

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

20 24 25 27 44

Meganumber: 6

Jackpot: \$7 Million

FANTASY 5

5 18 19 22 26

DAILY 3

Daytime: 4 5 0

Evening: 6 2 0

DAILY DERBY

1st: 12 Lucky Charms

2nd: 11 Money Bags

3rd: 05 California Classic

RACE TIME: 1.45.57

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: <http://www.calottery.com>



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

Two physicians, in a December note in the Canadian Medical Association Journal, wrote glowingly of the ability of the Super Soaker Max-D 5000 squirt weapon to quickly and safely loosen severely impacted ear wax (knowledge learned from an emergency use when no standard ear-syringing equipment was available). In fact, they wrote, since the Super Soaker holds much more water than the standard equipment, using it would actually shorten patients' office visits. (However, the Super Soaker was obviously not anticipated for medical use; its awkward design assured that patient and doctor would be drenched by excess spray.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 33rd day of 2006.
There are 332 days left in the year.
This is Groundhog Day.

On Feb. 2, 1943, the remainder of Nazi forces from the Battle of Stalingrad surrendered in a major victory for the Soviets in World War II.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It was naive of the 19th century optimists to expect paradise from technology — and it is equally naive of the 20th century pessimists to make technology the scapegoat for such old shortcomings as man's blindness, cruelty, immaturity, greed and sinful pride."

PETER F. DRUCKER

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Good sports, those gals



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

GIRL POWER: (At top) Sixth-grade girls from John Adams Middle School take part in a surfing drill on Wednesday during the YWCA Santa Monica/Westside's 20th Annual National Girls and Women in Sports Day. (Bottom) Gymnastics instructor Eliza Voita, from Broadway Gymnastics, assists Brittany Jolivette on the balance bar. The day included motivational talks by athletes, activities and healthy lifestyle info.

Venice Beach: Free to be you and me

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN LA — The beach dedicated to freedom is free again, so officials say.

The Los Angeles City Council on Tuesday unanimously

approved a new Venice Beach ordinance to regulate its world famous Boardwalk.

The new ordinance is intended to address a variety of public concerns aimed to protect the fabled street performers and defend free speech, as well as curbing com-

mercial activity along the west side of the Boardwalk, according to Councilman Bill Rosendahl, whose 11th District jurisdiction includes Venice.

The new ordinance, which fol-

See VENICE BEACH, page 7

Feds have praise for SMURRF treatment

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

SANTA MONICA PIER — Federal representatives toured a state-of-the-art Santa Monica water treatment facility on Wednesday, saying other communities can learn from City Hall's seaside attempts to improve its environment.

Benjamin H. Grumbles, assistant administrator for Water with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, toured Santa Monica's Urban Runoff Recycling Facility (SMURRF) on Wednesday, as part of a water regulatory meeting being held locally this year.

Urban runoff — the surface

See SMURRF, page 8

LOCAL

District, college eye a level playing field

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE — The Santa Monica-Malibu Board of Education is expected tonight to move forward with a joint-effort to install the latest in artificial turf at John Adams Middle School, where grass fields are being worn away by constant use.

The board of trustees at Santa Monica College voted in December of 2005 to join with the school district and use money from Measure S, an athletics improvement bond, to replace fields at John Adams with all-weather, synthetic turf while maintaining the dirt portions needed for baseball and softball games.

The school board must now approve the joint effort before

See TOUGH TURF, page 9

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Attention, pop culture geniuses

By Daily Press staff

Ever wanted to flex your pop culture knowledge in front of the world? VH1 & Entertainment Weekly are looking for 16 three-person teams who think they’ve got what it takes to compete in a pop culture trivia tournament: The World Series of Pop Culture.

Do you know which college Allie Hamilton attended after leaving her summer love Noah Calhoun behind in the 2004 film “The Notebook”?

Do you know which TV theme song states “You take the good, you take the bad, you take them both, and there you have”?

Do you want the chance to win up to \$100,000? The casting team is heading to Los Angeles Mar. 4 and 5. For info on how your team can apply and to attend the L.A. casting call, dial up (212) 456-3859.

Free entertainment lectures at SMC

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica College will host a series of speakers from the entertainment industry through April.

SMC announced that its spring entertainment speaker series will feature speaker Roark Critchlow, an actor-producer who is working with Warner Bros. on a daily three-minute drama series that will soon premiere on mobile phones and online.

The SMC Academy of Entertainment and Technology’s Mary Pickford Speakers Series will be kicked off Monday, Feb. 13 with Critchlow, best known for his role as Mike Horton in “Days of Our Lives.”

All lectures are free and are held at 7 p.m. Monday evenings at SMC’s Academy of Entertainment and Technology’s screening room, 1660 Stewart St., in Santa Monica.

The remainder of the lineup for the spring semester:

- Feb. 27 — Fred Crippen, award-winning animation director whose credits include the TV series “Roger Ramjet,” “Hot Wheels,” and “Square One TV,” as well as numerous films.
- March 6 — Mike Denney, Emmy Award-winning director on the long-running hit soap, “The Young and the Restless.”
- March 20 — David McMillan, writer on the Emmy-winning television show “Judging Amy” and film teacher at Crossroads School for the Arts and Sciences in Santa Monica.
- April 24 — Troy Westergaard, film producer whose credits include the award-winning TNT drama “Word of Honor.”

Seating is on a first-arrival basis. For more information, call (310) 434-3777.

