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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2007

Volume 6 Issue 62

# Santa Monica Daily Press

BATTLING FOR THE GOLDEN GUY
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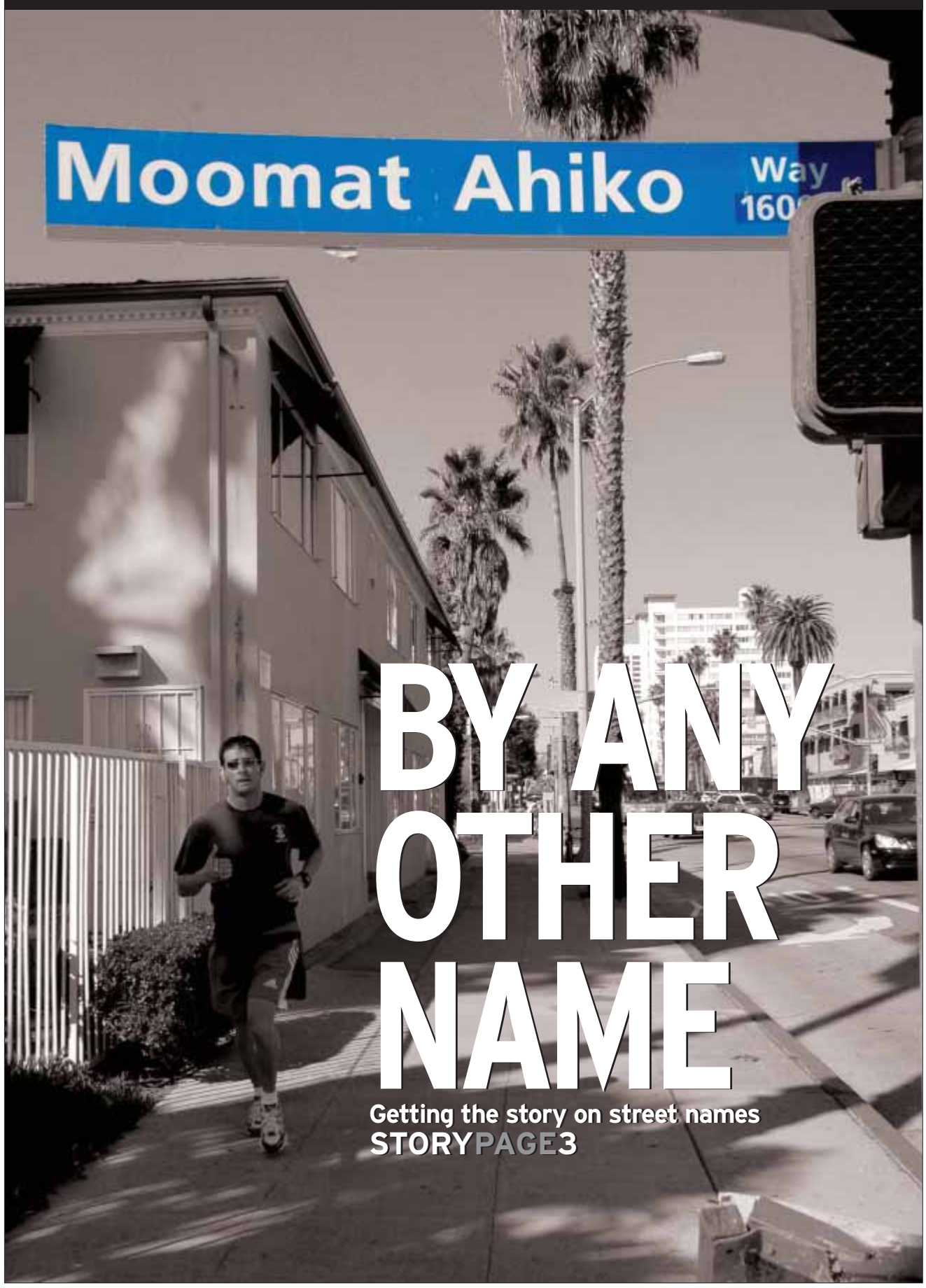
*Since 2001: A news odyssey*

THE WHAT'S YOUR SIGN ISSUE

SHOWING SIGNS




Fabian Lewkowicz *fabianl@smdp.com*

ON THE RIGHT PATH: **Moomat Ahiko Way was named to honor the native Tongva Indian people of Santa Monica.**

# Life behind bars, life renewed

## Vargas, Espindola sentenced in murder, shooting trials

**BY KEVIN HERRERA**
Daily Press Staff Writer

AIRPORT COURTHOUSE The lives of two young men who grew up together in the Pico Neighborhood took drastically different turns on Tuesday — one being sentenced to 53 years-to-life for murder while the other was set free, having been found not guilty in the shooting of an undercover police officer.

Mathew Felix Vargas sat motionless in a blue jailhouse jumpsuit as a Los Angeles Superior Court judge told the 19-year-old that he would spend the majority of his life behind bars for the murder of Jalonnie Carter, a Santa Monica resident who was shot in the back more than three years ago while walking down an alley east of 20th Street, near Delaware and Michigan avenues.

In the same courthouse, but on a different floor, Michael German Espindola was found not guilty of the shooting of a Santa Monica police officer in February of last year; the jury questioning testimony from one of the officers who was shot at while driving past Espindola's apartment complex on 17th Street, near Pico Boulevard.

The courtroom scenes were a study in contrast. Vargas displayed little emotion, looking weathered and somewhat dazed. Espindola, who was wearing a light brown dress shirt and slacks, broke down in tears when the not guilty verdict was read.

The mothers of both men cried as well — Vargas' mother out of extreme sadness over what she called "an injustice," while Espindola's mother let out tears of joy following the conclusion of what was "a long, difficult year," in which she knew all along that her son was innocent.

"I just want to give him a big hug and tell him I love him," said Espindola's mother, Josephine Lopez, immediately following the verdict. "I want to tell him he has a new life ahead of him. This has been tough on all of us, but it's over now.

"I've got my son back and that's all that matters."

Belinda Ramos, the mother of Vargas, said corruption within the SMPD stole her son's future, though she stopped short of declaring him dead.

"I am going to fight for my son," said Ramos, who plans to hire an appellate attorney to have her son's conviction overturned. "He's innocent. My son is not some big gang

SEE TRIALS END PAGE 6

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# WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS

### Preparing for Mt. Whitney Clinic
402 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m. — 8 p.m.
The raffle to get permits secured for the Mt. Whitney Trail begins and ends in February. Come to this class and learn all the details of the permit process and how to best prepare for your trip. Training and nutrition tips will also be discussed.

### Fitness Class (Mambo Mania)
1711 Stewart St., 7 a.m. — 8 a.m.
For more information, call (310) 515-4840.

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

### 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.

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

### Kiwanis Club Weekly Meeting
1332 Sixth St., noon — 1:30 p.m.
The Santa Monica Kiwanis Club holds it's weekly luncheon with guest speakers.

### 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.

## Thursday, Jan. 25, 2007

### Kundalini Yoga
2309 Main St., 2 p.m. — 3:30 p.m.
This class combines the science of movement, posture, breath, sound and meditation. Donations accepted. For more information, please visit www.shiatsumassageschool.org.

### "Law of Attraction" Meet-Up
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m. — 9 p.m.
Learn about the laws of the Universe and how to apply them to your life to create what you want and/or need in your life. Meeting will take place in the MLK Jr. Auditorium; doors open at 6:30 p.m.

### Weekly LeTip Business Networking Group
11th Street and Wilshire Boulevard, 11:30 a.m. — 1 p.m.
Weekly networking over lunch at El Cholo 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.

### 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 three years of age through second grade are welcome! For more information, call Rebecca Hall at (310) 451-1303, ext. 26.

### 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.

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.

# Giving lessons to help save the planet

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD HDQTRS Following in the footsteps of City Council, which condemned the use of non-recyclable disposable food containers earlier this month, school officials are pondering a ban of its own against the environmental demon in the district.

In efforts to reduce beach pollution, the council adopted an ordinance at its Jan. 9 meeting to ban the use of all "to-go" containers made from non-recyclable materials such as expanded polystyrene, known by its trademark name "Styrofoam," and clear polystyrene from all businesses and city facilities. The ban on these products orders businesses to comply within one year from adoption and city facilities and city-sponsored events by Feb. 8.

Local schools do not fall under the ban, according to Dean Kubani, the city's environmental programs manager.

In a city known for its campaigns to save the planet, school officials are currently assessing whether they should rid the district's facilities of foam lunch trays, plates and cups.

"We have a very conscientious board and they will listen to recommendations of staff," said Superintendent Dianne Talarico on Monday. "They will weigh the advantages of promoting the health of our global environment."

For the past year, city and school officials have met to discuss the use of alternative products that won't wash up on Santa Monica beaches. The major obstacle preventing the schools from taking the next step seems to be financial, according to Kubani.

"The schools [already] don't have the money that they need for everything," Kubani said. "If the alternative is slightly more expensive than what they're using now, which is the cheapest stuff, it will have a budgetary impact."

The environmentally sound change wouldn't come cheap.

An assessment conducted in the 2005-06 school year found that the district spent approximately $29,300 on foam lunch and meat trays, 6- and 9-inch foam plates and 8-ounce foam cups. A switch to biodegradable paper and pulp material would cost the district approximately $106,800 — a 264-percent increase.

If the district opted for containers made

SEE FOAM BAN PAGE 7

## ICING ON THE CAKE

Fabian Lewkowicz *fabianl@smdp.com*

**Horntense Goldberg blows out a candle on her birthday cake while surrounded with family and friends during her 100th birthday celebration on Tuesday at the Gardens of Santa Monica. Goldberg attributes her longevity to exercise and up until last year exercised daily. During the 'Big Birthday Bash' the Bob Danis band performed while guests danced to oldies. They celebrated by drinking red punch and eating chocolate cake.**

# Taking one for the road

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

PRINCETON STREET Princeton University in New Jersey is more than 2,700 miles away. Add another 100 miles for the approximate distance to Yale University in New Haven, Conn. Tack on about 200 more for Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass.

Though the prestigious Ivy League schools are thousands of miles away, their presence can be felt every day in the eastern part of the city, where five streets leading to the West Los Angeles border were named after the universities attended by the children of two of Santa Monica's earliest residents — the Bandini and Jones families.

The five school moniker-bearing streets — (from west to east) Princeton, Harvard, Yale, Stanford and Berkeley — are just some of the interesting patterns of street names inside the city influenced by kinship, development, representation and, even, superstition.

"They deliberately named 13th Street, Euclid, to avoid the superstition," said Councilman Bob Holbrook of the rumor of why the street was renamed.

The superstition is triskaidekaphobia, the fear of the number 13.

But Louise Gabriel, president of the Santa Monica Historical Society, isn't buying into the idea that Euclid was named so because of the superstition.

"There was a J. Euclid Miles who served with the City Council in the early years," she said on Tuesday. "How do we know it wasn't named after him? He donated money to build the Miles Playhouse."

The names of the streets in Santa Monica were heavily influenced by city founders John P. Jones, the former senator from Nevada, and Robert Baker and his wife, Arcadia Bandini.

In representing the state of Nevada, Jones named what is now Wilshire Boulevard as Nevada Street, which is where his house, now the Fairmont Miramar Hotel, was located at the Ocean Avenue intersection.

He continued the trend of naming streets after states, adding Arizona, California, Washington, Colorado (originally named Railroad Street) and Oregon, which was later renamed Santa Monica Boulevard in 1913, according to Rosita Mal, a volunteer researcher at the Santa Monica Historical Society Museum.

Second Street wasn't always referred to by the numeral, according to local historian Roger Genser, whose house is located there.

"Some earliest documents of my house say Washington Street," he said.

Nevada Street was renamed to Wilshire

SEE STREET NAMES PAGE 7

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Dishing on the NYBD

**Editor:**

I am writing to advise you of a very special deli on Wilshire Boulevard in Santa Monica that you missed in your article concerning delis ("Sandwich lovers are taking sides," page 14, Jan. 20): The NYBD, New York Bagel and Deli, located near 23rd Street on Wilshire Boulevard.

I am a frequent customer of NYBD. This deli is very special and has an owner who is most welcoming and creates a very warm and inviting atmosphere. The environment of NYBD has caused many regular customers to become an extremely close-knit group of friends. This group comprises of about 40 people, ages 2 to 80. The group includes working people, married, single, retired people and professionals, and we met because of the relaxed and warm environment created by (the owner).

Together, we made a party at a private home when the owner got married. At a recent funeral for the wife of one of the customers, not only did many of the group attend, but the owner and staff of NYBD also attended. Several individuals have helped others in time of need, such as sickness, and others have celebrated birthdays at NYBD and had the entire group there.

Not everyone is there every day, but there are some that do have breakfast at NYBD daily. On the weekends, one couple with a preschooler still come to join the gang, even though they moved to the Valley. Many of us, including myself, block out Saturday mornings so as not to miss seeing our regular group of friends. It is a special and fun time, indeed. I have never heard of such a group of friends developing from any restaurant or "bagel place," which is how we refer to NYBD.

**Arlene Bell**
Santa Monica

### Breaking the border

**Editor:**

Carole Orlin wrote about illegal immigration issues ("Taking on the accelerating illegal immigration issues," page 5, Jan. 22) and that will, no doubt, irritate the bleeding-heart liberals who believe the country should be open to anyone who "simply comes here looking for a better life."

There are millions of people all over the world who have learned English, waited 10 years for a visa and are still not allowed to come here and become "Americans." They are not just illegal alien residents that want to send money back home to their real country of allegiance. The people who illegally cross the border steal jobs from people who have waited 10 years and more for a precious visa, who could come here to become real Americans, not just blood suckers that pay nothing for health care or schooling for their hoard of children.

Illegal aliens are just that, "not undocumented immigrants." How do you fix the problem? One busload at a time, from each city, to the border, for as long as it takes. While that is happening, open the border to all the legal visa applicants who have waited and done the right thing. They deserve the opportunity to become Americans, not the people who ignore our laws and stick their middle finger in our face.

**Bunnie Meyer**
Santa Monica

GUEST COMMENTARY BY ANTHONY GREGORY

# There ought to be force behind laws

The cliché that "there ought to be a law" seems as old as time itself, but the full implications of the statement are rarely understood.

Demands for a new law, passed and enforced by the government, to fix some perceived wrong are no longer a joke, but instead taken for granted in modern political life. Whenever someone has a complaint about environmental pollution, television entertainment, corrupt politicians, the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer, violence in the schools, drugs on the streets, or simply kids these days, it is more common than not to hear a call for the government to move in, pass new laws, and do something — anything — to address the problem.

