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TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2010

Volume 9 Issue 64

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

OBAMA MEETS WITH THE CHAMPS
SEE PAGE 12

THE COUNCIL BETTER MOVE ON BROAD ISSUE

Candidates lining up for vacant council seat

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL With a vacant seat on the City Council for the second time in a year, speculation is mounting over how the body will act to select a seventh member.

The seat occupied for over 20 years by Ken Genser, whose memorial service was held on Sunday, could either be filled by appointment or through a special election.

At its meeting tonight the council is expected to declare the seat vacant. The body will then have 30 days to appoint a replacement with a majority vote or an election will be triggered.

The decision facing the council comes exactly a year after the death of Councilman Herb Katz led to a contentious debate over who should get the seat. It took the council eight voting rounds before a majority appointed Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights (SMRR) co-chair Gleam Davis to fill the vacancy.

Some City Hall observers, including at least two councilmen, have criticized the process that unfolded last year for giving those who applied for the seat false hopes they could be appointed.

The council received 27 applications to fill Katz' seat, but just four candidates were considered by the council the day the body made its appointment.

Councilman Bobby Shriver said soliciting applications "deceived members of the public" by suggesting the selection process would be a thorough and broad search for the most qualified candidate when in fact only a few were seriously considered.

The four individuals who received a nomination for the position from a council member a year ago were Davis, Planning Commissioner Ted Winterer, former school board member Patricia Hoffman and former City Councilman Nat Trives.

Shriver said he doesn't see the point of asking for applications to fill Genser's seat.

SEE COUNCIL PAGE 8



GOOD SAMARITAN

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Santa Monica fire fighters and paramedics on Monday care for Antonio Sanchez' (center) burned hand, which he injured while extinguishing his neighbor's kitchen fire at the Mountain View Mobile Home Park on Stewart Street.

New contender emerges for Broad museum

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

DOWNTOWN Philanthropist Eli Broad is thinking about moving his foundation headquarters and a new museum to the stalled downtown Los Angeles Grand Avenue Project.

The Grand Avenue Authority, comprised of elected officials from the city and county of Los Angeles, on Monday authorized negotiations between the Grand Avenue Committee, the Broad Foundations and Related Companies.

First reported to be headed to Beverly Hills, the Broad Art Museum, which would house the philanthropist's 2,000-piece contemporary art collection, has also been linked to Santa Monica, where city officials are prepared to vote next month in favor of negotiating a deal with Broad to build the museum adjacent to the Civic Auditorium.

Broad is expected to spend between $40 and $60 million to design and build the facility and will create a $200 million endowment to cover the museum's long term expenses, according to Santa Monica officials.

The proposed terms of the agreement call for City Hall to lease a 2.5 acre site next to the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium to the museum for a nominal fee and to contribute $2.7 million to the project, including $1 million to cover design costs.

The Broad Foundations would be committed to hiring a "world-class architect" to design the project, spending at least $40 million on construction and creating at least 30,000 square feet of exhibition space.

Santa Monica seemed to be the front runner, however, there have been concerns raised by some in the community about handing over a considerable chunk of land at a time when revenues are down. Some feel a better deal can be reached, generating more money for city coffers.

Los Angeles City Councilwoman Jan Perry, a member of the Grand Avenue Authority, praised the chance to "get something going" on one of the four parcels that make up Related's master-planned project, according to a report on blogdowntown.com

"[The museum] could have a multiplier effect" for the neighborhood, Perry said.

SEE MUSEUM PAGE 8

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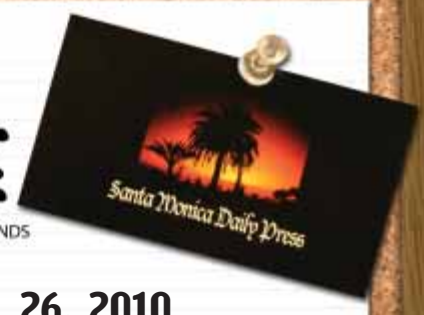
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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2010

Exploring the line

Santa Monica Museum of Art
2525 Michigan Ave., 11 a.m. — 6 p.m.
Working in film, video and installation, Diana Thater, has been an innovator in her medium for 20 years and is best known for creating complex visual and spatial environments. The exhibit, "Between Science and Magic," is a simple, and beautiful interpretation of movie magic— a century-old expression that still conjures the mythology of Hollywood filmmaking. Thater's project is conceived as a brief history of cinema.

Write away

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

Wednesday, Jan. 27, 2010

Fresh food

Downtown Farmers' Market
Arizona Avenue, 8:30 a.m. — 1 p.m.
Enjoy one of Santa Monica's Farmers' Markets, widely considered to be among the best on the west coast and featuring field-fresh produce, hundreds of kinds of vegetables, brilliant cut flowers, breads, cheeses and delicious food.

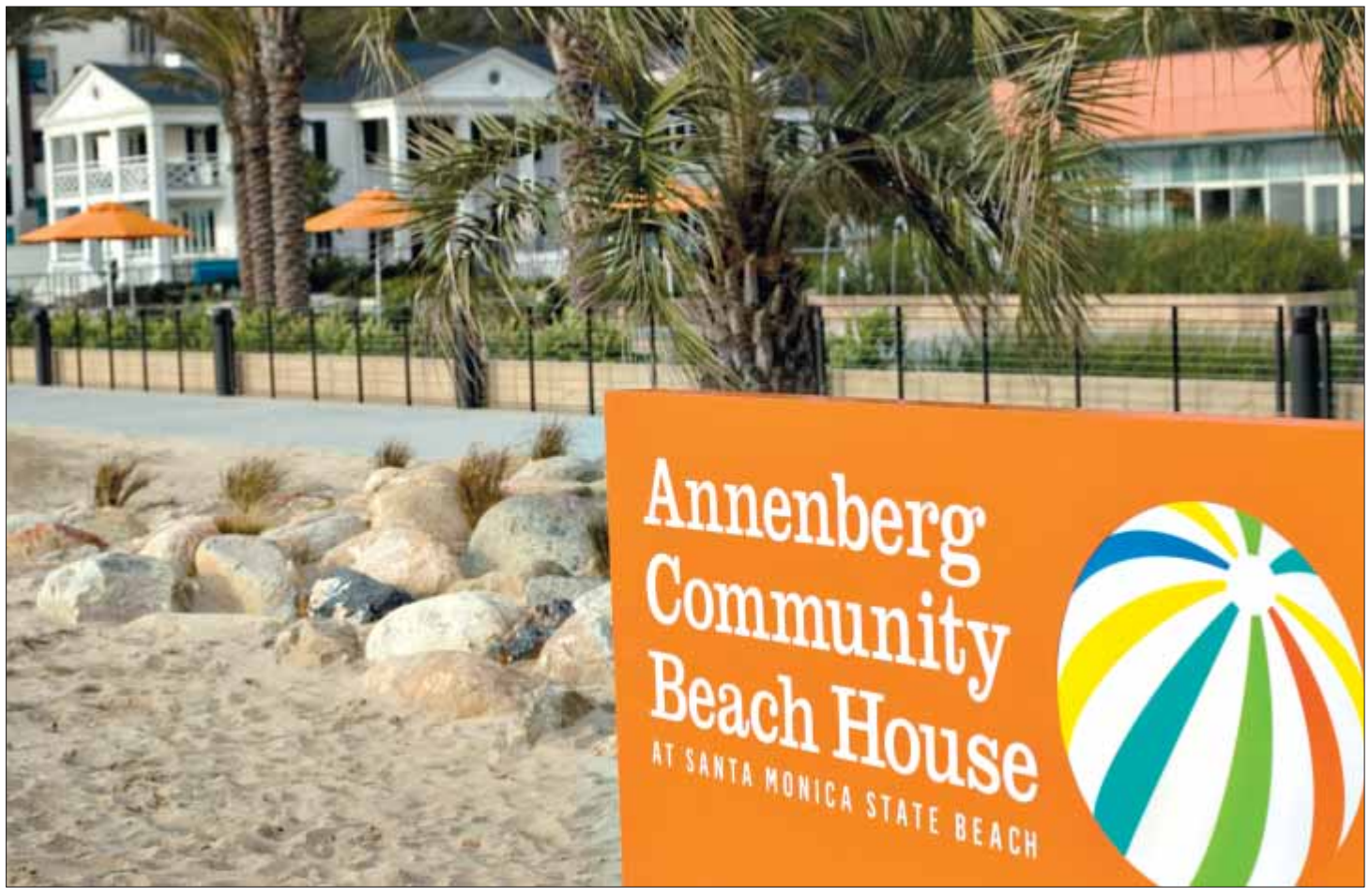
Running made fun

Top to Top
2621 Wilshire Blvd., 6:30 p.m.
Whether you're training for a marathon or just looking to get out of the house, join Top to Top for a fun way to stay in shape. Runners meet in front of the Santa Monica store every Wednesday for announcements and special guests before the run. Participants chose between 5 mile or 10 mile loops. Food and water are provided. Admission is free. For more information call (310) 829-7030.

2010 homeless count

10 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Join the Santa Monica fire and police chiefs and the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce for the 2010 homeless count. Volunteers are needed to conduct the count, which is billed as a great opportunity to become more engaged in local efforts to address homelessness. Spread the word and encourage friends, family members and colleagues to join in. Teams of two to three people will survey Santa Monica's streets and note homeless individuals. Security will be provided and all volunteers will receive training. Volunteers will be on foot and in cars. For more information or to RSVP call (310) 458-8701 or e-mail Dina Aubrey at dina.aubrey@smgov.net.