SNOW AND SURF REPORTS

CONDITIONS

DATA PROVIDED BY ONTHESNOW.COM

BEAR MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 12"-36"	LIFT HOURS 8:30am - 4:00pm	RUNS OPEN 15	LIFTS OPEN 10/12
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CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Groomed, Hard Packed

JUNE MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 96" - 120"	LIFT HOURS 8:00am - 4:00pm	RUNS OPEN 35	LIFTS OPEN 6/6
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CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Groomed

MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 144" - 168"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 150	LIFTS OPEN 25/28
-------------------------	---------------------------	---------------------------------	------------------	---------------------

CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Groomed

MOUNTAIN HIGH

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 12"-30"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 10:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 16	LIFTS OPEN 8/16
-------------------------	-----------------------	----------------------------------	-----------------	--------------------

CONDITIONS: Machine Made, Machine Groomed, Hard Packed

MT. BALDY

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 12"-12"	LIFT HOURS 8:00 am - 4:30 pm	RUNS OPEN 4	LIFTS OPEN 2/4
-------------------------	-----------------------	---------------------------------	----------------	-------------------

CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Made

SNOW SUMMIT

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 12"-36"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:30 pm	RUNS OPEN 18	LIFTS OPEN 14/14
-------------------------	-----------------------	---------------------------------	-----------------	---------------------

CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Groomed, Hard Packed

SNOW VALLEY

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 24"-12"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 11	LIFTS OPEN 5/11
-------------------------	-----------------------	---------------------------------	-----------------	--------------------

CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Groomed

CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 57°

DATA PROVIDED BY WETSAND.COM

SWELL FORECAST (3-5 FT)

Today a flow of shorter period NW swell backfills fading ground swell. Only 12-second periods are expected, but there should be enough swell to produce waist to at times chest high surf.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

Small to moderate bursts of NW swell this week...

Substantial swell this weekend, biggest on Sunday...

Tracking more NW for the 7th-8th...

TIDE FORECAST FOR SANTA MONICA

SATURDAY

LOW TIDE: 1:22AM

2.1FT

3:01PM

-1.8FT

HIGH TIDE: 7:42AM

6.8FT

9:29PM

4.0FT

SUNDAY

LOW TIDE: 2:11AM

1.7FT

3:38PM

-1.8FT

HIGH TIDE: 8:28AM

7.0FT

10:03PM

4.2FT

MONDAY

LOW TIDE: 3:00AM

1.42FT

4:15PM

-1.6FT

HIGH TIDE: 9:14AM

6.8FT

10:38PM

4.5FT

TUESDAY

LOW TIDE: 3:52AM

1.2FT

4:52PM

-1.2FT

HIGH TIDE: 10:00AM

6.3FT

11:16PM

4.7FT

WEDNESDAY

LOW TIDE: 4:47AM

1.1FT

5:28PM

-0.5FT

HIGH TIDE: 10:49AM

5.6FT

11:56PM

4.9FT

THURSDAY

LOW TIDE: 5:50AM

1.1FT

6:04PM

0.2FT

HIGH TIDE: 11:43AM

4.6FT

N/A

N/A

FRIDAY

N/A

SURF AND SNOW QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS? EMAIL ALEX@SMDP.COM



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The Q Line

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An emboldened tourism industry, surging real estate sales and some unexpected money courtesy of the state have pumped an additional \$5.5 million into the city coffers, leaving council members with more money to spend when they approve the mid-year budget next month. While some of the cash is already accounted for — to cover increased costs for employee salaries — roughly \$2.5 million will be left up to the discretion of the council, which will debate the issue at a meeting scheduled for Feb. 14.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, “How do you think the council should spend the budget surplus?”

Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your responses in the weekend edition. Please try to limit your comments to a minute or less. It might help to think first about the wording of your response.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No right to privacy for the grieving?

Editor:

In the article on the death of actor Chris Penn (SMDP, Jan 25, page 1), you quote Sean Penn’s publicist, Mara Buxbaum, as saying, “the Penn family would appreciate the media’s respect of their privacy during this difficult time.”

Right next to that text is a blurry photo of Eileen Ryan, Chris Penn’s mother, sitting in the building lobby. Did you blur the picture out of respect for the family’s privacy or was it just the best shot you could get of the grieving mother? Was it difficult standing in bushes trying to focus through a glass window, or perhaps, did you use a telephoto lens from a discreet distance? Since the sun probably had already set, it could be your flash wasn’t working. But it was all worth it, I guess, to publish a grainy, unfathomable picture.

In the story, you mention a Penn family friend telling a cameraman not to stick a camera in the face of a woman whose child has just died. At least you didn’t do that, right? After all, we’re not reading the Santa Monica Daily Enquirer. Right?

Joe Morris
Santa Monica

Silverstein should point finger at himself

Editor:

I wonder if Mr. Silverstein might come a little bit closer to the microphone and lob a few more of his bombs. In his insightful (column) “Religion: The good, the bad and the ugly,” (SMDP, Jan. 20, page 4) he left out two such issues. Does he call for the Cardinal of Los Angeles to be removed from his church for reassigning known child molesters to churches in your area? Secondly, will he call the ritualistic circumcision of eight-day old Jewish sons child abuse? In the recent past, I’ve personally wondered if Mr. Silverstein has thought about this subject.

In Mr. Silverstein’s article, he goes on: “And anyone who defends such corruption and immorality, is ugly as well.” So, therefore, in Mr. Silverstein’s train of thought, if he steps forward to defend my two examples, he has to stand under his own label of ‘indisputable evil.’

In the beginning, I supported the war in Iraq and do to this day. Yet, I have questions about my choice and question my rationale. Yet, here is where the writers of these articles are totally separating themselves from reality, as are all Americans who are “Bush haters.” Mr. Silverstein, show us your facts on and about a “president further lying, cheating, stealing and torture.

Here are two facts I know to be the truth: There are over 40,000 homicides in the United States yearly, and two people died last weekend, gunned down as they rode in the back seat of a car on the Riverside freeway. Here is my point, and yes, it is hypothetical. And I hope, sir, clearer than your religious hit piece and your clever ability to bring in your “hate Bush” point of view. If 300,000,000 people went to church this Sunday I guarantee all of them are praying this one prayer: Dear Lord, please let me and my family get home safe today.

I don’t know what good it does for you to knock religion. That, sir, is between you and God.

John Metzger
Santa Monica

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



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Power to the People



**ICONOCLAST
BLAST**
BY SETH BARNES

Forget about Iraq. Forget about the Jack Abramoff lobbying scandal, Ford Motor Company’s plans to lay off 30,000 workers, or even the fact that Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt are on the verge of eliminating world poverty. In fact, forget about any of the newsworthy topics that usually fill these opinion pages because there’s a hard news story right here in Santa Monica that can’t be beat.

On January 24, Santa Monica Daily Press reporter Kevin Herrera filled us in on the swift actions taken by City Hall to choke off an audacious scam that has been fleecing city taxpayers for over five years. Herrera writes that city officials recently “cut the power to electrical outlets placed on lamp posts along Ocean Front Walk.”

