



WATER IS BIG BUSINESS
SEE PAGE 7

Santa Monica Daily Press

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE AROUND TOWN ISSUE

New approach to policing

SMPD unleashes revamped method to patrol the community

BY MELODY HANATANI

Daily Press Staff Writer

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY This Sunday, there will be a new sheriff in town. There will be eight to be exact.

While they're actually neither technically sheriffs nor new to the city, the Santa Monica Police Department is scheduled to unleash its new Andy Griffith approach to community policing on Sunday morning when the new patrol plan takes effect.

The plan includes a series of changes including the realignment of

current beat boundaries for the first time in more than 50 years and a Neighborhood Resources Officer (NRO) assigned to each beat, serving a sheriff-like role in each of the eight beats, or "small towns," according to Lt. Clinton Muir, the program manager.

The NROs will serve as the point person in the beat, the connection between the residents and the police department, establishing relationships with businesses and residents in the neighborhood. The point of the program is to put a familiar face in the community, fostering trust between the

residents and the police department, Muir said.

"We pride ourselves on having a strong bond with the community and we want to bring that to the next level," the lieutenant said on Thursday. "We want to make sure the community has a face to a name."

Each NRO will serve in that capacity for a period of several years while their second in commands, the patrol officers, will be assigned to the beat for about six months, a stay that could be

SEE PATROL PAGE 9



Melody Hanatani melodyh@smdp.com

NEW BEAT TO PATROL: The SMPD unveiled its new community policing plan at the Public Safety Facility on Thursday.

Giving art the room it needs

Barker Hangar hosts the 13th Annual L.A. Art Show

BY KEVIN HERRERA | editor in chief

BARKER HANGAR While his work hangs in art galleries in New York, Memphis, San Francisco and his hometown of Albuquerque, New Mexico, contemporary American realist painter Mark Beck still finds it difficult to get noticed by collectors and dealers in other parts of the country.

"In the art world, cold calls don't work very well," said Beck, a weathered-looking man in his 40's with red hair and gold-rimmed glasses. "If you know someone, an artist who has their work in a gallery you are trying to get in to, they can put in a good word for you and you have a much better chance of getting in."

Networking is essential, Beck said, which is why he traveled to Barker Hangar on Thursday. He, like many other artists, wanted to shake some hands and exchange a few business cards with dealers and collectors from across the country who are gathered at the colossal airplane hangar for the 13th Annual Los Angeles Art Show, presented by the Fine Art Dealers Association (FADA).

The art show, which began Wednesday night and runs until Sunday, is one of the country's most prestigious art expositions, featuring an array of artwork spanning cutting-edge contemporary to works from some of history's



Alexis Hawkins news@smdp.com

JUST RIGHT: Livio Malheiro and Diana Levinson (right) prepare the works of Eric Forstman at the L.A. Art Show on Thursday.

SEE ART PAGE 10



Gary Limjap

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Important Public Hearing Notice

Coastal Development Permit Application No.: 5-07-393

Applicant(s): City of Santa Monica

Project Description: Establishment of a residential preferential permit parking district (Zone U) for residents only with no public parking or stopping for more than two hours between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on Monday through Friday; and the erection of signs identifying the hours of the parking restrictions and demarcating the restricted areas

Project Location: Area bounded by Lincoln Boulevard, Pico Boulevard, Ocean Park Boulevard, and Fourth Street, in the City of Santa Monica.

Public Hearing Date: February 7, 2008

Hearing Location: City of Oceanside, City Council Chambers
300 North Coast Highway
Oceanside, CA 92054

Hearing Procedures: This item has been scheduled for a public hearing and vote. People wishing to testify on this matter may appear at the hearing or may present their concerns by letter to the Commission on or before the hearing date. Copies of all correspondence will be provided to the Commission if received a minimum of three working days prior to the public hearing. Written comments may be of any length; oral testimony may be limited to 5 minutes or less for each speaker, depending on the number wishing to be heard.

The above item may be moved to the Consent Calendar for this area by the Executive Director when, prior to Commission consideration of the Consent Calendar, staff and the applicant are in agreement on the staff recommendation. If this item is moved to the Consent Calendar, the Commission will either approve it with the recommended conditions contained in the staff report or remove the item from the Consent Calendar by a vote of three or more Commissioners. If the item is removed, the public hearing described above will still be held at the point in the meeting originally indicated on the agenda.

No one can predict how quickly the Commission will complete agenda items or how many will be postponed to a later date. The Commission begins each session at the time listed and considers each item in order, except in extraordinary circumstances. Staff at the appropriate Commission office can give you more information prior to the hearing date. Questions regarding this item and requests for staff reports should be directed to Al J. Padilla, Coastal Program Analyst, at the South Coast District Office in Long Beach (562) 590-5071.



Calendar

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 2008

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A newspaper with issues

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Art L.A.

1855 Main St., noon — 8 p.m.

ART LA, the New Los Angeles International Contemporary Art Fair presents 60 top international and Los Angeles-based galleries representing an informed cross-section of today's contemporary art trends and directions. The finest examples of contemporary art work will be available for view and sale. Admission for one day is \$15 or purchase a 3-day pass for \$25; tickets can be purchased by visiting www.art-fairsinc.com. For more information call (323) 937-4659.

The agent disguised as an author

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 4 p.m.

The Santa Monica Public Library, in collaboration with Children's Book World, invites readers to meet author Anthony Horowitz at the Main Library. A discussion, followed by a Q & A session with Mr. Horowitz, will begin in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Auditorium, followed by a book signing. Mr. Horowitz has written several series, including the "Diamond Brothers Mysteries," "The Gatekeepers," and the "Alex Rider Adventures," an action-packed series featuring a 14-year-old super spy who works for Britain's MI6. "Snakehead," the newest "Alex Rider Adventure," takes readers from Australia to Southeast Asia, with plenty of danger and deceit in between. For more information on Anthony Horowitz, please visit his Web site at www.anthonyshorowitz.com.

'Choosing the Quiet'

1227 Second St., 5 p.m. — 6:30 p.m.

Maurizio Barattucci's solo show, "Choosing the Quiet" will open at Emeritus College. Barattucci taught at the Art Department of Santa Monica College for 30 years and retired recently. The exhibition will be shown until February 29, 2008. For more information on this free event, call (310) 434-4306.

Saturday, Jan. 26, 2008

'Eat Local: How to have a happy, healthy New Year'

2601 Main St., 2 p.m. — 4 p.m.

Judith Gerber, food expert and certified University of California Master Gardener, will lead a discussion of Barbara Kingsolver's "Animal, Vegetable & Miracle." Gerber will be followed by a presentation and book signing featuring Amelia Saltsman and her "Santa Monica Farmer's Market Cookbook." For more information, call (310) 392-3804.

Children are grand

828 Pico Blvd., 3 p.m. — 5 p.m.

An open house for families with children, ages 2 — 17, is being held at the Child Success Center as part of the Center's Grand Opening Celebration. Children are invited to join free activities in the state-of-the-art indoor gymnasium, while parents will have the opportunity to meet the Founder and Director Melissa Idelson and her team of child development specialists. The Child Success Center is an early learning organization that supports the growth and development of all children. The Center has recently relocated to accommodate the tripling of professional staff and expanding enrichment programs. Call (310) 899-9597 for details or visit www.ChildSuccessCenter.com

Aging gracefully

2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 1 p.m. — 2 p.m.

UCLA's Dr. Linda Nelson will lecture on topics related to aging and memory loss. Sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association.

Improve eclectically

1323-A Third St. Promenade, Noon — 3 p.m.

Westside Eclectic's Level 1 Improv class is an introduction to the art of improv comedy. The intro covers core improv ideals, concepts and vocabulary such as hyper-listening, give and take, yes-anding, efficient communication and emotional response. The WE teaching staff creates a warm and open learning environment that facilitates establishing the foundation of a seasoned improviser. For more information, e-mail classes@westsideeclectic.com.

Cool off with Carol

2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 11 a.m. — 12:30 p.m.

Enjoy a calming hour away from the pressures of daily life. Carol Kochoff, PsyD, LCSW, will demonstrate guided imagery techniques that you can use every day.

'Mary-Mary, Quite Contrary'

1211 Fourth St., 12:30 p.m. & 3 p.m.

You're never too old to believe! A host of colorful storybook characters confronts the miracles and mysteries of modern living as they try to convince a quirky Mary-Mary that she is not too old to believe in fairy tales. Call (310) 394-9779, ext. 651 for information.

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.



Combating a shortage at the polls

BY NATALIE EDWARDS

Special to the Daily Press

DOWNTOWN The candidates are in abundance, the propositions fill a novella sized pamphlet, and there are always far more registered voters than actual votes. The only component in short supply — easily overlooked, but indispensable — are the poll workers.

For the 2008 Presidential Primary Election taking place on Feb. 5 to operate smoothly an additional 300 poll workers will be needed, especially in Santa Monica, said Los Angeles County Acting Registrar-Recorder/CountyClerk Dean Logan.

"Although more than 24,000 poll workers have been recruited, there is still a need for more," Logan said. "The election is less than 15 days away and we're looking for additional help."

Reasons for the shortage vary. Logan attributes the dearth of volunteers to the unusual frequency of elections in 2007 and 2008. Voters might be unaccustomed to a February, rather than March or June, primary.

County Clerk spokesperson Eileen Shea believes that fewer voters are available to staff the election due to the increasing number of two income households.

"Working people don't have as much time as they used to," Shea said.

The shortage, if not allayed, will affect multiple communities within Los Angeles County. Beverly Hills, Canyon County, Castaic, Encino, Lomita, Los Angeles, Pacific Palisades, Playa del Rey, Rancho Palos Verde, Saugus, Sherman Oaks, Valencia, Venice, Winnetka, Woodland Hills may be the hardest hit. Santa Monica is included in that list.

To make the voting process as smooth as possible, adequate poll workers are needed from sunrise to after sundown to set up the sites, issue ballots, assist voters, and ensure proper poll closure. Poll workers provide an essential democratic function, Logan said.

"They are the most important and necessary component of a successful election day," Logan said. "Poll workers literally serve on the front lines of democracy."

The criteria for becoming a poll worker is

SEE SHORTAGE PAGE 8



Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

PAYING THE BILL: Guests check in at Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel last week. The cost to rent a room in the city averages \$275 a night.

Visits can really cost

Price of a hotel room reaches \$275 a night according to report

BY MELODY HANATANI

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE The beautiful sweeping views of the Pacific Ocean, the diverse array of restaurants whipping up award-winning cuisine and the seemingly endless opportunities to shop all combine to make Santa Monica one of the most desirable places to visit.

It's a quality experience that is clearly reflected in the hotel prices in the coastal Westside community.

Overnight rates at the 35 lodgings across the city on average increased by 9.9 percent from last year, bringing the cost

for one night's stay at a little more than \$275, according to figures released by the Santa Monica Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB).