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.



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

READY FOR A CLOSEUP: **The City Council is looking to make the Annenberg Community Beach House a celebrity by renting it out for movie shoots.**

Council to market beach house to Hollywood

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

Editor's note: This story is part of an ongoing series that tracks the city's expenditures appearing on upcoming Santa Monica City Council consent agendas. Consent agenda items are routinely passed by the City Council with little or no discussion from elected officials or the public. However, many of the items have been part of public discussion in the past.

CITY HALL Hoping to make more money off the recently renovated Annenberg Community Beach House, City Hall officials are aiming to market the property as a filming location and venue for business meetings.

Marketing firm Hospitality Atelier has already been advertising the seaside property as a place for private events, and tonight the City Council is expected to approve an additional $60,000 to expand the scope of the company's work to include pitching the property to Hollywood.

The new contract lasts through June and brings total marketing costs for the beach house to $129,000.

The council is also set to approve more money for a law firm that assists City Hall with employee disciplinary matters.

The firm Liebert Cassidy Whitmore had a $140,000 contract for this fiscal year, but because of "an unusual volume of complex personnel litigation early in the year" the council is being asked to approve an additional $60,000, a report prepared by the City Attorney's Office said.

The council is also expected to sign off on a plan to relocate six families in order to make way for a new affordable housing project at 430 Pico Blvd.

The proposal by the Community Corp. of Santa Monica is to build 32 two- and three-bedroom affordable apartments on a site where there are currently 14 residential units and a commercial building.

The costs of relocating the six families that reside in the existing units will be paid by CCSM, according to a report from City Hall.

nickt@smdp.com

'Guys and Dolls' actress Jean Simmons dies at 80

BOB THOMAS
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES Jean Simmons, whose ethereal screen presence and starring roles with Hollywood's top actors made her a mid-century film icon, has died at age 80.

The actress, who sang with Marlon Brando in "Guys and Dolls;" costarred with Gregory Peck, Paul Newman and Kirk Douglas; and played Ophelia to Laurence Olivier's Hamlet, died Friday at her home in Santa Monica, her agent Judy Page told the Los Angeles Times. She had lung cancer.

Already a stunning beauty at 14, Simmons made her movie debut in the 1944 British production "Give Us the Moon."

Several minor films followed before British director David Lean gave the London-born actress her breakthrough role of Estella, companion to the reclusive Miss Havisham in 1946's "Great Expectations." That was followed by the exotic "Black Narcissus," and then Olivier's Oscar-winning "Hamlet" in 1948, for which Simmons was nominated as best supporting actress.

She would be nominated for another Oscar, for best actress for 1969's "The Happy Ending," before moving largely to television roles in the 1970s, '80s and '90s.

She won an Emmy Award for her role in the 1980s miniseries "The Thorn Birds."

Her other notable films included "Elmer Gantry" (with Burt Lancaster), "Until They Sail" (with Newman), "The Big Country" (Peck), "Spartacus," (Douglas), "This Earth Is Mine" (Rock Hudson), "All the Way Home" (Robert Preston), "Mister Buddwing" (James Garner) and "Rough Night in Jericho" (Dean Martin).

Simmons had left Britain for Hollywood in 1950, accompanied by her future husband Stewart Granger. There, they were befriended by reclusive tycoon Howard Hughes, who flew them to Tucson, Ariz., for a surprise wedding.

"When I returned from the honeymoon," Simmons told a reporter in 1964, "I learned that Hughes owned me — he had bought me from (British producer) J. Arthur Rank like a piece of meat."

What followed was a string of films that she would later dismiss as terrible, although she took some solace in the fact Hughes, legendary in those days as a womanizer, never bothered her.

"I was married to Jimmy (Granger's real name was James Stewart), so Hughes remained at a distance," she recalled. "But those movies! So terrible they aren't even on videocassettes."

Among the titles: "Angel Face," "Affair with a Stranger" and "She Couldn't Say No."

Simmons finally ended up suing Hughes for the right to make more prestigious films at other studios, and the result was "Young Bess" (as young Queen Elizabeth I), "The Robe" (the first movie filmed in CinemaScope), "The Actress," "The Egyptian" and "Desiree."

In the latter film, in 1954, she played the title role opposite Brando's Napoleon.

The pair teamed again in 1955 for "Guys and Dolls," the Samuel Goldwyn-produced musical in which Simmons is Sarah Brown, a Salvation Army-style reformer conned into a weekend fling in Havana by gambler Sky Masterson.

She loved the rehearsals for that film, Simmons recalled in 1988, "especially the dancing routines with Marlon trying not to step on me and choreographer Michael Kidd looking very worried."

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Reason to give

Editor:

As I write this, I am watching the Hope for Haiti telethon. While all natural disasters are tragic, this one is especially tragic because it has virtually destroyed a nation. Yes there are those usual cynics that ask "Why should I help? Why should I care?" Good question. The answer is simply "Because we must," for the sake of our humanity.

We are seeing all types of assistance from thousands if not millions around the world. When a natural tragedy occurs in these times it is uplifting to see the good prevail. Why? "Because we must," for the sake of our humanity.

When we complete the task of restoring Haiti, then I hope that the people of the United States will show humanity to our homeless citizens. I hope we can have a telethon for the homeless people of the United States. Why? "Because we must," for the sake of our humanity.

Gordon Potik
Santa Monica

Jets welcome only in an emergency

Editor:

Regarding Jan. 21, 2010 letter to the editor, "Airport critical in disasters."

I find it difficult to believe that Jim Fisher, the writer of the Jan. 21 letter, is truly concerned about how we here in the Santa Monica Airport (SMO) area would survive a big earthquake when he is so unconcerned about the toxic jet fumes blowing into homes across the streets from both ends the runway. Is he equating removing jet operations from SMO with closing the airport? If Santa Monica chooses to close the airport in 2015, he can weigh in then. Now we are just trying to clear the air around SMO. If a big earthquake hits our region, there is no guarantee the runway will be in a usable condition. Emergency relief would be welcome, even by jet, in such an emergency. Neighbors could surely suck up a bit of toxic emissions for disaster relief. But it is not acceptable to bring thousands of jets into an airport originally designed for small aircraft just for the comfort and convenience of the well-heeled, poisoning the air of thousands. That is beyond selfish; it's cruel and inhumane.

Martin Rubin
Director
Concerned Residents Against Airport Pollution





Back to Nature

Reese Halter — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Fascinating life of ants

ANTS AND HUMAN BEINGS HAVE MUCH in common, including that both species have globally conquered the planet. We are both highly socialized creatures, agriculturists and ruthless in warfare. Both depend on forests for sustenance.

Ants have been on Earth for more than 140 million years and evolving from wasps. There are about 12,000 species known and professor emeritus E. O. Wilson of Harvard University estimates there are about another 9,500 kinds still to be discovered.

Currently there are about 10,000-trillion living ants. When combined, all ants on Earth would weigh about as much as all humans.

There are currently about a million known species of insects. There are about 15,000 species of highly social insects of which ants make up 12,000. Half the living tissue of insects is made up of just 2 percent of the species that live in well organized colonies.

A worker ant is one-millionth the size of a human. Yet, a leaf-cutter ant, whose jaws can slice human skin, will not back down from a human.

Ants are of crucial importance in dispersing and planting large numbers of seeds. They move more soil than earthworms, circulate vast amounts of soil nutrients and essentially keep forests healthy.

Their diversity in tropical forests is legendary. One study site of 20 acres in a Peruvian rainforest contained over 300 different species of ants and one tree alone had over 43 different kinds of ants.

How have ants and other social insects (some bees, some wasps and termites) come to rule terrestrial ecosystems? There is strength in numbers, irrespective of size, particularly when they act in concert. The most advanced social insects, those with the biggest and most complicated societies, have reached this pinnacle because adults care for young, two generations of adults live together in the same nest and the members of each colony are divided into a reproductive "royal" caste and a non-reproductive "worker" caste.

Ants have risen to the top as a world dominant force because they are highly developed, self-sacrificial and extremely labor efficient. In fact, ants are like gangs of factory workers.

There is one queen in the nest. She can live, on average, for five years although the record is 29 years. In her life she can produce 150 million eggs and at any one time her colony can support 8 million workers. Most of the eggs are fertilized and are females. They are either workers or soldiers and are responsible for providing food, tending to the young and defending the nest. Males, which are unfertilized eggs, are only born when new queens are born. New queens leave the nest in search of creating their own colony. Only one in 100,000 queens are successful. Male drones — parasites who live on the labor of others — have only one function, to impregnate nuptial queens. When you see a flying ant, chances are it's a male. They have about two days to live after leaving the nest.

When an impregnated queen finds a nest site, she breaks off her wings, builds a nest single-handedly and raises the first brood of workers.

The largest living super colony of ants in the world occurs in northern Japan along the Ishikari coast of Hokkaido. There are 307 million worker ants, 1.1 million queens with 45,000 interconnected nests extending 12 miles. The colony is about 1,000 years old. These red ants are custodians of the coastal oak forests. A new port was constructed in the 1990s and a superhighway split the colony in half. The oak forests started to die back. Los Angeles-based conservation institute, Global Forest Science, became involved and assisted in creating tunnels under the highway to reconnect the colony. Within a few years the dying forests began to stabilize.

Ants are arguably the most aggressive and war-like of all animals. They exceed humans in organized warfare. Ants act like six-legged Kamikazes and they conduct genocidal annihilation of neighboring colonies whenever possible. Soldiers have jaws like wire clippers, snipping off the heads, legs and body parts of enemy insects. Warfare, in the ant world, is all about territory and food.