The outlets, which are over 10 feet above ground, were being exploited by enterprising freeloaders willing to climb the posts like King Kong to plug in electrical devices. Before City Hall evaporated the practice with their brave and decisive actions, the scoundrels made off with watts upon watts of electricity that belonged to you and me.

Thank God for our local government. This is why we elect our best and brightest citizens to fill these bureaucratic positions. City Hall is standing firm on this issue, sending a strong message that every penny counts to the City of Santa Monica. Even if it, literally, is only a few measly pennies.

I think we have to assume that most of the offenders are the much-maligned homeless. Those of us fortunate enough to have a roof over our heads have wide access to electricity, and wouldn’t risk a fractured skull for a few hours of electric juice on the city’s dime. And while I hate to join the chattering classes who foist off all of the city’s problems onto our delirious, drug-addled transient population, the accountant in me wants to scream out, “just how much money did these low-lifes drain from Santa Monica’s coffers?”

Well, to start, one eyewitness asserted that he hadn’t seen anybody scaling the

lamp posts in “like two years.” Second, while I know my personal observations are only anecdotal, I’ve spent many hours on the Santa Monica oceanfront, and never, ever have I seen a homeless person swinging from the top of a lamp post like Sly Stallone in “Cliffhanger.” Finally, we must consider what I call the Mom-Nagging-You-to-Turn-Off-The-Damn-Light-If-You’re-Not-In-The-Room theorem. This mathematical proof states that while it certainly seems frugal and cost-efficient to curb use of minor electrical appliances like lamps and radios, the actual savings gleaned from such an undertaking is nil, nada, next to nothing. And please, don’t confront me with the yippy “but if we all pitch in, each conserving and cutting back a little, we’ll all save the world!!” argument. It’s never going to amount to anything significant. Seriously, never. So just give it up.

Given this analysis, the monies saved by City Hall in this power pilfering scam pale in comparison to big-ticket expenditures like our new \$74.5 billion dollar library or the \$6 trillion dollars the city devotes each year to the construction of senseless bus and bike lanes that choke our city streets. But I think the move is symbolic. After all, we live in a world where fat cats rule. Greedy corporate executives rip away pensions and benefits every day, politicians in the highest echelons of government regularly trade favors to enrich themselves while screwing the little guy. So the desperate folks trying to steal a little electricity need to learn: there’s no such thing as a free ride.

But all is not lost for the average guy or gal who’s used to crawling 10 feet into the air to charge their cellphone. It takes entrepreneurial wherewithal to shimmy up a lamp post to siphon electricity from the city. It requires a certain tenacity and dedicated vision that doesn’t come naturally to the average citizen.

In fact, there’s a place that would be perfectly accommodating for this type of skill set. It’s a big building in the center of town surrounded by a manicured lawn. There’s plenty of free electricity and they siphon off oodles of taxpayer money every day.

And hey, you don’t have to climb a 10 foot pole to get into City Hall.

(Seth Barnes is a writer living in Ocean Park.)



STATE BRIEFS

Pipe bombs land boys in hot water

By The Associated Press

LONG BEACH — Two boys were arrested at Lindbergh Middle School after pipe bombs were found in their backpacks.

The two eighth-graders didn't plan to use the homemade bombs at school or harm anyone, said Sgt. David Cannan, who described the explosive devices as "supercharged homemade firecrackers."

"The two boys are being very cooperative and they admitted they made these homemade, for lack of a better term, firecrackers," the sergeant said. "There's no indication that these were going to be used at the school or against anybody and so we don't have any kind of concern in that regard."

School administrators discovered the pipe bombs Tuesday morning during a routine check of student backpacks. Lindbergh is one of many Long Beach Unified School District campuses that conduct random searches of student belongings, Cannan said.

District spokesman Chris Eftychiou said four classrooms located near the front of the school, near where the devices were discovered, were evacuated briefly. The devices were not considered dangerous enough to force a schoolwide evacuation, officials said.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department bomb squad detonated the devices. Additional explosive materials were found in the boys' homes. They could be charged with possession of improvised explosive devices and will likely be expelled from Lindbergh, authorities said.

Coach who molested girls is sentenced

By The Associated Press

TORRANCE, Calif. — A former Mira Costa High School coach who sexually molested two students was sentenced to four years in prison.

The girls' parents told Superior Court Judge Thomas R. Sokolov during Tuesday's sentencing hearing that their 15-year-old daughters have gone from happy and normal to depressed and distraught. Both girls regularly receive therapy.

"You took away her brightness and brought down darkness," one father told defendant Tom Wallace.

In a letter read by Deputy District Attorney Jodi Link, the other victim's parents said Wallace took advantage of young girls by gaining their trust so he could engage them in perverted ways. After his arrest, the letter read, Wallace contacted the girl again.

Wallace, 30, told the judge he takes full responsibility for his poor judgment. "I'm truly sorry. I never wanted to put anybody through this," said Wallace, who moved from the Los Angeles area to King City.

Wallace, who coached the freshman football team, worked with the track and field team, and taught at the school for three years, was arrested in August. He was charged with committing a lewd act on a child and two counts of oral copulation with a minor, as well as misdemeanor charge of annoying a child.

He pleaded no contest to all but one oral copulation charge in October, and agreed to undergo a 90-day evaluation at the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. In exchange, prosecutors agreed not to seek more than four years in custody.

Kids on skateboards robbed at gunpoint

By The Associated Press

MANHATTAN BEACH, Calif. — Three teenagers in a sport utility vehicle robbed two 12-year-old skateboarders at gunpoint.

They fled with a \$45 skateboard. The skateboarders were confronted Monday night at Mathews and Peck avenues, police said. An occupant seated behind the driver pointed a handgun at the boys through a passenger window and demanded the skateboards.

One boy handed over his skateboard and the SUV sped away. Police following up on the vehicle's description found the SUV in the driveway of an El Segundo home, Manhattan Beach police Sgt. Steve Tobias said.

The victims identified the SUV and two brothers — ages 15 and 16 — as the suspects and the skateboard was found in the vehicle, investigators said. A 16-year-old Manhattan Beach boy was arrested at Mira Costa High School on Tuesday.