Unfortunately, few people seem to realize what a new law, enforced by the state, boils down to: force. The state is simply, as Gandhi put it, "organized and concentrated violence"; it is not eloquence nor reason, but force.

**BUT THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT A BELIEF IN BIG, EXPANSIVE GOVERNMENT IS, ONCE STRIPPED OF ITS SUBTERFUGE AND MYTHOLOGY. TAXATION IS FORCED WEALTH EXTRACTION.**

Every new law is carried out by government police or agents, who put alleged violators in jail or fine them. Those who resist arrest and prosecution are tamed by force. Those who resist enough are shot. Ultimately, all government power flows from the barrel of a gun, as Mao happily observed.

So when a person calls for a new law to deal with polluters, prostitutes, pimps, or predatory capitalists, what he is calling for is more force — more state violence — as a remedy to a perceived social problem. To want more laws is to want more institutionalized coercion. Saying "there ought to be a law" is saying that someone whose actions you disagree with should have a gun pointed at him and be threatened with bodily harm if he doesn't do what you'd prefer.

This is not an exaggeration, but the simple truth. A law against smoking in bars means that bar owners who would like to allow smoking on their private property are prevented from allowing it, under threat of force. A law against gambling means that those who wish to risk their money in a game of chance are prevented from doing so, lest they be physically compelled into obedience. A mandatory recycling law means that those who don't recycle according to the law are held at gunpoint if they refuse to comply.

In practice, state violence is a sloppy way of achieving social goals. The power over such violence is corrupting to those who wield it, destructive to the social fabric, and divisive of society. Asking for more laws is a concession to the primal law of the jungle, where might makes right and brutality — rather than cooperation, persuasion, and voluntary human initiative — reigns supreme.

The irony is that few people would actually admit they want more force in society, that they think the real problem in the world is not enough violence among people, or that they have faith in the benevolent power of coercion to organize society in the way in should be.

But that is exactly what a belief in big, expansive government is, once stripped of its subterfuge and mythology. Taxation is forced wealth extraction. Conscription is forced labor. Regulation is forcing people to act in a politically correct way. War is violence on a ghastly scale.

Yes, certain violent criminals must be dealt with or protected against with force and threats of violence, but it is fascinating just how much more governmental force people seem to want. Government is gigantic, and all of it is tainted by force against taxpayers, lawbreakers and foreigners at wartime. Most victims of government force are peaceful, innocent people.

Government is force, and it is dangerous. Next time you notice a problem in society, reflect first on possible ways it could be remedied by voluntary means, by community effort, by charity, or by the marketplace. To think "there ought to be a law" makes sense for the sake of new jobs for politicians and bureaucrats, but systematic violence should be the last resort in a civilized culture.

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

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## Earth Talk

By the editors of E Magazine

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

# There just might not be enough fish in the sea

**Dear EarthTalk**

What are the pros and cons of marine aquaculture, of raising ocean fish instead of catching them in the wild?

**Jeanne L.**
Norwalk, CT

Getty Images

FISHY SITUATION: **Studies show that aquaculture requires two pounds of wild-caught fish to use as feed to make one pound of farmed fish.**

Marine aquaculture, an age-old practice in parts of Asia, has grown in popularity in western countries in recent years in response to dwindling supplies of wild fish in the world's oceans. According to the Pew Oceans Commission, a blue-ribbon panel of fisheries and marine biology experts, high-tech fishing practices, such as drift netting, have led to a potentially irreversible decline in populations of key seafood species. Some shark, tuna and cod species have declined as much as 90 percent in the past few decades.

Most marine biologists agree that, as human population continues to grow worldwide, there will not be enough wild-captured fish to meet demands for seafood. Aquaculture, "the propagation and rearing of aquatic organisms in controlled or selected environments," as defined by the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), is seen by many as the best way to fill the gap. Currently, aquaculture supplies about 30 percent of the world's seafood, up from just four percent 30 years ago.

James McVey, of NOAA's Sea Grant program, says aquaculture can reduce the need for seafood imports and provide jobs for coastal communities.

"The U.S. currently brings in $10 billion in seafood from other countries," he says. "With increased production capacity, our higher yields from aquaculture will bring down this trade deficit, and improve food security — where we're not as reliant on other nations for food."

But aquaculture's downsides give many scientists pause. Studies indicate that, despite the promise of reducing pressures on wild fish, aquaculture requires two pounds of wild-caught fish to use as feed to make one pound of farmed fish. Further, says SeaWeb, breeding farms — where thousands of fish, and their waste, are concentrated — breed diseases that can then escape and contaminate wild fish populations.

To control such outbreaks, many fish farmers treat their stocks with antibiotics that can also make their way into the oceans and wreak havoc. The farmed fish themselves also escape from their pens and interbreed with and take over habitat traditionally occupied by wild populations. Another major problem with aquaculture, according to SeaWeb, is its destruction of natural habitats. The group blames shrimp farming, for example, for destroying coastal mangrove forests in the Philippines, Thailand and elsewhere.

But many scientists do feel that aquaculture has the potential for helping the world's marine ecosystems rebound — if it is done conscientiously. Among other things, SeaWeb recommends that fish farmers avoid using drugs to fight disease and that governments do more to regulate and police aquaculture operations to make sure otherwise pristine waters are not fouled and sensitive coastal ecosystems are not damaged.

According to the Monterey Bay Aquarium's "Seafood Watch" program, the greatest power to end irresponsible aquaculture rests with consumers. The organization's Web site offers tips on which kinds of farmed seafood to buy and which to avoid. While no one person's choices will improve the environment dramatically, collectively consumers can play a role in how producers treat the ecosystems they utilize.

### ✉WHAT DO YOU THINK?

■ Send letters to **editor@smdp.com**

Want to get down to earth? Submit questions to earthtalk@emagazine.com.

## The Q Line

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**If you don't have something nice to say ...**

In a poll by the Web site AmIAnnoying.com, former "The View" host Star Jones was selected by voters as the most annoying celebrity of the year, alluding to her bitter departure from the show and alleged kickbacks for on-air product plugs. Rounding out the top-10 were: Donald Trump, Paris Hilton, Michael Jackson, Justin Timberlake, Stacy Kiebler, Dr. Phil, Oprah Winfrey, Lindsay Lohan and Tom Cruise.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

**What individual or group gets under your skin — either world-famous or locally infamous — and why?**

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

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# Lives changed for both young men

FROM **TRIALS END** PAGE 1

member. He has no tattoos ... There is a lot of corruption going on here."

Ramos and Vargas' wife joined other family members in the crowded courtroom on Tuesday morning and watched as Carter's mother, Shirley Joseph, calmly read from a prepared statement about the pain she feels every day knowing that she will never be able to see her son again. Joseph called Vargas "a coward" who didn't deserve the death penalty because "that's too easy."

"As a Christian, I ask the court to spare you the death penalty," Joseph told Vargas. "I don't want your mother to have to go through what I did ... I have a heart."

Vargas, a suspected gang member who went by the name of "Lil Rooster," was convicted in December of last year of first-degree murder with a gang enhancement.

The shooting occurred in September 2003. Carter, who was known by friends and family as "Little Bear" and "Pooh Bear," was shot in the back with a .22-caliber bullet that pierced his heart. He died a few hours later at a local hospital.

Though there were five gang-related shootings in that area earlier that summer, family members and police officers said at the time of his funeral that Carter was not a member of any gang. Family members described him as a hard-working young man who was studying for a career in computers while working two jobs.

Carter is buried at the Woodlawn Cemetery, which is located in the Pico Neighborhood.

"If you could have taken the time to know (Carter), he would have been a friend to you," Joseph told Vargas. "He was helpful, always nice to people no matter their skin color … I'll never get to see what he could have made out of his life."

Vargas was arrested in April 2005, after the Los Angeles Deputy District Attorney's Office issued an arrest warrant and charged him with first-degree murder, one count of personal use of a firearm causing bodily injury, two counts of the intentional discharge of a firearm and one count of gang enhancement that contributed to the furtherance of gang activity.

He was picked up by SMPD officers at a juvenile detention facility in Sylmar.

No DNA evidence or fingerprints were found on the murder weapon. Ramos said witnesses who testified against her son lied under oath to protect "one of their own," and that Latino youth in the Pico Neighborhood are being targeted by law enforcement.

> **"I WANT TO TELL HIM HE HAS A NEW LIFE HEAD OF HIM. THIS HAS BEEN TOUGH ON ALL OF US BUT IT'S OVER NOW. I'VE GOT MY SON BACK AND THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS."**
>
> **Josephine Lopez**
> Mother of Espindola

"Many of our youths from the Pico Neighborhood are in prison or dead," Ramos said. "The ones in prison are charged with gang enhancements as to put them away (for) 15 (years) to life. What will become of this lost generation?"

### A SECOND CHANCE FOR ESPINDOLA

Espindola's father said on Tuesday, following the verdict, that he hopes his son can now turn his life around and not become another statistic.

"I hope this is a kick in the ass," said German Espindola. "I know my son was involved in gangs and that's my fault. I wasn't there much when he was a kid. But now I hope this experience gets through to him."

Espindola, who used to hang out with Vargas when the two were growing up, was charged with two counts of attempted murder, two counts of assault with a firearm, one count of shooting at an occupied vehicle and one count of unlawful firearm activity.

In addition, prosecutors claimed Espindola committed the crimes to further the activities of a criminal street gang, showing jurors pictures of tattoos Espindola has on his neck, arms and hand that say "Seventeen" and "Santa Monica," referring to a local gang known as SM17.

Espindola was being held on $2.4 million bail and faced life in prison if convicted.

He was arrested Feb. 2 around 5 a.m. outside of his apartment.

Officer Walter Ramirez, who had been on the police force for just over three years at the time of the shooting, was driving an unmarked police vehicle with his partner when they slowly rolled up on a dark blue van parked in front of Espindola's 17th Street apartment, police said.

As they approached the van to get a closer look at the occupants, a Latino man came out from the front of the van and fired as many as six shots, one striking Ramirez in the right wrist, causing a "through and through" wound, police said. The bullet just missed Ramirez' partner, who reportedly ducked when he heard the bullets fly.

The officers did not return fire. Instead, they drove quickly from the scene, radioed for help and parked at a nearby restaurant parking lot until an ambulance arrived.

A gun found in Espindola's apartment was linked to the shooting through ballistics, however, like in the Vargas case, no DNA evidence or fingerprints were found.

The prosecution relied on the testimony of two SMPD officers, one of whom was the passenger in the unmarked car, who said he saw the shooter for only a second or two before he ducked. Another officer said he saw Espindola driving in the blue van with his stepfather shortly before the shooting.

The defense claimed Espindola was at home downloading music and watching racy videos on his computer. Defense Attorney David Diamond called Espindola's mother to the stand to verify the story, as well as a computer expert who said Espindola was using his computer at the time of the shooting.

Espindola's stepfather said on the witness stand the blame falls on Espindola's cousin, Isaac Lopez, who was not called to testify. Some DNA evidence was found on the weapon matching Lopez.

In the end, Tuesday's verdict came down to the inconsistencies in the testimony of the two officers and the short amount of time they had to identify the shooter, jurors told attorneys for both sides.

"I have no doubt in my mind that the jurors made the right decision today," Diamond said. "From day one we showed that the police officers did not follow proper procedure when identifying the shooter … It was tainted from the beginning."

Diamond said the real killer must be brought to justice, and pledged to hand over all of the evidence pointing to Lopez, who family members said may now be living in Washington state.

Deputy District Attorney Frank Tavelman said it would be unethical for him to file charges against Lopez since he believed "beyond a reasonable doubt" that Espindola was the shooter.

"Mr. Espindola claims that he is trying to get out of the gang life," Tavelman said. "He could be lying, but hopefully this is a wake-up call to take his life back from gangs."

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

kevinh@smdp.com

# Officials considering switch to biodegradable lunch trays

FROM **FOAM BAN** PAGE 3

from Enviro-Foam — a material less harmful than expanded polystyrene, but takes longer to decompose than paper pulp — it would cost about $44,000.

The district currently purchases its supply of foam containers in a collaborative with other local school districts, slashing the price since the products are purchased in bulk. Such a discount would not be available if SMMUSD decided to change to biodegradable or compostable containers because officials in other districts have not expressed an interest, according to Deputy Superintendent Tim Walker.

"The majority of other districts are not moving in this direction," Walker said on Monday.

### A PRIVATE ASSAULT ON STYROFOAM

The new citywide ban on non-recyclable containers does affect all private schools in the city, including Crossroads School.

There, over the past few years, students have taken a proactive role in encouraging the practice of recycling in the school.

"We have a group of students that sell Nalgene bottles and we have set up a vending machine that will fill them," said Martha Goldstein, spokeswoman for Crossroads School. "Long ago, we discontinued using polystyrene products and we will review our services to ensure we are in compliance with the new ordinance."

During a school board meeting last Thursday, Rachel Horn, a junior at Santa Monica High School, urged board members to change their ways in using expanded polystyrene for breakfast and lunch served in the district. During her speech, she held up both an expanded polystyrene tray used in a district and another tray made from sugar cane fiber.

Non-profit organization World Centric, based in Palo Alto, was the supplier of the latter container. The sugar cane fiber trays, called Bagasse, break down in about 30-90 days, depending on the compost conditions.

The organization currently supplies the Bagasse products, which are available in the form of plates, cups, trays and take-out containers, to several Northern California school districts, including Marin Academy in San Rafael and Burton Valley Elementary School in Lafayette, located about 14 miles northeast of Oakland.

"Some of the schools are starting gardens and their own composting system, which is the best way to go since it allows them to eliminate disposal fees," said Amber Gartin, a customer service representative with World Centric.

In the two and a half years it's been in existence, World Centric has aimed to reach out to schools to educate about the use of expanded polystyrene and other products that are detrimental to the environment.

> **"IF THE ALTERNATIVE IS SLIGHTLY MORE EXPENSIVE THAN WHAT THEY'RE USING NOW, WHICH IS THE CHEAPEST STUFF, IT WILL HAVE A BUDGETARY IMPACT."**
>
> **Dean Kubani**
> Environmental Programs Manager .

Schools are one of the largest sources of waste for expanded polystyrene and are, therefore, one of the major contributors to its production, said Aseem Das, the executive director at World Centric.

"If the schools were to switch to biodegradable [products], it would be a great educational tool in educating students about waste issues," Das said on Monday. "I think in both these regards, it's great if schools switched over."

melodyh@smdp.com

# City founders influenced names

FROM **STREET NAMES** PAGE 3

Boulevard during the 1920s, when the Santa Monica portion of the street merged with the Wilshire Boulevard in Los Angeles, Genser said.

The street once terminated at the Old Soldier's Home, which is now part of the Veteran's Administration campus in West LA. Once the VA land was split to connect Nevada Street and Wilshire Boulevard, Santa Monica city officials decided to make it one continuous thoroughfare, Genser said.

