least regulated.

Nineteen states allow customers to be charged a fee to defray the costs to phone companies of providing service in these high-cost areas. Of these, 12 do not exempt cell phones: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Kansas, Maine, Nebraska, Nevada, Texas, Utah and Wyoming.

Phone companies also pay into a separate federal Universal Service Fund that has raised nearly $20 billion since 2003. Some of that money subsidizes landline service in hard-to-reach areas of every state. The Federal Communications Commission doesn't require telecoms to pass these costs along to their customers, but many do. Cell phone users pay into the federal fund, but it's difficult to determine how much of it they contribute.

Nowhere are the numbers more striking than in California, where the program is known as High Cost Fund B. Since 2003 the state's four largest telephone companies _ AT&T Inc., Verizon California, SureWest Communications and Frontier Communications _ have reaped more than $1.2 billion in compensation for serving more than 7,600 designated high-cost areas.

The B Fund is one of five funds in California's Universal Service Fund program, which has received a total of $2.8 billion since 2003.

The state's 25 million cellular subscribers contributed 60 percent of the payments to the B Fund, an Associated Press investigation found. That proportion that is likely to increase given the growing number of consumers relying exclusively on wireless communication.

Where the money goes and how it's divvied up among the phone companies is shrouded in secrecy because government-sanctioned reporting procedures cloak the information from public view. What's clear is that the subsidies aren't always used to install phone lines in high-cost areas.

"We're mostly concerned that high-cost universal service funding has been used predominantly to subsidize inefficient wireline carriers," Kuo said. "(But) we also have seen significant waste in how that funding is distributed."

Much of the money disappears into corporate treasuries to be used at the companies' discretion; some sits in the bank, and some has even vanished into the state's general fund. During the 2002-2003 fiscal year the Legislature "borrowed" more than $278 million from its high-cost surcharge funds to help balance the budget. It has never been repaid.

Rob Schladale, assistant program budget manager for the state Department of Finance, said the transfer was never supposed to be repaid because the B Fund contained a surplus at the time. A 2003 change in the law prohibited further transfers.

"It's Verizon's position that special purpose funds should only be used for their intended purpose," company spokesman Jon Davies said. The high-cost subsidy "should never be tapped to balance the budget."

California designated its high-cost areas in 1996 using data from the 1990 census. The list has remained static ever since, despite dramatic changes in the state's landscape.

End of story: Montreal kilt seller departs

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MONTREAL In the land of the ceinture flechee — the colorful sash of 19th-century French-Canadians that lives on in folklore, festivals and on Bonhomme Carnaval — Bryant Johnson's Scottish kilt shop sells a culture that seems foreign at first glance.

"A lot of my contemporaries in Toronto say, `How does a guy sell kilts in Montreal?"' Johnson, the proprietor and son in Chas Johnson and Son, told Canadian Press.

But the shop's success over the past 60 years, sitting in the shadow of Montreal's venerable Bay department store, reveals a slice of Quebec's long history and the mix of people who founded French Canada.

"The truth is that there's a lot of French-Canadians who have Scottish heritage going back to the Hudson's Bay Company," Johnson said in a recent interview.

In the 2001 census, some 180,000 Quebecers claimed some Scottish roots.

"They don't speak English, but they'll be walking by the door and they'll see scarves with their name on it," Johnson said.

"They'll come in, make inquiries, and go home to La Tuque or whatever. But they always come back."

They won't be coming back for long.

Soaring downtown property values and the irresistible allure of retirement will bring an end to another historic Montreal institution that reaches back to the city's colorful roots.

Johnson, 66, is shutting down his kilt shop and haberdashery and selling the choice downtown location off Phillips Square next spring.

With dress-down Fridays extending throughout the week now, Johnson's main business selling suits has steadily worn away. But the kilt business has never been better.

In Montreal and across Canada, Scots are reconnecting with their roots, taking up highland dancing and laying out thousands for Scottish dress items.

It starts with the woolen kilt, but other popular items include the tam-o'-shanter bonnet worn at a jaunty angle atop the noggin and the manly carryall purse known as the sporran.

Valeta Roach, the owner of Scottish Imports in Edmonton, says she's doing a booming business renting kilts for special occasions.

"I wonder if baby boomers are getting on, and wanting to explore their roots a bit more," Roach said.

"A lot are now a bit older and have a bit more disposable income. We're getting into our heritage in a big way."

Pop culture has also played a role in popularizing all things Scottish, with comedians and characters playing on the brogue and distinctive dress to varying degrees of effectiveness.

"I get lots of fellows in looking through my consignment rack of men's kilts around Halloween, Robbie Burns Day and St. Patrick's," said Roach.

"They look at the price and then go look at the consignment of ladies' walking kilts which are half the fabric and half the price."

But it's not just a frivolous passing interest for many. Several people a day swallow the steep price tag for their own tartan at Johnson's shop, where kilts start at $1,000 and can soar from there.

He orders the tartan specific to the regions and clans of Scotland. He has a crew of kilt makers who sew them to exacting standards.

Tailoring a proper kilt is more complicated than it might seem. Many kilt makers require four measurements to make them, including the distance from the waistline to the widest part of the hips.

Manufacturing follows complicated formulas of thread counts and color combinations to match traditional tartans associated with families, regions and military units.

Even ironing is not simple, with different pleating options which follow exact instructions.

"It's all done by hand, there is no mass production," said tailor Jimmy Betancourt, sitting at a sewing machine in the basement of Johnson's shop, impeccably dressed in a three-piece suit.

Betancourt has sewn suits and kilts for Johnson since 1976. Like the dozen other experts in kilts and men's clothing at Johnson's shop, he's not sure what comes next.

Like the others, he might start his own shop. They might all band together to open another shop similar to Johnson's operation.

"But first, we're all going to take a big break," said Betancourt.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

It's still good to be chief

Santa Monica resident David B. Baron has been re-elected as chief of staff for 2007 at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center.

BARON

Baron has a long history with the hospital, dating back to his days as a family medicine resident in 1988. Prior to becoming the chief physician last year, he had served as the medical center's vice-chief of staff for two years, as well as chair of its Family Medicine Department.

A 15-year Santa Monica resident, Baron runs a concierge medical practice called Primary Caring of Malibu, which uses a membership model to provide patients with a wide range of personalized services and amenities. He is a board-certified family physician who completed his residency at the medical center in 1991 before entering private practice in Malibu. He attended medical school at the University of Pennsylvania and earned his undergraduate degree from Amherst College in Massachusetts.

Baron also serves as a medical expert for KNX Radio. He is an accomplished singer/songwriter and pianist who performs with other physicians in a band called Malpractice. The band has played at numerous events, including Santa Monica-UCLA's "80th Anniversary Celebration" last October.