Ants employ a wide array of tactical maneuvers. Some, like the Arizona ants, are fast moving and spray toxic gas on their foes. Others, in the arid southwest, pick up pebbles and other small objects with their jaws and drop them vertically down the entrance shafts — a rare instance of tool use by insects.

One species of Malaysian ants have two huge glands along their entire body length that is filled with a toxic secretion. During war they burst their abdominal muscle, sacrificing their life, and douse poison onto the enemy

Leaf-cutting ants are supreme agriculturists. They grow fungus on freshly cut leaves brought back into their nests, sustaining millions of workers. Nuptial queens tuck a small wad of the thread-like fungus in their mouths, spit out the packet on the chamber floor and begin growing the new garden. One nest in Brazil had 1,000 chambers. The ants had excavated 40 tons of soil equal to the feat, for ants, of building the Great Wall of China.

Nomadic Malaysian ants are stock farmers. They dwell in the rainforest canopy and their "cattle" are mealy bugs — sap sucking insects. They are carried by the ants to feeding sites some 66 feet from the nest, guarded while they suck sap and returned to the nests. Whereby they are milked of plant sap that sustains the ant colony. In return the ants protect the mealy bugs and their offspring. Neither species can exist without the other.

The most formidable of the species are army ants. They can capture prey up to and including frogs, by overwhelming them with shear numbers.

We should admire ants, not despise them. They do not demolish ecosystems nor cause mass species extinction like humans. They can teach us about sustainability and coexisting on our exquisite planet.

DR. REESE HALTER is a biologist at California Lutheran University. His latest book is "The Incomparable Honeybee and the Economics of Pollination," Rocky Mountain Books. Contact him through www.DrReese.com.

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What's the Point?

David Pisarra
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The price of being a deceitful ex

"I LOVE IT WHEN A PLAN COMES TOGETHER." Those words were made famous in my childhood by George Peppard when he was playing Col. John "Hannibal" Smith in that great television show "The A-Team," soon to be a major motion picture. In the show, the team of ex-military men who had been wrongly accused fought the forces of evil and in the process the good guys won, and hilarity ensued. Ah the golden years of television, but I digress.

This past Sunday night I received an e-mail from one of the private investigators I have working on a case. It's been a difficult case because the ex-wife has been especially diligent about covering her tracks. When she and my client divorced she was awarded spousal support in a very large amount every month.

THE SPOUSE GETTING THE MONEY MAY ENJOY THE FUNDS, BUT THEY NEED TO BE AWARE THAT WITH THOSE FUNDS COMES A PRAYER EACH MONTH FOR THEIR DEATH. ALMOST EVERYONE I'VE SPOKEN TO WHO HAS TO PAY TELLS ME THEY HAVE THOUGHTS OF THE DEATH OF THEIR EX.

Everyone who pays alimony hates it. It doesn't matter if you're a man or a woman, straight or gay, if you're paying money to your ex each month, you're going to resent it, and them. The spouse getting the money may enjoy the funds, but they need to be aware that with those funds comes a prayer each month for their death. Almost everyone I've spoken to who has to pay tells me they have thoughts of the death of their ex.

I think it's pretty much a human reaction. Spousal support is a reminder of a relationship, and while we might want to remember the good times, let's face it, it's the bad times you remember when you're writing a check every month. It's like paying for someone else to go out to dinner, but you don't get to enjoy the meal.

Which brings me to the current case. Man and woman get divorced, she gets a large monthly amount, for a long, long time, until she cohabitates romantically with someone, or re-marries. She decides that she wants to move, because she's met "him." But she doesn't want to give up the monthly income from the ex, so she puts all of her addresses to a P.O. Box. She refuses to tell her own children where she is living.

My client keeps paying and it's killing him. He knows she's taking him for a ride, but what to do? He hires me, and the first thing I say to do is hire a private investigator to find out where she lives and what the real story is. We have enough clues to start digging around where she lives, and in the fact finding process, it turns out the new boyfriend has an ex-wife of his own. She's kind of chatty.

As the investigation proceeds, it comes out that maybe there's been a marriage that no one was invited to, so that the alimony checks keep coming from my client. This is precisely the type of information that my plan was designed to find out. It's the crucial piece of information that will set my client free from the fraud and deceit of the ex so that he can stop praying for her death.

When people become deceitful, they don't realize the cost to their family. A few years ago, we had a case where the ex-husband had forgotten to tell his wife about the $20 million or so that he had squirreled away in the Bahamas. He kept claiming poverty, but she knew better. When it finally came out that there was a huge amount of money that had been kept separate from the wife, the damage that was done, was not to the wife, but was to the children. It was their relationship with their father that was hurt the most. They now had a father who they knew was willing to sell them out in exchange for his own financial well-being.

People tell me often how hard they think it must be to do what I do. They're right, it is hard when you care about your clients and you get involved in their lives. But every now and then you get a win like finding out that the scumbag deceitful ex has remarried, or where the hidden millions are. You can be sure that as soon as I have a copy of a marriage license I'll be in front of a judge asking for termination of spousal support.

That's the plan at least, and I love it when a plan comes together.

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

The Q Line

Adding to the City Council

The City Council has the somber task of having to replace a fallen member in Mayor Ken Genser. The task at hand is selecting the proper process and candidate to fill the open seat.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
How should the council fill the seat? Should there be a special election or should the council select its next member, and who should it be?

Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your answers in the weekend edition of the Daily Press.

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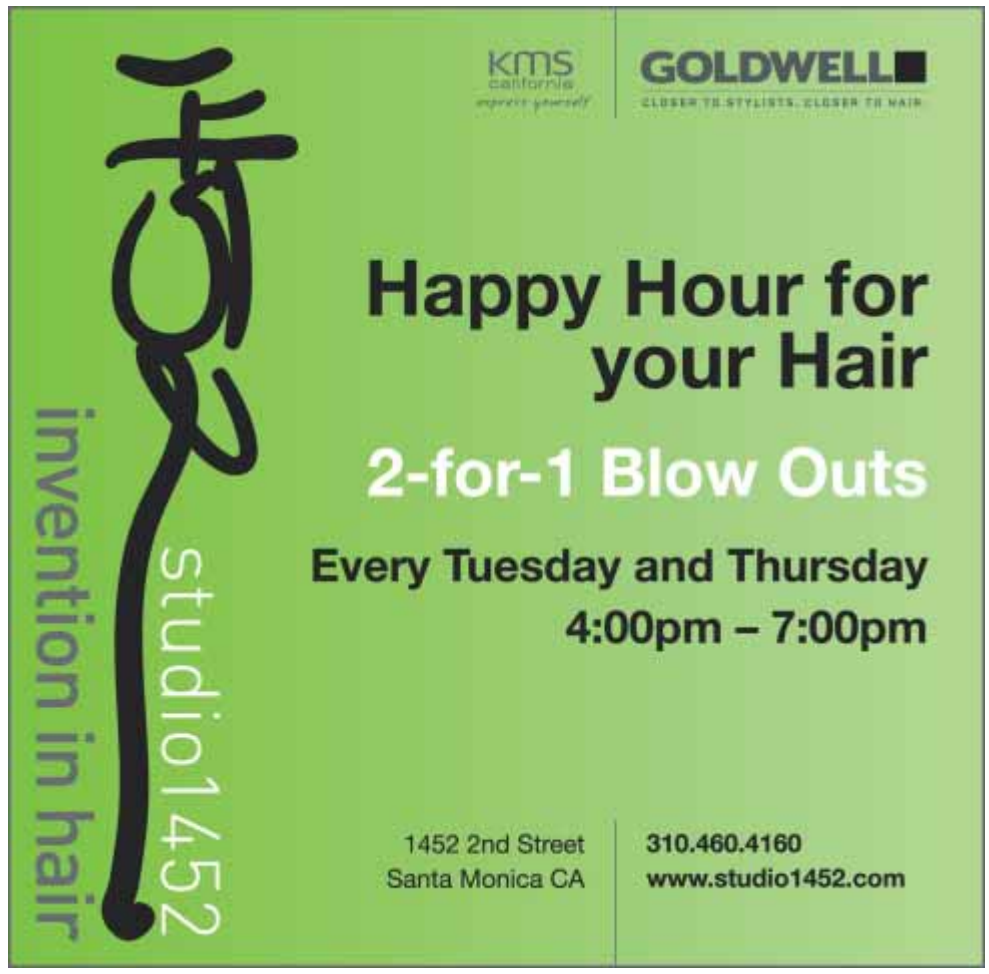
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The Quackers
Phyllis Chavez
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Everyone has a job to do

Editor's Note: The Quackers are three awesome ducks – Rusty, Richard and Sydney – from the canals of Venice who are on a mission to educate the community about the dangers of global warming and the importance of practicing sustainability, all while surfing the most gnarly waves possible.

A LOUD CRACK OF THUNDER WAS followed by several more deep booms. The sky grew darker and it began — rain, glorious rain. When it tapped on the pane I slid the window open and welcomed it like a favored guest. I wanted to hear it drumming on the sidewalk, pinging off metal and splashing from the downspout. It had been a long time since we'd heard that music.

We love the rain. On a rainy day we don't stay in, we go out! Rain makes us smile and want to quack out loud.

Our first thought was, "Grab your board!" Then we pictured the pollution and bacteria from the storm runoff flowing into the Santa Monica Bay. That vivid image quickly moved us on to plan b.

When we saw the big puddles forming and little rivers running along the curb, we decided a walk in the rain could be almost as much fun as surfing.