What is now Lincoln Boulevard faced a similar fate. Eighth Street originally ran from San Vicente Boulevard in the north to Pico Boulevard in the south, until sometime between 1922 and 1925, when it joined with Lincoln Boulevard in Ocean Park.

The city's founders also found ways to honor their loved ones by dedicating portions of the city in their name. Georgina Avenue, located north of Montana Avenue, was named after Jones' wife, Georgina Jones. Marguerita Avenue, also located north of Montana, was named after Arcadia Bandini's sister, Marguerita Bandini.

The Jones and Baker family business was also immortalized via street naming. Alta Avenue was named after Alta Santa Monica Company.

The newest street expected in Santa Monica will honor a famous Hollywood star — Marion Davies. An access road leading into the former Davies estate at 415 Pacific Coast Highway will be named Marion Davies Way when the public beach house is completed at the site.

The public has had a hand in renaming Santa Monica streets in the past. A few years ago, a street/ramp leading from Ocean Avenue down to PCH was renamed from Route 187 to Moomat Ahiko Way, which means "Breath of the Ocean" in the Tongva Indian native tongue. The street was named to honor the native people of Santa Monica.

In renaming the street, City Council solicited suggestions from the public. At the time, the city received more than 100 different names, said Tony Antich, the city engineer.

"Some were really funny," Antich said. "Some people e-mailed in their own name because they wanted to [create] a legacy."

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Average Price of Properties Listed for Sale

| | | Single Family Homes | Condo & Townhomes |
|---|---|---|---|
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| North of Montana | = | $ 3,430,409 | $ 1,844,875 |
| Between Wilshire & Montana | = | $ 4,853,501 | $ 827,183 |
| South of Wilshire | = | $ 1,164,500 | $ 623,561 |
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# Businesses seek clarity on global warming law

BY SAMANTHA YOUNG
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO Uncertainty over how California will implement new regulations seeking to cut greenhouse gas emissions could delay business investments and force companies to cut jobs, industry leaders told state regulators Monday.

The uncertainty stems from the broad mandate in the state's new global warming law. The law, which passed with great fanfare last year and took effect Jan. 1, imposes an economy-wide cap on greenhouse gas emissions but leaves open how much individual companies, industries and sectors must reduce their emissions.

Developing regulations to implement the law by the state Air Resources Board could take three years or longer. That's too long for companies writing business plans, said Dorothy Rothrock, vice president of the California Manufacturers and Technology Association.

"If you're a company and you're making an investment decision of any kind — expanding, modernizing, switching over to new processes — it would be nice for them to be able to factor in how they will be treated," said Rothrock, who leads a coalition that will lobby for businesses as the state begins to implement the law.

Rothrock and other business leaders urged the agency to set guidelines this year for utilities, refineries, cement manufacturers and others that will be affected by the law.

Monday's meeting was the air board's first public workshop focused on how the state's greenhouse gas law might be implemented. The law imposes the country's first statewide cap on emissions, aiming to reduce heat-trapping gases by an estimated 25 percent by 2020 — an estimated 174 million metric tons.

The law is one of the key ways California seeks to combat the effects of climate change. Scientists and experts in various state agencies say climate change threatens California's water supply, agriculture, forests and coast line.

Among the first challenges in imposing the emissions cap is a directive by the Legislature to create initial steps industries can take to reduce emissions before the caps take full effect in 2012.

As part of that initial surge, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger this month proposed that the air board adopt regulations promoting the use of low-carbon fuels. The governor last week signed an executive order mandating that California refineries reduce the carbon content of passenger vehicle fuels 10 percent by 2020.

The air board, which has jurisdiction over vehicle emissions, is considering implementing the proposal. Where the other early emission reductions could happen and how companies might get credit are key parts of the debate.

At the Sacramento Municipal Utility District, for example, officials are considering using manure to generate electricity. But executives are questioning whether they should hold off on the project until they are required to reduce emissions.

"We'd like to get credit for it. Do we do it now or do we wait?" said Bud Beebe, the utility's regulatory affairs coordinator. "What the heck do we do?"

The question is a major concern for business leaders who say they want to begin scaling back emissions but don't want to be penalized later by not getting credit for their initial actions.

The law provides little clarity on that point. But Catherine Witherspoon, executive director of the Air Resources Board, assured business leaders their efforts would be taken into account.

"It's worthwhile to reduce greenhouse gas emissions now because at the very least it minimizes the reductions that are coming," she said.

**ON THE NET**
- **California Air Resources Board: www.arb.ca.gov/homepage**

# Officials perform series of immigration sweeps

BY GILLIAN FLACCUS
Associated Press Writer

SANTA ANA A sleepy-eyed man with a hooded sweat shirt and a plastic lunch pail scurries back inside at the sight of a dozen immigration agents clustered outside his apartment complex. He need not worry: they're after his neighbor.

Three officers creep toward the building and one raps loudly on the door of Apt. A. After a tense minute in the predawn darkness, the door cracks open and they have their first arrest — a 29-year-old immigration fugitive with a DUI conviction.

It was a scene repeated across Southern California over the past week in a sting that officials say was among the largest in U.S. history targeting illegal immigrants who have criminal records or have ignored deportation orders.

By Tuesday, when federal immigration officials announced the results of the sweep, 338 illegal immigrants had been arrested at their homes in Ventura, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside and Los Angeles counties. Another 423 were taken into federal custody at county jails, said Virginia Kice, spokeswoman for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The Associated Press rode along on the first day of the secret sweeps, which began Jan. 17. Those arrested were from 14 countries, including Mexico, Honduras, Ukraine, India, Japan, Poland, and Trinidad. Of the 761 people arrested, more than 450 have already been deported, Kice said Tuesday.

The raids were a major push within "Operation Return to Sender," a crackdown that has resulted in 13,000 arrests nationwide since June. Immigration officials have also identified 3,000 inmates in state and local jails who will be deported.

The operation targets those illegal immigrants who hide after skipping their voluntary deportation proceedings and criminals who have re-entered the United States after being previously deported for crimes in the U.S.

It's an uphill battle. Despite ongoing efforts, officials estimate that about 600,000 illegal immigrants who have ignored deportation orders are still at large, Kice said.

"Foreign nationals who flout our laws and commit crimes against our citizens should be on notice that there are consequences," said Julie L. Myers, an ICE assistant secretary. "ICE will use all of the tools at its disposal to find you and send you home."

For agents in Orange County, that meant gathering at 4 a.m. in a chilly parking lot for a pep talk before fanning out to "target" houses in Santa Ana and Anaheim on the first day of the sweep.

The agents hit paydirt early at Apt. A and sped off to their next stop — the suspected address of a convicted rapist.

Three officers pounded on the door of a two-story, stucco house in a working-class neighborhood. Another shone his flashlight at a woman wrapped in a blue bathrobe poking her head through an open downstairs window.

"Open the door, please. We're with the immigration police and we have to talk," he said in Spanish.

Soon the woman sat at the kitchen table as officers with flashlights roamed the house and herded seven men into the living room. Because none had an identification, the officers couldn't tell which one was their target.

Jim Hayes, director of ICE's Los Angeles field office, decided to book all the men.

"We're going to make sure they're not wanted for any more serious crimes," he said.

Six of the men were frisked, then escorted in handcuffed pairs to a van. The seventh man was a legal immigrant who owns the house; he told officers he didn't know any of the men — he just rented to them.

By now, it's 6 a.m., and the chances of surprising suspects are waning with the light. Hayes decides to take the van, loaded with the men from the two stops, back to the ICE processing center in downtown Santa Ana.

There, dozens of immigration officers buzz around a sterile, brightly lit room. They shout names and criminal stats to each other as they sift through piles of paperwork and enter digital fingerprint scans into a computer system.

The two dozen men — and one woman — brought in from other raids now sit on wooden benches, clutching paper bags filled with their personal belongings. ICE officers wind through the room interviewing them in Spanish and helping them fill out forms.

One by one, the immigrants are taken for mug shots and fingerprints. Some will be charged with illegal re-entry to the United States after felony deportation — a federal crime than can carry up to 20 years in prison. Others, first-time illegal immigrants with no other criminal record, will be processed and deported within days.

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# Concrete 'river'

## Unlikly area eyed as L.A. wildlife refuge

**BY NOAKI SCHWARTZ**
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES The concrete flood control channel that passes as the Los Angeles River has been the site of gang shootings and movie car chases. It's even been eyed as an alternative to clogged freeways.

Next up could be its most improbable role yet — federal wildlife sanctuary.

Conservationists want to apply for millions of federal dollars to snatch up land along the 51-mile urban waterway, then destroy some of what man has built to get back to nature.

The concept is intriguing to some and absurd to others.

"It's sort of a zany idea for anyone who doesn't know anything about the river except that it's a box channel off the freeway," said Dan Cooper, who wrote Audubon's "Important Bird Areas of California."

"But those of us who spend a lot of time birding there or biking there, we just know there's a lot to be saved."

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, which is pursuing the idea, intends to hold a series of workshops and hopes to convince a member of Congress to submit a refuge proposal in Washington by the end of the year. It said it has no estimate yet of how much money will be needed.

The first step, however, will be convincing officials and residents the river has the potential to become Los Angeles' version of Central Park.

Joe Edmiston, executive director of the state-funded conservancy, recognizes the hurdles.

"Ask people where in Los Angeles can you see great blue herons and five or six species of ducks?" Edmiston said. "They'd say, 'You mean the concrete flood control channel? You're crazy."'

The conservancy's proposal calls for returning more of the river to a natural bottom while creating wildlife habitat.

Among other things, Edmiston hopes the project will create additional parkland in Los Angeles, where an estimated 75 percent of children do not have access to a park within walking distance of their home.

The river winds its way from the San Fernando Valley through downtown Los Angeles and south to Long Beach, where it empties into the ocean. It was mostly undisturbed until the 1930s, when much of it was paved and turned into a channel to control flooding during the region's winter rainy season.

Only three stretches, totaling about 11 miles, now have soft-bottoms with banks shaded by thriving cottonwoods and willows. Picking through the grassy shallows are herons, egrets and dozens of other birds.

During the dry months, streams of treated sewage cascade past overturned shopping carts and other debris that litters much of the river. In winter, the rising water level can be gauged by plastic grocery bags dangling from trees and bushes.

Despite the refuse, more than 200 species of birds have been spotted along the river, with the area near its mouth in Long Beach a hotspot for migratory shorebirds.

"It's probably one of the best places to observe shorebirds in the whole region," said Kimball Garrett, who oversees the ornithology department at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County.

# Supreme Court thrusts California prison crowding to forefront

**BY DAVID KRAVETS**
AP Legal Affairs Writer

SAN FRANCISCO The U.S. Supreme Court's decision Monday striking down California's criminal sentencing rules may be a blessing in disguise as the state grapples with severely overcrowded prison conditions.

The high court's ruling means about 10,000 of 173,000 inmates are eligible for reduced terms.

The decision comes as federal courts in Sacramento, Oakland and San Francisco are considering ordering a reduction to the number of prisoners who are being warehoused in what inmate advocates say are deplorable and unconstitutional conditions.

The state prison system is 70 percent over capacity, and Monday's decision forces the hand of California government to re-examine its sentencing rules that are the strictest in the nation. Some inmates, under the three strikes law, are serving life terms for petty crimes, such as shoplifting.

"It does raise the salience and importance of the way sentences are handed out and what those sentences are," Attorney General Jerry Brown said of the justices' ruling. "It certainly is calling attention to the issue of sentencing, and that might well move higher up on the legislative scale the priority of sentencing reform."

Senate Majority Leader Gloria Romero, D-Los Angeles, said "this is a perfect opportunity to launch that discussion. For all intents and purposes, the Supreme Court is telling us we have to do it anyway."

Romero said the court's decision puts more urgency for lawmakers to adopt a bill she proposed last week creating a sentencing commission to review sentences and make changes.

The justices ruled 6-3 that judges usually cannot increase sentences based on factors not found true by a jury.

The case concerned Richmond police officer John Cunningham who was sentenced to the maximum 16 years imprisonment for sexually abusing his son. State law instructs judges to sentence inmates to the middle of three options — in this case, 12 years — unless factors that did not go before the jury exist to justify a shorter or longer prison term.

The justices said such a sentencing scheme violates defendants' rights to be tried before a jury.

Cunningham got the maximum because the sentencing judge said there were several aggravating circumstances to the crime, including the defendant threatening the victim to recant.

"This moves sentencing reform to the front burner in California," said Gerald Uelmen, executive director of the California Commission on the Fair Administration of Justice.

Assemblyman Todd Spitzer, R-Orange, said both legislative chambers should convene a conference committee "to deal with prison overcrowding."

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A Doctor's Confession....

LOS ANGELES — Perhaps a confession can help clear the air, so there's no misunderstanding. But, let me say a few other things first.

When I was 12, something happened that changed my life forever. I was a regular kid, but I developed a pinch in my neck and shoulder that made it painful to take a deep breath. I couldn't run, bike, or do anything that involved physical activity because it hurt too much to take a deep breath. Worst of all, I couldn't play baseball, which I loved as a kid. After four months of therapy that didn't help, we were told I needed surgery to correct the problem (that was the only option, according to the surgeon). A friend of my parents convinced them to take me to a chiropractor. He did an exam, took some films, and adjusted my spine. The adjustments didn't hurt; They actually felt good. I got better very quickly, and I could play baseball again. Chiropractic worked so well for me, that I went to chiropractic school myself.

Now, people come to me with their neck problems. They also come to me with their headaches, backaches, migraines, chronic pain, carpal tunnel, shoulder/arm pain, whiplash from car accidents, numbness in limbs, and athletic injuries, just to name a few.

Several times a day, patients thank me for helping them, but I can't really take credit. My confession is that I've never healed anyone of anything. What is do is perform an adjustment to remove nerve pressure, and the body responds by healing itself. We get tremendous results. It's as simple as that!

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## STATE BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

### LAX to go green

Los Angeles International Airport would curb pollution, reduce water and energy use and use "green" designs for future buildings under a sweeping new environmental policy.

The city agency that operates the airport called Monday for a detailed environmental policy to be delivered within two months, and also adopted a policy of designing buildings with conservation in mind.

Last year, City Councilman Bill Rosendahl called for an environmental effort "to make LAX the greenest airport in the world."

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif.

### Man admits attacking

A reputed white supremacist who spat on a wheelchair-confined black man, used racial slurs and pushed him into a light post pleaded guilty to committing a hate crime.

Ronald Lee Bray, 25, of Huntington Beach raised his arm in a Nazi salute after the July 7 attack here, Orange County prosecutors said.