But despite the hike in the cost to stay in Santa Monica, the occupancy rate for these hotels and motels averaged at around 82 percent last year, according to CVB officials.

"The business industry around us in the LA area, specifically in Santa Monica, has been good this year," said Misti Kerns, the president and CEO of the CVB. "The movie business and the Internet business ... has had a good year and we're reaping some benefits."

With expensive price tags attached to accommodations at hotels like the Fairmont Miramar, Casa Del Mar and the Sheraton Delfina, finding an affordable place to stay in Santa Monica can be a challenging task at times.

"The hotels on the beach are expensive

because of the location and the view," said Klaus Billep, the owner of Universal Travel System in Santa Monica. "Overall, the LA area certainly has enough choices and there are some good deals in Santa Monica."

For affordable lodgings, one might just have to look east. Billep pointed to motels and inns like the Best Western and some smaller lodgings scattered across Lincoln and Ocean Park boulevards. The Ambrose Hotel, located near St. John's Health Center in Mid-City, offers rooms at a little less than \$200 a night and offers a free shuttle service, Kerns said.

"We like to see there be additional inventory of more affordable rooms, but just like anything you look at, whether it be local rents or property values ... the rates will reflect what the market will pay," Kerns said. "In our portfolio of

SEE RATES PAGE 11



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Zev should put up or shut-up

Editor:

Thanks for continuing to cover the saga of the project to house and rehabilitate homeless veterans in three empty buildings on the West L.A. Veterans Administration grounds ("Controversy brews at the VA," page 1, Jan. 18). As a vet who has been close-to-homeless a few times, I have been watching the project's progress since Santa Monica Councilmember Bobby Shriver first proposed it in 2004.

I cannot remember more ridiculous/outrageous comments from a politician than those made by L.A. County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky. He says that rather than criticizing the time-consuming process that may be required to put programs in those buildings, Santa Monica officials should have started that process five months ago, when the VA Secretary designated the buildings to serve homeless vets.

Yaroslavsky is one of the most powerful elected officials in California. What on God's Green Earth has he been doing to move this project along during the three years that he and his huge staff have known about it? Answer: He supported a feel-good bill of (U.S.) Sen. Dianne Feinstein's to prohibit commercial development on the West L.A. VA grounds.

This worthy therapeutic housing program has been staring our supervisor in the face for three years. If he had supported it, hundreds of L.A. County's 15,000 homeless vets would already be turning their lives around in those buildings.

It's time for Yaroslavsky to put up or shut up – and stop showing up for photo ops. If not, Westside voters should make sure his time in office is up.

Sarah Flores

Santa Monica

Directors are not screenwriters

Editor:

I am not a member of the Writers Guild, but have been sympathetic to their demands. A couple of weeks ago, the Motion Picture Alliance hired two high-priced p.r. gunslingers, so-called "masters of disaster." Wonders of wonders, the media, whom Paul Haggis rightfully commented, with tongue in cheek, "speak with integrity, they check their sources, they get things right," are now, with gravity and concern, counseling writers to sign the same deal as the Directors Guild, after citing unnamed writers who are part of a "growing schism" in the guild.

Bah! Humbug! If the studios didn't stand to lose a precious part of their enormous profits from the network, DVDs, and other new sources, they would have offered a reasonable deal. Directors are not exactly working stiffs. Their up-front take has always been pretty high. As we know, most screenwriters do not make more than \$50,000 a year. Comparing directors to writers is like comparing CEOs, extremely high paid employees, to the employees who work for them.

Let's continue to support the writers.

Anna Sklar

Santa Monica

Another pitch for camping

Editor:

So Julie (Rusk) wants another survey to study who is most deserving of a bed instead of the cold alley ("Factoring in vulnerability," page1, Jan. 17). Now they have to hide out at night from the police and be society's pariah. A "study" or "survey" will what, reveal that living on the street is killing them? Who doesn't fit into that category? Rusk and all the other directors, supervisors and council people must not hide from the real statistics of 80 percent of the 73,000 or 58,000 have no bed. Another study of who is the most disserving (sic) is just another excuse for doing nothing. Everyone is disserving (sic) of a safe private bed, sanitary facilities and storage all tied to a real caseworker client support. Organized camping with caseworker management is one way that directly faces and offers the homeless these basics.

Randy Walburger

Santa Monica



The Soap Box

Bennet Kelley

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Choosing hope in the primary

THE PAST SEVEN YEARS HAVE BEEN like no other in our history. Seven years ago we were a confident, solvent nation that was respected abroad. Today we are staggered by the quagmire of Iraq, an ominous recession and this administration's colossal incompetence and are widely distrusted, even among our allies. The nation that rescued Berlin from the Soviets via airlift and sent a man to the moon was suddenly incapable of sending school buses to rescue victims of Katrina.

The next president needs to reverse this course. Fortunately, the Democrats have fielded a bumper crop of candidates this year and each of the three remaining candidates would make an excellent president. John Edwards deserves special recognition for having run a heroic campaign to remind us of the uninsured, the homeless vets and many others abandoned by this administration. Edwards, however, placed a huge bet on Iowa that did not payoff and his sputtering campaign has lost its viability.

Four generations after women were granted the vote and 40 years after the death of Dr. King, the choice is between Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama.

Clinton stands out in the field based on her breadth of experience from the House Watergate Committee, leading education reform in Arkansas to her years in the White House and Senate. With past Democratic presidents having had shaky starts as they grew into the job, there is something to be said for having a White House veteran and a seasoned team — especially in today's dangerous and uncertain world.

Clinton has performed well in the debates, proving she is a skilled communicator and the capable street fighter the party lacked in 2004. She has been battle-tested like no other candidate before her and remains steadfast despite unrelenting and often indecent attacks. Having witnessed reporters making cruel comments in her presence in New Hampshire in 1992 (well before she became a national figure), I believe the "divisive" label so often attached to her unfairly blames the victim since she was condemned at the outset merely because she did not "stay in her place".

Sixteen years of these attacks, however, have taken a toll in terms of how Clinton is defined. Her 46 percent disapproval rate has changed little since she first took office — although if nominated, she will get an opportunity at the convention and in the debates to change this perception.

Untouched by the "Clinton Wars," Obama has captivated Democrats and independents alike by fusing the pragmatism of post-partisanship with the idealism and eloquence of the Kennedy era. As the Gainesville Sun noted, Obama "resonates the politics of hope and personifies

the politics of change."

What distinguishes Obama is his combining the "Audacity of Hope" with the bold daring of leadership. Unlike his opponents, in 2002 Obama had the vision and fortitude to stand up and oppose a war with Iraq recognizing that such a war would "require a U.S. occupation of undetermined costs, with undetermined consequences."

Similarly, even though the nearly 50 year Cuban embargo is widely considered a failure, Obama was the only major candidate willing to risk alienating Florida's Cuban population by proposing to reform it. Obama is also the only major candidate to oppose the death penalty.

GOT OP-ED?

Say it loud, say it proud, but keep your guest commentary to 800 words or less. Send submissions to EDITOR@SMDP.COM.

This may prove to be decisive to the only age group carried by Bush in 2004 — "Generation Jones". Jonesers were born between 1955-1964 and came of age during the Carter-Reagan era when the left was in full retreat mode and perceived as weak. Jonesers may embrace Obama since by rejecting the politics of caution he demonstrates that he is a different type of Democrat.

The one hesitation many have about Obama is whether he has the experience needed to get elected and do the job. Obama has not endured the volume and ferocity of attacks associated with a national campaign and this week's testiness and attacks on former President Clinton heighten this concern and suggest that he may need to toughen his skin.

Obama's 12 years of elected experience, however, is comparable to other recent presidents such as Bush I, Clinton, Kennedy and Nixon, who had 12-14 years prior experience. Like Kennedy, Obama has assembled a seasoned team of advisors that includes national security advisors to Presidents Carter and Clinton and a number of other Clinton administration alums.

In articulating the politics of hope in his Iowa victory speech, Obama explained that hope "is the bedrock of this nation; the belief that our destiny will not be written for us, but by us."

It was a man from Hope that led Democrats back to the White House in 1992. That torch has passed to a new messenger of hope who is ready to do the same.

BENNET KELLEY is the former national co-chair of the Democratic National Committee's Saxophone Club and practices law in Santa Monica.

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Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

A look back at MLK from my mom's car

FOUR DAYS AGO WE CELEBRATED Martin Luther King's birthday. Three states, Mississippi, Arkansas and Alabama also celebrated Robert E. Lee's birthday on the same day, which, at best, is a bit of a "mixed message." For me, MLK Day is a chance for me to listen to King's remarkable "I Have a Dream" and "I've Been to the Mountain Top" speeches (Both are on the web, just type in the name). The passage of time has only made them more powerful.

On the negative side, during the holiday I'm always reminded by the archived news coverage of how badly King was tormented by our government. Jay Edgar Hoover spied on King, illegally tapped his phones (sound familiar?), sent anonymous blackmail threats, and even encouraged King to kill himself. Between Hoover's disgraceful illegal practices and his predilection to wearing chiffon dresses, I can't understand why the FBI Building still bears his name.

MLK Day seems even more important this year with Barack Obama running for president. A black man, a woman and a Mormon running is a testament to how far we've come. Or maybe how far we have to go. As Chris Rock lamented, "Dr. King spent his whole life devoted to non-violence, but if you're on MLK Drive, anywhere in the country, the chances are there's some violence going on!" Send angry e-mails to Chris Rock.

Dr. King was deemed the "American Gandhi" as he turned around a nation. But people forget that when LBJ signed the Civil Rights Act in 1964 it was far from a popular move. He predicted, "There goes the South to the Republicans for three generations." The red-blue map is testimony to Johnson's prescience.

My mother spent time with Martin Luther King in 1957 in her capacity as chairwoman of our temple's Social Action Committee (Temple Isaiah in Cheviot Hills). In December of 1955 King led the Montgomery bus boycott during which he was arrested, beaten, and had his home bombed. When the boycott was finally successful, King and the civil rights movement were thrust on the national stage, and there was no turning back.

Dr. King was invited to speak at our temple. My mother picked him up at LAX, drove him to temple and introduced him to the congregation. At my age Martin Luther King

didn't mean much to me. If my mother had picked up Mickey Mantle, that would have been a different matter.

Late in her life my mother commented that meeting Dr. King "was like meeting a prophet." Even though he was only 29 she felt she was in the presence of a spiritual man twice his age. As a gift she gave me the audiotape of his speech and then confessed a detail about the drive from the airport.

My mother owned a Hillman Minx, a British compact car that got 40 miles to the gallon, and why not, it only had 30 horsepower (Hillman was an ironic name because it could barely get up a hill). Even with the American Ghandi in the passenger's seat my mother was not at a loss for words. The two were deep in conversation (she probably advising him on the civil rights movement) when a concerned Dr. King politely volunteered, "Mrs. Neworth, isn't that the Pacific Ocean?" At the intersection of Sepulveda and Pico, instead of turning right my mother inadvertently made a left. "What did you do?" I asked, embarrassed for her. "What could I do?" she said matter-of-factly, "I made a U-turn."

