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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2009

Volume 8 Issue 86



SCARY FASHION
SEE PAGE 10

Santa Monica Daily Press

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE E-MAIL US ISSUE

Suspect held in '98 slaying of tourist

BY GREG RISLING
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES A man wanted in connection with the murder of a German tourist near a seaside Santa Monica hotel in 1998 has been arrested in Jamaica, authorities said Thursday.

Paul Carpenter, 31, was captured Wednesday in the Caribbean nation where he lived under a false identity and worked at a BMW car dealership in Kingston, FBI spokeswoman Laura Eimiller said. He was expected to return to California on Friday.

Carpenter had eluded authorities for more than 10 years and was the last outstanding suspect in the murder of Horst Fietze, 50, of Lobau, Germany. Fietze and his wife were confronted by two men and a woman on the night of Oct. 12, 1998, as they and some friends walked near a hotel in Santa Monica.

Fietze apparently could not understand the robbers' demands and was shot when he refused to hand over a bag. As Fietze lay dying, the three ran back to the car and fled without taking anything, police said. No one else was hurt.

A hotel security camera recorded the crime on videotape and police matched fingerprints found in the car to two of the suspects.

Three people have been convicted and sentenced for their roles in the fatal shooting. The gunman, Lamont Dion Santos, was sentenced to 35 years to life in prison, while the getaway driver, Roshana Latiesha Roberts, was sentenced to 13 years and four months in state prison.

An accomplice, Tyrina Lakeisha Griffin, was sentenced to 16 years to life in prison.

Roberts and Griffin were arrested in December 1998. Santos was arrested in January 1999 in South Carolina.

The FBI found Carpenter living in Jamaica after receiving an anonymous tip. The person who gave the information will be eligible for a $20,000 reward, authorities said.

FBI agents believe Carpenter fled to Jamaica soon after the crime and was living among a circle of friends. He also had a 3-year-old child.

Carpenter was charged a decade ago with one count of murder and three counts of attempted robbery, said Jane Robison, a spokeswoman with the Los Angeles County district attorney's office.

California law allows murder charges to be filed against anyone involved in a crime that results in a death.

Fietze's murder was the first of seven killings in a six-week span that shattered the feeling of security in Santa Monica. Four of the killings were gang-related, police said.

Upscale food to be featured at SM Place

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN The future of Santa Monica Place is starting to take shape.

Standing at what will become the open-air rooftop dining deck, officials with Macerich on Thursday announced one by one the latest restaurant and retailers to sign on with the renovated shopping mall, naming the new tenants as construction work continued around them.

The 11 new businesses include three sit-down establishments that will be located on the third floor, including two by chef and restaurateur Richard Sandoval, who plans to bring his signature brand — La Sandia, which offers upscale Mexican cuisine — and Zengo, which combines Latin and Asian flavors.

Pizza Antica, a Northern California-based restaurant that specializes in hand-made pies, will add an Italian flavor to the deck.

They will join Ozumo Sushi and XINO

SEE MALL PAGE 7



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

SAFETY FIRST: **Students and teachers from Crossroads School leave one of the institution's campuses on Olympic Boulevard Thursday.**

Colorado a popular choice for Expo Light Rail route

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

OLYMPIC BLVD It happens every day before and after school, groups of young children walking up and down the busy corridor here, carrying backpacks and chatting as cars speed by.

While it's hardly the most pedestrian-oriented street, parents at Crossroads School fear that it will be even less so if Olympic Boulevard is chosen as the route for the anticipated Exposition Light Rail when it comes to Downtown Santa Monica from Culver City.

Parents and administrators of the private school, which has two campuses along the boulevard, came out in full force at the City Council meeting earlier this week

SEE EXPO PAGE 9



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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Movies and more

WISE & Healthy Aging
1527 Fourth St., 12:30 p.m. — 4 p.m.
Come for the twice monthly showing of an entertaining and thought-provoking film. A movie and discussion will be held followed by a lively discussion led by peer counselor Bert Dragin, who has written, directed, and produced three motion pictures. Each session is $3, which includes the film, popcorn, and discussion. Call (310) 394-9871 ext. 373.

Rotary for lunch

Riviera Country Club
1250 Capri Dr., call for time
The Rotary Club of Santa Monica has long enjoyed a reputation as being the hub for Westside men and women dedicated to improving their local and worldwide communities. It is a melting pot for cultural ideas from the diverse ethnic makeup of members. Those interested in attending their regular lunch should call (310) 917-3313.

Get your yoga on

Ocean Park Branch Library
2601 Main St., 7 p.m. — 8 p.m.
Increase your focus and flexibility while revitalizing in this gentle yoga class. Space is limited, and advance sign up and a personal yoga mat is required. Call (310) 392-3804 or visit www.smpl.org for more information. Call (310) 458-8606 for disabled services.

Saturday, Feb. 14, 2009

'A Little Princess'

Morgan-Wixson Theatre
2627 Pico Blvd., 11 a.m. — 12:30 p.m.
Based on Frances Burnett's timeless story of a very different type of princess, whose generous spirit is undimmed by a change in circumstances, "A Little Princess" is the perfect play for both girls and boys. Donations of new or gently used books in English or Spanish, ages 0-10, will be forwarded to the Venice Family Clinic for their young patients to take home. Seats are reserved for $6-8 by calling (310) 828-7519 or by going to www.morgan-wixson.org.