Joining Baron as officers on Santa Monica-UCLA's 2007 Executive Medical Board are Chester Griffiths and Denise Sur, who were re-elected vice-chief of staff and secretary-treasurer, respectively.

DAILY PRESS

Gibbs gets his JAMS on

Kenneth C. Gibbs, Esq. has joined JAMS, The Resolution Experts as a full-time mediator and arbitrator of construction, insurance and business disputes. Gibbs, who was a founding partner of Gibbs, Giden, Locher, & Turner LLP in Century City, is now based in the JAMS Santa Monica Resolution Center in The Water Garden.

"In recent years, I have increasingly been called upon to resolve disputes and help clients throughout the United States," said Mr. Gibbs. "My affiliation with JAMS is a good fit with my national practice."

Gibbs is one of the leading complex commercial construction neutrals in the United States, having mediated and arbitrated thousands of disputes in construction, insurance and business. He was recently elected a Fellow in The American College of Construction Lawyers and is an author of a work frequently used by attorneys in the field entitled California Construction Law.

Gibbs earned his J.D. from the University of California at Los Angeles in 1974 and his A.B. (Magna Cum Laude) from the University of California at Berkeley in 1971.

DP

BASEBALL

Gwynn's latest double to be night to remember

BY BERNIE WILSON
AP Sports Writer

SAN DIEGO Tony Gwynn will be back in a big league dugout for one night, coaching his San Diego State Aztecs in a college doubleheader at Petco Park on March 10.

The Aztecs will play Michigan in the nightcap of the Tony Gwynn 2007 Classic. Oklahoma will play San Diego in the first game.

The lineup was announced Tuesday, a week after Gwynn was elected to the Hall of Fame.

"They're going to honor me in between games, which will be cool, too, but I've got to win games," Gwynn said after a news conference at the downtown home of the San Diego Padres. "As a college coach, that's kind of where my focus is."

The games at Petco Park will be on the middle day of a three-day round-robin tournament. The other games will be played at SDSU's Tony Gwynn Stadium and USD.

"The kids are dying for the opportunity to come and play on a major league field and see what's it like, see how far 402 really is," Gwynn said, referring to the deepest part of the park in right-center field.

Three years ago, the Aztecs played the first game at Petco Park, beating the Houston Cougars 4-0 in front of 40,106 fans, the biggest crowd in college baseball history.

Gwynn is 113-132 in four seasons as coach at his alma mater, and hasn't gotten the Aztecs beyond the Mountain West Conference tournament.

Gwynn noted that Oklahoma, Michigan and USD all reached the regionals last year.

"We're the only team that hasn't been to one for a while, and boy we'd like test ourselves against quality baseball clubs," Gwynn said.

"Like any other college coach, I need to win some games this year. I need to get things headed in the right direction. And that's not to say we haven't done that. It's just that you finish 15 games under .500 last year, it kind of leaves a bad taste in your mouth. So it's time to kind of get things going in the right direction."

Gwynn played 20 seasons for the Padres, winning eight NL batting titles and collecting 3,141 hits while batting .338 for his career.

He and Cal Ripken Jr. will be inducted into the Hall of Fame on July 29.

GOLF

Comedian Lopez taking a swing at picking up where Hope left off

BY KEN PETERS
AP Sports Writer

PALM DESERT Bob Hope was always a tough act to follow. George Lopez is holding his own, so far.

Firing off jokes that likely would have had even Hope guffawing, the actor named his ideal golfing partners.

"My dream foursome would be myself, Donald Trump and Rosie O'Donnell," Lopez said, alluding to a public feud between Trump and O'Donnell. "And she would count as two. So I wouldn't actually need four."

He added with a sly grin, "I want to be in that fight."

Asked about the state of his game, Lopez said he was thrown off by watching tape.

"This guy filmed three of my swings and he was telling me about my spine angle and I was raising my head and I wasn't getting the full turn," said Lopez, a 13-handicapper. "Really, after he spoke, the only thing I really looked at when I looked at the tape was whether I looked fat or not.

"So I didn't really hear what he said. I was more looking at me sucking it in. Now I've got to suck it in until Monday."

The five-day event has Lopez's name attached for the first time _ the Bob Hope Chrysler Classic hosted by George Lopez.

Hope, a fixture at the tournament for most of its 47 years, died in 2003. He was 100.

Lopez seemed completely in his element Tuesday at a news conference in the press tent at the Classic Club, one of four courses used for the tournament that's a pro-am for the first four days.

"It's wonderful for the PGA Tour to erect a tent in the middle of the desert so we can talk about golf. Near the 10 (freeway) and in between an In-N-Out Burger and a Del Taco, four miles from the outlet mall," Lopez said.

"That's what a golf course is all about, nine holes, a couple of nacho meat burritos."

Hope's widow, Dolores, has said she admires Lopez as one of the country's brightest young comedians. Lopez, an opening act for Hope at one show some 15 years ago, said, "Well, if you're 45 and they consider you a young comedian, that's fantastic."

He added: "That is an honor, the fact that Dolores has been so kind to me since the first time I met her in 2004, and that Bob was a fan of my comedy is validation. It would be like if the pope sent you a letter and said: "You're a good Catholic. Signed, The Pope."

The tournament, which has raised millions of dollars for charity, started in 1960 with Hope and many of his golfing pals from Hollywood making the pro-am a star-studded event.

Arnold Palmer won the inaugural Hope, the first of his five titles in the tournament.