Rambling down the street Rusty stopped to make boats from fallen leaves equipping each with a crew made from blades of grass before launching them down the "rivers." Richard and I dedicated ourselves to jumping in all puddles as we splashed our way through the neighborhood.

Our long, meandering path eventually brought us to the beach. We found fiercely powerful, 8 to10 foot waves building. Line after line of waves roared toward the shore raging, flinging spray and foam high into the air as they traveled. Breaking, they covered the sand with great sheets of white water and mounds of foam. A strong rip current would momentarily interrupt the wave pattern as it sucked water and sand back out to sea. We stared mesmerized by the scene until Rusty shouted over the noise of the waves, "Mmm. That looks tasty. How about stopping for a latte with extra foam on the way home?"

We took the long way home so we could pass by one of Great Grandpa Quackers favorite old spots. It had been a very special place. He had found it one day at the far edge of the golf course between Dewey and Rose. He said when the first good rain came it would turn into a tiny wetland with an elongated pond that seemed to magically fill with scores of wiggling tadpoles. Once that happened, he and Great Grandma Quacker would round up all the kids, hike over and spend the day. It was often so pleasant they would end up camping overnight. They would roast marshmallows and listen to frog songs far into the night before finally drifting off to sleep.

That special place is long gone, replaced by a drainage ditch.

Thinking of Great Grandpa Quacker's story made us happy. That we would never experience the special place made us sad.

To take our minds off the sadness I decided to tell a true story about the mountain yellow-legged frog of the California Sierras that in a way reminded me of Great Grandpa's special place.

"Decades ago non-native trout were placed in the high sierra lakes. That was great for people but proved disastrous for the frogs that lived there. The fish were many and always ravenous. They feasted on the tadpoles until all the frogs vanished.

"Not only did the frogs vanish, the snakes and the birds that fed on the frogs also disappeared. The lakes also suffered because there were no tadpoles to eat the algae.

"When the frogs were gone, some people realized how incredibly essential and important those tiny creatures were to that food web. They had been critical for maintaining the structure of that ecological community. Thought to be unimportant, they turned out to be the keystone species. Removing them had caused a dramatic shift that proved disastrous for frogs, birds, other creatures and the habitat."

Richard looked at me and said, "Sidney, Stop! This is not cheering us up."

I begged them to wait and went on.

"Recently something wonderful happened. Someone decided to change things. In Sequoia and Kings Canyon national parks crews started taking non-native trout out of the lakes and high-country basins. The results were amazing. With the non-native trout gone the few frogs that had somehow hidden and managed to hang on immediately started to reclaim their entire habitat!

"Removing the non-native trout was such a success that biologists are now proposing to remove trout from an additional 75 high-altitude lakes and about 50 miles of stream to bring back the ecological balance to the area. In other words they want to give everyone their old jobs back."

Even though I had told the story, I still joined Rusty and Richard for a cheer at the end. The story lifted our spirits and gave us hope.

Who knows, if that could happen maybe Great Grandpa's special place and his frogs could make a comeback too?

PHYLLIS and the Quackers can be reached at phyllis@phyllischavez.com. The Quackers have a new, amazing Web site! Stories, pictures and a blog at www.thequackers.com.

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Santa Monica From A to Z

Alisandra Rand and Melissa Rader
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Getting kids to appreciate the written word

WHEN DASH WAS A PEANUT OF A newborn, I propped him up in his boppy each day surrounded by a selection of picture books. I tuck Zora in at night with a kiss, a stuffed animal, and a few dozen board books. I started dragging my children to the Festival of Books every April when they were just mewling babies, although what they really enjoyed was rolling up and down the hills of UCLA and stalking the poor soul in the Clifford suit. Chalk it up to nature, nurture, or neuroticism, but we are now blessed with children who love bookstores, libraries and books. We are also blessed with a few independent bookstores in the area. We decided to visit and re-visit them and report back on their kid-appeal.

We love Every Picture Tells a Story. Residing on Montana Avenue for the last eight years, the 20-year-old bookstore offers a good selection of books, despite a space that seems small compared to their cavernous, big-box competitors. Helmed by husband and wife team Lois Sarkisian and Lee Cohen, Every Picture also features original artwork by children's illustrators as well as limited edition prints. Their gallery includes work from classics such as Charles Schulz, Dr. Seuss, Maurice Sendak and the Disney Studios, as well as from contemporary artists. Over time, Every Picture's holdings have "expanded to include fantasy and cartoon art, film art and editorial works, and this past year, comic book art, including Marvel Comics reproductions," Cohen said. Although much of the artwork is way beyond my budget ($8,000 Cat in the Hat drawing, anyone?), it is fun to visit the store and view the art gracing the walls.

Operating as an art gallery in addition to a bookstore has allowed Every Picture "to survive and to thrive," Cohen said. He rejects the notion that we live in a Barnes & Noble world. "We focus on the art and books we love and share that with our clientele and trust that they will respond to our passions," Cohen said.

Every Picture sponsors several author signings throughout the year. In 2009, the store hosted illustrators such as Buzz Aldrin, David Shannon, Werner Herzog, Greg Hildebrandt, Jamie Lee Curtis, Stan Lee, Ray Harryhausen, Tony DiTerlizzi and Holly Black, and Cornelia Funke. In December, Addison tried to visit with Jane O'Connor and Robin Preiss Glasser, but she couldn't get anywhere close to the door for all the little princesses spilling onto the sidewalk, trying to get their Fancy Nancys signed. The Christmas walk was nearly as crazy, although that time Addison not only got inside, but even managed to wiggle her way through the crowed to grab a signed Numeroff. Dash and Zora also have a signed "If You Take a Mouse to School" on their bookshelf, courtesy of Every Picture.

Every Picture also partners with the nearby Aero Theater for multimedia experiences. Last year, for example, Every Picture hosted Ray Bradbury while the Aero screened "Something Wicked This Way Comes," and a panel of super hero comic book illustrators accompanied a showing of "Batman." Cohen says that Every Picture and the Aero have "a number of events on the drawing boards for the coming year" including tie-ins with the movies "The Lightning Thief" and "Diary of a Wimpy Kid."

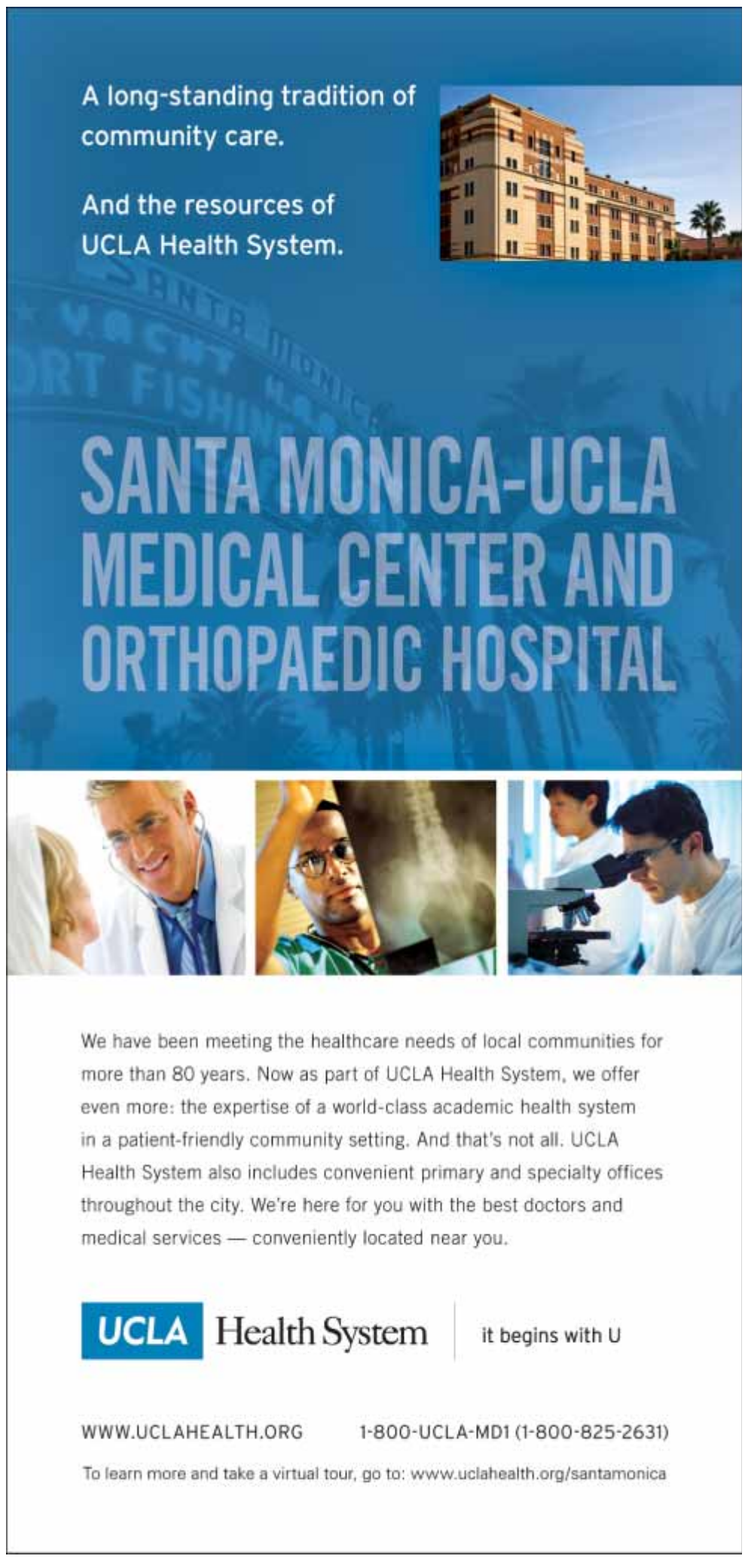
Beyond the bookstore, Every Picture also participates in the Festival of Books every year. A founding exhibitor, the store sponsors exhibits of classic and contemporary children's book illustrations and often consults with the festival on the choice of the year's featured logo artist. Last April, I bought up every T-shirt, hat, poster and pen I could find with Eric Carle's caterpillar on it. Someday Dash and Zora will thank me. This year's featured illustrator is David Shannon of "Oh, David!" fame.