'Cinderella: The Musical'

Santa Monica Playhouse
1211 Fourth St., 12:30 p.m.
Audiences help romance bloom in this internationally acclaimed musical, featuring a charming prince, a zany fairy godmother, silly stepsisters, and a zealously well-meaning stepmother. Birthday and tea parties are available with every performance. Kid tickets are $10.50, adult tickets are $12.50. Call (310) 394-9779 ext. 2 or visit www.santamonicaplayhouse.com for more information.

Sunday, Feb. 15, 2009

Salsa the night away

Casa Escobar Restaurant & Bar
2500 Wilshire Blvd., 9 p.m.
Beginners and experienced salsa dancers alike can enjoy independent classes taught by three different teachers. Admission is $15 for the class, with free open dancing until 12 a.m. Call (310) 392-3493 for more information.

Monday, Feb. 16, 2009

Game day

Fairview Branch Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 1 p.m. — 3 p.m.
Play Bridge and Scrabble for free every Monday at the library. Have fun, meet new people and challenge your mind. Call (310) 450-0443 for more information.

For more information on any of the events listed, log on to smdp.com and click the "Events" tab for the given day's calendar.



Schwarzenegger happy with budget talks

BY JUDY LIN
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on Thursday said progress was being made in negotiations to close California's $42 billion budget gap and that he was hoping for a legislative vote this week.

"We're not there yet. But let me tell you, we have a good chance this week to get a budget and to really move the state forward," Schwarzenegger said in comments following a museum event honoring Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday.

The governor and legislative leaders are scheduled to meet Thursday to work out details of a proposal to address the state's budget deficit through June 2010. Assembly Speaker Karen Bass scheduled a floor vote for Saturday morning.

"What I do think it represents is a true compromise," Bass said. "I say it's a package that has something for everybody to hate."

The Senate has not indicated when it would vote. Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg, D-Sacramento, said leaders have the outline of a legislative package but that details are still being worked out.

It's not clear whether the plan has enough Republican support to pass.

The proposal calls for roughly $14 billion in tax increases, $15 billion in cuts and $11 billion in borrowing. Voters would have to approve several elements of the proposed budget fix, include a state spending cap and selling bonds based on the projected future value of the state lottery.

The proposal also contains tax credits for businesses and relaxes environmental rules for transportation projects.

The Republican governor praised lawmakers for recognizing that the deficit can-

SEE BUDGET PAGE 8



USING HER HEAD

Morgan Genser news@smdp.com

In the season finale, Santa Monica High School finished with a perfect record in Ocean League play with a 5-0 win over Hawthorne High School on Thursday at Samohi. The Vikings' record was 9-9 overall and 8-0 in league play. The perfect league record came on the heels of a disappointing preseason. The Vikings now await the release of playoff seedings later this month.

Bill Clinton urged by gay rights activists to cancel San Diego speech

BY LISA LEFF
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO Gay rights and labor leaders are urging former President Bill Clinton to cancel an upcoming speech at a San Diego hotel that became a boycott target when its owner donated money to pass a gay marriage ban in California.

The president of the San Diego hotel workers' union and several gay rights activists published an open letter to Clinton on a Web site Thursday after his staff indicated Clinton would not bow out of the paid appearance at the Manchester Grand Hyatt hotel.

Owner Doug Manchester gave $125,000 to the Proposition 8 campaign early last year.

Cleve Jones, a veteran gay rights activist who does organizing for the Unite Here union, said Clinton would have to cross a picket line on Sunday if he goes ahead with the speech. Hotel housekeepers at the Hyatt have teamed up with organizers of the gay rights boycott to press for improved working conditions, Jones said.

"It is such a slap in the face to the labor movement and the LGBT community," he said of Clinton's plans. "His participation is helping to further enrich a proven enemy of equality."

Matt McKenna, a Clinton spokesman, says Clinton is proud of his record on gay issues but wants to honor the commitment he made to the International Franchise Association, which is holding a meeting at the Hyatt from Saturday until Tuesday.

"Had the owner of the hotel invited him to give the speech he wouldn't have come, but he is speaking to the International Franchise Association and he will live up to that commitment," McKenna said.

McKenna said it was unfair to accuse Clinton of being unsupportive. In the days leading up to the vote on Proposition 8, he recorded a telephone message that went to millions of California households asking voters to defeat the measure.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

What are economists thinking?

Editor:

One remains daily beguiled by what the media write and say regarding economics and economists, its theory and their practice. Of late I find myself impressed not only by their rise to eminence during the past century, but their powerful influence over the planning of most nations' policies.

Why so? Simply because one is driven to wonder: What's the difference between an economist and a certified public account? An anecdote may illustrate my difficulty here. One afternoon, in the midst of the first of California's recurrent fiscal crises, and during my service of eight years between 1992 and 2004 on the UCLA Council on Planning and Budget, which oversees a $5 billion budget, I had a startling illumination. We were hearing a presentation by an economist from our Anderson School of Management who directs one of the prestigious economic forecast units of the United States. When asked how he got the information from which was derived the annual forecast for the state's economy – and California has perhaps the seventh or eight largest economy in the world – he candidly confessed, "We do the best we can with what is certain – the number of automobile registrations annually, the number of applications for a driver's license, and the number of people immigrating into and emigrating out of the state."