Bray pleaded guilty Monday to two felony charges of committing a hate crime and making criminal threats. The second count carried a hate-crime enhancement.

Bray faces a maximum sentence of two years and eight months in prison.

AP

LOS ANGELES

### LAPD groundbreaking

There were heckles and boos from a handful of homeless advocates during a groundbreaking ceremony for a $400 million police headquarters. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and Police Chief William Bratton attended the event.

"When you realize how difficult, how challenging and the danger our police officers face every day, you understand why this facility is so important," Villaraigosa said during Monday's event. "The least we can do is provide our officers with the best in resources and technology that we can offer."

Protesters said they were angry at a recent police crackdown in nearby Skid Row and a lack of shelters for the homeless.

"We want to bring attention to what they're doing and how spending more money on police is a waste," said E.J. Gibbs III of the Los Angeles Community Action Network.

The new headquarters will replace Parker Center, which was built in the 1960s and is considered overcrowded and obsolete.

"We've been trying to keep up with repairs, but it's in danger of falling in on itself," Bratton said.

The new 11-story headquarters will located across the street from City Hall and is scheduled for completion in 2009.

AP

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# Duncan admits to killing three children said prosecutors

BY JOHN MILLER
Associated Press Writer

BOISE, Idaho Federal prosecutors said Tuesday that convicted killer and child molester Joseph Edward Duncan III has confessed to killing two children in Washington state in 1996 and a California youngster in 1997.

Prosecutors filed a formal notice of intent to seek the death penalty against Duncan in a separate case in which he's accused of kidnapping two northern Idaho children and killing one of them.

They say Duncan should be put to death because he killed Dylan Groene, 9, in front of his sister, then-8-year-old Shasta Groene, after kidnapping them from their home near Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; because he's acknowledged killing three children in 1996 and 1997; and because he'd be a serious threat to others, if he's allowed to live.

"The defendant has engaged in a continuing pattern of violence, attempted violence, and threatened violence," Assistant U.S. Attorney Wendy Olson wrote. Duncan "is likely to commit criminal acts of violence in the future that would constitute a continuing and serious threat to the lives and safety of others."

Roger Peven, Duncan's attorney, said he had not yet seen the filing and could not immediately comment on it. Peven had met with Duncan early Tuesday, but declined to comment on the meeting. Duncan is being held in a state prison near Boise.

The U.S. attorney's office said Duncan confessed to killing Carmen Cubias, 9, and Sammiejo White, 11, in Washington state in 1996 and Anthony Martinez, 10, in California in 1997.

The two girls were kidnapped from the Crest Motel in Seattle in July 1996. Their skeletal remains were found 17 months later in Bothell, a Seattle suburb.

Martinez was forced into a white car in Beaumont, Calif., in April 1997 as his friends watched. Sixteen days later a forest ranger found the boy's nude, bound body about 70 miles to the east.

Duncan was charged Thursday in a California state court in Martinez death. Prosecutors there said they also intend to seek the death penalty.

Duncan is a Tacoma, Wash., native who spent most of his adult life in Washington state prisons for sexual crimes against children.

A federal grand jury returned an indictment against Duncan last Thursday, charging him with 10 felonies, including kidnapping, kidnapping resulting in death, sexual abuse and firearms charges.

In those counts, Duncan is accused of kidnapping Dylan and Shasta Groene during a nighttime attack on their family's home in May 2005 for the purpose of sexually abusing them.

The children's mother, Brenda Groene, her fiance, Mark McKenzie, and the younger children's 13-year-old brother, Slade Groene, were bludgeoned to death with a hammer during the attack, crimes for which Duncan is already serving life in prison.

On July 3, 2004, Duncan was arrested for allegedly molesting a 6-year-old boy and attempting to molest another boy at a school playground in Detroit Lakes, Minn. Authorities say that on April 15, 2005, he rented a Jeep in St. Paul, Minn., and jumped bail.

# Bush expected to offer mix of old, new ideas

BY JENNIFER LOVEN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON Delivering his first State of the Union address to a Democratic-controlled Congress, President Bush hoped to balance a rebuke of his Iraq policy already promised by lawmakers with a high-profile invitation to cooperate on vexing domestic problems.

In Tuesday night's speech before a joint session of Congress, Bush planned to dangle ideas on reducing America's oil dependence and making health care more available, among others. Aware that 2008 presidential contenders and new Democratic leaders present fierce competition for headlines, the president has a much-abbreviated topic list in an attempt to capture the public's attention.

In the days ahead of the speech, the White House took great pains to detail its health care portions. The cold reception they received on Capitol Hill offered a striking reminder of the difficulty the president faces in the new political climate.

Bush is proposing to change to how the tax code treats health insurance, by counting employer contributions toward health insurance as taxable income while establishing a standard deduction for anyone with insurance. The White House says it would introduce increased market forces to the health care industry and make coverage more affordable for the uninsured. Aides estimated the plan would represent a tax increase for only about 20 percent of employer-covered workers.

Rep. Pete Stark, D-Calif., chairman of a key health subcommittee in the House, said he would not even consider holding hearings on the proposal. He dismissed it as a dead-on-arrival attempt to encourage employers to stop offering health insurance.

With his job approval rating hovering in the mid-30 percent range, Bush's overall agenda for the speech was two-fold: present himself to the public as a leader with a sincere desire to work across party lines on practical solutions, and place pressure onto Democratic leaders to either go along or offer alternatives.

"The presidential season is already upon us. I am personally very skeptical that they will make major progress," said Peter Robinson, a former White House speechwriter for Ronald Reagan who now is a research fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution. "But they must make the attempt; they must make a good-faith effort."

> "THE PRESIDENTIAL SEASON IS ALREADY UPON US. I AM PERSONALLY VERY SKEPTICAL THAT THEY WILL MAKE MAJOR PROGRESS."
>
> Peter Robinson
> Former White House speech writer for Ronald Reagan

A new AP-AOL News poll found that six in 10 Americans are not convinced the Bush administration and Democrats in Congress can work together to solve the nation's problems. Americans rated health care, the economy and the situation in Iraq as the issues they care about most.

Bush was not expected to rehash the speech he gave less than two weeks ago laying out his revamped plan for Iraq, the centerpiece of which is a 21,500-troop increase in the U.S. military presence. Instead, he was to broadly defend his stand that Iraq is part of a war on terror that will make Americans safer.

# Protesters burn barricades, try to enforce strike to freeze Lebanon

BY SAM F. GHATTAS
Associated Press Writer

BEIRUT, Lebanon Hezbollah-led protesters paralyzed Lebanon Tuesday by burning tires and cars on major thoroughfares in and around the capital to enforce a general strike that aims to topple the government.

Clustering in small groups to man the blazing roadblocks, opposition supporters escalated their nearly two-month protest. Commuters were stranded and silence hung over many commercial districts amid reports of scattered violence.

Police said seven people suffered gunshot wounds in disturbances between supporters of the guerrilla group and pro-government activists in central and northern Lebanon. Michel Aoun, a senior opposition leader, told Al-Arabiya television that the wounded were all members of the opposition.

Police and troops deployed in the thousands across the country worked to open roads, sometimes negotiating with protesters, but refraining from using force. In some instances, the military separated the opposition and government supporters, who scuffled and hurled rocks and insults.

Hezbollah chief Sheik Hassan Nasrallah and other opposition leaders called the strike, which was backed by labor unions. Prime Minister Fuad Saniora and his supporters urged citizens to ignore the call, a move endorsed by banking associations and business leaders.

Soldiers and firefighters moved in to remove the obstacles clogging streets, but black clouds could be seen billowing into the air around the capital and on major highways in testament to their limited success.

Witness accounts and TV footage suggest that the opposition had shut down many neighborhoods and suburbs of the capital, Beirut, as well as areas around the country. Beirut Mayor Abdel-Munim Ariss put on a brave face, telling Al-Arabiya television the city was functioning normally.

Many workers stayed home, either in support of the strike or in fear of violence. Some schools which had earlier said they were open sent cell phone text messages to parents announcing closures because of the unrest.

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## Days on the Market

Jodi Summers — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

# Affordability is at the core of property downturn

Economists generally agree that although the national housing market may not have reached bottom just yet, the residential real estate downturn will be slight, with a recovery beginning in the second half.

"We're going to hit the trough in the first half of 2007," predicts Frank Nothaft, chief economist for Freddie Mac.

On a national basis, home sales contracted by about 9 percent in 2006, to 6.5 million units from about 7.1 million units in 2005, according to National Association of Realtor statistics. Inventories rose about 36 percent to 3.8 million units available for sale nationally in mid-2006 from about 2.8 million units at the end of 2005.

In Los Angeles County, reports DataQuick Information Services, median home prices rose 2.6 percent to $510,000 as sales fell 18.9 percent. San Bernardino county saw a median price rise of 8.6 percent to a record $380,000, while sales declined 26.7 percent. Riverside County, where the median price rose 5.2 percent to a record high of $426,000, with sales down 35.7 percent. In San Diego County, the median price fell 6.9 percent to $482,000, as sales fell 24 percent. Ventura County saw housing prices falling 8.2 percent to $562,000 with sales sliding 30.8 percent. Orange County property saw no appreciation — the median residential property price of $616,000 is the same as 2005. Sales dipped 29.3 percent.

In the California real estate market, existing-home sales fell about 23 percent in 2006 compared to 2005, confirms Leslie Appleton-Young, chief economist for the California Association of Realtors. She predicts another 7 percent decline this year.

"Affordability plummeted from late 2005 through 2006," Nothaft notes. "We saw an affordability crisis in high-cost markets across the country."

Affordability is at the core of the current downturn. Past housing slumps were the result of a slowing local economy. U.S. economic fundamentals remained solid, with 3.3 percent growth in the gross domestic product, job gains average about 150,000 a month, and interest rates have remained low. Wages rose 4 percent in 2006.

Home sales have suffered because rapid price appreciation, and higher interest rates have pushed people out of the market.

"Homes were no longer a bargain," says Celia Chen, director of housing economics at Moody's Economy.com.

A slight decline in prices makes it possible for more potential buyers to transact. NAR Chief Economist David Lereah estimates that for every 1 percent reduction in price gains, some 50,000 more buyers will return to the market.

On a nationwide basis, NAR predicts that existing single-family sales will dip slightly to 6.4 million units in 2007 from an estimated 6.5 million in 2006. Price growth will stay relatively flat, inching down to 1.7 percent in 2007 from an estimated 1.9 percent for all of 2006.

"The good news is, the bad news is mostly behind us," says Lereah.

"If there is a downside risk, the risk is not of a slowing economy — the risk is of inflation," observes Susan Wachter, professor of real estate and finance at University of Pennsylvania and co-director for the Institute for Urban Research at the university's Wharton School. "If interest rates rise significantly as a result, there is a threat of growing mortgage default rates and even recession."

Lereah predicts that sales in many markets around the country will rise in 2007 and get on track for a full turnaround in 2008. He points to steadying mortgage interest rates, the top-out of home inventories, and declining new-home production as indicators that many markets are reaching a sustainable sales pace.

"Although some monthly declines are possible, when we look at the forecast for existing-home sales in 2007 on a quarterly basis, we see gradual improvement over the course of the year," Lereah said. "That will support future price appreciation as inventories are drawn down."

"Population-wise, we crossed 300 million people this year, and we're getting 3 million people a year," points out Kenneth Riggs, CRE, president and CEO of Real Estate Research Corp. "Many of these people are getting jobs, they have the money to buy, and they have to live somewhere, so the trends are favorable for real estate across the board."

"People still have to live somewhere," Wachter concludes. "We're going to be surprised about how prices actually hold up in this market."

Jodi Summers negotiates investment properties for Sotheby's International Realty. For your real estate needs, e-mail Jodi Summers at jodis@verizon.net, or call (310) 260-8269. Visit her Web sites at www.SoCalInvestmentRealEstate.com or www.santamonicalandmarks.com.

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## In your Space

Christina S. Porter

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

# What do TIC sponsors do?

A Tenants In Common (TIC) sponsor is an individual or entity that locates a property to buy "wholesale," packages it and sells it to multiple investors at a "retail" price. The multiple investors hold title as Tenants in Common. The difference between the wholesale and retail price is what the sponsor is paid for their services. Typically this is between 5 percent to 7 percent of the total value of the investment.

Holding title as TIC is a vehicle for co-ownership of property where each owner has an undivided fractional interest. The passing of Revenue Procedure Code 2002-22 (providing guidelines by which a TIC interest in a property will qualify as "like kind" for a 1031 exchange) has sparked a proliferation of TIC sponsors. TICs have become a popular way for investors to purchase investment grade real estate for relatively modest minimum investments, or diversify their real estate holdings.

A TIC sponsor uses their expertise and experience to identify properties that generate competitive cash returns and appreciation. Once a property is identified, a sponsor performs all due diligence, negotiates the acquisition, provides all cash deposits, negotiates a loan (if leverage is part of the plan), pays all costs of holding the property and locates qualified investors to purchase TIC interests.

Successful sponsors have well-qualified acquisition teams that actively seek suitable properties. These teams do in-depth analysis of hundreds of properties to find appropriate acquisition candidates. The due diligence that the sponsor performs before acquisition is critical to success, as it is later shared with potential purchasers.

The due diligence package should provide all available information on the property including quality of the tenant (are they national credit tenants, regional tenants or local businesses), rent rolls showing terms of leases and any increase or bumps, demographics (statistics related to where the property is located), past and projected profit-and-loss statements and appreciation projections.

The investor should pay close attention to debt structure (interest only or fully amortized, when due, etc.) and how debt terms correspond to the terms of leases and rent increases. Property reserves need to be scrutinized as they relate to the terms (are there adequate reserves to re-tenant the building without disrupting cash flows), type of leases (who pays for maintenance and capital expenditures etc.) and for adequacy of funds relative to the age and type/condition of building.

A TIC Agreement, written by the sponsor and signed with each investor, specifies how the asset will be managed and documents how future property decisions will be made, i.e. how and when it will be sold. The TIC sponsor generally arranges for property management and details this arrangement in the TIC Agreement.

If the tax deferral benefits of a 1031 Exchange are a priority, the property must be 1031 compliant. Investors should seek confirmation from the TIC sponsor; the TIC sponsors legal council and their own accountant and/or real estate attorney that the property qualifies for 1031 exchange as spelled out in Revenue Procedural Code 2002-22.

When packaging a TIC property, there are generally two ways a sponsor will structure the sale. The most common way is to put the property in escrow (under contract) and invite TIC investors to purchase an interest in the property. Once the target equity amount is raised, the sale is closed and a separate deed for an undivided fractional interest in the property is provided to each investor. The 1031 Exchanges are extremely time-sensitive; when the purchase is structured in this manner it is imperative that the sponsor have the financial strength to close on the property even if the required amount of equity from investors is not raised in time.