Sarkisian and Cohen have done their part to promote the artistry behind what could cynically be seen as the commercial enterprise of selling books. And it's easier to advance the cause of "art appreciation" with our kids using the "Cat in the Hat" or one of Sendak's "Wild Things" instead of a bunch of broken pots or weather-beaten sculpture.

Every Picture Tells a Story is located at 1311-C Montana Ave., www.everypicture.com. The Festival of Books is April 24 and 25. www.latimes.com/extras/festivalofbooks.

Find a calendar with local events, helpful links, and more adventures of **ADDISON, ZORA, AND DASH** at smatoz.blogspot.com.









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Competition for Broad heats up

FROM **MUSEUM** PAGE 1

Broad spokeswoman Karen Denne said Grand Avenue is one of three sites being considered. The Broad Art Foundation has outgrown its Santa Monica building and must move.

Broad is no stranger to Bunker Hill. He helped lead fundraising efforts for the Walt Disney Concert Hall and recently pledged $30 million to MOCA.

The has also been a major backer for the Grand Avenue Project, comparing it and the associated remake of the Civic Center Park to Paris' Champs-Elysées.

While detailed plans were not formally discussed, rumor has it the museum would sit on top of a parking podium that would bring it to the level of Upper Grand Avenue, the blog reported.

In exchange for giving up the land, Related would likely be granted an extension on its deadline to develop its project. The company has been waiting for capital markets to recover before it breaks ground on the first phase of what could be up to a $3-billion venture, according to the blog.

Related is the developer selected by City Hall to complete a massive housing project in the Civic Center known as The Village. The Daily Press in May of 2009 reported that Related was having trouble securing financing for the 324-unit, residential and retail development and had to delay construction until July 2010.

Monday's action initiated formal negotiations on the deal, which would need to be approved by the authority. The body includes representatives from the city and county of Los Angeles and the Community Redevelopment Agency. Its next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Feb. 22.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

news@smdp.com

Special election seen as fallback plan

FROM **COUNCIL** PAGE 1

"I'm really against telling people to apply for a job they have no real chance for," he said.

Councilman Kevin McKeown also acknowledged last year's process had shortcomings but said he still supports soliciting applications. He said people who apply to be on the council should also be considered for City Hall's boards and commissions.

"I'm committed to taking what may have been [viewed] as a negative process that turned down or excluded people and converting it into an open, welcoming process that includes people for boards and commissions if not for City Council," he said.

The political calculus behind council members' decisions on a possible appointment also promises to be particularly intricate this year since as many as five of the seven seats will be up for grabs in the November election.

If the council fills the vacancy by appointment, the seat would be in play in November, but if it holds a special election the new council member's term would last until 2012, said Assistant City Clerk Beth Sanchez.

Provided the council makes an appointment, in the November election voters will be asked to pick three candidates to serve 4-year terms and two candidates to serve 2-year terms. The only council members whose terms are not expiring this year are Shriver and Councilman Richard Bloom.

Sanchez said if the council opts to hold an election to fill the seat it can't put the decision to voters at the same time residents decide on a proposed parcel tax to benefit the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. Combining elections typically saves money, but the school district's special mail-in election, scheduled for May 25, is too soon for the potential City Council election to be included.

Several candidates for City Council in past elections and one prominent member of SMRR, the city's leading political party, have already expressed interest in the vacant seat.

Winterer, who received the most votes of any candidate not elected to the council in 2008, said he will apply for the seat and was already planning to run for the council in November.

School board member Oscar de la Torre, who was elected with the backing of SMRR, and past council candidate and Planning Commissioner Terry O'Day also said they're interested in the appointment.

"I think that it's time for change and it's time for diversity on the City Council," de la Torre said, adding that he would run in November if he's not appointed.

> **THE REALITY IS SOMEBODY OUT OF THE BLUE IS LESS LIKELY TO BE APPOINTED THAN SOMEBODY WHO HAS A DEEP RECORD OF COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE AND PARTICIPATION.**
>
> Pam O'Connor
> Mayor Pro Tem

Reached on Monday, Patricia Hoffman, a SMRR co-chair, said she wasn't ready to think about applying for the seat that Genser, a longtime friend, held. Former Councilman Kelly Olsen, a close friend of Genser, said at the late mayor's memorial Sunday that Hoffman should be appointed to Genser's seat because that is what he would have wanted.

"It's not what I've been thinking about. What I've been thinking about is Ken and how much I miss him," she said.

Several council members on Monday said holding a special election to fill the seat is only a fallback plan if no candidate garners a majority of the members' support.

"I always feel we should try to appoint," said Mayor Pro Tem Pam O'Connor.

Bloom noted holding an election would cost more than $100,000 at a time when City Hall is facing a projected deficit as high as $9 million.

"My hope is that the council will be able to coalesce around a candidate to appoint to fill out Ken's term," he said.

Bloom said he'll consider ways of altering the council's appointment process but added he felt the process used to appoint Davis last year was "relatively fair."

O'Connor said whether or not the council solicits formal applications for the position won't change the core issue; the council still has to find out who is interested in the position and then has to vote on the candidates who have the most support.

"The reality is somebody out of the blue is less likely to be appointed than somebody who has a deep record of community experience and participation," she said.

nickt@smdp.com

Official Guide to the "Buy Show Tour" in town this week only

Here's what's selling and in demand now

Typical Items	Amount recently paid
Gold coins	$9,200
Silver coins	$3,400
Gold and Silver Jewelry	$1,328
Musical instruments	$6,000
Golden age/silver age comic books	$2,000
Pre 70's sports memorbilia	$7,000
Equipment from sports stars	$10,000
Old toys-Pre 1965	$800
Military and Political memorabilia	$3,500
Desceased celebrity autographs	$1,200



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How The Process Works

1. When you enter the event room, please sign in at the greeter's table and take a seat until you are called by a Buy Show team member.
2. When you meet with a team member, place your items on the table. If you have coins, separate them into denominations—this speeds the process.
3. The Treasure Hunters will divide your items into 2 categories: 1) items they would like to purchase, and 2) items they are not interested in purchasing at this time. Don't be offended if some items aren't chosen. Even valuable items may not be right for their network of collectors.
4. For items they are interested in, they will make you an offer based on current market value. If you have a price in mind for your items, please tell them; this sometimes makes it easier to make a deal rather than lose one.
5. If you choose to accept their offer, they will give you a prompt cash payment. You will need to provide them with a valid drivers license or other form of ID.



You'd be smiling too! This man on the left brought his old collection of world time memorabilia to the show for appraisal and took home $3,400 in cash.

Trash or Treasure?

You never know what an item is worth until it's market value is appraised. Buy Show manager Mike Westcott says, "Why are we on the phone or computers? We're in touch with our world-wide network of specific collectors to get accurate appraisals."



Old watches have value. But value depends on age, model and condition.



Coins that pre-date 1965 often valuable. Some of the biggest money is paid for rare coins



Old musical instruments are treasures. Rare field drums, vintage guitars, horns are very valuable!

Man who says he spied on Calif. mosques sues FBI

AMY TAXIN
Associated Press Writer

SANTA ANA, Calif. A Southern California man who said he spied on mosques for the FBI has filed a lawsuit accusing the agency of letting him go to jail for work he did as an informant.

Craig Monteilh, 47, of Irvine, a fitness consultant, is seeking $10 million from the FBI in a lawsuit filed Friday in federal court in Los Angeles. Monteilh also sued the Irvine Police Department.

Monteilh said he infiltrated mosques for the FBI and gave the agency information about Ahmadullah Niazi, the brother-in-law of Osama bin Laden's bodyguard who pleaded not guilty last year to lying about terrorist ties on his citizenship papers.

But Monteilh said federal and local authorities let him serve time on a theft case related to prior work he did for the FBI and barred him from telling the court he was an undercover informant to clear his name.

"That right there deprived me and violated my right to due process," Monteilh said. "The FBI here is dead in the water. We can prove everything we've alleged by subpoenaing these records."

FBI spokeswoman Laura Eimiller said the agency would respond to the allegations in court. Monteilh appeared to be aiming to discredit law enforcement for personal gain, she said.

Irvine police spokesman Lt. John Hare said Monday the department would not comment on pending litigation.

Monteilh revealed himself as a former mosque spy last year after an FBI agent testified at a court hearing that Niazi had reported an informant for talking about terrorism. While the agent did not mention Monteilh by name, police reports show Niazi spoke with authorities about Monteilh and helped the Islamic Center of Irvine obtain a court order against him.

Since then, Monteilh has gone to court to have the order lifted and to have a court transcript unsealed that states that he provided the FBI with "very, very valuable" information.

The FBI has declined to say whether Monteilh was an informant for the agency.

Monteilh said he began posing as a new Muslim convert to infiltrate Southern California mosques between July 2006 and October 2007. He claimed that FBI agents authorized him to record Muslims using electronic surveillance at mosques, homes and gyms and to date and have sex with Muslim women to glean information from them, according to a copy of the lawsuit.