The surprised (and dismayed) expressions to be seen on the faces of two dozen professors representing the major teaching and research disciplines at UCLA may easily be imagined!

Jascha Kessler
Professor of English & Modern Literature, UCLA
Santa Monica

Proud to help students

Editor:

It's great to see that the district is able to continue with its music programs ("District's art programs remain strong," page 1, Feb. 11, 2009). I have been privy to hear wonderful music performances from students over the years and they are extremely talented. With such dedication in performing arts, I am sure the students understand and apply the same level of discipline to achieve their goals in other areas.

As a past-president ('06-'07) of the Santa Monica Kiwanis Club, I speak for all members throughout the years that we have been proud to offer and provide music scholarship awards to these students for well over 50 years and we are thankful that we can continue this great tradition.

Ronald T. Davis
Kiwanis Club of Santa Monica





Your column here

Maria Fotopoulos — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The new mortgage reality

AS THE WORLD AS WE KNEW IT IMPLODED in recent months — after several years of writing on the wall for any Democrat, Republican, business or individual who chose to read it (not many did) — a little-reported-on aspect of the mortgage meltdown has been where do as many as 38 million illegal immigrants fit into the new reality?

In 2006, writing for Californians for Population Connection (CAPS), I talked about how the housing boom was a major component of unsustainable debt creation that was luring in hundreds of thousands of illegal workers to the United States and creating the follow-up bubble to its dot-com predecessor.

With housing being the biggest jobs driver, the piece stated, it was no surprise that some 20 percent of the estimated 7.2 million illegal labor force worked in some area of construction.

A bust in the building boom most certainly would impact the estimated million illegals working in that industry I speculated.

Many of these illegal workers would have purchased homes, as federal law permitted banks to offer mortgages to illegal aliens.

No Social Security number was required. Starting in 2003, a potential buyer need only have an ITIN (individual tax identification number), which created a mortgage market estimated to be $3 billion.

Exactly how many of these immigrant workers jumped into the housing market by way of loose lending, no-doc loans or even fraudulent conveyances is not yet known (expect more on this though, as accountability is demanded by angry Americans of the U.S. government's multiple bailouts), but there are numerous anecdotal accounts.

The Washington Post reported that Argentinean immigrant Javier Amurrio (the article doesn't state his immigration status) began working in Washington in 2000, ultimately earning $32 an hour as a stonemason. When work dried up in 2007, the Post reported, Amurrio was unable to make home payments on his three mortgages.

Yes, that was three mortgages.

Few math skills are needed to understand that three mortgages on $32 an hour don't add up under even the most lax of mortgage lending schemes. We could speculate there was speculation on the part of Mr. Amurrio in those transactions.

Beyond the anecdotal, Kenneth M. Donohue, inspector general, Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), in Washington, D.C., wrote last year of "seeing a trend with organized groups in some parts of the country to recruit illegal aliens to purchase FHA-insured homes."

Illegal aliens are not allowed to buy FHA-insured homes.

Donohue said that "unscrupulous mortgage professionals" would help illegals obtain fraudulent Social Security numbers and other identifying documents. And the New York Post reported that fraudsters used illegal aliens as "straw buyers" in house-flipping schemes.

Indeed, the bust came, and we continue seeing the painful fallout from all the illusory wealth created. Last summer, the Washington-based Pew Hispanic Center reported that Latino workers had lost nearly 250,000 jobs in construction, and foreign-born workers were hardest hit. According to federal data, since a September 2006 peak, the construction industry has lost a total of 663,000 jobs.

Likely that number has grown as employment has continued to deteriorate. Here in California, unemployment hit a record 9.3 percent in December.

While there's some evidence of a few illegal aliens self-deporting in the sour economy, it's more likely that workers who arrive largely from Mexico and South American countries will stay rather than return home to situations worse than here.

So where do we go from here now that the prime economic model for our country in recent years has crashed? No more building and selling homes to each other — and reselling them in the "flipper" mode for extreme returns — with Wall Street creating clever ways to slice and dice packaged loans for more extreme returns.

Given "an overhang of new homes and unsold homes that have to be addressed," Tobias Levkovich, the chief U.S. equity strategist with Citi, believes that "maybe we have to relax certain immigration policies to address that."

This brilliant idea essentially to try and re-inflate the housing bubble on the backs of immigrants comes from what's fundamentally a failed bank that's thus far received $45 billion in government bailout bucks and guarantees of $300 billion.

Between corporate America and the new administration — whose stance is to increase the number of legal immigrants and legalize most of those already here illegally — taxpayers will be footing the bill for the housing fallout, including the component related to illegal aliens.

We'll be helping put illegal alien construction workers back to work, too. On Feb. 11, the Conference Committee on the economic stimulus package met to reconcile differences between the House and Senate versions.

Provisions which would have protected American and legal workers — including requiring that any businesses receiving stimulus funds use E-Verify (an online system of the Department of Homeland Security that provides an easy way for employers to ensure they're hiring a legal workforce) — were removed.

In other words, some of your stimulus dollars will go toward creating jobs that may go to illegal workers at the expense of American workers.

That's the new reality.

MARIA FOTOPOULOS is a senior writing fellow for Californians for Population Stabilization (CAPS, capsweb.org) and may be reached at mfotopoulos@earthlink.net.