TELL SANTA MONICA WHAT YOU THINK!
WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR
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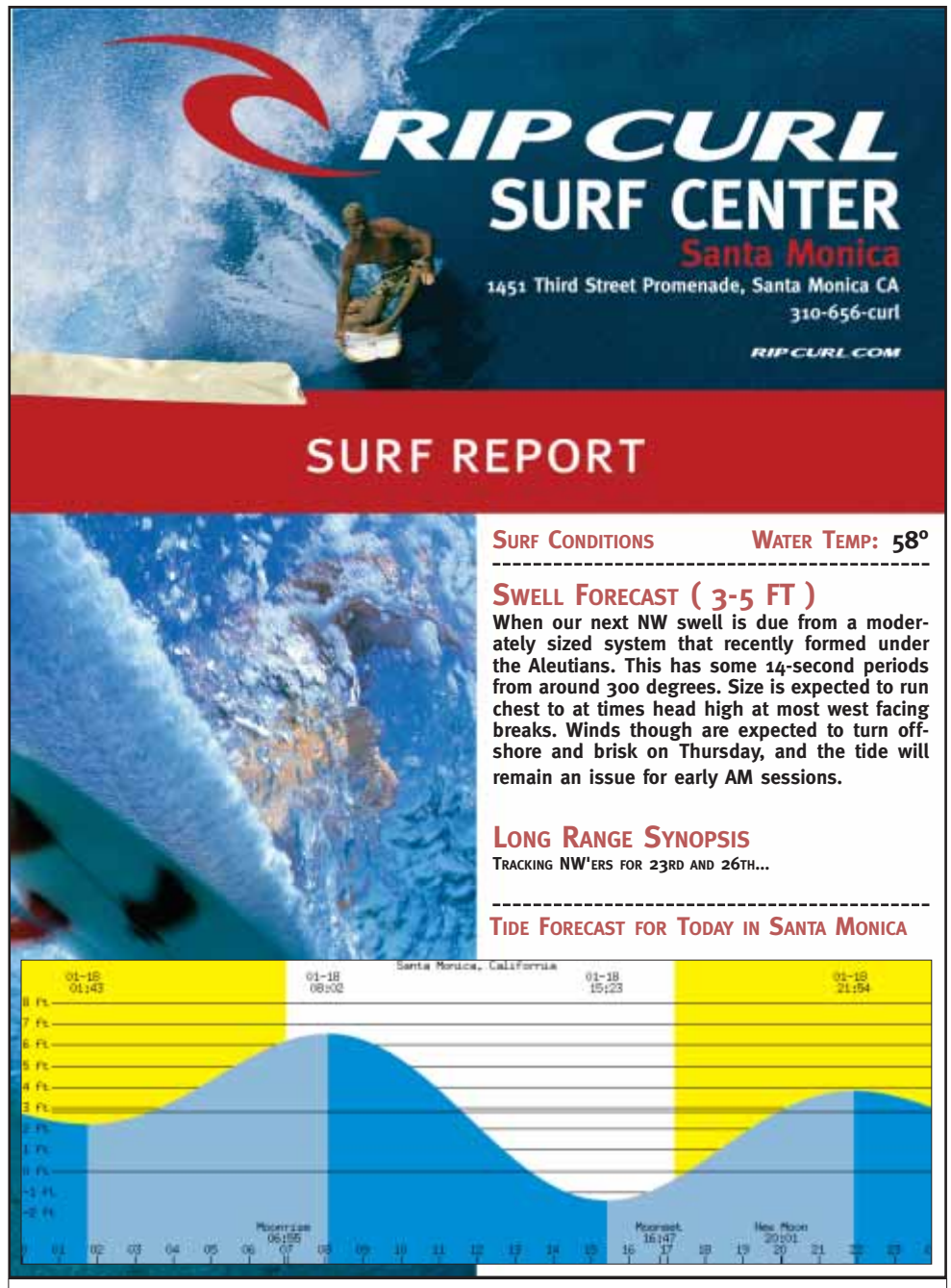
Santa Monica Daily Press Visit us online at smdp.com



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of **January 9, 2007**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 6
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 13
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 34 / 28
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 11 / 13

The Beach Report Card is made possible by a grant from Ford

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

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

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

LEGEND

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

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

Heal the Bay

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

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

Nap, then decide, Sag

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)

★★★★ New Moons herald new beginnings, if you want. This month's New Moon is about your career or your relationship with parents and bosses. What would you like to have happen? Now is the time to decide to make it so. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Take an overview or make sure you really see what is missing. If you feel you aren't getting the big picture, find someone you consider wise to help you detach. Other eyes see situations differently. Tonight: Heavy thinking and talking.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ If you want to revive a money situation or get past a problem with a partner, decide to take the necessary steps to heal the situation. Others might need to express their feelings a little more often. Tonight: One-on-one time.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ You might want to discuss something that you feel is important in a relationship. Decide to approach the topic again, experiment with a different attitude. Be more in touch with positive feelings rather than anger. Tonight: See who offers what.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Focus on getting the job done. In fact, you might want to add exercise to your daily life or perhaps try a new schedule. You might feel revitalized as a result. Taking on a new hobby also might be perfect. Change will energize you. Tonight: Take a walk after dinner, if it isn't too cold.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Your creativity could surge forth in the next month if you encourage yourself to express what you sometimes judge to be off-the-wall thoughts. If you are single, a new relationship could be knocking on your door. Certainly an interesting encounter is likely. Tonight: Live it up.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Let your hair down and relax more. Sometimes you are so socially aware that you compromise yourself. Be yourself. You actually might draw more special people if you relax and be as real as possible. Tonight: Your home is your castle.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ You often hold up a mirror and are critical of yourself. Think less about what you do wrong and more about what you would like to change. Make a resolution today, especially if it involves communication. Tonight: Hang out with your pals or answer all your e-mail.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Though you are certainly lucky this year, this magic doesn't mean you should go hog wild with spending, investing or any monetary matter. Try a conservative path. Express ideas involving money with a dear friend. Get feedback. Tonight: Nap and then decide.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ The New Moon opens up the stellar cookie jar for you. What would you like to change or do? Make it your New Moon resolution. You might be delighted by what is possible to create. Drop the word "no" from your vocabulary. Tonight: Don't always be hard on yourself. Treat yourself!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ Decisions made right now could be totally personal. For instance: Do 10 crunches each morning. Look to making yourself feel better. By late afternoon, you might be close to unstoppable. Tonight: Wherever you want to be.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Decide to fulfill an important goal this month. Today's New Moon will give you that extra push to make it happen. A friend plays a large role. You like that sense of camaraderie that you can have only with friends. Tonight: Be with who you want, when you want.

Born Today

Author A.A. Milne (1882)
Actor Kevin Costner (1955)
Actor Cary Grant (1904)

Happy Birthday!

You express a unique creativity and energy this year. Many will find you irresistible and magnetic. You will make waves wherever you go. With all this magic, you could become too self-involved if you're not careful. Others have ideas too! Artists of all types flourish. If you are single, you certainly don't need to maintain that status. Many people would like to be yours. If you are attached, encourage your sweetie to be equally as dominant as you. AQUARIUS can help you make money.

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at http://www.jacquelinebigar.com
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Blunt bounces

'Beautiful' singer takes his act to Switzerland

British singer JAMES BLUNT plans to move to an exclusive Swiss ski resort, local officials said Wednesday.

Patrick Messeiller, director of tourism for Verbier, confirmed a report in the Swiss daily Le Matin that Blunt, who is a frequent visitor to the mountain village, had registered with the tax office there.

Blunt, 32, is the latest celebrity to move to the alpine nation. French rock legend Johnny Hallyday took up residence in nearby Gstaad last month.