The other method used is for the TIC sponsor to purchase the property with their own funds and sell undivided fractional interests post closing. This method is safer for 1031 investors as there is no danger of the transaction not closing within the Exchanger's required time frame.

The most important component of risk evaluation in any real estate investment is the integrity of the real estate itself. When evaluating a TIC investment the credibility of the sponsor is an additional part of the risk evaluation. The sponsors background and performance history in past projects should be carefully reviewed and discussed with the individual sponsor.

Contact Christina Porter at (877) 4TM-1031 or Christina@tm1031exchange.com. TM 1031 Exchange assists investors and planning and executing real estate investment strategies.

# Yardscape plans take a little vision

BY DAVID BRADLEY
Associated Press Writer

Here's a great way to spend a Saturday morning with a hot cup of coffee: Put pencil to paper to conjure up that fence, pergola, arbor or other decorative structures on your must-do list.

This is the time of year when home-project buffs are antsy to plan the next great addition to their outdoor "yardscape." But before you grab your hammer and nails, make sure what you build is appropriate for your property.

It's important that any yardscape structure is sized right for its surroundings. A beautiful trellis will look awkward if it's too big or small for its setting. The scale and proportions must be correct.

For a pergola, for instance, you wouldn't dream of pairing a set of gargantuan 4-by-4 inch posts with spindly 1-by-2 overhead boards. But some 2-by-6 timbers atop the posts would do wonders and look great, too.

Structures ought to blend into their natural surroundings. Creating a space where architecture and nature merge nicely means that what you build shouldn't stick out like the backyard version of a sore thumb.

It may sound far-fetched but, yes — a chartreuse cinderblock trellis is probably going to clash with a Craftsman-style bungalow. To make sure things look balanced and appropriate, avoid going overboard on design, materials, style and color.

Your safest bet for coordinating any landscape setting is to consider use of all-natural materials. Western red-cedar yard structures have been favored by homeowners for years, for their character, balance and elegance.

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## Real Estate 101

Mike Heayn
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

# Getting in the real estate game

How can I start investing in real estate without any cash? I have been asked this by many people and to be honest the most important thing in real estate investing is knowledge. Second and third places go to financing and cash on hand. Because of this, you can use a strong knowledge base and identify opportunities other investors fail to see. One way to invest in real estate with little or no cash is to become a syndicate.

A syndicate is a person or entity, which structures a real estate deal. A syndicate will orchestrate the purchase, management and eventual sale of a property. However, a syndicate can outsource most or all of these duties to other parties that maybe able to more efficiently complete their piece of the puzzle. The job of a syndicate is to bring investors together with a common goal, usually a specified return on investment. To be successful, most have a proven track record of successful acquisitions, management and sales of real estate assets. A person usually has to be involved with real estate and have a vast knowledge of properties before undertaking any type of syndication. Experience can come in the form of working with other syndicates.

Finding a good deal and knowing the exit strategy is how syndicates are successful. Investors say that if a good deal is found, the money will find its way to the deal. This is not far from the truth. If you were to locate a property below market and get the deal under contract you could, in theory, do many different things to make money. You could sell the contract to another investor. You could syndicate the deal bringing investors together. The investors could put up the down payment for a majority piece of the equity. However, investors want to see growth and returns each year. If you get into a real estate deal, make sure you know everything you can about it, especially if you are using other peoples money. Due diligence can mean the difference between a great deal and a horrible deal. If you prove that you can provide steady returns each year, you will not have a hard time finding or keeping new investors.

One way to structure a deal in a syndication is through a limited liability company or LLC. The following example is only for informational purposes. Consult an attorney before structuring any types of real estate transactions. After you locate the deal you could set up a management company in the form of an LLC, which we will call Management, LLC. Management, LLC would own a zero percent interest in the LLC holding title, which we will call Holding, LLC. Management, LLC would simply oversee the day to day functions of the property. As a syndicate you would divide up the remaining interest in Holding, LLC amongst the other investors while taking a small percentage for yourself. Investors will not care if you take a small percentage of the property's equity because you are providing them with a return on the investment. Once you exit the property the percentage of equity you retained in Holding, LLC, can be used in a 1031 exchange to purchase a like property.

With any type of investing it is important to understand how the structure of the deal is set up and what return you would like to achieve. As a syndicate, you control what goes on with a real estate asset. However, as an investor involved with a syndicate you usually give up control of your money to another person in exchange for a set return annually. Experience and knowledge are two of the most important things to becoming a successful syndicate.

**INVESTORS SAY THAT IF A GOOD DEAL IS FOUND, THE MONEY WILL FIND ITS WAY TO THE DEAL. THIS IS NOT FAR FROM THE TRUTH**

Mike Heayn is a Washington Mutual multi-family loan consultant. He can be reached at (310) 428-1342, or e-mailed at michael.heayn@wamu.net.

# Free workshop reveals 7 ways to slash college costs

**SANTA MONICA** – An extremely popular free workshop is being held for the parents of college bound high school students during the month of February at various Santa Monica locations.

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

The workshop dates are Thursday, February 8th at the Montana Avenue 7:15PM-8:45PM, Saturday, February 10th at the Santa Monica Main Library 10:15 AM. to 12 PM, and Tuesday, February 13th at the Santa Monica Main Library. The workshop will be taught by Shanee Chavis an affiliate of the College Planning Network, Inc. the nation's leading expert on paying for college.

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

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HORSE RACING

# Invasor, Bernardini defeat Barbaro for Eclipse Award

BY BETH HARRIS
AP Sports Writer

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. All the adoration for Barbaro at the Eclipse Awards couldn't prevent two of his rivals from winning thoroughbred racing's biggest honors.

Invasor overwhelmingly defeated the injured Kentucky Derby winner for Horse of the Year, and Barbaro also lost 3-year-old male honors to Bernardini in another landslide Monday night.

Breeders' Cup Classic winner Invasor received 84 percent of the 271 votes cast for Horse of the Year. Barbaro, whose career-ending leg injury in the Preakness captured America's heart, was second with 21. Preakness winner Bernardini was third with 16.

"He was obviously a great horse and it was sad what happened, but it's nice to still win," said Kiaran McLaughlin, who trains Invasor.

Invasor will continue racing this year, with his debut set for Feb. 3 in the Donn Handicap at Gulfstream Park. He's also being pointed toward the $6 million Dubai World Cup on March 31.

Invasor, bred in Argentina, also won for older male.0

"He did a lot for racing and we had a great year," McLaughlin said. "It's great that Sheik Hamdan (al-Maktoum) is keeping him in training and had the nerve to go buy a horse from Uruguay."00

Bernardini got 210 first-place votes (77.5 percent) for 3-year-old male, with Barbaro earning 56 (20.7 percent).

In all, Barbaro and his human connections were nominated in six Eclipse categories, and won two. Barbaro's owners, Roy and Gretchen Jackson, who operate Lael Stables, tied with Sheik Mohammed's Darley farm for owner of the year.

"I'm totally out of words that could possibly express the feelings in my heart," Gretchen Jackson said. "It's been such a treat to be an owner."

Edgar Prado, whose quick thinking in the Preakness was credited with saving Barbaro's life, won jockey of the year.

Prado guided Barbaro to a 6 1/2-length victory in the Kentucky Derby. He won 248 races and more than $19 million, a career best, last year. Prado was in Peru with his family on the first anniversary of his mother's death.

The Jacksons and the University of Pennsylvania/New Bolton Center shared the Special Eclipse Award for individual achievements or contributions to thoroughbred racing.

"This award is not really for us, but it's for Barbaro," Roy Jackson said. "When we look at this journey, we can't see anything really negative. It's really been very, very positive.

"I would like to thank everybody who has offered their good wishes to us and Barbaro," he said.

Breeders' Cup Juvenile winner Street Sense won the 2-year-old male award and will be pointed toward the Kentucky Derby. Dreaming of Anna was honored as the top 2-year-old female.

Fleet Indian won older female honors.

Wait a While won for 3-year-old female; Thor's Echo was the top sprinter; Miesque's Approval was male turf horse; and Britain-bred Ouija Board won female turf horse.

Todd Pletcher and Julien Leparoux were among the human winners during the 36th annual ceremony at the Regent Beverly Wilshire hotel.

East Coast-based Pletcher won his third straight Eclipse as trainer of the year. His stable, which includes Fleet Indian and Wait a While, earned a record $27.4 million last year.

# Barbaro vet honored for his contribution to horse racing

BY BETH HARRIS
AP Sports Writer

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. Barbaro has steadily improved since having surgery on his left hind hoof, although the Kentucky Derby winner has yet to return outside and will be hospital-bound for at least another month.

"He's bright, happy, eating," chief surgeon Dr. Dean Richardson of the University of Pennsylvania's New Bolton Center said Monday.

Barbaro, plagued by the often-fatal hoof disease called laminitis, had surgery Jan. 13 to remove a section of the hoof.

"Since that time, we've been steadily decreasing the amount of medication he's on," Richardson said. "He's not sedated, it's just pain medication for his hind foot."

Richardson was in Beverly Hills to receive the Big Sport of Turfdom award from the Turf Publicists of America for his contributions to thoroughbred racing last year.

"It's very awkward to receive an award for something you think you haven't done," he said before the presentation. "I don't really think we've finished the job. I hope the award is for the effort and the ongoing efforts to do what's best for the horse."

Barbaro's owners, Roy and Gretchen Jackson, along with New Bolton Center were to receive the Special Eclipse Award later Monday for outstanding individual achievements or contributions to thoroughbred racing.

Richardson singled out the Jacksons in accepting his award.

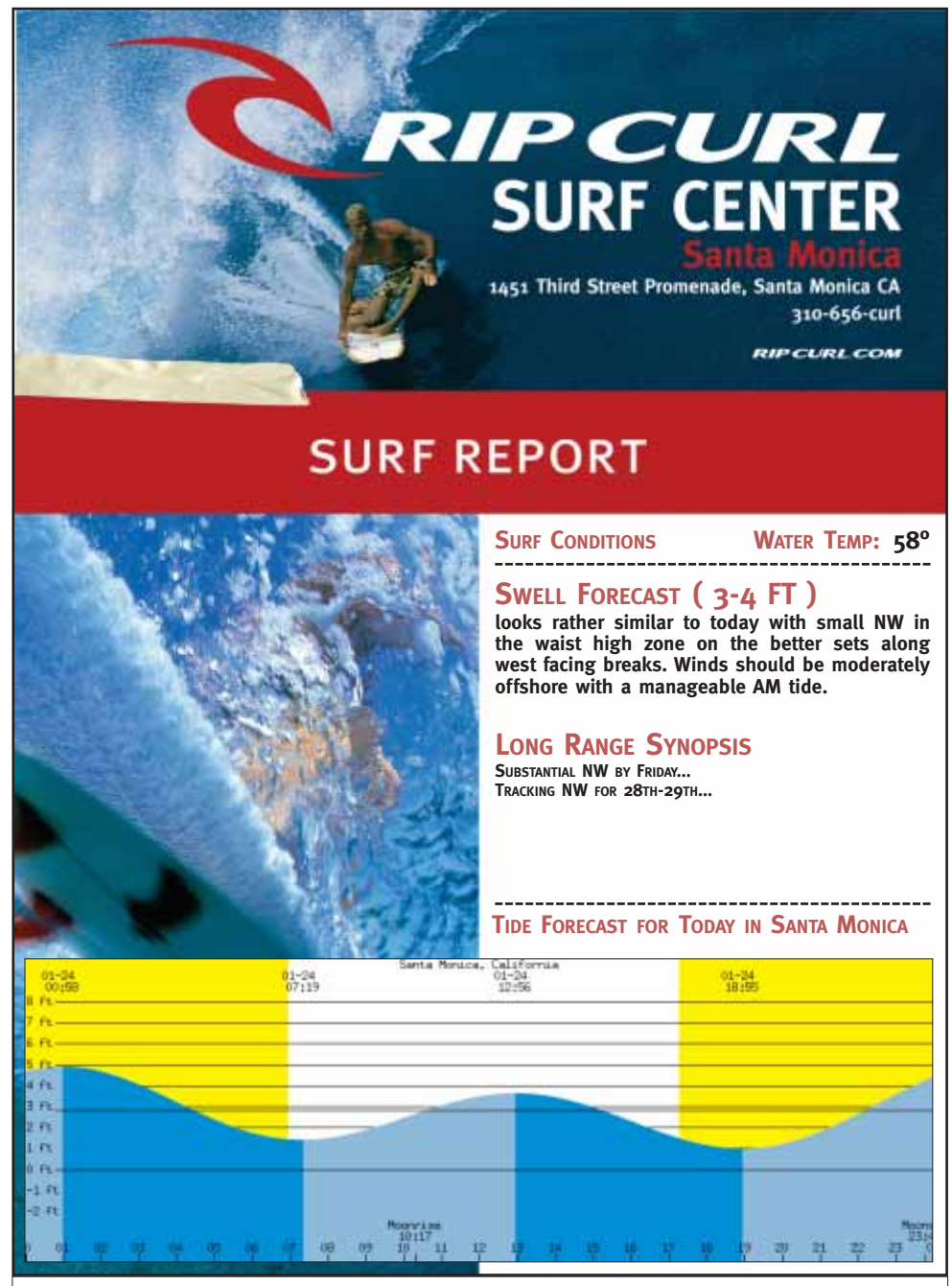
"Gretchen and Roy pretty much define what makes the thoroughbred racing business, with their class, their compassion and their love of the animal," he said.

Barbaro had the recent operation after nearly seven months of promising recovery from laminitis.

"It's still disappointing that we had a setback, but it's not unexpected. We knew all along that that part of the hoof was very, very questionable," Richardson said, adding that Barbaro could remain hospitalized "for at least a month. It could easily be longer."

Barbaro has been at New Bolton in Kennett Square, Pa., since shattering three bones in his right rear leg at the start of the Preakness Stakes last May. Richardson said his timetable for Barbaro to get back outside is "all based on comfort."

"As soon as he gets comfortable enough and the weather is acceptable, we'll let him go back out because it perks him up so much, to just see some sun," he said. "You can tell he enjoys it."