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Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Girls love goldfinches

SATURDAY IS VALENTINE'S DAY, OR, AS some call it, "Singles' Awareness Day." If you're a guy and you haven't bought a gift yet, I suggest you put this column down ASAP and head over to See's Candy or Victoria's Secret. (What was Victoria's big secret, anyway?)

Valentine's Day has never been among my favorite holidays, going back to grade school. All the kids exchanged cards, which was actually stressful because the number of cards were a barometer of how popular you were. And the more popular you were, the more likely you'd wind up a sociopath. Whoops. Sorry, for a minute I was thinking about O.J.Simpson.

After school, you took your cards home to your parents, I suppose to prove you weren't a loser. I felt badly for the kids who didn't get any cards. I always received a fair number, though almost never from the girl from whom I wanted one. They say that's why people write novels and love songs. Maybe even a column or two.

Historians claim Valentine's Day goes back to 270 A.D. (And here I thought Hallmark invented it.) Roman Emperor Claudius II took his country to a bloody, corrupt and unpopular war. Hmm. That sounds disturbingly familiar. Actually, for years here in this column I've been trying to draw a parallel between the fall of the Roman Empire and potential fall of ours. It turns out all I had to do was research Valentine's Day.

They called him "Claudius the Cruel."(A coincidence because I called Bush "George the Fool.") Anyway, Claudius was having trouble getting soldiers to join his military. Believing that Roman men did not want to leave their loves or families, he arbitrarily prohibited all engagements and marriages. This might have worked for a while (though a little tough on divorce lawyers) were it not for a certain Saint Valentine.

Saint Valentine was a Roman priest who protested Claudius' plan by secretly marrying couples. Unfortunately for him, it didn't stay secret for very long because on the 14th day of February Saint Valentine was beheaded. (I hear that can smart.). This particular theory about the origin of St. Valentine's Day, isn't quite as cuddly as I was hoping for. Oh well.

Here in America, Miss Esther Howland (1828-1904) is given credit (or blame) for sending the first valentine cards. Esther was an artist and soon-to-become businesswoman. In 1847, at 19, she received an ornate English Valentine from an associate of her father. From this she created and marketed her own Valentine's Day greeting cards. (Apparently giving her father's associate the royal shaft.)

Esther soon employed friends and developed a thriving card business. The company was so prosperous that she eventually sold it in 1881 to open a chain of Chippendale's Male Stripper Nightclubs. (Okay, I made the Chippendale's part up.)

From that point there was no stopping Valentine's Day until now when it represents the most money spent on gifts other than Christmas. (How heartwarming.) Also of curious note, according to consumer surveys, men spend more than twice as much money as women do on Valentine's Day, signifying, to me at least, a desperate attempt on our part to stay out of the doghouse. The whole holiday has that aura about it when we all know it's just not possible.

Considerably more charming are the romantic customs of Valentine's Day around the world. In Wales, wooden love spoons were carved and given as gifts. Hearts, keys and keyholes were favorite decorations on the spoons. The decoration meant, "You unlock my heart!" Today if you gave a girl a wooden spoon, she might hit you with it.

In the Middle Ages, young men and women drew names from a bowl to find their valentine. They would wear these names on their sleeves for one week, hence the expression "To wear your heart on your sleeve." In some countries, a young woman may receive a gift of clothing from a young man. If she keeps the gift, it means she will marry him. If she takes it back for a cash refund, well, it's not a very good sign.

Some cultures believed that if a woman saw a robin flying on Valentine's Day, she would marry a sailor; if she saw a sparrow, she would marry a poor man; while if she saw a goldfinch, she would marry a millionaire. (Perhaps explaining the shortage of goldfinches.)

Another custom was that, as a girl twisted the stem of an apple, she would recite the names of her suitors. The theory was that you will marry the person whose name you were saying when the stem fell off. (Unless, of course, you're gay in California, in which case you're outta luck.) Happy Valentine's, everybody! Or, as in my case, Happy Singles' Awareness Day!

JACK can be reached at Jackneworth@yahoo.com.

The Q Line

Love on the cheap

Everybody knows that the economy is in a bad place, but that doesn't mean your sweetheart has to go without this Valentine's Day.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

What would be your perfect affordable date this Valentine's Day?

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


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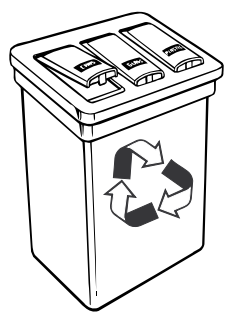
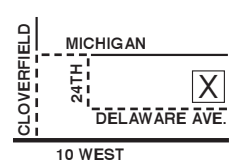

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CRIME WATCH
BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Dancing around the law

SATURDAY, FEB. 7 AT 1:35 A.M.
Officers responded to the 2000 block of Wilshire Boulevard – The Gas Light – to a report of a fight. Upon arrival they found that a theft had occurred. An uninvolved bystander attempted to help the female victim, but he was punched in the face by one of a number of suspects. The victim told officers that while she was in the bar the contents of her purse were stolen after she left her seat to dance. She provided officers with a description of possible suspects and officers located them so thereafter. They were positively identified by the victim and officers recovered the property. All four suspects were arrested. Rafael Gonzalez, 23, of Compton, was booked for petty theft. His bail has been set at $1,000. Costal Feraru, 30, of Compton, was booked for theft with a prior conviction and violation of probation. Bail was set at $20,000. Avery Clark, 20, of Compton, was booked for petty theft and possession of marijuana and violation of parole. No bail was set. Marcos Reveco, 22, of Compton, was booked on petty theft. His bail was set at $1,000.