Not long ago I listened to that tape which is now 50 years old. The quality wasn't very good but it made me miss my mother. And then at the very end there was another surprise. Dr. King concluded his talk with a rousing, "Free at last, free at last, thank God almighty free at last!" But wait! That was how he ended the "I Have a Dream" speech in 1963 in front of a quarter of a million people on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. I had always thought that the emotionally powerful ending had been some sort of divine inspiration. It turns out Dr. King had that card up his sleeve all along. I suppose the youngest person to ever win a Nobel Peace prize is entitled to a trick or two.

Dr. King's speech at Temple Isaiah was a huge success. Over the years many other notables came to speak: Eleanor Roosevelt, Bobby Kennedy, Margaret Mead, Ashley Montagu, Sen. Wayne Morris, Daniel Shore and Rod Serling (almost as good as Mickey Mantle because by then I wanted to be a writer). And yes, in that little Hillman Minx my mother picked all of them up from LAX. Looking back, I just hope she made a right turn at Pico.

JACK NEWORTH can be reached at Jackneworth2003@aol.com.

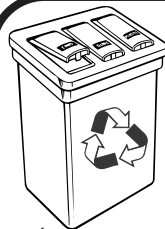


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NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR VERIZON WIRELESS SITE AT 1502 MONTANA AVENUE

The City of Santa Monica has prepared an Initial Study and Negative Declaration for the **Verizon Wireless Site at 1502 Montana Avenue**. The City of Santa Monica has prepared this Notice of Intent to provide responsible agencies and other interested parties with information describing the proposal and its potential environmental effects. Environmental factors which would be potentially affected by the project include: Aesthetics, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Construction Effects, Cultural Resources, Economic and Social Impacts, Geology/Soils, Hazards & Hazardous Materials, Hydrology/Water Quality, Land Use/Planning, Neighborhood Effects, Noise, Population/Housing, Public Services, Recreation, Shadows, Transportation/Traffic, Utilities/Service Systems, Agricultural Resources, Mandatory Findings of Significance, and Mineral Resources.

PROJECT APPLICANT: Verizon Wireless

PROJECT LOCATION: 1502 Montana Avenue, Santa Monica, CA 90403

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Verizon Wireless proposes to install, operate, and maintain an unmanned wireless telecommunications facility on the roof and on the lower subterranean parking level of the two-story commercial building at 1502 Montana Avenue in the City of Santa Monica. The proposed facility would include 12 panel antennas, one parabolic antenna, five equipment cabinets, and related equipment.

AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION: Copies of the Initial Study and proposed Negative Declaration on the proposed project may be reviewed at the following locations:

- ☐ City Planning Division, Public Counter, Room 111, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica
- ☐ Office of the City Clerk, Room 102, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica
- ☐ Montana Branch Library, 1704 Montana Avenue, Santa Monica

REVIEW PERIOD: As specified by the State CEQA Guidelines, a 20-day public review period for the Negative Declaration will commence on **January 22, 2008**, and end on **February 11, 2008**. The City of Santa Monica welcomes agency and public comments on the document during this period. Any comments on the Negative Declaration must be received within the public review period. **Comments may be submitted, in writing, by 5:30 p.m. on February 7, 2008**, and addressed to: Grace Cho, City Planning Division, 1685 Main Street, Room 212, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Fax: (310) 458-8341 E-mail: grace.cho@smgov.net

ESPAÑOL: Esta es una noticia de un estudio preliminar y declaración negativa para Verizon Wireless en 1502 Montana Avenue, lo cual puede ser de interés a usted. Para más información, llame a Carmen Gutierrez, al número (310) 458-8341.

The Q-Line

PROUDLY BROUGHT TO YOU BY

Pickin' time

Come February, California voters will be asked to cast their votes to determine which presidential candidates they want to see in the national election in November.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

Who do you think would make the best Commander in Chief amongst the current crop of candidates?

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



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Estates Director

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Community Meeting for 301 Ocean Avenue Condominium Project

January 31, 2008
7:00 PM

Ken Edwards Center
1527 4th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401



You are invited to attend a community meeting to review the design for a new 26-unit condominium building located at 301 Ocean Avenue. The project consists of a four-story building with subterranean parking on a 0.99 acre lot that currently contains a 47-unit apartment building.

This meeting is a new City Planning initiative to solicit comments from the public prior to the project being heard by the Planning Commission. You will have an opportunity to provide direct feedback to the staff and

the developer with regards to the project design. For further information, please contact Tony Kim, Associate Planner, at (310) 458-8341.

RSVP appreciated to (310) 458-8341.

ESPAÑOL

Esto es una noticia de una reunión de la comunidad para revisar el diseño de la aplicación proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si deseas más información, favor de llamar a Carmen Gutierrez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-8341.

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA PLANNING COMMISSION

SUBJECT: A Public Hearing will be held by the Planning Commission on the following:

Consideration of the following proposed text amendments and to forward recommendations to the City Council:

1. Modification of the City of Santa Monica Municipal Code (SMMC) Section 9.04.18.075 amending the text of the City of Santa Monica Zoning Ordinance in order to waive certain development standards to allow for legalization of rental units which were built or created without permits and registered with the Rent Control Board;
2. Modification of the City of Santa Monica Municipal Code (SMMC) Section 9.04.10.18.020 amending the text of the City of Santa Monica Zoning Ordinance in order to clarify that business establishments with alcohol CUPs must obtain new alcohol CUPs if the establishment ceases operating for a period in excess of one year, except for premises in the CM (Main Street Commercial) District, in which case the time period shall be six months;
3. Modification of the City of Santa Monica Municipal Code (SMMC) Section 9.04.10.02.340 amending the text of the City of Santa Monica Zoning Ordinance in order to Authorize the placement of furniture, portable landscaping, and cigarette disposal receptacles within the public right-of-way and the display of merchandise in private vestibules.

The Planning Commission will also conduct a public hearing to discuss general policy matters and issues pertaining to the City's ongoing effort to prepare new Land Use and Circulation Elements of the City's General Plan. Regular policy discussion meetings are scheduled on the first Wednesday of each month. Discussion topics are set in advance of the meeting are available at City Hall and online at www.santa-monica.org.

WHEN: Wednesday, February 6, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

WHERE: Council Chambers, City Hall
1685 Main Street
Santa Monica, California



HOW TO COMMENT

The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. You may comment at the Planning Commission public hearing, or by writing a letter or e-mail. Information received prior to the hearing will be given to the Planning Commission at the meeting.

MORE INFORMATION

If you want additional information about this project or wish to review the project, please contact Jonathan Lait, AICP, Principal Planner (310) 458-8341. The Zoning Ordinance is available at the Planning Counter during business hours or available on the City's web site at www.santa-monica.org. The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. If you have any disability-related accommodation request, please contact (310) 458-8341, or TTY Number: (310) 458-8696 at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting. Santa Monica "Big Blue" Bus Lines #1, #2, #3, and #8 serve City Hall. Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the Public Hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the Public Hearing.



Help Us Shape the Future! Be part of the effort to create new Land Use and Circulation Elements, and a new Zoning Ordinance. Help shape a twenty year vision and improve the way we get around Santa Monica.
<http://www.shapethefuture2025.net> (Land Use Element)
<http://motion.santa-monica.org> (Circulation Element)



CRIME WATCH

These guests aren't welcome

Crime Watch is a weekly series culled from reports provided by the Santa Monica Police Department. These are arrests only. All parties are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

FRIDAY, JAN. 11, AT 9:30 P.M.,

Santa Monica police officers responded to the 2900 block of Colorado Avenue – Village Trailer Park – regarding a report of trespassing. When officers arrived, they made contact with two suspects staying in a trailer at the park. Officers talked with the suspects, a married couple, who said that they had permission to stay at the trailer while the owner was away. Police said the husband said he was friends with the owner, who said that whenever he was in town to stop by for a visit. The husband said he was in town and stopped by, but no one was home. Police said the husband forced his way into the trailer, called his wife and told her to come and stay with him. Officers contacted the owner of the trailer who said he did not give the suspects permission to stay there. Officers arrested the husband for burglary. He was identified as Jason Ronald Miller, 36, a transient. No bail was set.

FRIDAY, JAN. 18, AT 11:20 A.M.,

Officers responded to the 700 block of Broadway – Vons – regarding a shoplifting suspect in custody. When officers arrived, they made contact with store security who said the suspect, a female, went into the grocery store and asked an employee at the deli counter for a package of chicken tenders, some smoked sausage, potato wedges and four small cheesecakes, all valued at \$39. The suspect then allegedly went into the restroom and reappeared without the items in hand. She walked out of the store and was stopped by security, who said the suspect hid the bag of food on her and walked out without paying. Officers placed the suspect under arrest for burglary. She was identified as Lenora Traci Freeman, 39, a Santa Monica resident. Her bail was set at \$20,000.

FRIDAY, JAN. 18, AT 11 A.M.,

Officers responding to a report of a burglary in progress at the Anthropologie store located in the 1300 block of the Third Street Promenade made contact with the alleged thief and placed her under arrest. Officers then made contact with store employees who identified the suspect. They said the suspect, a female, walked into the store and was not wearing any shoes. Employees asked her to leave. She refused and became confrontational, police said. The suspect then picked up several books that were for sale and said they were her books and proceeded to walk out of the store with them. An employee tried to stop her and she became combative. An employee said she was pushed by the suspect, who ran out of the store with one of the books – valued at \$27. Officers transported the suspect to the Santa Monica Jail where she was booked for robbery because she used force to take the book, police said. The suspect also had an outstanding warrant. She was identified as Salimah Lillian Hebert, 24, a transient. Her bail was set at \$55,000.

FRIDAY, JAN. 18, AT 8:35 P.M.,

Officers responded to the 1500 block of Alley 14 after receiving a call about three suspects spray painting walls. When officers arrived, they placed two of the suspects under arrest. The third managed to flee from police. Officers then spoke with a witness who identified the suspects as the ones responsible for the graffiti, which included gang monikers. Officers placed the suspects under arrest for felony vandalism because the extent of the damage was estimated at over \$400. One of the suspects was identified as Taylor Ryan Olivarez, 18, from Santa Monica. No booking information was available for the other suspect. Bail for Olivarez was set at \$20,000.

SATURDAY, JAN. 19, AT MIDNIGHT,

Officers responded to the 1600 block of the beach (Pacific Coast Highway) regarding an assault with a deadly weapon that just occurred. When officers arrived they made contact with the alleged victim who had several red marks on his face and body and was bleeding from his nose. The man told police that he had been on the beach with some friends when they got into an argument with another group. A fight broke out and one of the suspects pulled out a baseball bat and began to strike the victim, police said. The victim managed to break free and flag down a passerby, who called police. Armed with a description of the suspects, officers located them in the 100 block of Broadway. The victim identified them as his attackers and they were arrested for assault with a deadly weapon. They were identified as Orlando Lamar Jones, 21, of Paramount, and Quorry Radean Stokes, 18, from Hollywood. Jones was also booked for intimidating a witnesses. No bail was set for Jones because he violated his probation, police said. Stokes' bail was set at \$30,000.