Hallyday's move prompted a heated debate in France about rich people and multinational companies fleeing the country for Switzerland because of low taxation there.

But Messeiller wouldn't comment on whether Blunt would receive similar preferential tax treatment as Hallyday. "That's a private matter," he said.

Each Swiss canton (state) sets its own tax rates, and can cut special deals with wealthy foreigners that allow them to pay only a fraction of what they would have to pay elsewhere.

London's Daily Mirror reported last year that Blunt, a former tank commander in the British army, earned $9.8 million with his 2005 album "Back to Bedlam," released by Atlantic Records.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NO SHOW OF 'GOOD WILL'

GUS VAN SANT, director of "Good Will Hunting," pleaded not guilty Wednesday to charges of drunken driving and reckless driving. He was ordered to a Feb. 9 alcohol diversion hearing.

Van Sant, 54, was arrested the night of Dec. 21 near the city center. Police said he registered a blood-alcohol level of 0.19 percent, more than double Oregon's limit of 0.08 percent.

An officer saw that Van Sant's headlights weren't on, Portland Police Bureau spokesman Sgt. Brian Schmautz said. Van Sant had bloodshot eyes and slurred speech, smelled of alcohol and failed sobriety tests, Schmautz said.

Van Sant wasn't required to appear at the arraignment in Multnomah County Court. The February hearing will help determine whether the Portland filmmaker enters a diversion program, which could eventually remove the charge from his record.

AP

K-Fed to come at football fans 'Fast'

Britney Spears no longer wants him as her husband and audiences have been cool to his attempt at a rap music career, but KEVIN FEDERLINE has Nationwide on his side.

Nationwide Mutual Insurance Co., known for its "On Your Side" slogan, plans to run a national ad during the Super Bowl, and K-Fed has been tapped to star, the Columbus-based company said Wednesday.

The 30-second spot, to air during the third quarter of the Feb. 4 game, will be the latest installment in Nationwide's "Life Comes at You Fast" ad campaign. Previous celebrity ads in the series have featured Fabio and M.C. Hammer.

In the new commercial, Federline, 28, goes from starring in a rap video surrounded by beauties and bling to working at a fast-food joint.

"No one has personified `Life Comes at You Fast' in the media better than Federline," said Steven Schreibman, Nationwide vice president of advertising and brand management. "Our partnership with Kevin shows the world that he has a great sense of humor."

Spears, 25, filed for divorce from Federline in November after two years of marriage. The couple agreed to share custody of their sons, 3-month-old Jayden James and 1-year-old Sean Preston, for this month, but after that, Federline will be allowed visits three afternoons per week.

His debut rap album, "Playing With Fire," sold a dismal 6,500 copies in its first week of release last fall.

AP

Protective dad Sorvino good with a gun

"Goodfellas" actor PAUL SORVINO, who pulled a gun on his daughter Amanda's ex-boyfriend in a confrontation, was allowed to carry it and never pointed it at the man, police Chief Ken Kaplan said Wednesday.

Amanda Sorvino, 36, told a Monroe County judge in Stroudsburg, Pa., on Tuesday, that she had locked herself in a bathroom and called both police and her father after the man pounded on her Stowe Motel room door and made threats on Jan. 3.

"He got in my father's face and said, `Go ahead, Paul, shoot, I ain't done nothing wrong,"' Amanda Sorvino testified. The judge granted her request for a protection-from-abuse order against Daniel Snee, 21, of Effort, Pa.

Sorvino, a deputy sheriff in Pennsylvania, is entitled to carry a weapon from state to state, Kaplan said.

"He expressly stated there was no way through his training that he aimed the gun at this person, he didn't even threaten him," Kaplan said of Sorvino. "He just said, `I have a gun, I want you to stay away from my daughter, back off,' because the guy was out of control, and he was."

An affidavit filed by Stowe police Officer Frederick Whitcomb said Amanda Sorvino had broken up with Snee earlier that night.

After being arrested, a handcuffed Snee escaped through an open window of a police cruiser and was found hiding in trees behind the motel about an hour later, the affidavit said. He was charged with escape and disorderly conduct.

The affidavit said Snee had a blood alcohol content of 0.175, more than double the legal limit for driving in Vermont.

He was being held Wednesday at the St. Johnsbury Regional Correctional Facility in lieu of $5,000 bail.

Paul Sorvino starred in 1982's "That Championship Season." His film credits also include "Goodfellas" and "The Cooler."

He is also the father of Mira Sorvino, who won an Oscar for her role in Woody Allen's 1995 comedy "Mighty Aphrodite."

AP

SUNDANCE FESTIVAL

`Chicago 10' aims to place risk-takers at forefront

BY DAVID GERMAIN
AP Movie Writer

PARK CITY, Utah It's rare for the Sundance Film Festival to start with a documentary. Yet organizers say this year's opening night film, "Chicago 10," represents just the sort of bold gambit the nation's top independent-cinema venue likes to see in its movies.

"It's a film that I think at one level is really basically about risk-taking, about people who want to change the world, so in that sense, it's inspiring," said Geoffrey Gilmore, director of the festival, which is overseen by Robert Redford's Sundance Institute. "It speaks to what goes into the struggle for social change, which is not unlike what goes into the personal vision of independent film."

Premiering Thursday night at the 11-day festival in the ski resort town of Park City, "Chicago 10" is director Brett Morgen's stylistic retrospective of the turbulent 1968 Democratic National Convention and the trial of anti-war protesters that followed.

Instead of a dusty lesson that might be ancient history to youngish Sundance crowds, Morgen weaves archival footage with original animation and a voice cast that includes Nick Nolte, Jeffrey Wright, Mark Ruffalo and Roy Scheider to put the courtroom drama and its flamboyant players into perspective.

"I don't think anyone's seen a film quite like this before. I'm expecting it to be explosive on opening night," said Morgen, a Sundance veteran who screened his boxing documentary "On the Ropes" and his Robert Evans chronicle "The Kid Stays in the Picture" at past festivals.

"There was an energy and a passion I saw in my footage and through research of that era. I wanted to make a film not so much about a historical, academic encounter of what happened but something with that youthful energy like it was captured in a bottle and unleashed today."

The festival's closing film is "Life Support," starring Queen Latifah as a former drug addict who becomes an AIDS activist, a drama that director Nelson George based on his sister's life.

In between, Sundance will screen about 120 feature-length movies and dozens of short films from around the world to audiences of fellow and future filmmakers, industry executives and general lovers of independent cinema.

Film distributors will scour the lineup for the next big independent hit such as last year's "Little Miss Sunshine," which Fox Searchlight scooped up at Sundance and turned into a $60 million success, one of the top-grossing movies ever to come out of the festival.