SATURDAY, FEB. 7 AT 12:15 P.M.
Officers responded to the 1200 block of the Third Street Promenade – Old Navy – to investigate a theft. The store's loss prevention agent told officers that he observed a male subject enter the store with an empty backpack and then exit with a "stuffed" backpack. The agent stopped the subject outside of the store and later discovered he had stolen four T-shirts and three pairs of jeans valued at $146.50. The subject was arrested, interviewed by the officers, and later booked for commercial burglary and violation of probation. Bail was set at $20,000. The suspect was identified as Temo Nicholas Lopez, 25, a transient.

SATURDAY, FEB. 7 AT 3:05 P.M.
SMPD vice undercover officers conducting a prostitution sting at the 1700 block of Ocean Avenue – Loews Hotel – called up a women from a Web site with an online ad offering "outcall service." The woman responded to the officers' hotel room and requested money – $300 for sexual acts. Cecilia Margot Martinez, 34, of Covina, was placed under arrest and booked for prostitution. Bail set at $2,000.

SATURDAY, FEB. 7 AT 3:05 P.M.
SMPD vice undercover officers conducting a prostitution sting at the 1700 block of Ocean Avenue – Loews Hotel – called up a woman from a Website with an online ad offering "erotic services." The woman responded to the hotel room and asked for money in exchange for sexual acts – $180. Booked, $2000 bail. Candace Alana Douglas, 25, of Palmdale.

FRIDAY, FEB. 6 AT 5:27 A.M.
Officers responded to the 2800 block of Santa Monica Boulevard – The Comfort Inn – regarding a domestic dispute. When they arrived, they spoke to the victim who appeared to be under the influence of methamphetamine. She told officers her boyfriend was also under the influence of meth and had physically assaulted her. She was placed under arrest and was found to be in possession of meth and a pipe for smoking the stimulant. Her boyfriend is still being sought. She was later booked for possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia and being under the influence of a controlled substance. Bail was set at $30,000. She was identified as Karli Rose Ohlund, 20, of Hollywood.

FRIDAY, FEB. 6 AT 5:06 P.M.
Officers responded to the 600 block of Santa Monica Boulevard – Main Library – to a call of a man vandalizing a bathroom stall door. A library service officer detained the man until police arrived. Officers spoke to the man and learned that he was upset after reading a disappointing e-mail. The man went into the bathroom and broke the stall door in anger. The door is valued at $1,000. He was booked on felony vandalism. His bail was set at $20,000. The suspect was identified as Dennis James Vecchiarello, 25, of Santa Monica.

FRIDAY, FEB. 6 AT 9 P.M.
Officers responded to the LAPD's Wilshire Division to pick up a man wanted for a residential burglary in Santa Monica. Based on forensic evidence, the man is believed to be responsible for a burglary that occurred in the 800 block of Margarita Street on April 15, 2008. The man is believed to have stolen $450,000 in jewelry. He was booked for burglary and his bail was set at $50,000. He was identified as Vurnell Domingo Pollard, 40, of Los Angeles.

THURSDAY, FEB. 5 AT 12:05 P.M.
Officers responded to the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department's Lennox Station to pick up a man wanted in connection to a Santa Monica burglary. Based on forensic evidence, the man is believed to be responsible for a residential burglary that occurred at a home at the 800 Block of Pine Street on Jan. 5, 2009. The man is believed to have stolen jewelry and a digital camera valued at $6,300. He was booked for burglary, possession of marijuana and violation of probation. Bail was set at $50,000. The suspect was identified as Artist Chazz Leftage, 19, of Inglewood.

TUESDAY, FEB. 3 AT 3:45 P.M.
Officers responded to the 1200 block of Ocean Avenue in Palisades Park to a report of an assault with a deadly weapon. A witness told officers he observed two men fighting. One man kicked the other in the head. The other man then pulled out a knife and threatened the man who kicked him. Officers detained both men and they were arrested and booked for assault with a deadly weapon. The first suspect was identified as John Charles Spampinato, 37, a transient. His bail was set at $30,000. The second suspect was identified as Art Alan Beck, 41, of North Hills. He was also booked for violation of parole. No bail was set.

Managing Editor DANIEL ARCHULETA compiled these reports. news@smdp.com



Byron Kennerly *news@smdp.com*

ON DECK: **A waitress serves guests at the future location of the food deck at Santa Monica Place.**

Macerich confirms mall opening will be delayed

FROM **MALL** PAGE 1

Restaurant + Lounge, which were announced as tenants last year.

"I think we hit the major ethnic food groups that will give great variety without being inaccessible," Anne Singleton, the vice president of leasing for Macerich, said.

The third floor will also include a food court that will provide space for up to 10 units.