The trio was booked for investigation of armed robbery and taken to Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall in Downey.

Giving a hoot about the coots

By The Associated Press

LA QUINTA, Calif. — Some residents were stunned when armed groundskeepers at the PGA West golf course began killing coots, small water birds that tear up the grass and leave droppings on the greens.

"It was devastating," resident Laurie Bendon said when the Monday morning desert calm was interrupted by gunfire at PGA West. From her home overlooking the course she saw three armed men open fire on a flock of coots on the 14th green.

The coot is considered a pest at Coachella Valley golf courses. The bird's feet are not webbed like a duck's, enabling it to dig into the turf and forage for insects, leaving droppings behind.

"They're the filthiest bird out there. They strip the golf course areas to the roots," said Rick Daniels, head of the Coachella Valley Economic Partnership and a long-time PGA West resident. "But there ought to be a more humane way than just shooting them."

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CHECK OUT THE COMICS ON PAGE 20!

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Technology lets anglers sock it to the sockeyes

BY NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS
Associated Press Writer

SPOKANE, Wash. — In the ancient struggle between man and fish, man has a new weapon.

Forget fancy lures, depth charges or precision casting guns. The new weapon requires vision — ultraviolet vision.

Called Fool-a-Fish, it comes in a bottle that sprays titanium dioxide on fishing lures and bait. The chemical lights up the watery depths like a disco ball, luring fish from half a mile away.

Fool-a-Fish is the brainchild of a Spokane physician named Milan Jeckle — that's Dr. Jeckle to you — who combined his love of chemistry and the outdoors into a new business. Fool-A-Fish is earning a growing reputation as anglers from Alaska to Florida enjoy success with the product.

"You catch three or four times more fish, and the biggest fish," Jeckle contended.

Researchers have discovered that while humans see in three colors — red, yellow-green and blue — fish and birds see a fourth color in the ultraviolet range, which shows up as a white glow, Jeckle said. This color is invisible to humans.

Working with David Cleary, a chemistry professor at Spokane's Gonzaga University, Jeckle came up with the formula combining titanium dioxide, which is used in sunscreens, and several other chemicals. The whitish liquid dries quickly, and will stay on a lure for some two hours, he said. It is nontoxic, odorless and washes off with soap and water.

But underwater it shines like a beacon to fish.

In November of 2004, Jeckle and two friends went to Moses Lake, in central Washington, to try it out.

"I put it on my bait and caught a 6-pound walleye," Jeckle said. Later he took it to

Alaska and caught several 100-pound halibut.

Jeckle said many of the spray products currently used to lure fish are scent-based, because fish are known to search for food by smell.

"This is based entirely on vision," Jeckle said. "This is a new way to fish."

"It's not just blood that attracts sharks," he added. "They can see a swimmer half a mile away."

Jeckle makes up batches of Fool-A-Fish in his kitchen. The spray is sold in some outdoor stores in the region, and it can be ordered on Jeckle's Web site. It is also getting written up in fishing magazines. Northwest Angler said the formula "makes it super easy for fish to see lures or baits from great distances."

Instructors at Salmon University in Tacoma, a guide service and fishing school, also report success with the product. John Keizer, one of its chief instructors, said he found that treated herring caught three fish for every one caught on untreated herring.

Jeckle has also adapted his formula to produce Fool-A-Bird, which works on a reverse principle. Birds use ultraviolet vision to avoid humans, so Jeckle created a formula that when sprayed on a hunter's clothes, body and gun will absorb ultraviolet rays.

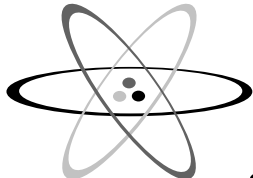
"You spray it on yourself and they treat you like a tree trunk or a dead stump," Jeckle said. "They ignore you."

Jeckle grew up in Green Bay, Wis., where he began fishing for perch as a boy. He practiced for three decades as a family physician in Spokane, and went into semi-retirement five years ago. That's what gave him the time to develop his products, he said.

"It's not magic," Jeckle said. Some days nothing will make fish bite, and other days they will bite at anything, he said.

"This is for when it's in-between," he said.

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LOCAL



Venice Beach now 'Free Speech, Expression Zone'

VENICE BEACH, from page 1

lows a series of Town Hall meetings moderated by Rosendahl, are designed to protect the character and artistic flavor of Venice's top tourist attraction.

"This is a great day for Venice Beach," Rosendahl said. "Today's vote will end the illegal commercial vending that has threatened the street performers and free expressionists, harmed local merchants, and made life unbearable for local residents."

Rosendahl's efforts are a response to complaints about a revised Venice Boardwalk ordinance that went into effect in October of 2004. Several free spirits spoke out, arguing that measure took an unneeded step to regulate how they conduct themselves before millions of visitors who come annually to regard the legendary spectacle of the one-and-a-half mile strip.

Rosendahl's proposals — which were born from three public meetings drawing hundreds of locals — declares an officially recognized "Free Speech and Expression Zone" from Navy Street to 17th Street; allows performers, entertainers and free expressionists to sell their own original and constitutionally protected merchandise; prohibits all other commercial activity; and begins to crack down on excessive noise.

Under the current system, administered by the Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Department, all expressionists who wish to exhibit must apply for a permit, which costs \$25 and is good for life. With permit in hand, one goes to 1800 Ocean Front Walk on Tuesday the week he or she wishes to display on the Boardwalk, in order to take part in a lottery by which that permit holder may then be allotted a Boardwalk space.

The lottery for those who wish to exhibit during Monday through Friday is

held at 8:30 a.m., followed by the week-end lottery, which is held at 9:30 a.m.

Those who do exhibit, but not apply for permits, take part in the lottery or violate other rules are considered to be in violation of the ordinance. They qualify for up to three warnings, administered by Recreation and Parks monitors, who walk the Boardwalk to ensure people are in compliance. Each of the warnings may be appealed, but the third citation means the permit is revoked and the person can no longer legally qualify for a Boardwalk space for life.

The lottery system has been cumbersome and ineffective, even inappropriate, in its aims to regulate freedom, according to some Boardwalk denizens. Before it was put into place, however, residents who were trying to sleep in on a Saturday or Sunday morning were waking up to the sound of bickering. Police were being called out, and their resources drained, in order to meddle in disputes which might have been avoided if a system were in place which more easily settled them.