MONDAY, JAN. 14, AT MIDNIGHT,

Officers on routine patrol near the corner of 25th and Oak streets observed a man driving a car with no front license plate. Officers conducted a traffic stop and smelled the strong scent of marijuana. Officers sensed that the driver and his passenger were nervous and under the influence of narcotics so they detained them for further questioning. Officers searched the car and found a small amount of marijuana in the car's ashtray. Officers also discovered a stash box that looked like a soda can. Officers opened it up and found marijuana and yellow pills that appeared to be ecstasy. In the back of the car officers said they also found a skeleton mask and a plastic gun. Officers searched the subjects and found on the passenger a large baggy containing crystal methamphetamine. The two suspects were arrested for possession of a controlled substance and for intent to distribute or sale narcotics. Officers also arrested the two for suspicion of robbery because of the mask and fake gun. The suspects were identified Robert Aguilar, 32, from Whittier and Mark Anthony Mascarenas, 22, from San Pedro. No bail was set for Aguilar because he had a warrant for his arrest, police said. Bail for Mascarenas, the driver, was set at \$50,000.

A new method to grow profits

As supplies dry up, some growers begin to sell water instead

BY GARANCE BURKE
Associated Press Writer

FRESNO In a state where water has become an increasingly scarce commodity, a growing number of farmers are betting they can make more money selling their water supplies to thirsty cities and farms to the south than by growing crops.

The shortages this season — among the most intense of the last decade — are already shooting water prices skyward in many areas, and Los Angeles-area cities are begging for water and coaxing farmers to let their fields go to dust.

"It just makes dollars and sense right now," said Bruce Rolen, a third-generation farmer in Northern California's lush Sacramento Valley. "There's more economic advantage to fallowing than raising a crop."

Instead of sowing seeds in April, Rolen plans to leave his rice stubble for the birds and sell his irrigation water on the open market, where it could fetch up to three times the normal price.

"It's been a good decade since there's been this much interest in buying and selling water on the open market," said Jack King, national public affairs manager for the California Farm Bureau Federation. "We're prepared to see significant fallowing in several key parts of the state."

Water from Northern California rivers irrigates most of the country's winter vegetables and keeps faucets flowing in the Los Angeles area. But it must be shipped south through a complex network of pumps, pipes and aqueducts, and that system recently developed a kink when a federal judge ordered new restrictions on pumping to save a threatened fish.

As Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and California legislators argue about how to solve the state's water crisis, the bottleneck has sent the demand for water soaring in cities and farming districts far to the south.

Residents of Long Beach can't run fountains, and it's now illegal for restaurants to serve customers a glass of water unless they ask for it.

Near Bakersfield, the shortages are expected to force some almond and pistachio growers to triage which of their nut trees should survive.

And cities across California are drawing down underground stashes meant to carry them through dry years just to avoid any new purchases.

The high premium for water has been especially painful for those served by Los Angeles' massive Metropolitan Water District, whose other main source of water, the Colorado River, is in its eighth year of drought. The agency recently proposed a rate hike for next year of 10 to 20 percent on the water it sells to cities.

Prices have jumped from the \$50 per acre-foot typical in wet years to as much as \$200 per acre-foot, a unit that measures the amount of water needed to cover an

acre of land one foot deep, said Dean Reynolds, a scientist who oversees water transfers for the Department of Water Resources.

"We're moderately nervous," general manager Jeff Kightlinger said. "We haven't prepared ourselves should we run into really severe droughts, so we're trying to formulate that now."

Officials in the Southern California suburb of Maywood are protesting the price hikes, which they say will force them to put off fixing corroded pipes that leach manganese into the water supply. "You go to any water tap in Maywood and you open it up and it looks like iced tea," Mayor Felipe Aguirre said.

IT JUST MAKES DOLLARS AND SENSE RIGHT NOW, THERE'S MORE ECONOMIC ADVANTAGE TO FALLOWING THAN RAISING A CROP."

Bruce Rolen

Third-generation farmer in Northern California's lush Sacramento Valley

That kind of desperation is pushing up demand for water from farmers further north, especially in the green rice fields north of Sacramento and along the San Joaquin Valley's western edge. Well-supplied water agencies like Rolen's Glenn Colusa Irrigation District are looking to sell, trade or exchange their water in time for the spring planting season.

Some environmental groups say that isn't a viable long-term solution.

The problem should be fixed by retooling a decades-old formula that gives farmers a break on their contracted water, even in times of scarcity, they say.

"Essentially these farmers are getting water for a subsidized price and selling it to taxpayers at an elevated rate," said Renee Sharp, senior analyst with the Environmental Working Group, an Oakland-based nonprofit that tracks farm subsidies. "On the other hand, the more often water agencies are scrambling to buy water, the more they get interested in some creative solutions, like conservation."

So far, conservation efforts and a set of storms earlier this month have helped replenish dwindling reservoirs and stave off a need for rationing. But even Rolen, who expects to harvest a bumper crop next year after idling 100 acres of his rice fields, says selling water is only a temporary fix to the problem.

"The state is growing almost exponentially and we have never totally satisfied agricultural water needs in the San Joaquin Valley and the southern part of the state," he said. "I hate to say it, but the supplies that we have now are just tapped out on a good year."

✉ **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

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North of Montana	= \$ 3,548,148	\$ 2,066,286
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South of Wilshire	= \$ 1,290,000	\$ 752,309
Sunset Park	= \$ 1,276,167	\$ 670,923
Ocean Park	= \$ 2,260,571	\$ 917,775

Statistics updated every Friday

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BULLHORN BLITZ

Gloria Godoy (center), a member of ACORN (Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now), protests at 233 Wilshire Blvd. on Thursday. ACORN demands that Deutsche Bank pressure the OCWEN financial corporation to modify its loans.

Alexis Hawkins news@smdp.com

L.A. poll workers in high demand

FROM SHORTAGE PAGE 3

double: Voter registration and California residency. To better serve the constituents of California, bilingual citizens are especially encouraged to apply. Knowledge of certain languages — Cantonese, Japanese, Mandarin, Korean, Spanish, Tagalog/Filipino, or Vietnamese — are in highest demand. Armenian, Russian, and Cambodian speakers are also needed.

To counter the difficulty in recruiting volunteers, county supervisors voted to compensate poll workers who sign up for the Feb. 5 primary, the June 3 state Direct Primary, and the Nov. 4 Presidential Election an additional \$75. The compensation has been termed a year-end bonus and accompanies the standard pay of \$80 per day for poll working.

In a bid to support familiarity with election day voting procedures among poll workers, the County Clerk's office is also offering \$25 to those who attend one of the numerous training sessions scheduled in the days prior to the election. To override potential schedule conflicts, the clerk has made sure training videos are available at the county's libraries.

If interested in becoming a poll worker for the Feb. 5 election, call the polls section of the county clerk at (800) 815-2666, option 7 or visit the Web site at www.lavote.net.

A schedule of classes, poll-worker training videos, and training materials can be found on the Web site under "poll-worker info."

Grace Chavez, a spokesperson for the county clerk, didn't seem particularly flustered at the possibility of a poll worker shortage, additional compensation notwithstanding.

"It always differs from year to year," Chavez said. "But this is not unusual."

Even if poll workers provide a vital democratic service for their neighbors, communities, and country, enlisting them, Chavez said, "is always a challenge."

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Daniel Archuleta daniela@smdp.com

NEW APPROACH TO POLICING: SMPD officials would like to put a face on the department for local residents. The department wants to give the agency a more hometown feeling.

New police beats to begin Sunday

FROM PATROL PAGE 1

extended. Under the current system, officers could be assigned to any of the eight beats on any given day, which results in residents seeing different faces every time they call the police department.

"By having a constant contact for the beat, it helps build that trust," Muir said.

Of the 65 patrol officers, about one-third applied for the eight NRO positions. The officers were selected based on their experience in the particular patrol area.

One of those officers is Jeffrey Glaser, who in patrolling downtown Santa Monica was assigned to the business district as a resource officer.

Continuing in downtown as an NRO seemed like a natural fit, already being familiar with the business owners, the few residents, and the homeless in downtown, Glaser said. Whenever he gets a call about a conflict with a homeless person, Glaser said he is usually able to conjure an image of the perpetrator just from a brief description provided.

It's an area that presents a unique set of challenges apart from the other beats in the city — largely being a business district, the majority of crimes tend to relate to the homeless or petty theft, Glaser said.

Familiarity was a reason why Officer Francisco Franco signed up for the Pico Neighborhood beat, an area he has patrolled for the past three years along with colleague, Officer Roberto Lucio, who is assigned to eastern Santa Monica, part of which

includes Pico.

The Pico Neighborhood is unique from the other beats in Santa Monica in that many of the families have lived there for generations and have deep ties to the community, the officers said.

"They want that hometown feeling," Franco said.

The realignment results in the creation of the beach and the bluffs being one contiguous beat, from the northern to the southern borders of the city.

Officer Brent Crafton, a five-year veteran of the department, has been working on the Santa Monica Pier and adjoining areas the past few years, an area whose challenges are considered to be seasonal with the waves of tourism. Issues there include illegal vending, gang activity at the late night hours and theft.

The progress of the NRO will be evaluated every month by Muir. The program includes a renovated SMPD Web site that includes the photos and contact information for each NRO, helping to make each officer accessible to their assigned community. Aside from acting as a liaison to the police department, helping with duties such as coordinating Neighborhood Watch programs, the officers will also be a representative of city government, listening to residents' concerns on everything from traffic to a malfunctioned street light, Muir said.

"They are the small-town sheriff," he said.

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Photos by Alexis Hawkins news@smdp.com

NICE SHOWING: (Clockwise from above) Lighting technician Adam Fleming prepares the Clark & Pougnaud digital gallery at the L.A. Art Show on Thursday at Barker Hanger. Michael Verne, owner of the Verne Gallery, sets up his collection of Japanese art at the L.A. Art Show on Thursday afternoon.



Art show expects to draw 20,000

FROM ART PAGE 1

finest artist like Picasso and Rembrandt.

The event drew more than 20,000 artists, collectors and dealers last year and organizers expect the same this time around.

"Los Angeles is becoming one of the most important art centers in the U.S. and the world and it only made sense to have an art fair here because of that," said Kim Ray Martindale, producer of the L.A. Art Show who was responsible for its creation 14 years ago. "Events like this have helped Los Angeles gain respect and are part of the reason why people have come to embrace L.A. as being the new art capital in terms of producing cutting-edge pieces."