And celebrities will crowd the snowy streets of Park City for premieres, parties, concerts and other events.

Among films premiering at Sundance are two starring Samuel L. Jackson: director Craig Brewer's "Black Snake Moan," in which Jackson plays a Southern bluesman who becomes protector for a promiscuous abused woman (Christina Ricci), and Rod Lurie's "Resurrecting the Champ," with Jackson as a former boxing champion now living on the streets.

Santa Monica Daily Press

MOVIEGUIDE

AERO THEATRE
1328 Montana Avenue
(310) 395-4990

Wednesday
Life of Oharu
7:30
Thursday
Stray Dog
7:30

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

Babel (R)
10:15am, 1:15, 4:35, 7:40, 10:50
Blood Diamond (R)
12:45, 4:00, 7:15, 10:30
The Good Shepherd (R)
12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 10:40
The Holiday (PG-13)
2:00, 8:00
Perfume: The Story of a Murderer (R)
10:45am, 4:55, 10:55

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

Alpha Dog (R)
11:00am, 1:50, 4:50, 8:00, 10:50, 12:00am
Children of Men (R)
10:00am, 12:20, 2:45, 5:05, 7:30, 10:10
Dreamgirls (PG-13)
10:40am, 1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 10:30
Night at the Museum (PG)
11:20am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40
Pan's Labyrinth (El Laberinto del Fauno) (R)
11:30am, 2:30, 5:15, 7:50, 10:40
Primeval (R)
11:50am, 2:10, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30, 11:40
The Pursuit of Happyness (PG-13)
10:50am, 1:30, 4:10, 7:20, 10:00

LANDMARK NUWILSHIRE
1314 Wilshire Blvd
(310) 281-8228

Miss Potter (PG)
11:00am, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45
Notes on a Scandal (R)
11:10am, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 9:55

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

Captive (Cautiva) (NR)
11:00am
Letters From Iwo Jima (R)
1:20, 4:45, 8:00
Little Children (R)
11:00am, 10:00
The Queen (PG-13)
1:55, 4:35, 7:30, 9:55
Sweet Land (PG)
11:00am
Volver (R)
1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:55

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

Arthur and the Invisibles (PG)
11:30am, 2:20, 4:50, 7:10, 9:40
Casino Royale (PG-13)
12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 10:10
Charlotte's Web (G)
11:40am, 2:00, 4:20, 6:50, 9:30
Code Name: The Cleaner (PG-13)
4:30, 7:20, 10:00
Eragon (PG)
11:20am, 1:40
Freedom Writers (PG-13)
11:00am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:30
Stomp the Yard (PG-13)
11:10am, 2:10, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20

More information email news@smdp.com

Janric Classic Soduku

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

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

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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

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

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310 993 2727 CALL NOW
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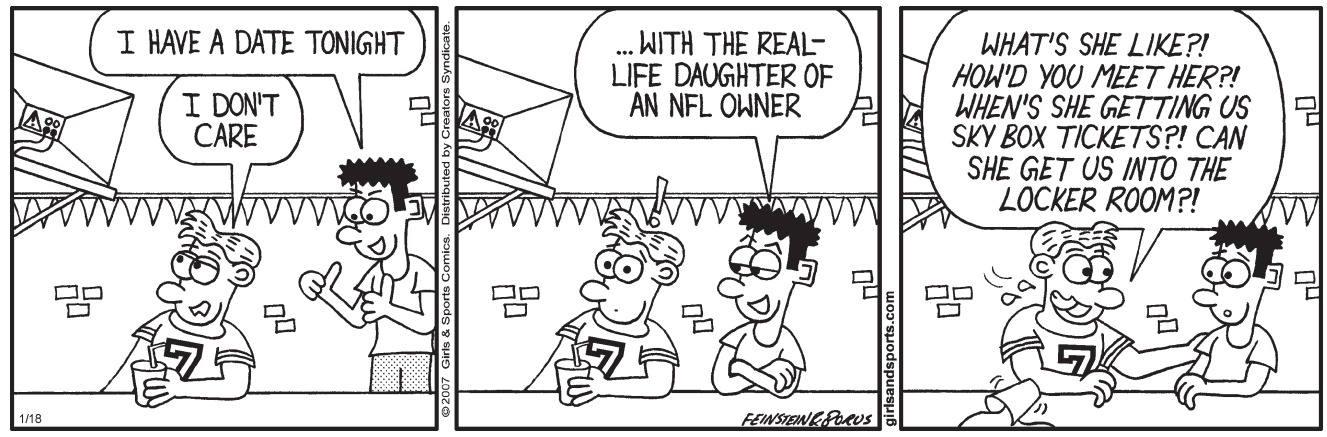
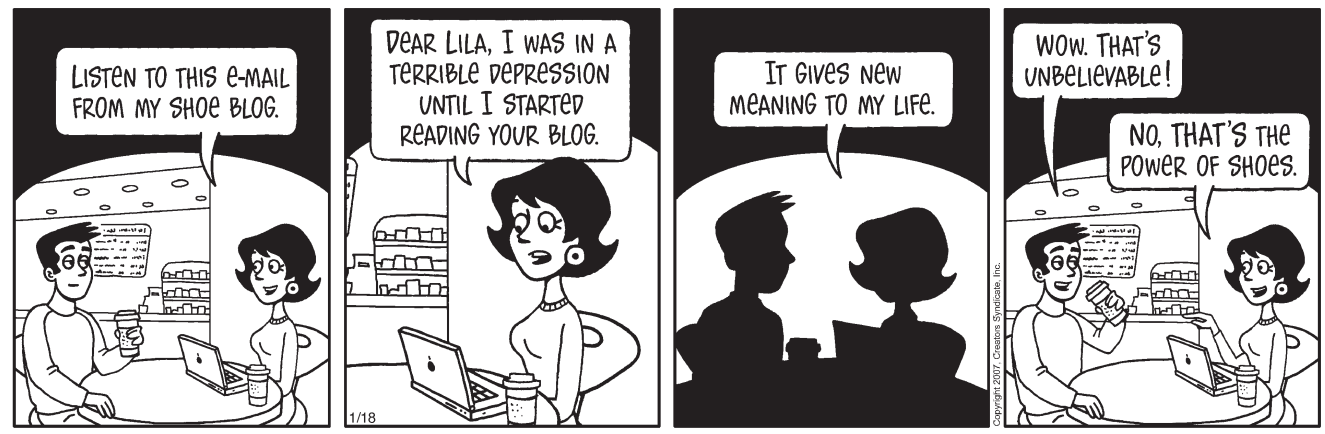
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