The Rosendahl proposals direct the Department of Recreation & Parks to collaborate with the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council to create a working group to monitor the new ordinance and how it may be improved.

The working group will explore whether the lottery based system of issuing permits for Boardwalk space may be modified or abolished. It will also look at developing a proposal to further restrict amplified noise.

"I am pleased that we have developed an open-ended, flexible, community-based approach," Rosendahl said. "Venice Beach has a life unto itself, so we need to keep looking at and revising the rules. The (working group) creates a living process to do that."

Pelican's bay



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

FITTING THE BILL: A pelican flies north above the Santa Monica coast this week.

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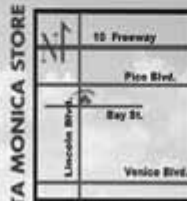
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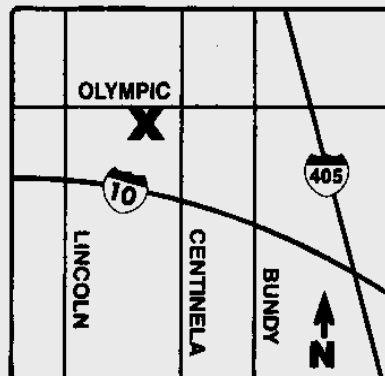
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Grumbles visit part of national water meeting

SMURRF, from page 1

water from yards, driveways and streets that flows through storm drains — is the greatest single source of pollution to the beaches and near-shore waters of the Santa Monica Bay, according to officials.

SMURRF is located at 1601 Appian Way, beneath the pier. It collects contaminants from water before draining into the ocean. Some of the water is also diverted back for landscaping within the city, officials said.

The \$10 million project can process up to 500,000 gallons of runoff per day. It was designed by CH2M Hill and Boyle Engineering.

During the SMURRF tour, Grumbles said that Santa Monica’s commitment to reuse and conserve its water resources was an inspiration for other communities.

“This state-of-the-art facility sends a strong message to beach lovers and communities across America, that even runoff can be a resource if you get creative and stay committed,” Grumbles said. “SMURRF reduces, recycles and reuses urban runoff to protect coasts and conserve clean water.

“The EPA thinks that should be the clean wave of the future.”

Craig Perkins, City Hall’s director for environmental and public works management, explained how SMURRF works during Wednesday’s tour. Runoff is diverted from

the city’s two main storm drains into SMURRF and treated to remove pollutants such as trash, sediment, oil, grease and pathogens.

The treatment processes include: coarse and fine screening to remove trash and debris; dissolved air flotation to remove oil and grease; degritting systems to remove sand and grit; micro-filtration to remove turbidity; and ultra-violet radiation to kill pathogens.

Once treated, the water is safe for landscape irrigation and certain recycling plumbing services as prescribed by the state. The treated water meets all of California’s requirements for runoff.

Perkins said SMURRF is supplying the water used to flush the toilets and urinals in the public safety facility and in the RAND headquarters building. Within the next few months, it will also be supplying the toilets and urinals in the Watergarden Phase II office building.

SMURRF is also piped for landscape irrigation to various city parks, as well as the Woodlawn Cemetery and the Olympic Boulevard median. Plans are also underway to supply SMURRF water to Caltrans for the freeway landscaping within Santa Monica.

In addition to SMURRF, the Ashland Avenue drain has a sewer diversion system that was just completed for dry weather periods, Perkins said. The Montana Avenue, Wilshire Boulevard and Pier drains should have sewer

diversion systems in place for dry weather months by the end of 2007. Most of the funding for the diversion projects is coming from outside grant sources, Perkins said.

City Hall is currently finishing plans for a \$95 million watershed project which will take ambitious steps to clean Santa Monica Bay over the next two decades. While city officials are supportive of the undertaking that cleaning the bay entails, there will also be a considerable need for a new funding source for the project, they said.

To secure funding, the City Council authorized city staff in December to explore whether a bond could be raised so the project can move forward. A survey of residents to determine their willingness to pay for the project, along with the plan itself, will be presented to elected leaders in March.

Grumbles’ tour of SMURRF was part of the National Water Division Director’s meeting during which EPA experts from across the nation are planning innovative ways to store and protect water through sustainable infrastructure, wetlands conservation and new technologies, officials said.

Grumbles said he intends to spread the message about SMURRF in the hopes others communities will also find creative ways to use their runoff.

“It gets us excited, because we see it can be done,” he said.

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Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Emergency personnel investigate the site of a crane accident at the Santa Monica Pier on Wednesday.

Crane accident causes pier commotion

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

SM PIER — A crane-equipped truck carrying piles of lumber overturned on the Santa Monica Pier Wednesday morning, partially blocking vehicle and pedestrian access to a popular portion of the pier deck for several hours, authorities said.

No injuries were reported.

A larger crane was subsequently towed onto the beach around 4:30 p.m. and used to lift the lumber truck, which was then driven away with minimal damage.

The accident occurred around 8 a.m. as employees of the Santa Monica Pier Restoration Corp. (SMPR) were unloading wood planks to be used in rehabilitating the pier’s substructure in the Central Plaza, said Ben Franz-Knight, executive director of SMPR.

The work is part of a three-phase project to rehabilitate the pier and replace the concrete boardwalk with traditional wood planks. The project began in 2002.

“Thankfully, no one was hurt,” Franz-Knight said. “We try to take as many precautions as possible so nothing serious or life-threatening occurs. This was just a minor accident and shouldn’t delay the restoration project at all.”

Vehicle traffic was re-directed to the parking lot below, and adjacent to, the pier and pedestrians were ordered by the Santa Monica Police Department to access the pier from the beach instead of walking through the more popular entryway at Ocean Avenue.

“So far, there hasn’t been too much traffic,” officer Adrian Garcia said shortly after the truck tipped. “As the day goes on though we are going to see a mad rush of delivery trucks, so we’ll probably have to let some of them down to the pier so they can unload. ... For the most part, people have been cooperative.”

Employees at businesses along the pier said sales have not been affected by the overturned truck.

“Everything is business as usual,” said Dan Chase, a manager at Bubba Gump Shrimp Company.