Monteilh said the federal agency vowed to pay him $100,000 and relocate him after his anti-terrorism work. He filed a claim against the FBI last year that was denied.

In December 2007, Monteilh was arrested on a theft charge he said was related to work he did as an informant for a different FBI division. He spent eight months in prison and said he continued to slip information to the FBI during this time. Monteilh said that led him to be attacked by fellow inmates and his life threatened.

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Obama plans to help a middle class 'under assault'

BEN FELLER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON Declaring America's middle class is "under assault," President Barack Obama unveiled plans Monday to help hurting families pay their bills, save for retirement and care for their kids and aging parents. His comments previewed Wednesday's State of the Union Address.

Obama's proposals won't create jobs, but he said they could "re-establish some of the security that's slipped away." His remarks aimed to lift the nation's dour mood and show he is in touch with the daily struggles of millions of people as resentment runs high about lost jobs and the economy.

The initiatives amount to a package of tax credits, spending expansions and new mandates on employers to encourage retirement savings by workers. Most of them will be included in Obama's budget for the fiscal year starting Oct. 1, and they will require approval from Congress. Obama will release that budget Feb. 1.

The president's latest rollout of ideas served as a preview of his prime-time State of the Union address. The economic elements of that speech will also cover Obama's plans to boost job creation and reduce swelling budget deficits — areas of concern to the public.

Obama's address will outline his second-year agenda across a spectrum of issues, including tighter rules on Wall Street behavior and a push for financial discipline in Washington. He also is expected to touch on the controversial issue of gays in the military.

Among the president's economic ideas:

• Nearly doubling the tax credit that families making under $85,000 can receive for child care costs, with some help for families earning up to $115,000, too.

• Capping the size of periodic federal college loan repayments at 10 percent of borrowers' discretionary income to make payments more affordable.

• Increasing by $1.6 billion the money pumped into a federal fund to help working parents pay for child care, covering an estimated 235,000 additional children.

• Requiring employers who don't offer 401(k) retirement plans to offer direct-deposit IRAs for their employees, with exemptions for the smallest firms.

• Spending more than $100 million to help people care for their elderly parents and get support for themselves as well.

The White House maintained that its imperative still is to create jobs. Unemployment remains in double digits, and the economy is the public's top concern. Yet Obama said that squeezed families need help in other ways, too: paying for child care, helping out aging parents, saving for retirement, paying off college debt.

What matters ultimately to people, Obama said, is "whether they see some progress in their own lives. So we're going to keep fighting to rebuild our economy so that hard work is once again rewarded, wages and incomes are once again rising, the middle class is once again growing."

Less clear was how much the programs would cost or where the money would come from.

Officials deferred comment until the release of the budget.

Obama, whose poll numbers are off, is trying to sharpen his economic message in a way that shows people he is on their side. White House officials say they know people have been turned off by the long, messy fight for health insurance reform. Plus, there's a perception that families have gotten far less help than big banks.

The economy is growing, but not fast enough to bring down widespread joblessness. The unemployment rate is at 10 percent and most economists say it could take until at least 2015 for it to return to more normal levels.

The plans Obama set forth came from the yearlong work of a task force, led by Vice President Joe Biden, that was charged with helping the middle class.

"We're talking about dignity. We're talking about security," Biden said. "We're talking about knowing your pension is safe, your health insurance is reliable, your elderly parents and your children are going to be cared for, your neighborhood is safe."

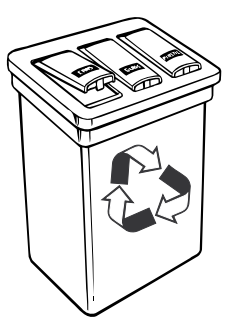
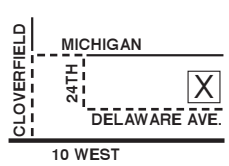
Obama's initiatives also include expanding and simplifying a tax credit that matches retirement savings, and making 401(k) rules easier to understand.

On the matter of gays in the military, Obama has vowed to lift the ban on gays serving openly, and several lawmakers support a repeal of the law. But some senior military advisers and members of Congress have urged the president not to shake up the status quo at a time of two wars.

Sen. Carl Levin, chairman of the Armed Services Committee, said he had planned to convene a hearing on the issue in January, but that the Obama administration asked him to hold off until the president's national address.

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Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 58°

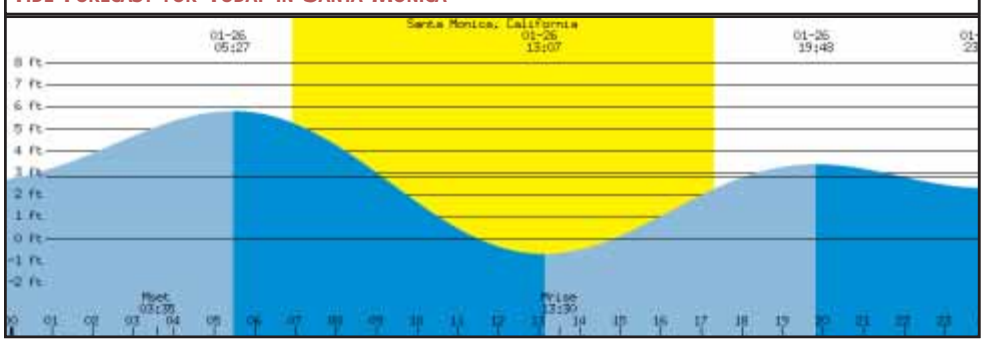
Swell Forecast

Should see another round of swell, but conditions look highly questionable as more rain is expected. Size is looking to max out around head high or slightly overhead around west facing breaks.

Long Range Synopsis

This swell should back off to around chest to head high.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous 30 days up to the ending date of **January 20, 2010**

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

QUICK STATS (for last 28 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 12
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 43 / 10
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 4 / 34

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

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachasa and Las Alisos creeks.	A+	A+
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A	F
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A	B
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A	F
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Solstice Canyon at Don Blacker County Beach.	A	B
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A	D
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.	A	F
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	A+
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	F
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	A	F
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	F
Tuna Canyon.	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	B	F
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	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+	F
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+	F
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	A+	F
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	F
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	A+	F
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	C	F
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+	F
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A+	F
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	A+	F
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A+	F
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St..	A+	F
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower.	F	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	A	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	F	F
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A+	F
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty).	A+	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	A+	B
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	A+	A+

LEGEND

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

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

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

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

Heal the Bay

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NBA

Obama meets with NBA champion Lakers

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON President Barack Obama welcomed the NBA champion Los Angeles Lakers to the White House Monday, praising the team for their accomplishments on the basketball court and their service in the community.

An avid basketball fan himself, Obama said he gets enormous pleasure from watching excellence on the court — and nobody exemplified excellence more than the Lakers last year, as they won their 15th league title, defeating the Orlando Magic.

Obama said he was especially excited to meet Lakers' coach Phil Jackson, who has won 10 championships, though he didn't hesitate to point out that six of those victories were with Obama's hometown Chicago Bulls.

"You remember that," Obama joked with former Lakers all-star Magic Johnson, who was on the losing end of the Bulls 1991 victory.

Obama commended the Lakers players not only for their athletic achievements, but also their work off the court. The players held a fitness clinic for Washington-area school children Monday, and several players are donating money to relief efforts in Haiti.

The Lakers added to Obama's collection of sports jerseys, presenting him with a bright yellow jersey with the president's name stitched on the back.

Record money for 5 college football conferences

FREDERIC J. FROMMER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON The five college football conferences that don't get automatic bids to the Bowl Championship Series will receive a record $24 million from this year's bowl games, according to BCS figures obtained Monday by The Associated Press.

The distribution of money has been a main point of contention for congressional critics of the Bowl Championship Series system. Lawmakers have pushed legislation aimed at forcing the BCS to switch to a playoff system rather than the ratings system it uses to set the games that determine the college championship.

Despite the record amount that will go to the schools that don't qualify automatically, it still represents a sum far less than that going to the half-dozen conferences that have guaranteed bids.

Of the $24 million, most will go to the two conferences that sent teams to BCS games this year: the Mountain West Conference, at $9.8 million, and the Western Athletic Conference, at $7.8 million. The three other conferences that don't receive automatic bids will divide the remainder.

That compares to $22.2 million each to the Big Ten and Southeastern conferences, and $17.7 million each for the other four conferences that have automatic bids. Those first two received more because they each had two teams in BCS bowls.

Under the BCS system, six conferences get automatic bids to participate in top-tier bowl games while the other five don't. The conferences that don't receive automatic bids will reap a record take this year because they sent two teams to BCS bowls for the first time — Boise State and Texas Christian.

BCS executive director Bill Hancock told the AP the new numbers show the distribution is "fair and appropriate."

"It's an opportunity for us to remind people that every conference had a chance to earn automatic qualification, and will again, based on the current evaluation," he said.

Hancock said the BCS has helped all 11 conferences get more access, revenue and opportunity to play in the post-season. The previous record for conferences that don't receive automatic bids was $19.3 million, set last year, he said.