The eight new retailers include Artevo, a technology-driven art gallery; Ed Hardy, which creates tattoo-inspired wear; LTJ Arthur, a French home and beachwear company that will open its first California location at Santa Monica Place; R.O.C, a boutique that specializes in designer brands; Ilori, which sells luxury sunglasses; Love Culture, which features trendy clothing for young women; Shuz, which sells high-comfort footwear; and Michael Brandon, a locally-based retailer of men's sportswear.

"We really have been striving for a great mix of the higher end balanced with the affordable fashion and looking at really balancing the offerings we have to the many different audiences that we are speaking to with this project," Singleton said. "They're going to be a tremendous addition to the west Westside of Los Angeles."

Macerich previously announced that Bloomingdale's and Nordstrom will anchor the mall as its only department stores, located on opposite ends. Other retailers include Kitson, Coach, BCBG-MAXAZRIA, Lacoste, Joe's Jeans, and True Religion.

The goal in the selection of tenants is to cater to the mall's diverse clientele, from the locals to the day visitors to the domestic tourists to international travelers, Singleton said.

Macerich officials also confirmed that the mall's grand reopening will be delayed to mid 2010.

"After Macy's decided to become Bloomingdale's, we decided to explore a new timeline for the project," Bob Aptaker, the vice president of development for Macerich, said. "It makes sense to open this property with at least one anchor store."

Bloomingdale's, which will bring a SoHo theme concept, is slated to open in spring 2010 while Nordstrom is scheduled for fall 2010. Bloomingdale's will open in the current Macy's building while Nordstrom will replace the former Robinsons-May on Second Street.

Michael Farzam, who is planning on reconstructing the Travelodge on Ocean Avenue, said he was excited to see the two projects complementing each other upon reopening.

The Travelodge redevelopment will also include renovating the Second Street side of the property, bringing in ground-floor retail.

"Our businesses revolve around each other," he said.

Eating hors d'oeuvres and enjoying the view of the Pacific Ocean, those who attended the event got a feel for what the dining experience might be like when the mall opens.

"What I found remarkable about Santa Monica is a city that gets so much of its identity from the beach … has relatively few outdoor dining opportunities with great food," Doug Roscoe, the property manager for Santa Monica Place, said. "We're going to fill that niche."

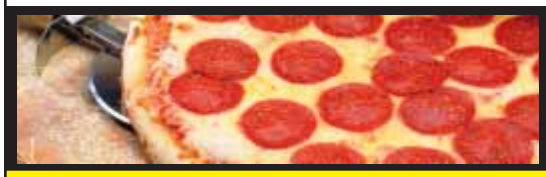
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Lawmakers hammer out details

FROM BUDGET PAGE 3

not be closed solely through spending cuts.

"I think the important thing is that we go and create extra revenues so we don't have to make the kind of cuts, the draconian cuts, that we normally would have to make when we have a $42 billion deficit," Schwarzenegger said. "We are working now on the final details."

The proposed tax increases, which include raising the sales tax by 1 cent, as well as a higher gas tax and vehicle license fee, drew criticism Thursday from a fellow Republican, former eBay executive Meg Whitman.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Whitman, who is exploring a run for governor next year, said the tax hikes would hit working Californians the hardest.

"What is wrong about it in my view is that the state has done virtually nothing to cut costs in the bureaucracy," she said.

Schwarzenegger spokesman Aaron McLear responded to Whitman's comments by saying anyone considering a run for governor is likely to criticize the budget proposal as a way to appeal to key special interests.

If a budget deal is reached by Friday, Schwarzenegger might withdraw a promise to issue layoff notices to some 20,000 state workers, he said.

"If we do have an agreement before tomorrow, or at least a point in which he feels comfortable we're going to be able realize those savings elsewhere, we may not have to do the layoffs," McLear said.

The administration projects $750 million in savings through the end of the 2009-2010 fiscal year if 10,000 workers were ultimately laid off.

The governor already has ordered state workers to take two days off a month without pay, a move that is expected to save $1.3 billion.

COMMUNITY BRIEF

DOWNTOWN

Firefighters respond to gas leak

Businesses and residents here experienced a brief scare when a 4-inch gas line ruptured on Wednesday afternoon, forcing an evacuation.

The Santa Monica Fire Department responded to a call of a natural gas leak in the alley behind the 1300 block of Ocean Avenue, inadvertently caused by construction workers excavating in the area. Fire officials evacuated the area as they monitored for combustible gas in the alley and inside adjacent structures. A representative with the Gas Company arrived around 6:30 p.m., using special equipment to shut off the gas.

The incident was attended to by two engine companies, a truck company, a hazardous material response vehicle and a battalion chief.

There were no report of fire or injuries.

DAILY PRESS STAFF

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ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY HOSPITAL
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UP AND IN

Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

Santa Monica High School forward Garrett Frick makes a shot while being defended by Culver City's Isaiah Gathright-Hawkins on Tuesday at the Del Goodyear Gym located on the campus of Culver City High School. The Vikings won the Ocean League game, 64-29. With the win, Samohi improves its record to 18-7 overall and 5-4 in league play.

Expo maintenance yard proposed for Verizon site

FROM EXPO PAGE 1

when Expo authorities briefed officials on the results of the Draft Environmental Impact Report in which the different alignments were discussed.

MTA authorities are expected to select an alignment following the 45-day comment period for the DEIR.