Artists and collectors marveled at the

wide variety of styles and mediums presented at the art show, which boasts 125 exhibitors from destinations around the globe. Exhibitors spoke about the quality of the art presented and the professional manner in which the show is produced. Some exhibitors paid more than \$10,000 to set up shop. Some collectors will pay anywhere between \$500 and \$8 million for pieces on display.

"The exhibition has gained tremendous momentum with record-setting attendance and sales," Howard Rehs, president of FADA, said. "The public is really responding to the expanded focus of the show and the variety and quality of the art. The show and the arts and culture scene in Southern California has really

come into its own."

In addition to the opening gala and daily shows, the art fair will feature its much lauded lecture series with celebrated art experts.

Admission is \$20. General show hours are, Friday, noon to 8 p.m.; Saturday, noon to 8 p.m.; and Sunday noon to 6 p.m.

Beck wasn't the only one looking to network and get his name out there during the event. Tom Burns, publisher of Art Works Magazine, was in attendance Thursday to get some exposure. The magazine was started a few years ago to try and bring attention to the western art world. So many times the west is overlooked, Burns said.

"You really can't beat the collection of

art here and the various types of styles," Burns said of the art show, which featured prominent local artists like Ed Moses. "I thought the show was going to feature mostly traditional California landscape, but you have a good representation of so many different styles. It's fantastic."

For dealers, the pressure is on not only to meet people, but to also promote and sell their artists' work.

Jane Beebe, who owns the PDX gallery in Portland, has four artists she is trying to promote.

"The art I have here tends to be more modest than some of the other works," Beebe said. "That can be a plus or a minus."

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Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

PAYING THE COST: A guest relaxes at Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel last week.

Rates on the rise across the region

FROM RATES PAGE 3

accommodations, we are always promoting (all hotels)."

"There is certainly a great amount of people that are looking for a hotel that is less than \$200," she added.

The inventory of affordable rooms is expected to become more attractive when the new and improved Travelodge on Ocean Avenue opens in 2010.

Owner Michael Farzam is proposing to consolidate the current Travelodge and the adjacent Pacific Sands Motel into one motel that will include 164 rooms and feature retail on the ground floor. Farzam, who also owns the Best Western Ocean View hotel one block north, is scheduled to pitch the project to the Planning Commission next month. The rooms in the three hotels average around the \$110 range.

The Travelodge and the Pacific Sands were both built around the 1950s.

"Our vision is to really create affordable lodging in Santa Monica since it's a much needed and underutilized niche (here)," Farzam.

The Farzam family also plans to renovate the Santa Monica Motel on Lincoln Boulevard.

The hotel rates spike is not isolated to Santa Monica.

In Beverly Hills, hotel rooms average about \$408, a 12 percent growth from the previous year, while in Marina del Rey, a region considered as the affordable alternative to Santa Monica, rates run about \$177 a night, a six percent increase, according to the CVB. Occupancy rates for both areas averaged about 78 percent.

In West Los Angeles, hotels run about \$273 a night.

"While we're thrilled with our growth rate, we certainly haven't gone as far as we can," Kerns said.

Kerns said she anticipated the occupancy rate will flatten out this year.

Another hotel project in the pipeline is the renovation of the Shangri-La Hotel, which is expected to reopen this summer.

The 69-year city landmark will reopen as a 71 room-hotel — an increase of 17 rooms — and rates will start at \$325, according to Tehmina Adaya, the owner of the hotel. The hotel has been closed for about a year for renovations.

"It's going to be a different hotel," Adaya said. "Hopefully it will stay just as charming."

melodyh@smdp.com

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NEW RELEASE

IN THEATERS THIS WEEK

'Cloverfield' gets a little too shaky

I was going to cut a check for \$10 to the first person that could tell me what the name "Cloverfield" represents, but within minutes (thanks to Wikipedia & IMDB.com) I had my answer. Oh, I know it's supposed to reference the government's "designated name" for an incident that takes place in Manhattan, but I'm talking about the real meaning behind J.J. Abram's poor excuse for a title. Apparently "Cloverfield" is the street name near Abram's Santa Monica offices. Unfortunately, more thought went into the culling of the lame title than into the entirety of the plot.

"Cloverfield" aka "Shaky Cam" follows four of Manhattan's dumbest youths as they traipse after Michael Stahl-David who dutifully makes his way through a monster-infested city hoping to find his girlfriend, Odette Yustman, who, though trapped under tons of concrete and debris, has managed to hold onto and muster the strength to use her cell phone.

As our insipid protagonists traverse the city they encounter all manner of horrible atrocities; the monster, it's spidery underlings, exploding bodies and the worst

tragedy of all; being stuck in midtown when the shops are closed. Oh, how I miss Bergdorf's.

To director Matt Reeves' credit there are some really funny moments, and lines, all delivered by T.J. Miller, from whom also comes the film's most enjoyable performer, unfortunately he's hidden behind the camera 98 percent of the time, so we rarely see him. Aside from Miller, and the monster's credible performance (I really felt his rage), the acting in this pic isn't worth the \$10 dent in your wallet.

Drop the believability factor at the theater doors folks; though potentially moments from death, only Stahl-David has the impetus to call home, no one else seems to have a family nor desires to contact their loved ones; when Lizzy Caplan begins bleeding out from her eyes, and is hustled into quarantine, someone ridiculously asks, "Is she okay?" and after running up 42 flights of steps not one person is winded.

And don't expect closure either – the newest trend (since "The Sopranos" season finale) seems to be open endings. In other words, this film doesn't have one, that

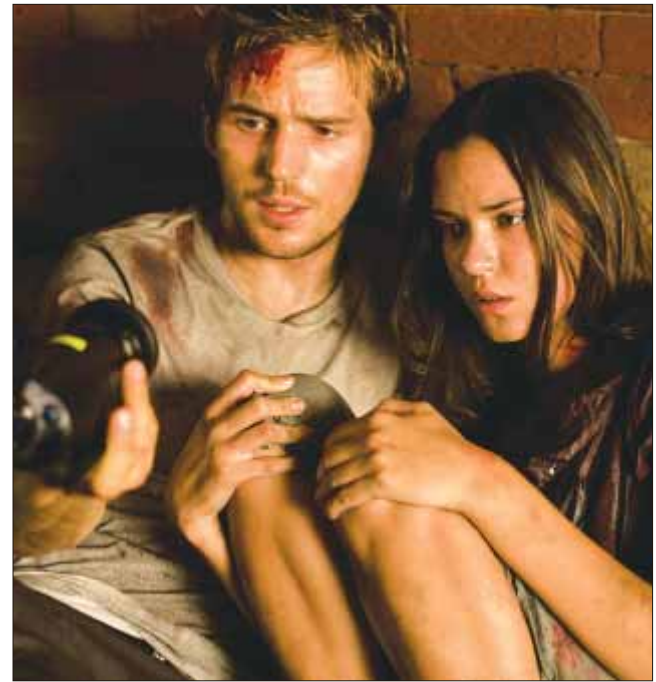


Photo courtesy Paramount

TRUE VIEW: 'Cloverfield' was shot with a generous amount of hand-held camera work. The end result is shaky at best.

is, unless you count the resounding, "boo" that may follow from every audience member.

What is great about "Cloverfield" is it provides a certain comfort level for the amateur cinematographer, to know that anyone, regardless of his or her expertise with a camera can make a movie. I think I'll go out and shoot a film on my iPhone this weekend – and if I follow in writer Drew Goddard's footsteps I won't even have to come up with an ending.

TAYLOR VAN ARSDALE is a writer/producer and movie reviewer for the Daily Press. She can be reached at Tailfish@roadrunner.com

Understanding Buckminster's odd universe

BY CYNTHIA CITRON

For the Santa Monica Daily Press

The play that just opened at the Rubicon Theatre in Ventura should come with a warning label: "Caution! Obfuscation ahead!"

It's D.W. Jacobs' often impenetrable one-man show, "R. Buckminster Fuller: The History (and Mystery) of the Universe" and it stars a brilliant Joe Spano delivering a rambling, abstruse soliloquy that appears to come directly from the stream-of-consciousness of the great man himself.

It begins simply enough, with family photos of Fuller as a young child. Nearly blind, he would listen to his older sister reporting on what she saw of the world around them. Thinking she was making it up, he would reciprocate with fantasies of his own. At a young age he was finally outfitted with glasses and the world became clear to him. But the childlike wonder and imaginative vision remained with him for the rest of his life.

As a young man, he was "dismissed" from Harvard, not once, but twice, and began to formulate his philosophy based on the need to think for himself. "I needed to rethink everything I knew," he explains.

He developed a theory that "a human

being is a pattern of integrity," and another that postulated that "all nature's patterns are based on triangles." Caught up in examining the ramifications of his theories, both geometrically and metaphysically, he "scarcely spoke for two years."

His career included a stint in the Navy during World War I, failing in business, and being derided as a lunatic by the scientific community. In the depths of depression (his beloved older daughter had recently died), he contemplated suicide. But he talked himself out of it with the realization that our greatest trespasses result from "the feedback of our own negativity" and that "the highest form of integrity is admitting our mistakes."

"We are here for each other," he declared, and set about to convince the world of his utopian vision that as we all learn to "do more and more with less and less," there would be more than enough for everyone. He called this concept "ephemerization," a product of "synergy," or collaboration to achieve a common goal.

"My goal was never to make money," he said. "Trying to make money and trying to make sense are mutually exclusive."

Making sense of his own life also seemed to be a personal goal. To that end he created what he called the "Dymaxion Chronofile," a series of jour-

nals that documented his life every 15 minutes from 1915 to 1983 and included correspondence, bills, notes, sketches, and clippings from newspapers, producing what has been said to be the most documented human life in history.

Fuller also had a personal concept of God as a "phantom captain" with "an awareness of perfection, unity, infinity, eternity, and truth." In pursuit of God's basic truth, he asked himself, "Is there a structure that is common to both physical and metaphysical reality?" Then, demonstrating with a series of classroom props and a blackboard, Fuller comes to the conclusion that the triangle is the basic structure.

Based on this insight, Fuller created his famed geodesic dome, a structure composed of various squares and triangles held together by tension rather than by pillars, buttresses and other traditional constructions. He called this development "vector equilibrium," a balance between outward thrust and restraining force, and in time his innovative, lightweight, and easily constructed domes came to cover more square feet of the planet than any other single kind of shelter.

Bringing the concept of "synergy" to bear on the act of problem-solving, which, he noted, "is common to all humans," he urged all people to work together for the

common good before it's too late.

"There is enough for all," he insisted, adding prophetically, "We have a choice of Utopia or Oblivion."