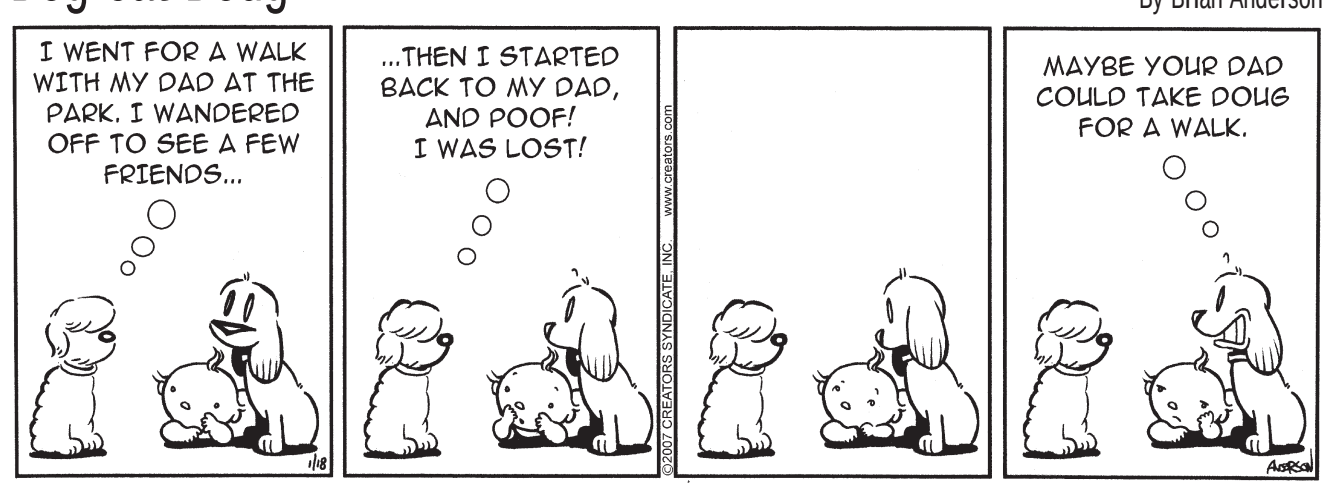
By Adrian Raeside

Garfield

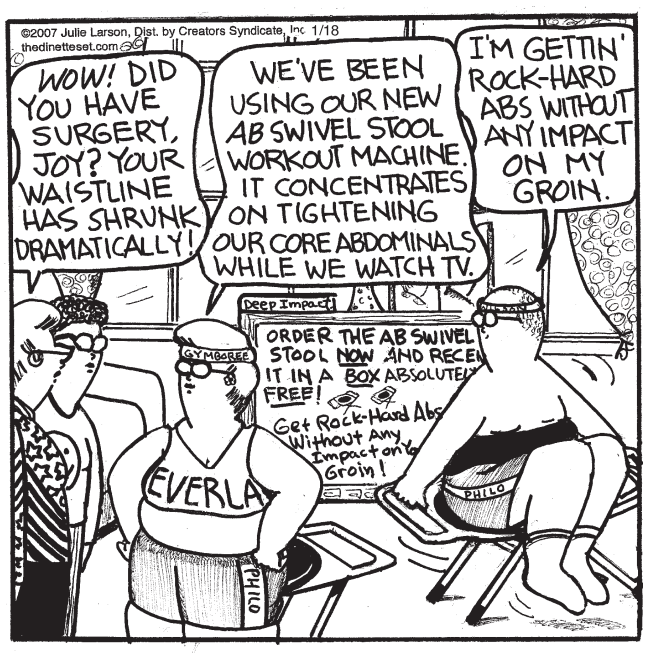
By Jim Davis

Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson

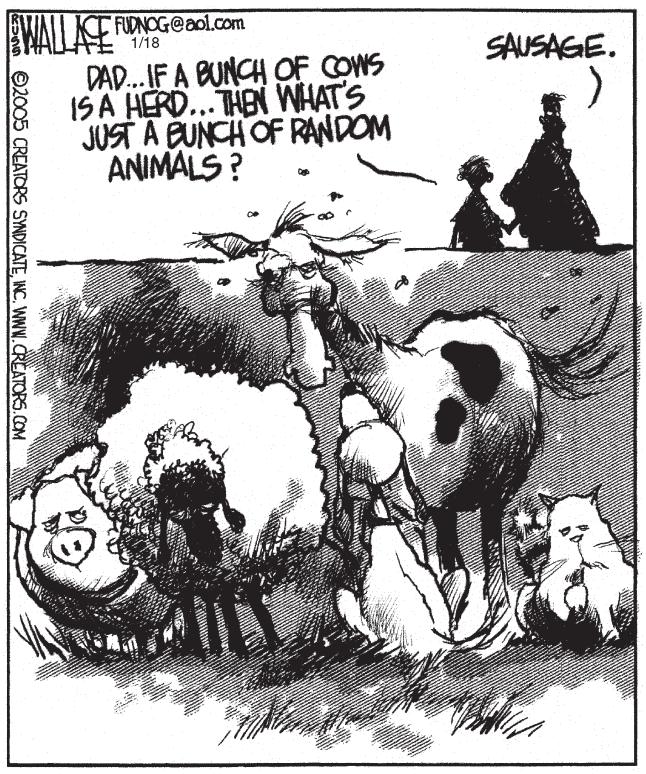


The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Natural Selection

By Russ Wallace



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly

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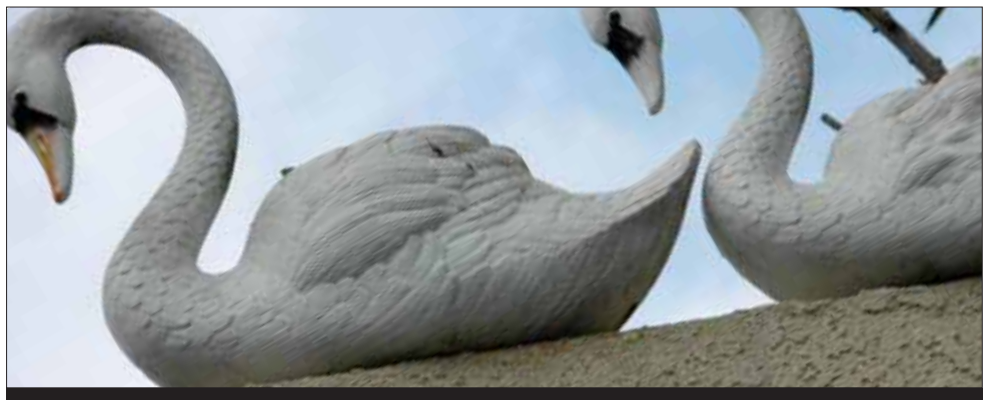