LOCAL



Tough turf: College to ante up for field

TOUGH TURF, from page 1

the design phase of the replacement plan can proceed. The total cost of the project is currently unknown, but in November of 2004, the district submitted a grant proposal for \$1 million to the state for the replacement of the south field at John Adams.

"This is a very important joint-use project for us," school Superintendent John Deasy said. "I expect the board to approve this."

The grass fields are among the most used in the city, playing host to not only athletic events held by John Adams, but also the college, Santa Monica United Soccer, American Youth Football, Little League and the city's after-school program CREST (Child care, Recreation, Enrichment, Sports, Together).

Those who maintain the field said it is almost impossible to keep the grass healthy because it has no time to recuperate from the daily use.

"There's just so many people using it that the grass never has time to rest," said Greg Brown, director of facilities planning at SMC.

The college has hired Caldwell Architects, which is holding design meetings with the district, city staff and community members to determine how the open space can best be used. Brown said there are already plans to preserve the softball field and create two soccer fields, with at least one being full regulation size. Everything else is open for discussion.

John Adams would not be the first school to install turf. The technology has become very popular across the country because of its low maintenance cost, durability and aesthetic. It looks and feels almost like real grass, according to FieldTurf, leaders in turf technology and the suppliers of artificial grass for Super Bowl XL.

The turf is made from Polyethylene fibers that are cut to resemble real blades of grass and not a carpet. The fibers are surrounded by a special blend of "synthetic earth," a mixture of rounded silica sand, rubber granules and NIKE GRIND, which is made out of re-ground athletic shoe material. This provides the turf with a natural cushion and bounce, plus traction for cleated shoes, according to FieldTurf. The artificial grass is also weather resistant

and durable.

"It works incredibly well. The only thing that stops us from playing now is lightening," said Chuck Ice, athletic director for Crossroads School, which installed artificial turf five years ago.

"When we originally drew up the plans we were going to go with a grass field, but somebody asked us to take a look at this turf so we reluctantly did so," Ice said. "When we came back, everybody who was anti-artificial came back with glowing reviews. We looked at the cost and decided it would pay for itself in about three or four years. I miss the smell of grass, being an old baseball guy, but this holds up against constant wear."

Ice said the Crossroads field is used more than 12 hours a day, seven days a week.

At John Adams, the thought of saving money on maintenance for the fields had administrators smiling.

"We are so excited about this," said principal Irene Ramos. "Our fields take a pounding and just having to do the maintenance on the grass and keep it in fine condition is just an enormous amount of work and expensive."

DACS WAIT AND SEE

Aside from the turf issue, the board is also expected to ratify a contract between the district and the Service Employees International Union, Local 660, and once again discuss the roles District Advisory Committees (DACs) play in the district's decision making process.

The contract to be ratified offers a 3-percent raise this year for some district employees. Health and welfare benefits will not change. The contract will be from Jan. 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007.

With the DACs, the board ran into some communication problems last month. In trying to better define the role these community groups play, the board may have confused and subsequently worried many DAC members who felt their duties were being diminished.

The board apologized for any misunderstanding at the last board meeting, and voted to discuss the issue tonight to better explain the change to DAC responsibilities.

Board members insist the DACs still have the same amount of influence as they did prior to the re-wording of their duties.



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Business

SANTA MONICA BUSINESS BRIEFS

Banking on the Westside

By Daily Press staff

Five residents of West Los Angeles have been named to the board of directors of the Private Bank of California.

Opened for business on Oct. 24, the Century City bank is primarily focused on serving high-net worth individuals and businesses and professional practices in West Los Angeles, Beverly Hills and Santa Monica.

Named directors of the bank are: Richard M. Pachulski, a founding shareholder of the law firm of Pachulski, Stang, Ziehl, Young, Jones and Weintraub PC., of Century City; Dr. Andrea L. Rich, recently retired president, chief executive officer and director of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Bruce H. Spector, partner in the Century City office of private equity firm Apollo Management, LP, and Gary S. Stiffelman, partner of the law firm of Ziffren, Brittenham, Branca, Fischer, Gilbert-Lurie, Stiffelman and Cook, and R. Todd Neilson, a director of LECG, a global consulting services organization.

The Private Bank of California is headquartered on the 25th floor of 10100 Santa Monica Blvd. in Century City, and is managed by a team of executives who formerly held high positions at Los Angeles banking organizations.

It is focused on serving business owners, legal, accounting and other professional firms and entertainment service businesses, primarily management and talent agencies.

Consolidation is the key to simplifying your life



MIND YOUR BUSINESS

BY KIRK G. AGUER

The typical American worker can easily hold a dozen or more jobs in his or her lifetime. The result is often a confusing array of retirement plan statements from multiple employers.

Fortunately, it's easy to simplify your life by consolidating all your separate retirement accounts into one IRA. Doing so may be a savvy move. Here's why:

- Tax reporting is easier when you don't need to collect tax-reporting statements from multiple sources.

- Some retirement plans can charge periodic statement fees of up to \$15.

- IRAs may offer you more investment choices; employer plans limit you to their approved menu, which may not be suitable for you.

- Eligible investors can convert traditional IRAs into Roth IRAs, reaping the advantages of tax-free growth (if certain criteria are met).

- If your assets are still in an employer's plan when you die, most plan rules

will require your heirs to distribute the account within five years — regardless of the tax consequences. Roll it over to an IRA, and, if available, your heirs can spread their distributions over their entire life expectancy — a practice known as stretching. Note: A stretch IRA may not be appropriate for you and may not be an available alternative in all cases.

More to Consider

Consolidation may not be for you if you work in a high liability business or have pending lawsuits or judgments against you. This is because employer-sponsored retirement plans generally have greater protections against creditors than do IRAs, although this varies from state to state.

If you do decide to consolidate, don't take the money yourself. The fund company or brokerage running your old retirement account will withhold 20 percent of your money and send it right to the IRS for tax purposes. Additionally, you may be hit with a 10 percent federal penalty if you're under age 59.

(Kirk Aguer is a Financial Advisor at Morgan Stanley. To reach him, call his Santa Monica office at (310) 319-5220 or e-mail kirk.aguer@morganstanley.com. Morgan Stanley DW Inc., member SIPC.)