"R. Buckminster Fuller: The History (and Mystery) of the Universe" is an intellectually challenging, thought-provoking boggle of the mind. Jacobs, who directed as well as authored this expansive and expanded production, set it in the form of a college lecture, effectively putting Spano through his didactic paces. But if Spano provides the meat and potatoes, the frothy dessert is provided by scenic designer David Cuthbert and lighting and projection designer Jason H. Thompson. Within the confines of the classroom set, a gigantic background screen periodically flashes on some of the most fascinating illuminations imaginable: universes and diagrams and shimmering photographs of all kinds.

Still, I can't help but smile, thinking of the judgment a dear friend of mine would make of this production. "It's very good," he would say, "but it's no 'Yentl'!"

"R. Buckminster Fuller: The History (and Mystery) of the Universe" will continue at the Rubicon Theatre (1006 E. Main St., Ventura) Wednesdays through Sundays until Feb. 10. Call (805) 667-2900 or visit www.rubicontheatre.org for reservations.

news@smdp.com

ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS

The dance of war

Ea Sola knows conflict. Having been raised in Vietnam during the war, she has a vested interest in the work she takes on.

Drought and Rain Vol. 2 is a poignant look at the Vietnam War as seen through the eyes of the next generation – the youth. Her troupe of performers consists of 12 young dancers from the Vietnam National Opera Ballet and a traditional Vietnamese music ensemble performing new, original music.

The piece is a high-energy work that chronicles one of the most difficult eras the Southeast Asian country has ever seen.

Company Ea Sola will be performing at Royce Hall, located on the campus of UCLA. The performance takes place tonight and Saturday at 8 p.m. Ticket prices range from \$15 (student) to \$40. For information, go to www.uclalive.org.

DANIEL ARCHULETA

Photo courtesy Company Ea Sola



Getting arty at the Civic

Get a gander at an excellent cross-section of contemporary art at the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium this weekend.

ART L.A., the New Los Angeles International Contemporary Art Fair, will be presenting 60 top international and Los Angeles-based galleries during the three-day show. The fair was created to shed light on the L.A. art scene, but organizers aren't afraid to sprinkle in work produced outside of the area to give patrons a little something extra.

Hours are 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday. A one-day ticket is \$15 while a three-day pass is \$25. For information, call (323) 937-4659. The Santa Monica Civic Auditorium is located at 1855 Main St.

DA

Same old Leon Russell

The top hat, those sunglasses ... it has to be Leon

Russell. The gravelly-voiced crooner with the bad boy attitude will be making a visit to the Malibu Inn next week.

He'll be sure to draw from his deep repertoire of classic southern-tinged ditties during his visit to the West Coast.

Dubbed "The Master of Space and Time," Russell began to make a name for himself by playing as a session musician in Phil Spector's studio group. He's played back up with everybody from The Rolling Stones to Herb Alpert.

Russell will be appearing at the Malibu Inn on Wednesday, Jan. 30. The show is 21 and over and tickets range from \$20 to \$25. For more information, call (310) 456-6060. The Malibu Inn is located at 22969 Pacific Coast Hwy.

DA



RUSSELL

Soccer as a family affair

Get your kicks with Nomar Garciaparra and Mia Hamm at the Home Depot Center on Saturday.

The Dodgers' Garciaparra and his wife, legendary soccer player, Hamm are hosting a celebrity soccer challenge at the Carson venue that includes some of the greatest names in U.S. soccer history. The Galaxy's Landon Donovan, Alexi Lalas and Cobi Jones will team up with celebrities during the match that will benefit Childrens Hospital Los Angeles and the Mia Hamm Foundation. Jay Mohr, Seth Meyers, Carlos Mencia, Adam Sandler, Wilmer Valderrama and Tony Hawk are among a long list of celebrities who will take part in the festivities.

The game begins at 1 p.m. on Saturday at the Home Depot Center. For information, call (213) 480-3232 or visit www.miafoundation.org/soccerchallenge.

DA



Photo courtesy Los Angeles Dodgers

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SANTA MONICA ARCHITECTURAL
REVIEW BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING**

DATE/TIME: January 30, 2008, 7:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Council Chambers, (wheelchair accessible)
Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street

PROPERTIES:

- ☐ ARB 07-110, 1025 Euclid Street: Multi-Residential
- ☐ ARB 07-462, 152 Hart Avenue: Multi-Residential
- ☐ ARB 07-474, 1124 Twenty-Sixth Street: Multi-Residential
- ☐ ARB 07-491, 850 Second Street: Multi-Residential
- ☐ ARB 07-494a, 930 Ocean Front Walk: Commercial
- ☐ ARB 07-494b, 1200 Ocean Front Walk: Commercial
- ☐ ARB 07-494c, 2400 Ocean Front Walk: Commercial
- ☐ ARB 07-494d, 2600 Ocean Front Walk: Commercial
- ☐ ARB 07-499, 1242 Third Street Promenade: Commercial
- ☐ ARB 07-514, 1600 Montana Avenue: Commercial

More information is available on-line at <http://santa-monica.org/planning/planningcomm/arbagenda.htm> or at 310/458-8341 (en español tambien). Plans may be reviewed at City Hall during business hours. Comments are invited at the hearing or in writing (FAX 310-458-3380, e-mail planning@santa-monica.org, or mail Santa Monica Planning Division, 1685 Main St., Rm. 212, Santa Monica, CA 90401). Call 310-458-8341 or TTY 310-450-8896 for disability accommodation requests. Big Blue Bus lines 1, 2, 3, 7 & 8 serve City Hall.

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SURF REPORT

SURF CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 55°

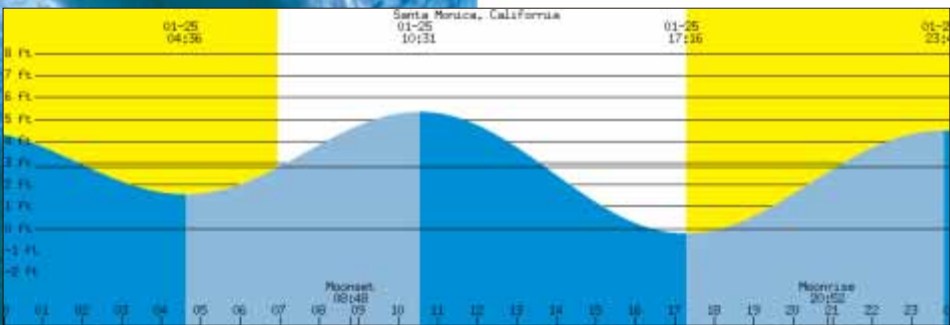
SWELL FORECAST (3-4 FT)

Today the Western Pacific WNW that's filling in today (the ground swell from 290) should remain as SW diminishes. Some NW energy should also fill in from another passing storm. West facing breaks are looking at chest+ surf overall, smaller at south facing spots. Conditions though will likely be completely trashed. Winds should increase onshore to 15 mph early with rain with thunder and lightning quite possible (water-spouts are still possible).

LONG RANGE SYANOPSIS

CONDITIONS LESS THAN FAVORABLE THROUGH AT LEAST SATURDAY...

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA





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 15, 2008**

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 --	0
	Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill --	0
	Number of wet days --	11
	Number of A grades for dry/wet weather --	39 / 13
	Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather --	8 / 32

The Beach Report Card is made possible by a grant from 

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 (leocarrillo)	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+	F
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	D
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	D	F
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	A+	C
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	A+	F
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach	A+	F
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth	D	F
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	A+	F
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A+	F
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily	F	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	B	F
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	D	F
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	A+	B
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	F	F
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon	A+	F
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	A	F
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	F
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A	F
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	D

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

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.

LEGEND



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

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NEW DVD RELEASES

BY RANDY WILLIAMS



Photo courtesy NBC

OLD TIMER: Julia Louis-Dreyfus stars in 'The New Adventures of Old Christine.'

'The New Adventures of Old Christine' Season One

The first "Seinfeld" cast member to return to television with a major hit, Julia Louis-Dreyfus stars as a zany yet vulnerable single mom struggling to hold things together as she attempts to get back into the dating game. The premise stems from the fact that her former husband is seeing a younger woman of the same name and to avoid confusion is called New Christine, while the divorcee's confidence is tested as she is given the unfortunate nickname of Old Christine. Dreyfus won an Emmy for her role here. Thirteen episodes on two discs also include unaired scenes, a gag reel, and interviews with the cast as well as the series creator, Kari Lizer. (Warner Bros)

'When Harry Met Sally' Collector's Edition

This classic romantic comedy directed by Rob Reiner featuring Billy Crystal and Meg Ryan, stylishly and intelligently lays out the truths involving the issue of sex in friendships between men and women. Feature-length audio commentary by Reiner, Crystal, and writer Nora Ephron are included. Additional bonus features include: What Harry Meeting Sally Meant, I Love New York, Stories of Love, It All Started Like This, When Rob Met Billy, Creating Harry and So, Can Men and Women Really Be Friends? (MGM)

'Groundhog Day' 15th Anniversary Edition

Bill Murray is at his wry, wisecracking best in this imaginative romantic comedy. He stars as a television weatherman trapped in a personal time warp on the worst day of his life stuck in a small Pennsylvania town covering the annual Groundhog Day festivities. Co-starring Chris Elliott and Andi MacDowell, special features include: "The Weight of Time" documentary, "The Study of Groundhogs: A Real Life Look at Marmots", deleted scenes, and an interview with director Harold Ramis. (Sony)

'Rockford Files' Season Five

One of the most beloved detective shows in television history offers its 22 episode fifth season (1978-79) on a five-disc set. This year ex-con-turned private detective Jim Rockford (James Garner in an Emmy-winning role) is joined by guest stars Tom Selleck, Harold Gould, and Rita Moreno among others in a variety of stories such as protecting a former fiancée from a paid assassin, stumbling onto an underground organ transplant ring, and finding himself in the middle of a gun-running operation. A young writer on the show, David Chase, would go on to create "The Sopranos." (Universal)

'Summer of 1957'

Baseball fans prepare to be transported back in time with over three hours of rare interviews, highlights, and never-before-seen footage of one of the major leagues' greatest seasons. A digital gem, it features some of the sport's best players in action. "Summer of 1957" captures the talents of such Hall-of-Famers as Hank Aaron, Ted Williams, and Mickey Mantle. Preserved on DVD for the first time, this smorgasbord of baseball nostalgia begins from spring training all the way to the World Series and covers old stadiums, the all-star game, off-the-field activities of the game's top stars, even the old hand-operated scoreboards. Material on all 16 teams of the era are lovingly restored and presented in Dolby digital. (Rare Sports Films)

'American Gangster' Complete First Season

Ving Rhames ("Pulp Fiction") narrates six true stories about infamous African-American criminals. Two discs comprise the initial and controversial episodes that aired on Black Entertainment Television. The true-crime genre is slickly produced here. Spectacular rises and disastrous falls are evenly chronicled in riveting fashion of such notorious felons as Leroy "Nicky" Barnes, a Harlem drug kingpin for over three decades and Stanley "Tookie" Williams who goes from a Los Angeles gang leader to Nobel Peace Prize nominee. (Paramount)

RANDY WILLIAMS can be reached at writtenbyrw@yahoo.com.