Mystery Photo

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 Parsley unit
6 "The Rehearsal" painter
11 Stage comment
12 On the dot
13 Sheet material
14 White on TV
15 Irish tongue
17 Purr producer
19 Scoundrel
20 Ewe's mate
23 Kitchen come-ons
25 Opera set in Egypt
26 "You Know Me, Al" writer
28 Lusty look
29 Actor Heath
30 Dray puller
31 Brewpub order
32 Make tempura
33 Starr of the comics
35 Sir's counterpart
38 Cash drawers
41 Similar
42 Follow
43 Burdened
44 "Superman" star

DOWN

1 Mineo of movies
2 Omega preceder
3 Cell-phone sounds
4 Notion
5 Non-specific
6 Red-ink entry
7 Biz bigwig
8 Gangster's gun
9 Play part
10 Hog holder
16 Mississippi explorer
17 "Cheers" barmaid
18 Spring sign
20 Sound suspect
21 Words after "Do"
22 Tie the knot
24 Team leader: Abbr.
25 Throw in
27 Type in again
31 Ready for war
33 Make cookies
34 Feast
35 Rug's kin
36 As done by
37 New Jersey's Fort — play
39 Murray Schisgal
40 Spot

A	D	A	M	A			S	P	A	R
R	O	W	E	R		O	P	E	R	A
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Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

1	2	3	4	5	■	6	7	8	9	10
11					■	12				
13					■	14				
■	■	15			16			■	■	■
17	18		■	19			■	20	21	22
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35	36	37			■	38			39	40
41					■	42				
43					■	44				

1-18

DAILY LOTTERY

Mega Millions
4 8 15 33 52
Meganumber: 10
Jackpot: $25M

Super Lotto Plus
22 24 31 33 40
Meganumber: 22
Jackpot: $11M

Fantasy 5
22 23 24 28 37

Daily 3
MIDDAY: 1 3 6
EVENING: 2 8 1

Daily Derby
1st: 04 Big Ben
2nd: 11 Money Bags
3rd: 09 Winning Spirit
RACE TIME: 1.46.15

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

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ One of the legendary American lawsuit successes is the 1970 award of $50,000 to Gloria Sykes, whose injury on a San Francisco cable car left the previously modest Midwestern woman with an unrestrained libido. In 2005, warehouseman Stephen Tame, now 29, of East Bergholt, Suffolk, England, won a judgment against his employer when he was injured in a fall at work and left with an aggressive sexual disinhibition that has exhausted his wife (and annoyed her) and led to infidelity and a resort to pornography. The church-going wife said that Stephen is not the man she thought she was marrying eight months earlier. In December 2006, a court awarded him the equivalent of about $5.9 million.

■ After a domestic tiff, Steven Rautio took the Christmas tree that he and his girlfriend had just decorated, cut it into pieces with a chainsaw, and burned it in a wood stove, but the stove overheated and burned his house to the ground (National Mine, Mich.).

■ The U.K. Noise Association and a British labor union suggested in December that they might take legal action against the "torture" of retail clerks by stores' forcing them to listen to continuous holiday music.

■ According to a Reuters report, Christmas is widely celebrated in non-Christian countries with "traditional" dishes such as bats cooked in coconut milk on the island of Sulawesi and, in Japan, feasts of Kentucky Fried Chicken.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1912 English explorer Robert F. Scott and his expedition reached the South Pole, only to discover that Roald Amundsen had beaten them to it. (Scott and his party perished during the return trip.)

1943 A wartime ban on the sale of pre-sliced bread in the U.S. – aimed at reducing bakeries' demand for metal replacement parts – went into effect.

1943 During World War II, the Soviets announced they'd broken through the long Nazi siege of Leningrad (it was another year before the siege was fully lifted).

1990 A jury in Los Angeles acquitted former preschool operators Raymond Buckey and his mother, Peggy McMartin Buckey, of 52 child molestation charges.

1936 Author Rudyard Kipling died in Burwash, England.

WORD UP!

foofaraw \FOO-fuh-raw\, noun: 1. Excessive or flashy ornamentation or decoration. 2. A fuss over a matter of little importance.

Relax, Renew & Re-energize

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The Spa

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Facial Treatments
Face & Body Waxing
Packages Available

The Salon

Hair Services • Haircuts
Color Treatments
Nail Services

The Westside's Best Kept Secret

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Personal Training Services
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Group Exercise Classes
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Limited Health Club Memberships Available

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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PART TIME POSITIONS

We are a private school in Santa Monica and have

2 part time positions available.

Check out our website at www.xrds.org for more details.

Please fax or mail resume to 1714 21st Street, Santa Monica, CA 90404. Fax (310) 828-5636. No phone calls please and you must include salary requirements.

PT RECEPTIONIST

Hours 1-5pm. Strong communication skills & prior exp needed.

PT Human Resources Assistant

Must have at least 2 yrs admin exp. BA/BS & prior HR exp preferred.

Obituaries

ROBERT ELLIOT HOBBS, of Santa Monica, passed away Jan. 9th, 2007 at the age of 73. Robert was born July 18th, 1933 in Cambridge, MA. He was a captain in the Army from 1954-1956; and worked as a salesman for 40 years. Mr. Hobbs is survived by his daughters, Sharon Lister of Toronto, Canada, Deborah Hobbs of Las Vegas, Nevada, Sandra Hobbs, of Santa Monica, CA, Shirley Haas of Topeka, KS; grandchildren Melaina, Josh, Jeff, Justin, Jamie, Jason, Pamela, Jason, and Heather. A visitation will be held Wed. Jan 17th, 2007 from 8-9AM at Arlington Mortuary in Riverside CA with a committal service to follow at 9:45 AM at Riverside National Cemetery Staging Area #4. For information please call Arlington Mortuary at 1-800-ARLINGTON.

Miscellaneous

DIRECTV SATELLITE Television, FREE Equipment, FREE 4 Room Installation, FREE HD or DVR Receiver Upgrade w/Rebate. Packages from $29.99/mo. Call 1-800-380-8939.

Employment

LOAN OFFICERS
Citizens Home Funding is looking for motivated Loan Officers for our mid-Wilshire branch. In this role you'll perform sales and marketing We offer commission up to 80% with the potential to operate your own affiliate branch and earn more. We offer sales training and leads, growth potential and benefits.
For consideration email patwilson@citizenshome.com call Patrick Wilson 323-755-5626.