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 16, 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 -- 8
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 32 / 36
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 11 / 9

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+ | D |
| Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth | A+ | A+ |
| Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private) | A+ | A+ |
| Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth | B | A+ |
| 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 | C | 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 | A+ |
| Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon | B | A+ |
| Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero) | A+ | A+ |
| Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs | B | A+ |
| Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach | A+ | A+ |
| Tuna Canyon | A+ | A+ |
| Topanga State Beach at creek mouth | A | A+ |
| Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach | F | A+ |
| 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 | F | A+ |
| Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain | A+ | A+ |
| Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain | D | A+ |
| Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua) | F | F |
| Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain | F | A+ |
| Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain | D | F |
| Santa Monica Municipal Pier | F | A |
| Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain | A | 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+ | D |
| 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 | B | A+ |
| Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth | A | C |
| Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain | A+ | A+ |
| 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+ | F |
| Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant | A+ | B |
| Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain | A+ | D |

**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'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.

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# Happy at home, Capricorn

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)

★★★★★ Your efforts draw many. Success breeds more success and, in this case, popularity. Know what you want, yet encourage others to share their vision. You will achieve a long-desired goal through your relationships. Tonight: Just wish.

## TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ You are in charge. This role suits you well. Many like your thoughts. Claiming your power doesn't mean being demanding, as you'll demonstrate. Your instincts guide you well. Tonight: Take some time just for yourself and maybe one other person.

## GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ You might be pushing yourself very hard. If you relax and go into your mind, you'll find that unusually resourceful ideas get you to the same place. Schedule a trip or a workshop in the near future. Keep your mind alive. Tonight: Happy with a friend.

## CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Read Taurus, and you'll know what responsibilities will fall on your shoulders. A key partnership adds joy and depth to any situation. A moneymaking venture might not be as good as it appears. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

## LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Step back and take an overview. Interesting input comes from those who feel free enough to share. Though at first you might decide someone is off his or her rocker, you'll see this person's logic later. In fact, that might be the right course. Tonight: Buy a best-seller or rent a movie.

## VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Having more meaning in your daily life becomes more and more important to you. If you feel that your work or life might not tumble into this category, consider a new direction. A partner or trusted adviser gives you feedback. Tonight: Dinner for two.

## LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ You might want to defer to someone else. You will see a whole new side of this person emerge, which you might like quite a lot. Let more creativity and romance into your life. Share a way-out dream or desire. A child could play a significant role. Tonight: Act like this is the first day of the rest of your life.

## SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Dig into the trenches, and you'll achieve far more than you originally thought possible. Worry less about what is happening with a family member who might keep a lot to him- or herself. Try to be realistic. Tonight: Bring any extra work home.

## SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Though you usually don't hold back, certainly don't this time. Let your ideas just flow. Others might be enchanted and interested. Tonight: Frisky works.

## CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ You might want to deal with basics, especially your emotional security and well-being. An investment might look great, but you are missing an important piece. Be careful with any real estate purchase or expenditure. Tonight: Happy at home.

## AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Whatever you do, in whichever direction you turn, you get smiles and support. The only error you could commit is not to share what is going through your mind. Others might feel left out, as it is obvious much is going on. Tonight: Visit over a meal.

## PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Your instincts serve you well with finances. Also, an emotional matter might be best kept to yourself. In fact, the feelings might be more intense if you say nothing for now. Let your mind wander. Remember, you don't need to explain. Tonight: Order in.

## Born Today

**Singer Neil Diamond (1941)**
**Actor John Belushi (1949)**
**actor Ernest Borgnine (1917)**



## Happy Birthday!

This year you often appear to be an endless resource of ideas and solutions. Brainstorming will only add to the power of the thinking process. You will naturally attract many new people, as you always seem to be putting your best foot forward. You make a difference to many people. You are in a position to alter your life's course, if you so choose. If you are single, you meet people wherever you go because of your gregarious nature. If someone triggers your dreams, stop. If you are attached, share more with your sweetie, and you'll become even closer. ARIES likes to visit.

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at http://www.jacquelinebigar.com
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# Stepping out

## Vargas tells Oprah she wasn't forced from her job

ELIZABETH VARGAS told Oprah Winfrey that she wasn't forced out as co-anchor of ABC's "World News Tonight," but decided to step down when she became pregnant with her second child.

"I was finding it more and more difficult to do that job the way I wanted to do it, which is 100 percent ... and still be a great mother," Vargas, 44, said Tuesday on "The Oprah Winfrey Show."

Vargas, who is now co-hosting the network's newsmagazine, "20/20," said she learned she was pregnant just before her co-anchor, Bob Woodruff, was seriously injured by a roadside bomb in Iraq on Jan. 29, 2006.

Vargas said she had hoped to continue anchoring "World News Tonight" but soon realized she had to step down.

"It was becoming difficult to juggle all that, do the job I wanted to do, and to be the mother I wanted to be," she told Winfrey.

In May, ABC, which is owned by the Walt Disney Co., announced that it had appointed Charles Gibson as anchor of the nightly news program.

Vargas said that when she announced she was stepping down, there was unfair criticism of ABC that she was pushed out of the job because she was pregnant.

But, she said, the choice was hers after a series of conversations with ABC News President David Westin.

"If it just isn't right for me, it isn't right for me," she said. "For me it just wasn't working."

She told Winfrey that her decision also came as a result of her husband's belief that their 3-year-old son, Zachary, "really paid a price for all the hours I was gone."

Vargas, who is married to singer Marc Cohn, gave birth to another son, Samuel Wyatt, in August.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

### TAKING ON TRUMP

Palm Beach officials have asked a federal court to take over a $25 million lawsuit that DONALD TRUMP filed against the town, claiming it involves a constitutional question.

Trump sued last month in Palm Beach County Circuit Court after town officials threatened to fine the real-estate mogul unless he removed a large American flag atop an 80-foot pole at his Mar-a-Lago Club or apply for permits.

Last week, town officials voted to fine him $1,250 a day after he refused to take down the flag. They say the flagpole violates town codes because it is taller than 42 feet.

Trump claims the town is selectively enforcing its codes and his free speech rights were violated.

AP

# ABC anchor not hurt in roadside bombing

ABC news anchor CHRIS CUOMO was unhurt Tuesday after the convoy of military police he was riding with in Iraq was struck by a roadside bomb.

Some of the soldiers suffered minor injuries in the attack, ABC said. The convoy of four heavily armored Humvees was going to check a report of a burning vehicle in northwest Baghdad when booby-trapped bodies left by the side of the road exploded.

The vehicles returned to safety following a small arms battle, and Cuomo reported on the attack on "Good Morning America," where he is the news anchor.

"If these vehicles did not have the armor that they did, this situation could have turned out very differently," Cuomo said. A hubcap-sized piece of shrapnel shattered glass but was stopped by the armor in the vehicle in front of him, he said.

Another ABC News anchor, Bob Woodruff, was seriously injured by a roadside bomb in Iraq on Jan. 29, 2006. He will tell his story in a prime-time ABC special next month.

While ABC is continually reassessing the safety of its journalists in Iraq, the network believes it's important to tell the story of what American military personnel go through every day, ABC News spokesman Jeffrey Schneider said.

ABC is owned by The Walt Disney Co.

### ON THE NET

■ **ABC: abcnews.go.com/GMA**

AP

# Babyshambles lands deal for songwriting

Babyshambles has signed a long-term deal with record label Parlophone, thanks to the songwriting talents of frontman PETE DOHERTY, the company said Tuesday.

A spokesman for Parlophone's parent company, EMI Group PLC's EMI Records, refused to give further details.

"We don't discuss contracts," Chris Latham said.

The British band has already released one album on Parlophone's Regal imprint, the critically acclaimed "The Blinding EP," which came out in December. Latham said another album was planned.

Parlophone's managing director said the band "justifiably (has) a great reputation for crafting some of the most exciting music around today, and in Peter Doherty they have one of the best songwriters of his generation."

Babyshambles co-managers Adrian Hunter and Andy Boyd said band members are delighted with the deal "and look forward to a long, fruitful and creative relationship with Parlophone."

Neither side mentioned Doherty's well-documented drug abuse; the 27-year-old boyfriend of supermodel Kate Moss, 33, has had a series of well-publicized run-ins with police.

### ON THE NET

■ **Babyshambles: www.babyshambles.net**

AP

# Race for best-picture Oscar remains open

**BY DAVID GERMAIN**
Associated Press Writer

BEVERLY HILLS The dream of the top Academy Award is gone for the musical "Dreamgirls."

It got eight Oscar nominations Tuesday, but not best picture -- leaving the main prize up for grabs.

Will it be the sprawling global drama "Babel," which placed second with seven nominations, or the mob epic "The Departed"? Could the palace tale "The Queen" be crowned best picture, or even "Little Miss Sunshine," a road-trip romp that became last year's independent-cinema darling?

"Nobody knows anything about these award ceremonies," said Leonardo DiCaprio, a best-actor nominee for the African adventure "Blood Diamond." "And that's the fun everybody has watching the Academy Awards. That's what's exciting."

DiCaprio was responding to his own prospects of winning, but his sentiments are especially true this year for the biggest trophy.

On a nominations day filled with surprises, the most unexpected was the downfall of "Dreamgirls," considered a front-runner but which missed out on the fifth best-picture slot to the World War II saga "Letters From Iwo Jima."

It was the first time ever that the film with the most nominations failed to earn a best-picture slot.

"Dreamgirls" did grab nominations for Eddie Murphy and Jennifer Hudson, the favorites to win the supporting-acting prizes. Lead-performer front-runners Helen Mirren of "The Queen" and Forest Whitaker of "The Last King of Scotland" also were nominated, potentially leaving little drama in the outcome of the four acting categories.

Best-picture is anyone's guess, though. Previous Hollywood honors usually narrow the field to a front-runner or two, but this season, top prize winners have been all over the place.

"Babel" won best drama and "Dreamgirls" took best musical or comedy at the Golden Globes, yet even then, awards watchers felt "The Departed" or "The Queen" could walk off with best picture come Oscar night Feb. 25.

Last weekend's Producers Guild of America Awards muddied things up more as the low-budgeted "Little Miss Sunshine" was named best film over its big-studio rivals.

"Little Miss Sunshine" producer David Friendly said he never expected his film to win over such guild nominees as "The Departed" and "Dreamgirls," especially when he saw who was presenting the award.

"When Tom Cruise came walking out to give the picture-of-the-year award, I thought, `Well that's it, we didn't win,'" Friendly said. "In my life, Tom Cruise doesn't give me awards."

Friendly had another surprise Tuesday when "Dreamgirls" failed to score a best-picture Oscar nomination.

"I was floored. That one I thought was a given. I actually feel badly because I thought it was a very nice film," Friendly said. "This is the bitter side of this whole thing."

Though Murphy and Hudson nabbed acting nominations for "Dreamgirls," its director Bill Condon and lead players Jamie Foxx and Beyonce Knowles were snubbed.

Hudson, who shot to fame two years ago as an "American Idol" finalist, and Murphy stole the show in "Dreamgirls" as soulful singers in Detroit's 1960s and '70s Motown scene.

Oscar attention is a new experience for Murphy, whose fast-talking persona has brought him devoted audiences but little awards acclaim in his 25-year career.

"I am deeply honored and humbled that the academy has chosen to recognize my performance in `Dreamgirls,'" Murphy said in a statement. "Without a doubt receiving this nomination will stand out as one of the highlights of my career."

Santa Monica Daily Press

## MOVIEGUIDE

AERO THEATRE
**1328 Montana Avenue**
**(310) 395-4990**

**Wednesday**
Yojimbo, Sanjuro
7:30
**Thursday**
Dersu Uzala
7:30

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

**Babel (R)**
12:35, 4:05, 7:15, 10:25
**Blood Diamond (R)**
12:50, 4:20, 7:35, 10:45
**The Good Shepherd (R)**
12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 10:35
**Primeval (R)**
1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 7:55, 10:15

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

**Alpha Dog (R)**
1:10, 4:10, 7:00, 10:10
**Children of Men (R)**
2:20, 4:50, 7:40, 10:20
**Dreamgirls (PG-13)**
1:05, 4:05, 7:05, 10:05
**The Hitcher (R)**
1:00, 3:00, 5:20, 8:00, 10:25
**Night at the Museum (PG)**
1:20, 4:00, 7:10, 9:40
**Pan's Labyrinth (El Laberinto del Fauno) (R)**
1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 9:55
**The Pursuit of Happyness (PG-13)**
1:30, 4:20, 7:30, 10:00

LANDMARK NUWILSHIRE
**1314 Wilshire Blvd**
**(310) 281-8228**

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

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

**Curse of the Golden Flower (Man cheng jin dai huang jin jia) (R)**
9:50
**Letters From Iwo Jima (R)**
1:20, 4:45, 8:00
**The Painted Veil PG-13)**
1:20, 4:10, 7:00
**The Queen (PG-13)**
1:55, 4:35, 7:30, 9:55
**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, 7:20, 9:40
**Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan (R) 7:10, 10:00**
**Casino Royale (PG-13)**
12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 10:10
**Charlotte's Web (G)**
11:40am, 2:00, 4:30
**Freedom Writers (PG-13)**
11:00am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:30
**The Last King of Scotland (R)**
12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:50
**Stomp the Yard (PG-13)**
11:10am, 2:10, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20

More information email news@smdp.com

# Janric Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty
**GOLD**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 8 | 5 | | | | | 7 | |
| | | | 8 | | 7 | 5 | | |
| 6 | | 4 | | | | | 1 | |
| | | 7 | 6 | | 8 | | 2 | |
| 2 | | | | | | | | 9 |
| | 6 | | 9 | | 1 | 4 | | |
| | 5 | | | | | 2 | 4 | 1 |
| | | 8 | 7 | | 4 | | | |
| | 3 | | | | | 7 | | 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**

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

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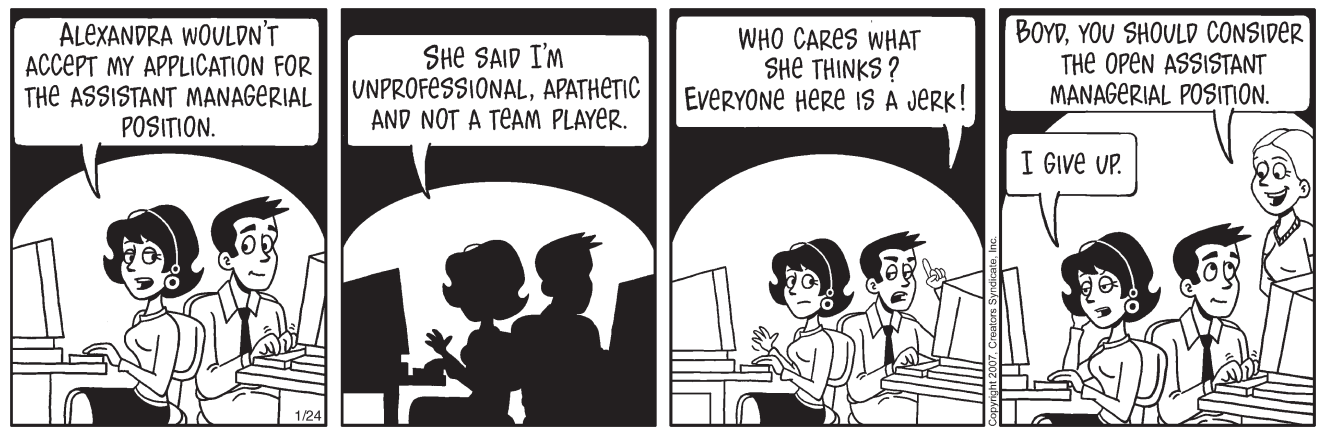
# Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