BOOKREVIEW

BY DANE ROBERT SWANSON

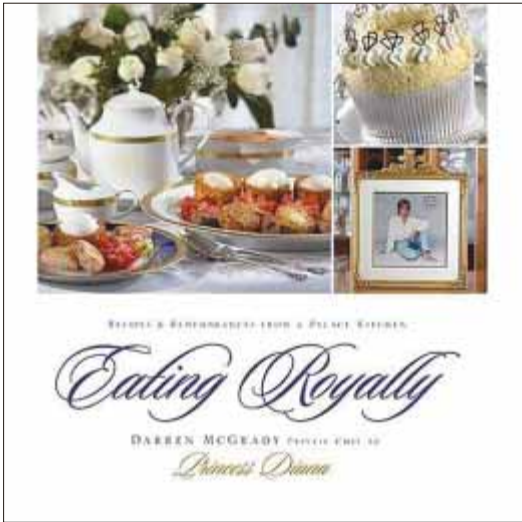


‘Eating Royally’ By Darren McGrady • Thomas Nelson, Publisher

Warning: Make sure you have eaten before you read this book. If you haven't, you may find yourself drooling on the pages.

It is subtitled "Recipes & Remembrances from a Palace Kitchen." "Eating Royally" is a combination cookbook and remembrances. It can be seen as a cookbook because it contains recipes from the palace kitchen. You can read it as a remembrance because Darren McGrady, the personal chef to Princess Diana, tells the story of his years as a chef for the royal family in a linear manner as well as the four years for Princess Diana after her divorce. All this in seven chapters and over 200 pages.

It seems memories of Princess Diana are still being written. She has left quite an impact on the world. People still want to know things about her. What makes this different is now we have a book giving us some of her favorite food recipes.



For British subjects and others, Diana was a delightful person who didn't quite fit the garb of royalty. She cared more for people and organizations. She spent more time with her boys than she did with the royal house.

Some of these recipes look easy to make. All you need is the right ingredients and hungry people. Pictures are included of some of the dishes, so you know what they look like. Cold Lemon Soufflé and the Old English Apple Pie look good, and they would both serve six.

A recipe for that old perennial Fruit Cake, in this case called Christmas cake, is also included. You would need to start it back in September to really get the full goodness out of it as you will need the three months to let it mature.

Mr. McGrady shares little stories that humanize the princess and her family. One story concerns the things her children

would do to the chefs. He tells that one Christmas, William and Harry each received large water guns. And the targets were usually the chefs. The boys would soak the chefs with the water. So they decided to fight back. "But the boys would laugh and run away, carefully plotting out their next attack." So McGrady and another chef, Arthur Smith, went and bought water guns from a local toy store. But they got caught carrying the guns back.

"Out of nowhere an officer appeared. "What have you got there?"

"Oh, these," Arthur replied, "These are for William and Harry. We are going to shoot them as they come out for tea."

"Best take them back to your rooms, lads. Right now," was the reply.

This book starts out giving us an overview of the Royal Year. Each individual chapter is preceded by a picture of the royal residence lived in during a season of the year. Recipes are sprinkled throughout each chapter. Personal pictures are interspersed throughout the book. The pictures of the dishes that can be made following a fair amount of the recipes given are what could get you drooling.

DANE ROBERT SWANSON can be reached at smdp_review@yahoo.com.

MOVIEGUIDE

- AERO THEATRE**
1328 Montana Avenue
(310) 260.1528
- Blazing Saddles (R)**
7:30
History of the World: Part I (R)
7:30
- AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4**
1441 3rd Street
(310) 458-1506
- Atonement (R)**
1:50, 4:45, 7:45, 10:35
Cloverfield (PG-13)
3:10, 5:15, 7:30, 9:50
The Great Debaters (PG-13)
1:45, 7:15
How She Move (PG-13)
1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:25
I Am Legend (PG-13)
4:30, 10:15
The Kite Runner
12:25
- AMC 7 SANTA MONICA**
1310 3rd Street
(310) 289-4262
- 27 Dresses (PG-13)**
11:00am, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
Charlie Wilson's War (R)
11:45am, 2:20, 5:00, 7:30, 10:10
Cloverfield (PG-13)
10:50am, 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:20, 10:45
National Treasure: Book of Secrets (PG)
1:00, 3:50, 6:50, 9:55
P.S. I Love You (PG-13)
3:30, 6:25
Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street (R)
11:10am, 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:30
There Will Be Blood (R)
12:00, 3:20, 6:45, 10:10
Untraceable (R)
11:20am, 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:45
- LAEMMLE'S MONICA FOURPLEX**
1332 2nd Street
(310) 394-9741
- The Diving Bell and the Butterfly (Le Scaphandre et le papillon) (PG-13)**
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 9:55
Juno (PG-13)
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
No Country for Old Men (R)
1:15, 4:05, 7:00, 9:55
Persepolis (PG-13)
12:45, 3:00, 5:25, 7:50, 10:15
- MANN'S CRITERION THEATRE**
1313 3rd Street
(310) 395-1599
- The Bucket List (PG-13)**
11:50am, 2:10, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
Cassandra's Dream (PG-13)
11:40am, 2:40, 5:20, 7:50, 10:30
Mad Money (PG-13)
12:10, 2:30, 5:00, 7:20, 10:10
Meet the Spartans (PG-13)
12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 10:00, 12:10am
Michael Clayton (R)
1:10, 4:20, 7:40, 10:20
Rambo (R)
12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40, 12:00am

Let your mind soar, Pisces

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

Happy Birthday!

Dynamic changes will occur in your life this year. Don't try to control others. You could make situations worse. Learn that you are master of your own ship, but not of others' lives. If you are single, a partnership could evolve quickly or it could be difficult. Remember to flex. If you are attached, the two of you will bond on a tighter level with work. VIRGO can be controlling.



Born Today

Singer Alicia Keys (1981)
Writer Virginia Woolf (1882)
Actress China Kantner (1971)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>
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ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Express your willingness to get into a project, and establish limits if possible. You might want to revise how you deal with work and your commitments. You do know how to say enough. Question your choices carefully. Tonight: Easy does it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Your creativity comes through. How you view a partnership and his or her funds has changed during the year. You discover that a new perspective is heading in your direction. The unexpected tumbles into your lap, whether you like it or not. Tonight: Be your ever-playful self.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Stay anchored knowing what you want and expect from business and personal affiliations. Your path through life could be very different from someone else's. Adjustments might need to be made. Tonight: You're happiest close to home.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Your ability to see beyond the obvious emerges. You could believe that you have had enough of a key person in your life. Don't get involved in another's power plays. Consider your options. Tonight: Visit with a friend over dinner.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Indulge and treat yourself to a little more time. New beginnings become possible. The unexpected occurs out of the blue. Your creativity emerges. Tonight: Curb any wild spending.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ You are full of vigor and energy. Your imagination bubbles forth. Answers come in from out of left field. Let your magnetism flow forth. If you want to understand a partner, don't judge quite so much. Tonight: Start the weekend in style.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ Move in a new direction, and be willing to change your course if you hit an obstacle. How you view life could change, especially regarding the personal and domestic areas of your life. Power plays could be difficult. Tonight: Happy at home.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Zero in on what you want. Clearly someone could be overreacting or doing something quite differently. You might need to make an adjustment where you least expect it. Consider alternatives and see life differently. Tonight: Speak your mind.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ You have become stronger and much more aware during the past few years. Investigate what you want from a financial matter. Your goals might change in this area during the next few years. Tonight: A must appearance.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ A major planet enters your sign today. Even those born in December might feel the transformation. If possible, detach from power plays or demanding situations. Learn to support yourself more often. Tonight: Take off early if you can.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Understanding takes you in a new direction. Don't jump to conclusions; rather, observe a partner and his or her reactions. Use caution when dealing with finances, and you might experience some unanticipated twists and turns. Tonight: Easy does it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Many judge you to be unpredictable and/or difficult at times. Don't force anyone to agree. Allow others to call the shots. Let go of a need to control others. Tonight: Let your mind soar.

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
SILVER

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

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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 YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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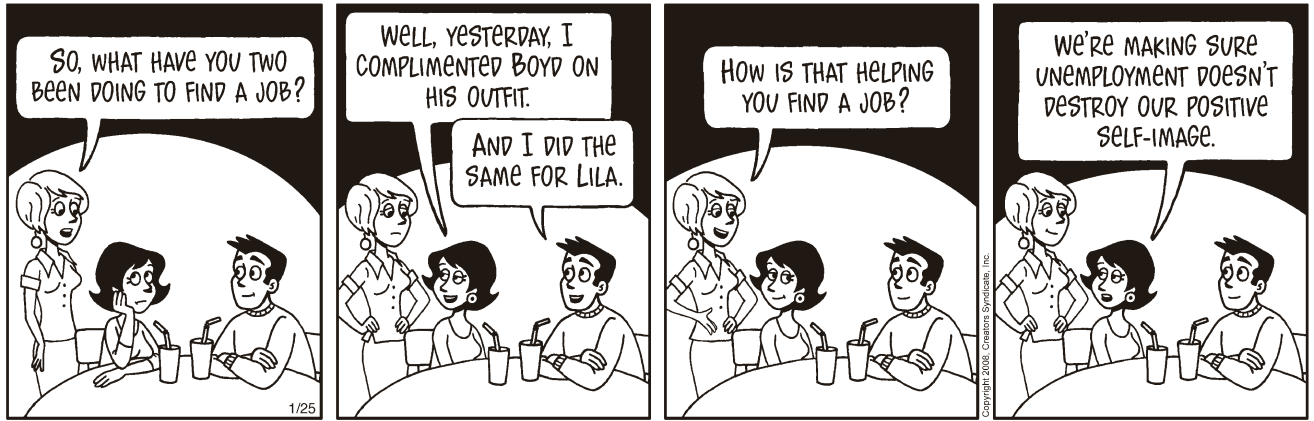
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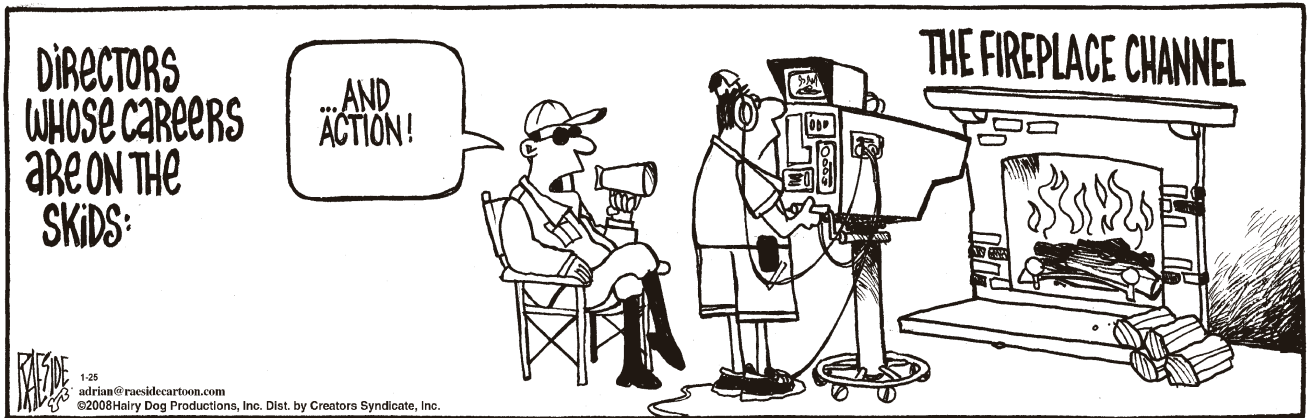
Girls and Sports