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E-filing is easy, but wrong data will cause rejects

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Filing tax returns electronically is usually a simple matter, but certain data entry errors or inconsistencies can cause the IRS to reject an e-filed return.

According to H&R Block, rejections most commonly occur because of incorrect entries for a taxpayer's adjusted gross income, date of birth or Social Security number for the taxpayer, spouse or children.

Most tax preparation software will not e-file a return in which it detects a major problem or error. The program may also reject returns with Social Security numbers not in the range of known numbers it has from the government.

To prepare and file a tax return electronically, you need:

■ A copy of last year's tax return.

■ Social Security numbers for yourself, spouse and dependents.

■ W-2 forms from all employers for yourself and spouse.

■ 1099 forms showing interest, dividends, retirement or other income paid to you during the year, including refunds, credits and state and local taxes.

■ Income receipts from rental real estate, royalties, partnerships, S corporations and trusts.

■ Receipts and records for other income or expenses such as rental real estate, partnerships, trusts and Social Security benefits.

■ Receipts pertaining to your small business.

■ Unemployment compensation records.

Those who itemize deductions on Schedule A may also need the following:

■ Receipts for medical and dental expenses.

■ Receipts from state and local taxes, real estate taxes, personal property taxes.

■ Form 1098 for home mortgage interest and points.

■ Receipts for charitable contributions and gifts.

■ Casualty and theft losses.

■ Job expenses.

Taxpayers due a refund should have bank account and routing numbers for direct deposit of refunds.

Those owing tax can pay electronically by charging it to a credit card, having it withdrawn from a bank account or enrolling in the U.S. Treasury's Electronic Federal Tax Payment System. See <http://eftps.gov> or the IRS Web site at <http://www.irs.gov> for more information.

Tax preparation programs like

TurboTax or TaxCut can e-file a return, as can online tax preparers and tax professionals. The IRS can also find an e-filer for you if you enter your ZIP code in the e-file locator box on the IRS Web site.

The return is transmitted via a modem to an electronic return transmitter, which converts the file to a format that meets IRS specifications and forwards it to the IRS for processing. Within 48 hours the IRS confirms whether the return has been accepted or rejected.

Taxpayers who file electronically create a personal identification number, which serves as their electronic signature and requires knowing their 2004 adjusted gross income. Taxpayers who don't create a PIN can still file electronically but will also have to mail Form 8453-OL to the appropriate IRS service center after they have received IRS confirmation that the e-filed return was accepted.

Saving energy tops tax-planning list for 2006

BY EILEEN PUTMAN

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Taxpayers who put their money into energy-saving home improvements and hybrid vehicles in 2006 will reap big rewards next year at tax time: new tax credits, among the tax code's most potent gifts.

Though Congress' dithering with the alternative minimum tax poses some challenges for those who like to plan their tax year in advance, there's no doubt that energy-conserving moves make smart tax sense for 2006.

Replacing the tax deduction for hybrid vehicles, which expired at the end of 2005, is a tax credit, a bigger benefit. Deductions only reduce the income against which tax is assessed, while credits are a dollar-for-dollar reduction in tax liability.

Taxpayers who buy or lease a new hybrid gas-electric car or truck in 2006 are eligible for a credit of \$250 to \$3,400 per vehicle, depending on its fuel economy and weight. Because there are long waiting lists to get such vehicles, people who ordered hybrids in 2005 can claim the credit for the 2006 tax year, as long as they did not take possession of the vehicle before Jan. 1, 2006.

Homeowners who install new energy-saving devices like solar water heaters or rooftop solar panels are eligible for an energy credit of up to \$2,000 per system. Certain insulation, heat pumps, air conditioners and furnaces can qualify for a credit of up to 10 percent of their cost, to a total maximum lifetime credit of \$500.

"The first thing I would do is think about any necessary improvements to your home because we have the opportunity for an energy-efficient credit. It applies to everything from new storm windows and doors to more energy efficient furnaces," said Maggie Doedman, tax advice specialist at H&R Block.

Saving for retirement, always a good idea, receives more favorable tax treatment in 2006, with higher contributions to qualified retirement plans permitted. Additional "catch-up" contributions for taxpayers over 50 also rise by between \$500 and \$1,000, depending on the type of plan.

That means taxpayers should try to contribute the maximum allowable this year, starting as soon as possible so that savings can build over the course of the year.

Another important task for early 2006 is deciding whether the right amount of tax is being withheld from your paycheck. Taxpayers due refunds for 2005 should realize that the government has essentially had free use of that money for much of the past year, notes John Battaglia, director of Deloitte & Touche's private client adviser division.

"If you're getting a significant refund, you're probably withholding too much and you're giving the government an interest-free loan," Battaglia said.

Those taxpayers should file a new W-4 form in 2006 decreasing the amount of tax withheld. Similarly, those who owe tax for 2005 should have more withheld in 2006.

Beyond those fairly simple steps lies a thicket of more complex tax planning issues for those hardy enough to delve into them.

One of the most bedeviling tax issues is the alternative minimum tax, a tax figured separately from regular tax and originally designed to prevent the wealthy from avoiding taxation. Because the AMT was never indexed for inflation, each year more middle-class taxpayers find themselves subject to it.

Without congressional action, an estimated 15 million taxpayers could have to pay AMT in 2006 for the first time. Most are married couples with incomes over \$100,000, high state and local taxes, and multiple children they can claim as per-

sonal exemptions.

Though it's unlikely lawmakers will decline to help so many voters, taxpayers may want to hedge their bets with AMT-reduction strategies.

First, consult the Web site of the Internal Revenue Service at www.irs.gov, which features an AMT "assistant," an online test that can tell taxpayers whether they might be subject to the tax.

Those flirting with AMT should be careful about making large charitable deductions during 2006 and exercising large "incentive" stock options typically given corporate executives. Taxpayers may wish to avoid or dump "private-activity" municipal bonds that lose their tax-free status under the AMT.

Beyond staving off the AMT, there are

other strategies for saving taxes in 2006. Consider giving appreciated assets or cash to children who are in lower tax brackets. The amount a taxpayer can give someone without having to pay a gift tax rises to \$12,000 this year for each recipient, up from \$10,000 in 2005. Beginning in 2006, taxpayers who contribute to a 401(k) plan may designate some or all of those contributions as "Roth" contributions, if their employer plan permits. Such contributions are included in taxable income in the year they are made.