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MOVIE TIMES

Aero Theatre
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AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (PG) 1hr 28min
12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:05

Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus (PG-13) 2hrs 02min
12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30

The Princess and the Frog (G) 1hr 35min
12:15, 2:40, 5:05

To Save a Life (PG-13) 2hrs
1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45

Leap Year (PG) 1hr 37min
7:30, 9:55

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

Avatar 3D (PG-13) 2hr 40 min
12:00, 2:15, 3:30, 6:00, 7:00, 9:45

The Tooth Fairy (PG) 1hr 42min
1:20, 4:00, 6:50, 9:30

Up in the Air (R) 1hr 49min
1:35, 4:10, 6:45, 9:20

It's Complicated (R) 1hr 54min
1:10, 4:15, 7:10, 10:00

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

Legion (R) 1hr 40min
12:05, 2:30, 5:10, 7:45, 10:15

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

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

The Young Victoria (PG) 1hr 59min
1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:40

Crazy Heart (R) 2hr 07min
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 9:55

A Single Man (R) 1hr 55min
1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 9:50

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

The Blind Side (PG-13) 2hrs 6min
1:00, 7:00

Youth in Revolt (R) 1hr 30min
12:10, 2:20, 4:40. 7:20, 9:30

The Book of Eli (R) 1hr 58min
11:30am, 2:10, 3:50, 4:50, 7:40, 9:50, 10:30

The Lovely Bones (PG-13) 2hrs 15min
1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10

Extraordinary Measures (PG) 1hr 46min
Noon, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

The Spy Next Door (PG) 1hr 32min
11:40am, 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00

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

Kick it at home, Pisces

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Keep communication flowing, even if at some point you might want to slam the door shut. Rest assured, that will get you nowhere. Sometimes what appears to be a disaster transforms into good news, and quickly at that today. Tonight: Visiting with others.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Know the costs before you even entertain the idea of a project or some kind of joint venture. If you have a better idea of your liability, you can make a sounder decision. No one can be responsible for your choices but you! Tonight: Your treat.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ A boss most certainly could rain on your parade. Can you handle it, or will you handle it? Your ability to read past the obvious and see another's true intent sometimes needs to be relied on slightly less. Tonight: As you like.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Know when to back off and allow someone else to come forward and make necessary demands. There are times when everyone needs to do some things differently. You might want to rethink a decision involving a personal matter. Tonight: In the thick of things.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Zero in on what you feel you must. What is certain is that you can no longer hide from the inevitable. You could feel out of sorts and pushed way beyond your limits. Listen to your sixth sense, and refuse to get angry when dealing with an associate. Tonight: Let another person inspire you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Continue to assume your natural leadership role. When you really have had enough, it will become quite clear. Knowing your limits is important, but sometimes deferring to the cause could be equally as significant. Tonight: Discuss a problem rather than have it eat you up.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Keep unusual thinking in mind when trying to get past a problem. Ask yourself how opposing ideas both could be right. Often, you might feel that no matter which direction you go, you hit an obstacle. The trick will be to rise above the obstacle. Tonight: Where the action is.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You are working with a difficult person, and getting the appropriate response could be nothing less than difficult. Understanding will grow as long as you can stay out of the blame game. At this point, creativity could cause more of a problem. Tonight: Togetherness is the theme.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Defer to others, knowing full well what is going on between you and another person. Know that you don't always need to agree. Investigate another's response more fully. He or she might have a worthwhile point here. Listen. Tonight: Go with the most appealing suggestion.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Getting a project done might be more important than ego. You will focus on the job, while others' egos emerge. You understand what is happening here. Others might not. Listen to what is being shared. Tonight: You deserve a break.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You certainly are the idea person, but unfortunately, with each idea you seem to incur another person's ire. This situation could be close to unacceptable, but you can change it. Simply say less right now. Tonight: Evaluate the importance of a key relationship.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You know what you want, though you might not be sure what is appropriate to say. The pros and cons of a home office need to be weighed first rather than acted on. Tonight: At home.

Happy birthday

This year, you often find that others are upset. This state of events and emotions could have more to do with the individual parties than with you. Understand your limitations more fully. Know when to say "enough." Learning more diplomatic ways of saying what you think could make all the difference as well. If you are single, you often wonder if you have what it takes to make a relationship work. You will have an opportunity to find out. If you are attached, the two of you will learn to juggle your different concerns in a more reasonable manner. GEMINI makes you laugh. ....

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

Girls and Sports
By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



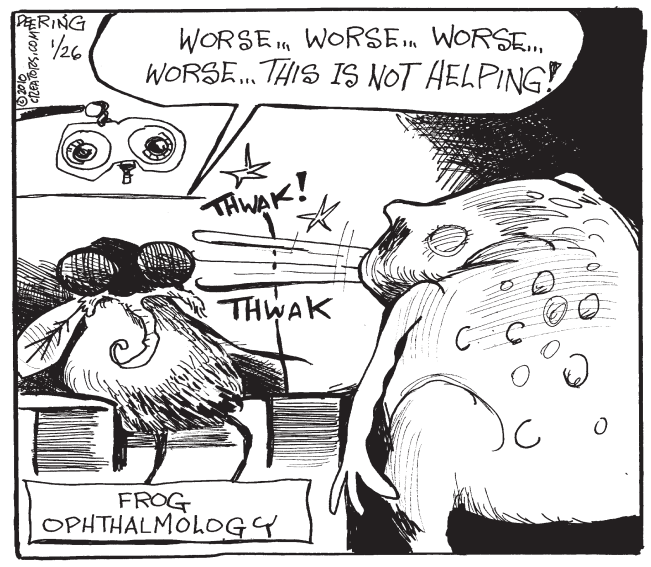
The Meaning of Lila
By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



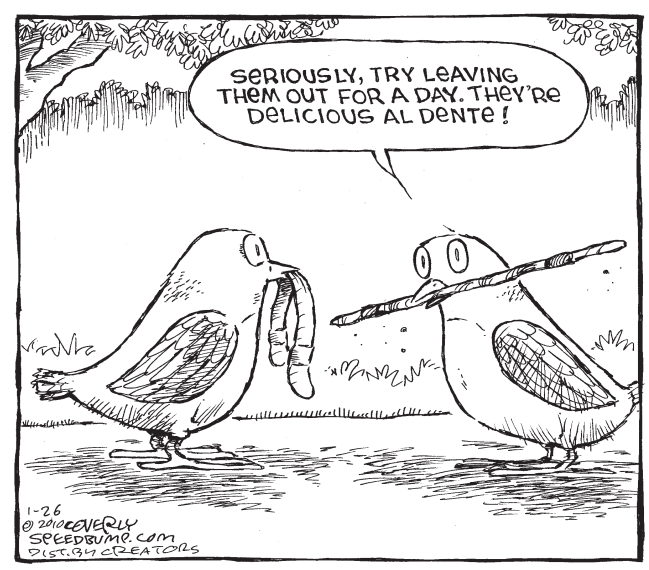
Garfield
By Jim Davis



Strange Brew
By John Deering



Speed Bump
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Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Shaker fill
7 Toe the line
11 Large lizard
12 Window piece
13 Some snakes
15 Clarifying words
16 Low card
18 Take it easy
21 Clock unit
22 Breakfast choice
24 Night flier
25 Lazy fellow
26 Part of Mao's name
27 Bound
29 Car
30 Math course
31 Catch sight of
32 Narrow cuts
34 Some sharks
40 Region
41 Howie of "Deal or No Deal"
42 Spill the beans
43 Cleopatra's love

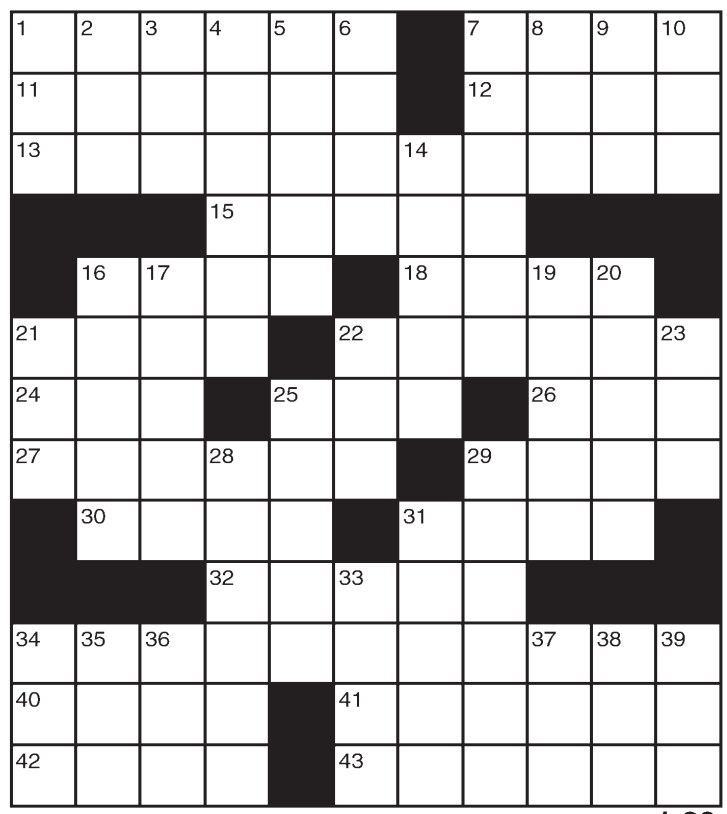
DOWN

1 Snapshot
2 Swelled head
3 Young seal
4 — -mâché
5 Foe
6 Quite uncommon
7 Starting bid
8 Sheep cry
9 Conclusion
10 Agreeable answer
14 Women's quarters
16 Namely
17 School-bag item
19 Arrangement
20 Flavorful
21 Simmering
22 Recipe amount
23 Summer zodiac sign
25 "Taps" tooter
28 Bleak
29 Give one's OK
31 Patriot Allen
33 "— La Douce"
34 Topper
35 Live and breathe
36 Singer Tormé
37 Bustle
38 Relaxing room
39 Crafty