The report, which was released last month, explored four different route options, including two that would travel along the Metropolitan Transportation Authority-owned right-of-way, which hits various Los Angeles streets before branching off to either Colorado Avenue or Olympic Boulevard, and another set that would divert from the right-of-way and take Venice Boulevard to Sepulveda Boulevard before traveling down either Colorado or Olympic.

Any route that would take Olympic would require the rail to go above grade with an elevated station at the current Sears automotive site on Fourth Street and Colorado.

The overwhelming sentiment among councilmembers and residents at the meeting was that Colorado was the preferred alternative.

"We need to look carefully at the fact that it wouldn't be in the best interest of children … to have those rail lines running along the middle of Olympic Boulevard," Mary Farrell, a crossroads parent and trustee, said.

In addition to both Crossroads campuses, Olympic is also home to the Police Activities League, which is an afterschool program, and Memorial Park, which has a skate park and hosts youth baseball games.

Liz Resnick, the upper school director for Crossroads, pointed out that many students travel back and forth between the two campuses throughout the day since the athletic facilities are located on the north side of Olympic. She added that the school uses the median, which would get taken out, for emergency evacuation.

The Exposition Construction Authority is in the process of constructing the first phase of the project, which will take the light rail from Downtown Los Angeles to Culver City, costing approximately $868 million. The second phase, which would bring Expo to Downtown Santa Monica, is estimated to be completed in 2015 and cost anywhere from $932 million to $1.4 billion, depending on the alternative.

Taking Colorado would cost about $50 million less than Olympic, Expo authorities said.

The Olympic alternative has also received opposition from the Santa Monica Treesavers because of the proposed removal of 44 coral trees along the landscaped median.

"San Vicente (boulevard) to the north and Olympic to the south define and give identity to the city with the wonderful line of coral trees," said Gillian Ware, an artist and tree advocate.

The Colorado alignment would remove one travel lane in each direction, eliminate parking on one side and could require property acquisition.

Expo authorities are also looking into opening a maintenance yard at the current Verizon site, which is between the right-of-way and Exposition Boulevard. The facility would be used to check trains' brakes, horns and lights. The site is near residences.

Councilmember Bobby Shriver said he was shocked to see a maintenance yard proposed for that section of the city.

"We should do whatever we can to prevent that from happening," he said. "It seems to me if Verizon sells that property, we should buy it and build some housing there."

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Undressing silly fashion superstitions

SCORES OF SUPERSTITIONS SURROUND fashion and beauty, and this inauspicious date of Friday the 13th is the perfect time to check them out.

Let's start in the bedroom. When getting your beauty sleep, you want to do so in a bed going east and west, the path of the sun. If your bed is north and south, you are doomed to restless nights. This European superstition had no bearing on my bed-placement decision five years ago.

My bedroom is rectangular (and the size of a large walk-in closet). My bed is in the only place that it will fit without making it so a person has to climb over the footboard to get in and out of the bathroom.

Of course, if you're feng shui'ing your bedroom, the direction of your bed doesn't matter. What matters is your bed's relationship to the door: They should be as far away from each other as possible.

We all know that getting out on the wrong side of the bed will lead to a bad day, but did you know that you must get out of bed on the same side that you got in? Or, that when making your bed, you mustn't let yourself be interrupted. If you do, once again, you're doomed to a restless night. Worse, if more than two people help make a bed, there will be a death in the family. It seems to me that the most logical answer here is to just skip bed-making.

Also, it's bad luck to put a hat on a bed. Really bad luck. Death. I've put many a hat on my bed, and seeing as I'm still around, I'm thinking that maybe this superstition only applies to cowboys. As I am not, nor have I ever been a cowboy, I also don't have to worry about shaving before a rodeo, or steering clear of the color yellow.

WHEN GETTING YOUR BEAUTY SLEEP, YOU WANT TO DO SO IN A BED GOING EAST AND WEST, THE PATH OF THE SUN. IF YOUR BED IS NORTH AND SOUTH, YOU ARE DOOMED TO RESTLESS NIGHTS.

Let's move to the bathroom. If you are a Welsh miner, you should toss out the loofah. Washing the dirt off your whole body will also wash the blackness off your heart, and with a pure heart, you'll be ready for death. Leaving yourself a little bit grimy will prevent the mine from caving in on top of you.

After your bath, you'll want to do your hair. I know that the old wives tale says to never pluck a gray hair or 10 more will grow in its place, but this just isn't true. I would advise against plucking grays because if you do it enough, you might give yourself a little bald spot. If you're in between visits to the salon, you could try an Oscar Blandi Pronto Colore Root Touch Up & Highlighting Pen for $23. A much cheaper option is to color the offending gray with mascara. If you have black hair like me, do what I do and whip out a super cheap Marks-A-Lot.

Whatever you do, don't cut your hair when the moon is waning. You'll go bald.

If, while looking in the mirror, you see an eyelash has fallen out, place it on the back of your hand, make a wish, and wave your hand over the opposite shoulder. If the eyelash falls off, your wish will come true.

Time to get dressed.

It's evidently bad luck to leave shoes upside down, and it's also bad luck to put shoes on a table. I'm not sure what would happen if you put shoes on a table upside down. Would it result in doubly bad luck, or do two wrongs make a right?

My favorite fashion superstition says that a woman should never knit her beloved socks, or he'll walk away from her. Fortunately, the only thing I know how to knit is a scarf.