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Barker Hangar Santa Monica Airport
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ULTIMATE STAFFING
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ADMINISTRATIVE/PERSONAL ASSISTANT. up to 6 hrs/day. 8:30am-3:30pm. Must have telemarketing/customer service experience: Be very computer friendly. Valid California CDL. $10/hr + bonuses. (310))450-4699

ADVERTISING SALES Rep
for weekly community newspaper, experienced self-starter, full-time, excellent benefit package, Send resume to attn: Publisher, po box 725, Pacific Palisades, Ca 90272 or fax (310)454-1078.

BLUE CROSS Pet Hospital hiring all positions (310)454-2633. Sandra or Ginger

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IN SANTA MONICA IS CURRENTLY SEEKING LICENSED, PROFESSIONAL MANICURISTS WITH EXCEPTIONAL CUSTOMER SERVICE AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS. APPLICANTS MUST HAVE A VALID CALIFORNIA STATE NAIL TECHNICIAN LICENSE. MUST HAVE A STRONG WORK ETHIC AS WELL AS A PROFESSIONAL APPEARANCE AND DEMEANOR. MUST BE AVAILABLE TO WORK EVENINGS, WEEKENDS AND HOLIDAYS. TRAINING PROGRAM IS REQUIRED AND PROVIDED.
PLEASE EMAIL RESUME AND COVER LETTER TO: angelas@burkewilliams-spa.com

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Supplies
Wellness Program
Body Mechanics Instructor
Professional Training
Benefits for Employees that Work 16 Hours a Week (Medical, Dental, Vision)
401k
AFLAC

Employment

College radio music promoter (310)998-8305 xt.85

COOPPORTUNITY-NATURAL GROCER-GROC. Asst., other positions, too! Apply at 1525 Broadway.

CUSTOMER SERVICE representative, GC services is seeking a dynamic individual for the following customer service representative position in Malibu . Responsibilities and experience include minimum 1 year customer service, cash handling and client relations. Full-time. Mon-Fri. benefits, paid vacation and holidays.Call (626)851-8227, fax resume (626)851-8226 or email la.resumes@gcserv.com EOE M/F DV

DRIVER, MUST have clean DMV, mostly airport transfers. Call Ace Limo for appt. (310)452-7083

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LIVE-IN WEEKEND caregiver for grandma, 92, Friday afternoon - Monday morning, Malibu hills (Decker Canyon). Cooking, bathing, dressing, companionship. Experience preferred. $250. Leave message, (310) 457-4628

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Applicants must understand Basic English
If you are interested in the following positions please come and apply
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F (310) 476-5894
Email:mariela@luxehotels.com

OFFICE ASSISTANT qualified individual with professional skills in customer service. Office maintenance. Filing, heavy phones, computer, and office machine literacy is a must. Please fax resume to (310)278-6264

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SALES
SALES of cruise and tour packages. 40 Year Old National Tour Company. Paid training, flex 30/hrs week. Some weekends required. Base+comm. No cold calls. Near LAX (310) 649-7171

PART TIME sales associate wanted for American Cancer Society Discovery Shop in Santa Monica. 10-12 hrs. per week. Must be flexible. Fax Resume to (310)458-6494

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PART TIME positions
We are a private school in Santa Monica and have 2 part time positions available. Check out our website at www.xrds.org for more details. Please fax or mail resume to 1714 21st Street, Santa Monica, CA 90404. Fax (310) 828-5636. No phone calls please and you must include salary requirements.
PT Receptionist – Hours 1-5pm. Strong communication skills & prior exp needed.
PT Human Resources Assistant – Must have at least 2 yrs admin exp. BA/BS & prior HR exp preferred.

PRESCHOOL TEACHER with ECE units and experience. Be willing to obtain certificate from the commission and teacher credentialing. Please Fax resume at (310)278-6264

RADIO INTERVIEW campaign sales person p/t flexible SM (310)998-8305 * 84

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SM DENTAL office seeking for experienced F/T X-Ray license dental assistant. Please call Nicole (310)828-7429

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928 6th St. #12 $2550 2+2
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MAR VISTA/Culver City Adj. $1625 2 Bdrms, 2 Baths. "Twnhs-Apt." No Pets. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, 2-Car garage. 12048 Culver Blvd #202. Open Daily for Viewing 9am-7pm, Additional info in unit. Mgr. #101

PALMS/BEVERLYWD ADJ. $1375.00 2 Bdrms, 1 1/2 Bath, Stove, Refrigerator, Dishwasher, Parking, No Pets. 2009 Preuss Rd. #11. Open Daily for Viewing 9am-7pm, Additional info in unit. Mgr: 101

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SANTA MONICA $1300.00 1 Bdrm, 1 Bath, Stove, Refrigerator, Parking, No Pets, 2535 Kansas Ave., #203 Open Daily for Viewing 9am-7pm, Additional info in unit. Mgr. #101

SANTA MONICA $1595.00 2 Bdrms, 1 Bath, Stove, Refrigerator, Parking, No pets. 2535 Kansas Ave., #209, Open Daily for Viewing 9am-7pm, Additional info in unit. Mgr: #101

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SANTA MONICA $1600/mo 2 bdrms/1bath, No pets, Carpet Floors, quiet neighborhood, refrigerator, heater, (310)395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA $2650/mo 3bdrms/2baths, Will consider pet, New kitchen w/ GRANITE countertops, dishwasher (310)395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

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Notices

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF DOROTHY MANUEL

Case No. BP095813

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of DOROTHY MANUEL

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Terri Wilson in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.

THE PETITION FOR PRO-BATE requests that Terri Wilson be appointed as Special Administrator with General Powers to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administra-tion of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representa-tive to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important ac-tions, however, the personal repre-sentative 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 Feb. 14, 2007 at 8:30 AM in Dept. No. 5 located at 111 N. Hill St., Los Angeles, CA 90012.

IF YOU OBJECT to the grant-ing of the petition, you should ap-pear 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 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 per-son 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 ap-praisal 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:
JOSEPH A LUMSDAINE ESQ
MONICA GOEL ESQ
TREDWAY LUMSDAINE & DOYLE LLP
10841 PARAMOUNT BLVD
3RD FLOOR
DOWNEY CA 90241-1017
Santa Monica Daily Press
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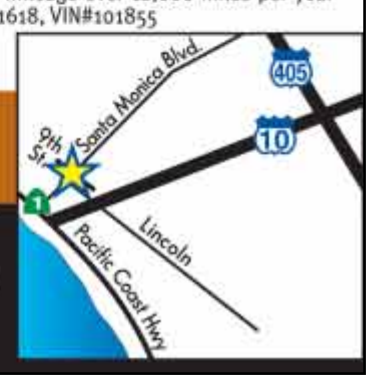

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