The Meaning of Lila



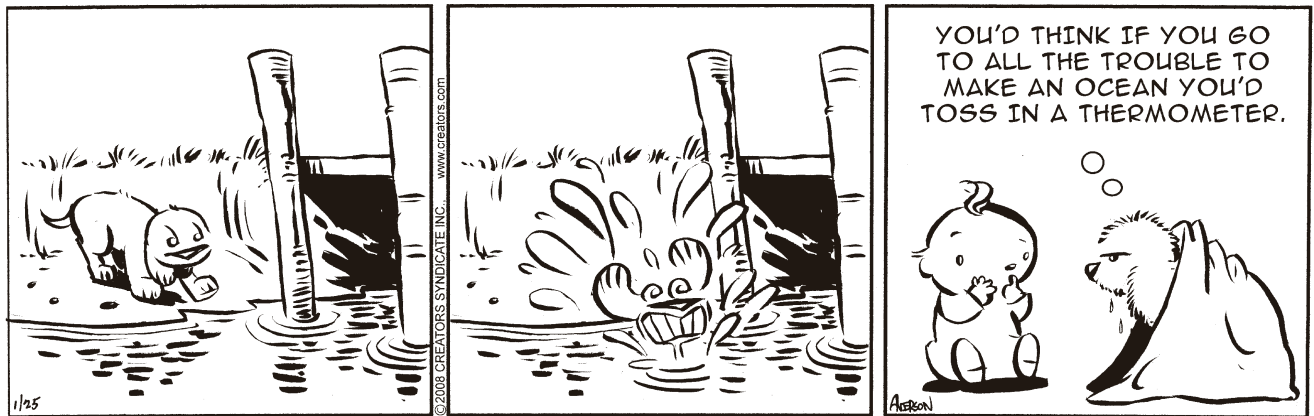
The Other Coast



Garfield



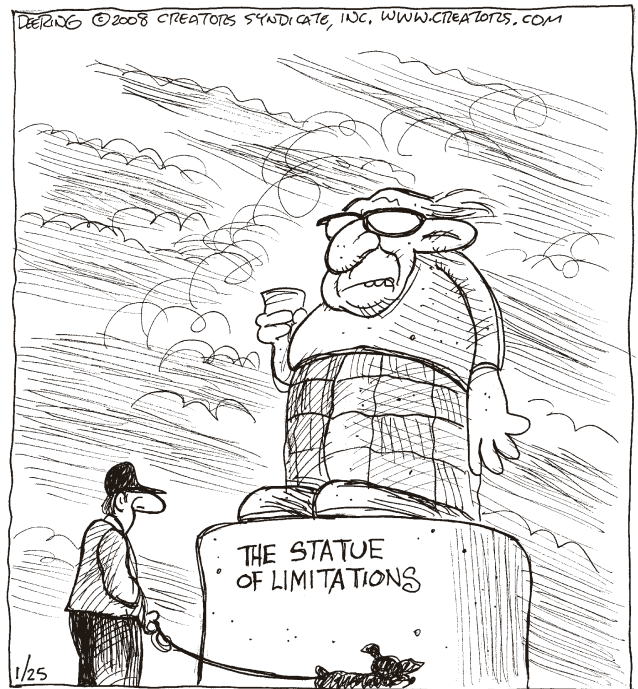
Dog eat Doug



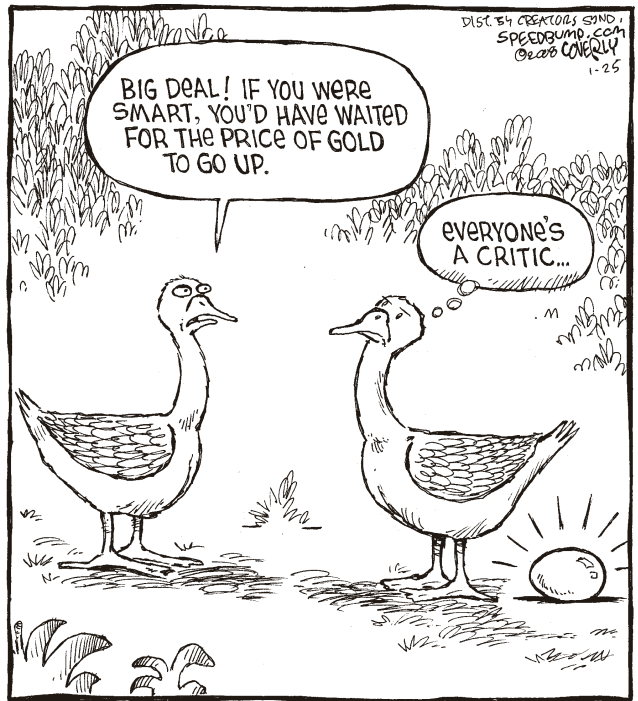
The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Strange Brew By John Deering



Speed Bump By Dave Coverly



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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Aramis' creator
 - 6 Debussy work
 - 11 Clear
 - 12 Really impressed
 - 13 Talus setting
 - 14 Small fry
 - 15 Tombstone name
 - 17 Final, for one
 - 18 Bridge
 - 20 La Scala offering
 - 22 Get-up-and-go
 - 23 Sleep
 - 26 "All My Children" role
 - 28 Hall of Fame catcher
 - 29 Some shorts
 - 31 Work unit
 - 32 "Pinocchio" pet
 - 33 Impudence
 - 34 Sore spot
 - 36 Rubberneck
 - 38 Hay sites
 - 40 Pen resident
 - 43 Ham it up
 - 44 Earlier, in dialect

- 45 Insertion sign
- 46 Bra part

DOWN

- 1 "Traffic" org.
- 2 Ornate vase
- 3 Try to sell
- 4 Narnia lion
- 5 Crystal gazer
- 6 Topsy
- 7 Whenever
- 8 Try to reach
- 9 Some of the flock
- 10 Breather
- 16 Amigo
- 18 Blueprint number

L	O	L	L	C	A	B	A	N	A
A	L	I	E	A	R	A	B	I	C
M	E	T	S	R	E	C	E	N	T
B	O	T	S	W	A	N	A		
		L	E	E	A	L	L	E	N
U	P	E	N	D	S	L	I	D	E
R	A	T				T	I	E	
S	N	O	B	S	D	A	T	E	D
A	T	E	A	T	A	L	L		
		R	O	A	D	T	E	S	T
B	A	D	C	O	P	A	J	A	R
I	C	E	A	G	E	R	O	M	E
G	E	N	R	E	S	S	E	E	K

Yesterday's answer

- 19 Andean land
- 21 Massages
- 23 Umpire's call
- 24 Bungles
- 25 Tatters
- 27 "Gigi" author
- 30 Visibility lessener
- 33 Lilliput's creator
- 34 Tina's TV co-star
- 35 Deep sleep
- 37 Weary word
- 39 Collector's goal
- 41 Historic stretch
- 42 Agent, for short

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

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Meganumber: 2
Jackpot: \$61M

Super LOTTO 21 25 28 34 42
Meganumber: 10
Jackpot: \$49M

Fantasy 5 2 7 9 29 39

DAILY 3 MIDDAY: 0 1 5
EVENING: 0 0 9

DAILY DERRY 1st: 06 Whirl Win
2nd: 12 Lucky Charms
3rd: 02 Lucky Star
RACE TIME: 1:49:39

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Writer David Farley said he is investigating the 1983 disappearance of the "Holy Prepuce," which is a patch of the foreskin of Jesus and supposedly was the only body part he might have left on Earth. Until it went missing, it was the centerpiece of each January's Feast of the Holy Circumcision at the Church of the Most Holy Name of Jesus in Calcata, Italy. Several theories persist about its disappearance, the most enduring of which is that it was swiped on orders from the Vatican, which was troubled by the attention it had historically received, according to a December Religion News Service dispatch.

■ With the American West seemingly under perpetual threat of drought, developer Richard Mladick is nonetheless preparing to build Waveyard, a massive water theme park, near Mesa, Ariz., which will require 50 million gallons of groundwater to open and as much as 100 million gallons annually. Explained Mladick: "I couldn't imagine raising my kids in an environment (without the opportunity) to grow up being passionate about the same sports that I grew up being passionate about" (that is, kayaking, scuba diving and surfing). Voters approved Waveyard overwhelmingly, based on Mladick's promise of jobs and tax revenue.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1787 Shays's Rebellion suffered a setback when debt-ridden farmers led by Capt. Daniel Shays failed to capture an arsenal at Springfield, Mass.

1858 Britain's Princess Victoria (the eldest daughter of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert), married Crown Prince Frederick William (the future German Emperor and King of Prussia) at St. James's Palace. (The ceremony's tradition-setting music, personally selected by the Princess Royal, included the "Bridal Chorus" from Richard Wagner's "Lohengrin" and the "Wedding March" by Felix Mendelssohn.)

1890 reporter Nellie Bly (Elizabeth Cochrane) of the New York World completed a round-the-world journey in 72 days, 6 hours and 11 minutes.

1890 the United Mine Workers of America was founded.

1915 Alexander Graham Bell inaugurated U.S. transcontinental telephone service.

1946 The United Mine Workers rejoined the American Federation of Labor.

1947 American gangster Al Capone died in Miami Beach, Fla., at age 48.

WORD UP!

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20072664503 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as JONILYN PHOTOGRAPHY, 11114 FAIRBANKS WAY, CULVER CITY, CA. 90230. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : JONILYN PINPIN BROWN, 11114 FAIRBANKS WAY, CULVER CITY, CA. 90230 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)11/14/2007. /s/ JONILYN PINPIN BROWN
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 11/14/2007. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 1/4/2008, 1/11/2008, 1/18/2008, 1/25/2008

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20072857083 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as WESTSIDE UNLIMITED, 1923 GATES AVE. #2, REDONDO BEACH, CA. 90278. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : SANDRA R. MACNICOLL This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)1/28/2008. /s/ SANDRA R. MACNICOLL
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 1/28/2008. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 1/25/2008, 2/1/2008, 2/8/2008, 2/15/2008

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