# The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose




# The Other Coast

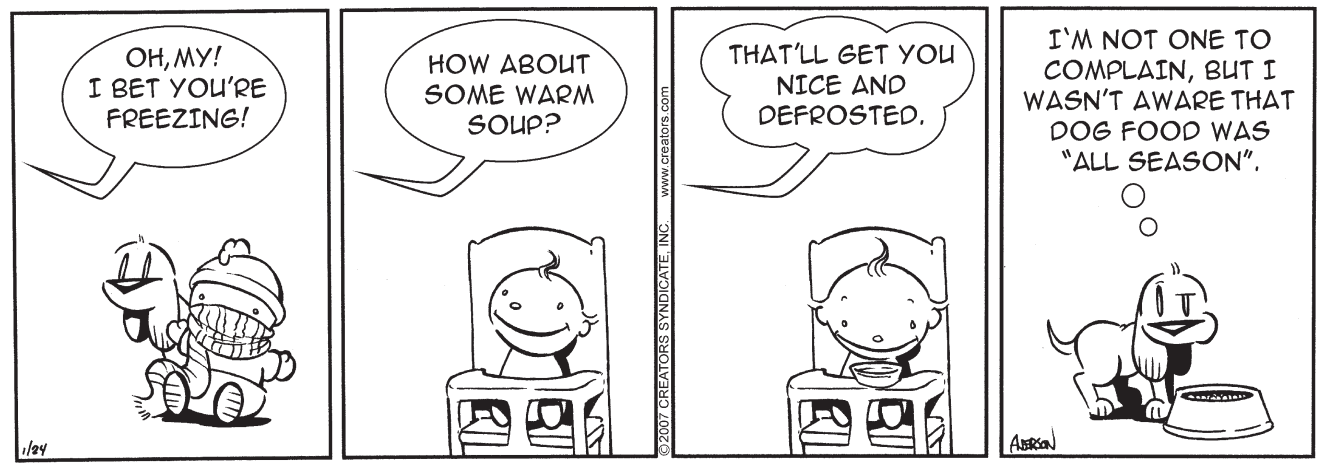
By Adrian Raeside

# Garfield

By Jim Davis

# Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson



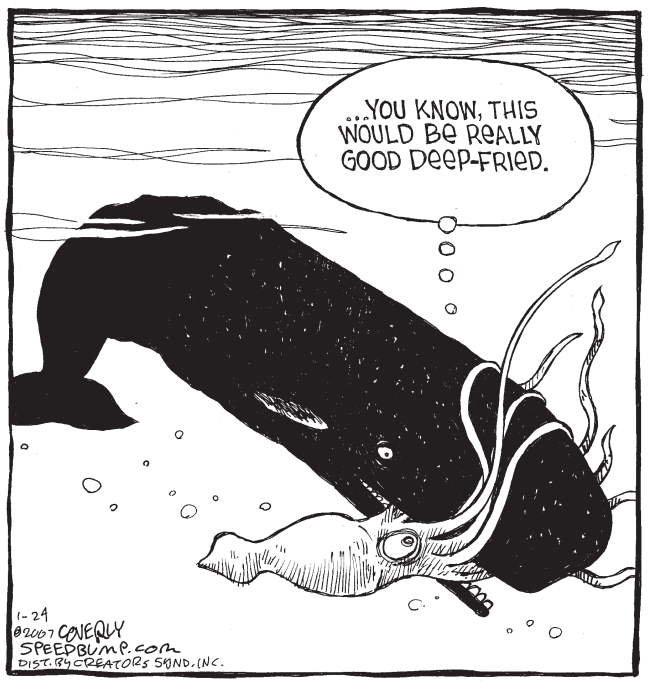
## The Dinette Set by Julie Larson

## Natural Selection

By Russ Wallace

## Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly

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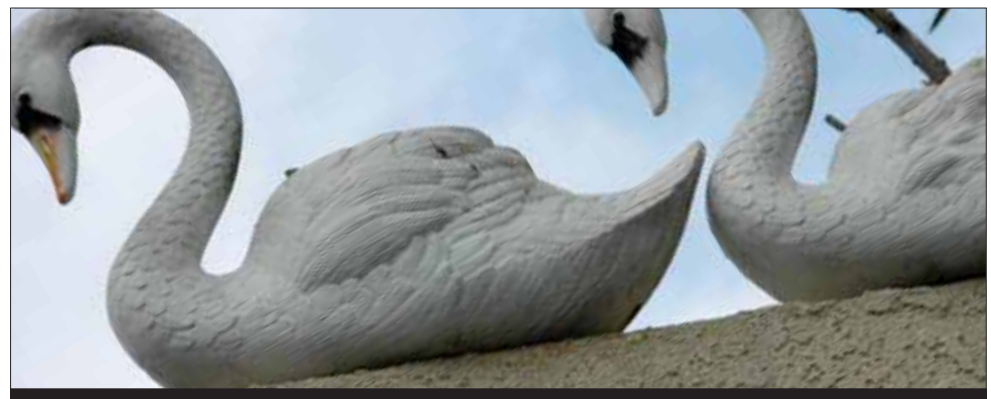

## Mystery Photo

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** Ticket half
**5** Man or mouse
**11** Salad fish
**12** Each
**13** Comic Richter
**14** Despicable
**15** Course need
**16** Stream sediment
**17** Push off
**19** Saucer, perhaps
**22** Gut
**24** One with a title
**26** Eye part
**27** Notion
**28** Low cards in pinochle
**30** Join a bee
**31** "My word!"
**32** It ends with a show of hands
**34** Scuffle
**35** Subway aid
**38** Bizarre
**41** Sage
**42** Without delay
**43** "My Way" writer
**44** Sore
**45** Editor's spot

**DOWN**

**1** Sports figure
**2** Melody
**3** Emphasize
**4** Howl at the moon
**5** Raymond's TV mom
**6** God of light
**7** Catching need
**8** Got together
**9** Great serve
**10** Writer Deighton
**16** Bond, for one
**18** Other
**19** Subvert
**20** Sense
**21** Test type
**22** Bob's frequent co-star
**23** Historic canal
**25** Film editing technique
**29** Christmas tree, perhaps
**30** Sun setting
**33** Western
**34** Affectionate
**36** Calls for
**37** High point
**38** Diet no-no
**39** Corroded
**40** Baseball's Cey
**41** Gum mass

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**Yesterday's answer**

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1-24

## DAILY LOTTERY

**MEGA MILLIONS**
3 5 15 26 53
Meganumber: 35
Jackpot: $33M

**SUPER LOTTO PLUS**
18 19 34 38 42
Meganumber: 17
Jackpot: $15M

**Fantasy 5**
16 23 26 28 33

**DAILY 3**
MIDDAY: 0 5 9
EVENING: 8 6 3

**DAILY DERBY**
1st: 12 Lucky Charms
2nd: 06 Whirl Win
3rd: 01 Gold Rush
RACE TIME: 1.44.64

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

■ Oops: John Beacham of the Anti-War Coalition in Chicago said he has suspected for a while that police had been spying on his organization, but he was obviously proved wrong when the coalition canceled, well in advance, a planned Oct. 28 demonstration downtown. Unaware of the cancellation, hundreds of police officers lined the streets around the protest area, hoping to prevent the recurrence of a wild demonstration in 2003. Deputy police superintendent Charles Williams blamed the coalition for not keeping the department informed.

■ Rules! (1) Sixty years after Indiana abolished gambling and wrecked the economy of the resort town of French Lick, the state brought it back, allowing casinos, but they had to be located on water and not the state's dry land. Developers of the French Lick Springs Resort thus spent $382 million on a plush "riverboat" casino on a manmade lake barely larger than the boat, and it opened in November. (2) Derek Ogley, 70, had just been discharged from Tameside General Hospital in Ashton, England, in November, but doubled over in pain in the waiting room (eventually diagnosed with pancreatitis). Nurses informed Ogley's family they would have to call 999 (the UK's 911) or drive him around to the emergency entrance about three minutes away, because, since he had been discharged, rules prevented them from treating him.

## TODAY IN HISTORY

**1848** James W. Marshall discovered a gold nugget at Sutter's Mill in northern California, a discovery that led to the gold rush of '49.

**1742** Charles VII was crowned Holy Roman Emperor during the War of the Austrian Succession.

**1924** the Russian city of Petrograd (formerly St. Petersburg) was renamed Leningrad in honor of the late revolutionary leader (however, it has since been renamed St. Petersburg).

**1943** President Franklin Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill concluded a wartime conference in Casablanca, Morocco.

**1965** Churchill died in London at age 90.

**1972** the Supreme Court struck down laws that denied welfare benefits to people who had resided in a state for less than a year.

## WORD UP!

**supine** \soo-PYN; SOO-pyn\, *adjective*:1. Lying on the back, or with the face upward. 2. Indolent; listless; inactive; mentally or morally lethargic.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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**Third Street Promenade**

**Administrative Assistant – full time**

The Bayside District Corporation (BDC) seeks a full-time Administrative Assistant who can greet and help members of the community on the phone and at the front desk, assist with managing the office and provide support to staff. This is a rare and exciting opportunity to be part of a strong management team. Our office is located right on Third Street Promenade – 2 blocks from the ocean. BDC is a nonprofit entity created in 1984 to manage Third Street Promenade and Downtown Santa Monica. The area encompasses 30 blocks of some of LA's best shopping, dining and entertainment. For more information on the company visit www.downtownsm.com

Warm and enthusiastic personality, Service oriented with a "can do" attitude, Strong attention to detail. Self starter, Able to multi-task and prioritize, Excellent communication & organizational skills, Professional manner, Mac computer skills, Fluent in English, Bachelors degree preferred, Knowledge of Santa Monica essential

**BENEFITS**
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Bayside District Corporation
1351 Third Street Promenade, Suite 201 Santa Monica, CA 90401
Or fax to: 1-310-458-3921
Or email to: lwile@baysidedistrict.org

**NO WALK INS**

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Our corp office is seeking an experienced AA/AP Clerk to set up files and be trained to do AP entry (some AP experience helpful).
The ideal candidate will have strong communication skills; self-starter is a plus, but not necessary; can adapt to a fast paced, aggressive and entrepreneurial environment.
Appropriate business attire is required.
Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and other times as needed.
$15/hr on a 1099 status
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DENTAL ASSISTANT SM DENTAL OFFICE experienced F/T X-Ray license Please call Nicole (310)828-7429

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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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PT Receptionist – Hours 1-5pm. Strong communication skills & prior exp needed.
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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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SANTA MONICA P/T postion for bookkeeper and office work. If interested, please call (310)450-4625 for details.

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Have your four legged friend walked five days per week midday while you're at work for $300 per month. Two twenty minute walks twice daily are also available for $25. We offer pet and property sitting, cat care, and pet transportation. Let us know your needs and we will customize a program to fit you and/or your pets every desire. We're licensed and bonded. For more information or to set up an appointment call Chayah at 310-488-5288.

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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 $875/mo Studio/1bath, hardwood floors, new appliances, granite countertops, deck, french doors, (310) 395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA 833 5th st. unit 101 2bdrm/1.75 bath, $3000/mo, stove, dishwasher, balcony, granite counter tops, carpet and tiling flooring, wood flooring laundry, intercom entry pool no pets, (310)393-2547 jkwproperties.com

SANTA MONICA GUEST House
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18th Street By SMC
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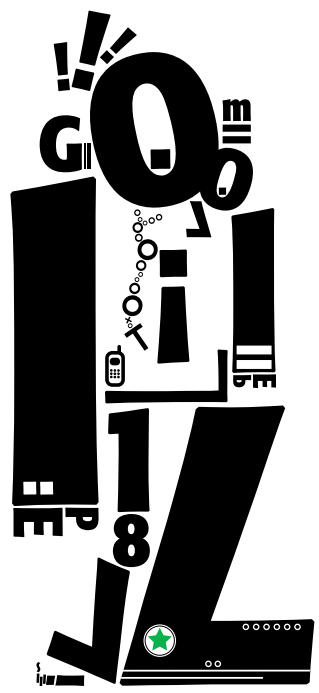


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VERY AGGRESSIVE
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TIME FOR A 30 YEAR FIXED?
RATES AS LOW AS 6%

| | |
|---|---|
| 30 YEAR FIXED | 6%* |
| 10 YEAR/1 ARM | 6%* |
| 7 YEAR/1 ARM | 5.75%* |
| 5 YEAR/1 ARM | 5.75%** |
| 3 YEAR/1 ARM | 5.5%** |
| 1 YEAR/1 ARM | 5.25%* |
| 6 MO./6 MO. ARM | 5%* |
| 1 MO./1 MO. ARM | 1%* |

*Rates subject to change
* As of November 12, 2006
** Denotes an interest only loan

NEW CONFORMING LOAN AMOUNTS

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 Unit | $417,000 |
| 2 Units | $533,850 |
| 3 Units | $645,300 |
| 3 Units | $645,300 |
| 4 Units | $801,950 |

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SANTA MONICA

Beautiful House
New Construction
3+3.5 2600 SF
$1,399,000

3rd Street 2+2 Condo
Between Wilshire & Montana
$725,000

Ocean View
Penthouse Condo
$2,200,000

Ready to Show Now

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WANTED JAPANESE MOTORCYCLES: Kawasaki Z1-900, KZ900, KZ1000, H2-750, H1-500, S1-250, S2-350, S3-400. Cash Paid. 1-800-772-1142. 1-310-721-0726.

## Business Opps

ABSOLUTE GOLDMINE
SNACK AND SODA ROUTE $10,995.00
MUST CALL 800-229-9261

ABSOLUTELY ALL Cash! Do you earn $800/day? Vending route. 30 machines + candy. $9995. 1-800-807-6485.

EXTRAS, ACTORS, MODELS! $125-$750+/day. No exp. required. All looks needed! 1-800-556-6103, Ext. 504

FREE CASH GRANTS! $700 - $800,000++ **2007** NEVER REPAY! Personal/Medical Bills, Business, School/House. Almost Everyone qualifies! Live Operators! AVOID DEADLINES! Listings, 1-800-270-1213, Ext. 279

NEED A NEW COMPUTER? Bad credit - No problem! Buy a new computer now, pay later. New computers /laptops from $20/month. Call now 1-800-451-3217

## Health/Beauty

MEDICAL BENEFITS - $155.00 for the entire family. Prescription, dental, hospitalization. Pre-existing conditions OK! 888-528-8433.