B	A	N	G	S	■	O	P	R	A	H
I	C	E	U	P	■	C	H	O	R	E
G	E	E	S	E	■	T	I	T	L	E
■	■	■	T	A	T	A	■	S	O	D
A	S	P	I	R	I	N	G	■	■	■
R	O	A	N	■	N	E	U	R	O	N
A	D	D	E	D	■	S	T	O	V	E
B	A	S	S	E	T	■	S	L	A	T
■	■	■	S	A	W	M	I	L	L	S
L	A	D	■	L	O	A	N	■	■	■
A	L	I	A	S	■	R	E	A	D	Y
V	E	R	D	I	■	I	S	S	U	E
A	C	T	O	N	■	A	S	S	E	T

Yesterday's answer

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1-26

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Meganumber: 23
Jackpot: $14M

Fantasy 5: 6 10 11 19 33

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

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 01 Gold Rush
2nd: 04 Big Ben
3rd: 09 Winning Spirit
RACE TIME: 1.49.34

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

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Psychology professor Russell Carney of Southwest Missouri State University told the Associated Press in August 1992 that he had developed a technique for improving memory and told the reporter how he could facilitate the recall, say, that a particular painting was done by Degas in 1865. First, think of an object that sounds like "Degas" (day-GAH), for example, "dagger," and then memorize the last two digits of the year by learning the sentence "Twin new moons rose low, just clearing four pine saplings," in which the first word begins with a T and stands for "1," the second, N, stands for "2," and so on. Thus, 1865 becomes "65," which becomes "just" "low," which could translate to J-L, which could be "jelly," which would produce a "jelly dagger," to which the subject tries to find a resemblance, somewhere, in the Degas painting. Simple as that!

■ In December, a prominent online game player, Buzz "Erik" Lightyear, won the auction for ownership of a virtual space station in the Planet Calypso game, paying 3.3 million Project Entropia Dollars (PEDs), which at various points entered the game's play-like economy at an out-of-pocket cost of 10 actual U.S. cents per PED. Thus, Lightyear "paid" $330,000 for nothing more than digital representations of cool-looking structures. However, Lightyear can now charge other PED-seeking players who shop and hunt for valuables on the popular space station and appears confident he will eventually earn back his investment. (On the other hand, if everyone suddenly abandoned the game, Lightyear will have spent thousands of hours online, buying, selling and bartering to earn $330,000 worth of PEDs that would then be worthless.)....

TODAY IN HISTORY

1870 American Civil War: Virginia rejoins the Union.
1885 Troops loyal to The Mahdi conquer Khartoum.

WORD UP!

plenipotentiary \plen-uh-puh-TEN-shee-air-ee; -shuh-ree\ , adjective;

1. Containing or conferring full power; invested with full power; as, "plenipotentiary license; plenipotentiary ministers."

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Announcements, Creative, Employment, For Sale, Furniture, Pets, Boats, Jewelry, Wanted, Travel, Vacation Rentals, Apartments/Condos, Rent, Houses for Rent, Roomates, Commerical Lease, Real Estate, Real Estate Loans, Storage Space, Vehicles for Sale, Massage, Services, Computer Services, Attorney Services, Business Opportunities, Yard Sales, Health and Beauty, Fitness, Wealth and Success, Lost and Found, Personals, Psychic, Obituaries, Tutoring

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Announcements

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For Sale

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For Rent

MAR VISTA, 11621 Braddock Dr. unit 2 2bdrm. 1.5 bath, $1295 & up, townhouse style, stove, carpt, w/d hookup, patio, gated parking, carpet, intercom entry, no pets.$700 off move-in (310)967-4471 www.jkwproperties.com

1248 11TH st.unit A 2bdrm/1 1/2bath, lower carpet stove, blinds, laundry, vinyl flooring, balcony parking, no pets.on site manager $1575.(310)393-6322 www.jkwproperties.com

501 N. Venice 1+1, #29 $1250/mo stove, fridge, carpet, utilities included, laundry, parking, no pets. (310)574-6767 www.jkwproperties.com

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835 Pacific St. #6, Studio, full kitchen utilities included $1195

1234 11th St. #11, 2+1, Hardwood floors, D/W $1975

1214 Idaho Ave. #8, 2+1 1/2 Townhouse, $2495

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SANTA MONICA 19th Street near SM. Blvd., spacious 2bd/1bath, Large private patio, new carpets, stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, laundry, parking, small building. $1750/mo Info (310)828-4481.or (310)993-0414 after 6p.m

WEST LA Large, bright 2br upper on Barrington near National. Very spacious, large closets, stove, fridge, closed garage, well maintained building. Free month with one year lease. $1685/mo. 310-828-4481 or 310-993-0414 after 6pm.

SANTA MONICA 3+1 819 Michigan #C stove, refrigerator, 8 blocks from beach $1895 (310)478-6633

For Rent

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SANTA MONICA
1531 – 17TH Street, Apt C
1+1, st, fr, ldry **$1100**
2842 Exposition Blvd, 'B'
2+1, st, -fns, w/d hkp **$1400**
2344-A Ocean Park Blvd
Sgl, st, fr, lwr **$875**
1831 Pearl Street, #5
3+1_, st, fr, fp, Berber cpt, carport-1, upr **$2200**

WEST L.A.
1920 Manning Ave #6
2+1_ , st, fr, hdwd **$1500**
1657 Federal Ave, #12
Bach, sm, fr, htpl, ldry, separate bath **$775**
1766_ Malcolm Ave
Sgl, st, fr, pkg, cpt, ldry **$800**
1766 Malcolm Ave
2+1, st, fr, cpt, pkg-1, ldry **$1500**
1800 Kelton Ave, #5 & #7
1+1, st, fr, cpt, pkg **$1100**
11321 Massachusetts, #9
1+1, st, fr, pkg **$1100**
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st *(stove),* ***fr*** *(fridge),* ***cpt*** *(carpet),* ***sgl*** *(single),* ***bach*** *(bachelor),* ***ldry*** *(laundry),* ***gar*** *(garage),* ***hdwd*** *(hardwood floors),* ***lwr*** *(lower),* ***upr*** *(upper) ,* ***htpl*** *(hotplate),* ***pkg*** *(parking),* ***w/d*** *(washer/dryer),* ***hkp*** *(hook-up),* ***d/w*** *(dishwasher),* ***c-fn*** *(ceiling fan), (fireplace)*

MAR VISTA 3976 Inglewood Blvd. $1015 & up stove, fridge, blinds, carpet, laundry, parking, no pets. $500 off move-in (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

For Rent

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

Mar Vista $1750.00 2Bdrms, 2 Baths No pets, Stove, Refrig, Dshwshr, Wshr/Dryr, Parking, 4077 Inglewood Blvd., # 6, Open daily 8am-7pm. Additional info in Unit.

MAR VISTA 12450 Culver Blvd. 1bdrm/1bath, gated parking, intercom entry, stove, fridge, utilities included, laundry, parking, no pets. $995 & up (888)414-7778 www.jkwproperties.com

MAR VISTA 12766 Matteson Ave #8 2+2 $1325/mo stove, fridge, tile and vinlyn floors, blinds, parking, laundry, no pets call between 5:30-7:30pm units shown by appt.only $500 off move-in (310) 439-1928 jkwproperties.com

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

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

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

MV/MDR adj. Large Studio, single, Full kitchen, stove & refrigerator, large closets, carpets, laundry, parking. $900 Info (310)828-4481 or (310)993-0414 after 6p.m.

PALMS 2+1 3633 Keystone ave #1 stove, blinds, tile flooring, carpets, ceiling fan, laundry,parking, AC, no pets. $1350/mo $500 off move-in (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

PALMS 3540 Overland 1+1 unit 5 $895 Stove, fridge, carpet, blinds, laundry, street parking, no pets. $500 off move-in special. (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

PALM/BVRLYWD ADJ.. $900.00 1 Bdrm, 1Bath, NO PETS, stove, refrg, parking 2009 Preuss Rd., #10 Open daily 9am-7pm . Additional info in unit

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

PALMS NEWER building ask about move-in specials $1145 + 1bdr, Gated entry + park. Tile floors + granite, 2 elevators, A/C 3848 Overland Ave (310)839-3647

SANTA MONICA . $1300.00 1 Bdrm,1 Bath, No pets, stove, refrg, parking 1935 Cloverfield Blvd. #3, Open daily 8am- 7pm. Additional info in Unit. Mgr in Apt #19 move-in-special available

For Rent

SANTA MONICA 1833 16th st. unit 5 2+1. $1100 upper unit, stove, vinyl blinds, carpet, parking no pets. (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

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VENICE 16 Outrigger St. units A & B $2100 & up. Stove, fridge, blinds, tile , garage parking no pets (310) 578-7512 jkwproperties.com

WLA 1+1 2656 South Barrington Ave. unit 7, $1025. Stove, fridge, dishwasher, carpet, blinds, laundry, parking, no pets. (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

WLA 1457 Westgate A & E 1+1 stove, fridge, blinds, tile , garage parking no pets $1200/mo $700 off move-in (310) 578-7512 jkwproperties.com

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	Single Family Homes	Condos & Townhomes
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North of Montana	$2,895,000	$1,087,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	$1,724,500	$674,000
South of Wilshire	$898,000	$624,000
Sunset Park	$1,049,000	$599,000
Ocean Park	$1,700,000	$585,500

Statistics Updated Every Monday

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