But Roth distributions later in life — when, presumably, they are needed — aren't taxed, so taxpayers who think they will be in a higher tax bracket at retirement may want to make Roth contributions in 2006.

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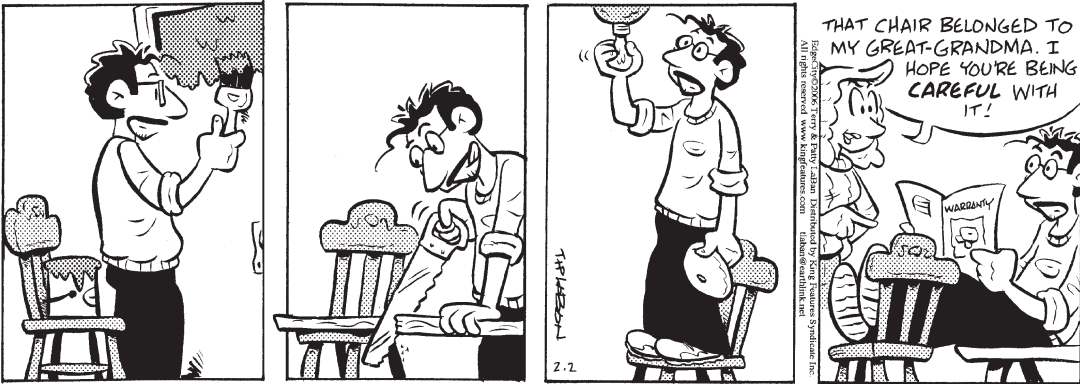


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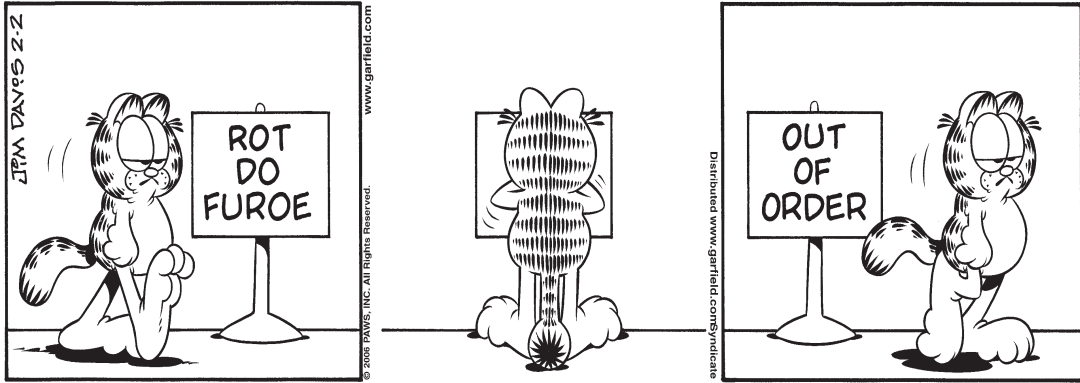
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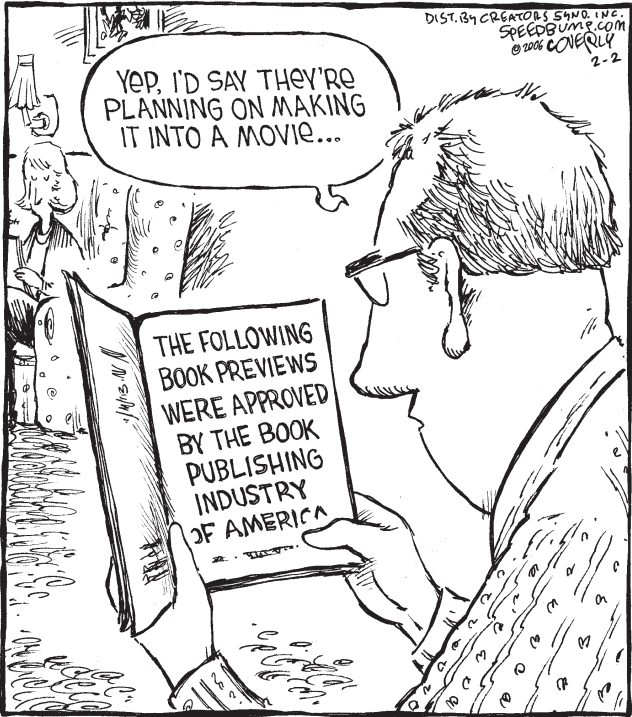
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By THOMAS JOSEPH

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- 5 Danger-ous elephant
- 6 Took on
- 7 Flamenco call
- 8 Sandra or Ruby
- 9 Say further
- 11 Works the land
- 15 Massive amounts
- 17 Leave off

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Yesterday's answer

- 18 Cellar supply
- 19 Pestors
- 20 One of the Baldwins
- 21 Comics possum
- 22 Inn offering
- 25 Watch part
- 26 Telly Savalas role
- 28 Reading aids
- 30 Dazzle
- 31 Simmers
- 33 Not even one
- 34 Tart flavor
- 35 Adding column
- 36 Little lie
- 37 Brouhaha
- 38 Pot fill

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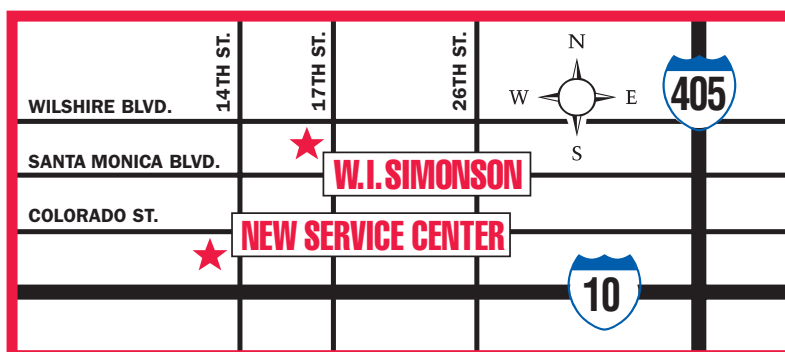
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