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$50,000 GUARANTEED! NEVER REPAY. GOV/PRIVATE GRANTS/ School / Business/ Buy /Fix Home or Pay Bills. AS SEEN ON TV 800-679-8994

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NEED A LOAN? No credit - BAD credit - Bankruptcy - Repossession - Personal Loans - Auto Loans - Consolidation Loans AVAILABLE! "We have been helping people with credit problems since 1991". Call 1-800-654-1816.

NEED CASH? Lawsuit Pending? We can help! No-risk cash advances. CJB Funding. 1-800-594-3029. www.cjbfunding.com

## Massage

BLISSFUL RELAXATION
Experience hands-on healing power. Reiki Tummo: Heart Chakra opening with Kundalini & Earth energy. Intro & Bodywork special $68. Lynda, LMT: 310-749-0621.

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EXQUISITE, INTUITIVE, strong and tender relaxing body work by mature Europen. Very Professional, Sonja (310) 397-0433.

## Notices

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
Date of Filing Application: OCTOBER 4, 2006
To Whom it may concern:
The Name(s) of the Applicant(s) is/are: RSA GROUP LLC.
The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at: 1348 14TH ST, SANTA MONICA, CA 90404-1702.
Type of License(s) Applied for: 47-ON-SALE GENERAL EATING PLACE.
Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control INGLEWOOD.
LA125478 SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS 1/10, 17, 24, 2007

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
Date of Filing Application: JANUARY 9, 2007
To Whom it may concern:
The Name(s) of the Applicant(s) is/are: LONGS DRUG STORES CALIFORNIA INC.
The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at: 255 MAIN ST, VENICE, CA 90291.
Type of License(s) Applied for: 21-OFF-SALE GENERAL.
Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control INGLEWOOD.
LA125725 SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS 1/17, 24, 31/2007

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: RUDY JAMES PODRAT AKA RUDY J. PODRAT AKA RUDY PODRAT**
**CASE NO. BP102491**
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of RUDY JAMES PODRAT AKA RUDY J. PODRAT AKA RUDY PODRAT.
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by GARY A. PODRAT in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.
THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that GARY A. PODRAT be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
A HEARING on the petition will be held on 02/21/07 at 8:30AM in Dept. 5 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above.
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code Section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
Attorney for Petitioner
J. PETER WAKEMAN, ESQ.
WAKEMAN LAW GROUP, INC
4500 E THOUSAND OAKS BLVD #101
WESTLAKE VILLAGE CA 91362
1/23, 1/24, 1/30/07
**CNS-1077131#**
**SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE**
(Sections. 6104-6105 U.C.C.)
Escrow No. 46771-EM
Notice is hereby given to creditors of the within named seller that a bulk sale is about to be made of the assets described below.
The name(s) and business address(es) of the seller are:
Suk Jong Kang and Sin Young Kang, 2901 Ocean Park Blvd., #105, Santa Monica, CA 90405.
The location in California of the chief executive office of the seller is: Same.
As listed by the seller, all other business names and addresses used by the seller within three years before the date such list was sent or delivered to the buyer are: None.
The name(s) and business address of the buyer are:
Soon J. Kimsuh, 2901 Ocean Park Blvd., #105, Santa Monica, CA 90405.

# Automotive

SELL YOUR PRE-OWNED VEHICLE. The only directory for used vehicles in and around Santa Monica. Santa Monica Daily Press

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$45 for two weeks.
$20 every two weeks after.

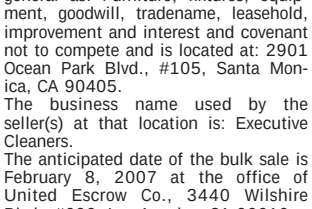
## Notices

The assets to be sold are described in general as: Furniture, fixtures, equipment, goodwill, tradename, leasehold, improvement and interest and covenant not to compete and is located at: 2901 Ocean Park Blvd., #105, Santa Monica, CA 90405.
The business name used by the seller(s) at that location is: Executive Cleaners.
The anticipated date of the bulk sale is February 8, 2007 at the office of United Escrow Co., 3440 Wilshire Blvd., #600, Los Angeles, CA 90010.
This bulk sale is subject to California Uniform Commercial Code Section 6106.2.
If so subject, the name and address of the person with whom claims may be filed is United Escrow Co., 3440 Wilshire Blvd., #600, Los Angeles, CA 90010, and the last date for filing claims shall be February 7, 2007, which is the business day before the sale date specified above.
Dated: January 9, 2007
SOON J. KIMSUH, Buyer
1/24/07
**CNS-1077604#**
**SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS**

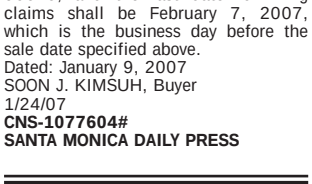
## Vehicles for sale

'98 Accord V6 EXL $8,995
Coupe, Auto, Air, Alloys, Lthr, roof, CD
(WA011010)
Toyota Santa Monica
(800) 579-6047

'98 Boxster $17,788
Very Low Miles! Lthr, CD Alloys, Must see!
(WU625494)
Toyota Santa Monica
(800) 579-6047



'99 Mustang GT $6,995
ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN
Absolutely Immaculate! Air, CD, Ithr, prem. Wheels
(2550773)
Toyota Santa Monica
(800) 579-6047



'02 Jetta GLS $12,995
Low Miles! Auto, Air, Moon Full Pwr, Tilt, Cruise
(2M165750)
Toyota Santa Monica
(800) 579-6047



'02 Explorer $9,995
ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN
VIDEO system, Auto, 6 Cyl, Alloys, BEST DEAL!
(2ZB51006)
Toyota Santa Monica
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## Vehicles for sale

'03 Dakota SXT $11,788
Auto, Air, Alloys, CD, And lots more!
(3S378411)
Toyota Santa Monica
(800) 579-6047

'03 New Beetle $13,788
Beautiful car w/Low miles! Auto, Air
(3M400674)
Toyota Santa Monica
(800) 579-6047

'07 Camry SE $26,700
Under 2K Mi, Spoiler, alloys, Roof, Ithr, loaded!
(7U017366)
Toyota Santa Monica
(800) 579-6047

'02 PT Cruiser
Auto, leather, moon roof, low miles, immaculate!
(2T336107)
$9,995
Toyota Santa Monica
(800) 579-6047

'04 BMW 5 Series 525i Sedan 4D
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
Met. Green, 6-Cyl. 2.5L, Premium pkg, CD, air bags, ABS, leather, moon roof. (I6442A)
$34,991
Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253

'02 Porsche Boxster S Cabriolet
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
Black, 6-Cyl. 3.2L, RWD, ABS, Air bags, leather, alloy wheels. (P1513)
$30,951
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(866) 507-7253

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## Vehicles for sale

'04 BMW 5 Series 530i Sedan 4D

(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
Black, 6-Cyl 3.0L, Premium pkg, Air bags, ABS, premium wheels. (P1510)
$33,951
Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253

'03 Porsche Boxster Cabriolet 2D
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
Dark green, 6-Cyl. 2.7L, RWD, ABS, rear spoiler, alloy wheels. (P1508)
$27,951
Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253

'03 Hummer H2 4D
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
Black, Adventure pkg, OnStar, Nav. system, LOADED! (P1506)
$39,951
Infiniti Santa Monica
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BOLD IT! MAKE YOUR AD STAND OUT

'05 BMW Z4 3.0i Roadster 2D
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
Black, very low miles, sprt pkg, premium sound, nav system, leather (P1517)
$36,591
Infiniti Santa Monica
(877) 507-7253

'04 Mercedes-Benz C-Class C240 Sedan
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
Silver, 4D, V6 2.6L, slip control, leather, dual power seats, moon roof, alloy wheels (P1514)
$23,951
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'03 Infiniti FX45 4D
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
Met. brown, Bose premium sound, Loaded!! (I6303A)
$33,991
Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253

## Vehicles for sale

'04 BMW 5 Series 530i Sedan 4D
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
Light green, 6-Cyl., 3.0L, Premium pkg, leather, (P1519)
$34,951
Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253

'04 Infiniti G35 Sedan 4D
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
Silver, V6 3.5L, low miles, RWD, multi-CD, leather, dual power seats, (P1499)
$26,991
Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253

'04 Lexus GX 470 SUV 4D
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
White, V8 4.7L, 4WD, auto-climate control, CD Auto-changer, roof rack, privacy glass (P1504)
$36,951
Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253

'03 Volvo S60 Sedan 4D
5-Cyl., 2.4L, auto, air bags, traction control, leather, moon roof
(I6375A)
$14,951
Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253

'03 Mercury Sable $6,995
Auto, 6 Cyl., P/W, P/L, Tilt, Cruise
(3G608497)
Toyota Santa Monica
(800) 579-6047

04' TOYOTA Tacoma Double Cab 4X4 V6 SR5 TRD Black on Black
Features: 4WD, Automatic, TRD Off Road Pkg, SR5, Power Windows, Remote Keyless Entry, Power Door Locks, Tilt Wheel, Cruise Control, AM/FM Stereo, Cassette, Single Compact Disc, iPod Ready, Premium Sound, Dual Front Air Bags, ABS (4-Wheel), Sliding Rear Window, Line-X Bed, Off Road Front and Rear Bumpers, Off Road Headlights, Alloy Wheels, New Tires.
$21,500.00, 50,000 miles
Call Steve @ 310-994-7873
speeedy1@mac.com

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## Vehicles for sale

MBZ 1980 280CE
Own a classic MBZ 1980 280CE 116k miles limited edition excellent condition- Santa Monica Based Car. Maintenance Per Book – Runs super. Bought new at W.I. Simonson-Garaged for last year. Exterior: Champagne / Interior: Palomino-/ All Original
Contact: 310-902-2124 – lg@mttmedia.com Price $8500

1999 Plymouth Breeze
Power windows, power locks, Loaded, clean
(License #: 5HFM420)
$3,895
Claude Short Auto Sales Dealer
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$5.50 A DAY LINER ADS! CALL TODAY

2002 Chrysler 300M 4dr
All extras! Loaded, sun roof, leather, One Owner!
(License #: RSC708)
$11,995
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2006 LINCOLN TOWN CAR
Signature limited edition, loaded
VIN 610 802
$26,995 REDUCED!!!
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2003 Mercedes Benz E-320
4dr, sunroof, sport package
33,000 miles, 1 owner, executive car, dealer serviced
(License #: 4XJY753)
$29,995
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1998 Dodge Intrepid
4dr, fully-equipped, leather, CLEAN!
(License #: 4AXV317)
$3,995
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$16,500 Engine and manual transmission in excellent condition. 68k, leather interior like new.
Dan 773-459-6917

1978 Cadillac Seville
A true classic for sale by original owner. Only 25k miles on re-built engine. Runs great. Hurry!
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## Trucks/Vans

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1 ton, white, A/C
Vin #: 167697
$2995
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1999 Chevrolet Astro Van
8-passenger, loaded, low miles, front & rear air bags, sunscreen glass
(Vin #: 127000)
$5,995
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VIN 543782
$7,995
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www.peprinting.com

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**Name:** _____

**Address:** _____

**City:** ____ **State:** ___ **Zip:** _____ **Phone:** (____) _____

**Classification** (Pets, Yard Sale, Etc...): _____

**Ad Copy** (attach copy if necessary)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 |

**Requested Start Date:** / / **Requested End Date:** / /

**Extras (Additional 20 cents/word):**
❒ ALL CAPS ❒ **bold** ❒ *italics*
❒ Box (.50/day) ❒ Reverse($1/day)

**Payment:**
❒ Visa ❒ Mastercard ❒ AMEX ❒ Check

_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_

**Exp:**___|20_____ **Check #:**_____

**Make checks payable:** Santa Monica Daily Press

**NO CASH PLEASE**

**Signature:** _____

**Mail.**
**Fill out this form and mail to:**
1427 Third Street Promenade
Suite 202
Santa Monica, CA 90401

**Fax.**
**Fill out this form and fax to:**
(310) 576-9913
ATTN: Classifieds

**Call.**
**Call Annie Kotok!**
(310) 458-7737 Ext. 114

**Email.**
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**PREPAY YOUR AD TODAY!**

**Call us with questions**
**(310) 458-7737**

Santa Monica Daily Press
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**Broker**
Licensed California Broker #01381120

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|---|---|---|---|
| **30 year fixed 5.75%** | APR 5.866% | 10 year/1 arm 6%** | APR 6.6% |
| **15 year/1arm 5.25%** | APR 5.6% | **5 Year Fixed 1% & 2%** | APR 7.75% |
| 7 year/1 arm 5.75% | APR 6.655% | 5 year/1 arm 5.75%** | APR 7.0% |
| 3 year/1 arm 5.5%** | APR 7.0258% | 1 year/1 arm 5.25% | APR 7.1% |
| 6 mos./6 mo. arm 5% | APR 7.24% | 1 mo./1 mo. arm 1%*** | APR 8% |

** Rates subject to change * As of January 3, 2006 ** Denotes an interest only loan *** Denotes Neg Am*

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**Pacific Ocean Properties Broker Rob Schultz, #01218743**

**Department of Real Estate Phone - (916) 227–0864**

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**Andrea Arpaia**
**Agent new to the business. "I've sold 20 homes in two years. I invite you to become number 21"**

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|---|---|---|---|
| IN ESCROW | IN ESCROW | NO PHOTO AVAILABLE | FOR RENT |
| 4-units Venice $975,000 | Income Property Venice $1,475,000 | Ocean View, New House Palos Verdes $3.1M | 3BD, 1BA HOUSE 2,800 PR/MO WESTCHESTER |

**PROPERTIES IN ESCROW**
**PALMS SPRING HOUSE, LANCASTER HOUSE, READING ST. IN WESTCHESTER, BRONSON IN KOREATOWN, 8628 CADILLAC IN WEST LA, 1342 BRONSON**

**Venice Canals $1,900,000 or $4,400,000 When built**

## LINCOLN BLVD. COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES FOR SALE

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2212 LINCOLN BLVD. | 2957 LINCOLN BLVD. | 2520 LINCOLN BLVD. | LINCOLN AUTO BODY SANTA MONICA | LINCOLN & VENICE 9,500 SQFT | 4 UNITS ON LINCOLN IN SANTA MONICA |
| $1,800,000 | $1,475,000 | IN ESCROW | $1,275,000 | $3,900,000 | $1,650,000 |

**Come join our team! Only one desk available.**

**We are looking to acquire a twenty to forty unit building on the west side. Please call us with any available properties in this range.**