QUICK TIP

■ DON'T bury a woman in black, or she'll come back to haunt the family.

MARIEL HOWSEPIAN digs black coffee, fairy tales and a man in coveralls. She lives in Santa Monica and can be reached at Mariel_Rodriguez@antiochla.edu.



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Preparation Sites:

Mar Vista Library:
February 14 and 28: 12-4pm
12006 Venice Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90066

Marina Del Rey Library:
February 23: 2-5pm & March 31: 5-8pm
4533 Admiralty Way, Marina Del Rey, CA 90292
Must sign up by emailing Laradeon@jvsla.org

Ocean Park Library:
February 18: 6-9pm
2601 Main St., Santa Monica, CA 90405

Fairview Library:
March 7 and April 11: 12-4pm & April 1: 7-9pm
2101 Ocean Park Blvd, Santa Monica, CA 90405

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⇒ Copy of last year's Federal and State return

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City of Santa Monica

COMMUNITY MEETING

EXPOSITION LIGHT RAIL PROJECT

WHAT: Informational Meeting on EXPO in Santa Monica

WHEN: Tuesday, February 17, 2009, 7PM-9PM

WHERE: Civic Auditorium, East Wing, 1885 Main St.

You are invited to learn more about the Exposition Light Rail Project coming to Santa Monica. The light rail line will increase mobility in our community, and support the community's Land Use and Circulation Element (LUCE). It is crucial that the light rail line serves Santa Monica in the best way possible. Attend the meeting to learn more about the details proposed by the Exposition Construction Authority (the EXPO Authority).

The City of Santa Monica Planning and Community Development Department is hosting this meeting to help residents and business community members understand this complex project, with a focus on segments in Santa Monica. Presentations will be given by City staff and the EXPO Authority's project director. We hope you will attend.



EXPO Phase II Alignment Alternatives

UPCOMING DATES

- FEBRUARY 10: Santa Monica City Council study session on the Exposition Light Rail Project.
- MARCH 3: Council recommendations to the EXPO Authority and Metro. You are invited to attend the City Council meetings to provide input to the Council.
- JANUARY 28 MARCH 13: Public Comment period on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR). After the public comment period, the EXPO Authority will select the preferred route. The EXPO Authority is accepting written comments and testimony at hearings on February 18, 23 and 25, 2009.

View the DEIR at
http://www.buildexpo.org/phase2_overview.php.

Big Blue Bus lines #1,2,3,5,7,9 & 10. Secured bike parking provided. Free auto parking at the Civic Center lot.

For questions or comments, please contact Kyle Ferstead at (310) 458-8341 or email at kyle.ferstead@smgov.net. No RSVP is required.

This facility is wheelchair accessible. To request a disability-related accommodation, please contact Kyle Ferstead at (310) 458-8341 a minimum of 72 hours in advance. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation



SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 55°

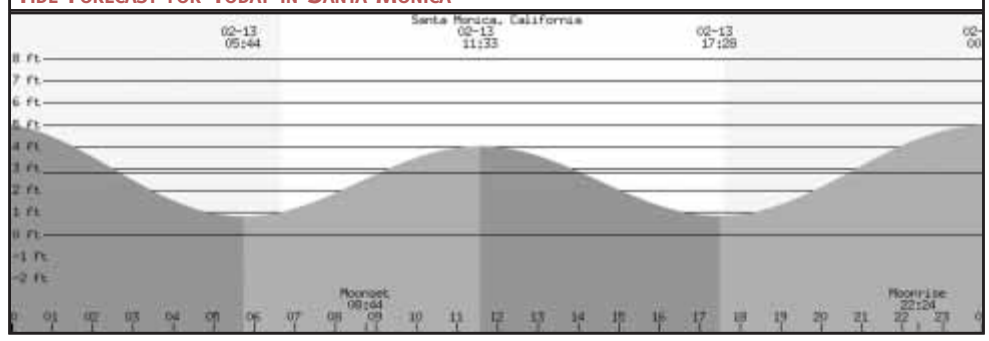
Swell Forecast (1-1 FT)

Friday the 13th we should see a temporary drop in surf, more towards chest high for most west facing breaks by the looks of things today.

Long Range Synopsis

Saturday the 14th should see another swath of swell move in. Currently, models show chest+ waves for most west facing breaks as the 310-degree angle would be too steep for many spots.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



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Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of **February 3, 2009**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 5
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 40 / 29
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 7 / 12

The Beach Report Card is made possible by simplehuman, Goldhirsh Foundation, the James Irvine Foundation, Ford

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

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

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

LEGEND

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

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

Heal the Bay

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

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

MOVIE TIMES

Aero Theatre
1328 Montana Ave.
(323) 466-FILM

Breakfast at Tiffany's (1961) (NR) 1hr 15min
7:30

Roman Holiday (1953) (NR) 1hr 59min

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade
(310) 458-1506

Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) 1hr 27min
10:25am, 12:40, 3:05, 5:30, 7:45, 10:05

Fuel (NR) 1hr 55min
10:00am, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:15

Milk (R) 2hrs 08min
10:30am, 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:20

Defiance (R) 2hrs 17min
12:10, 3:20, 6:30, 9:40

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

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG-13) 2hrs 48min Closed Captions and Descriptive video
11:25am, 3:00, 6:40

Confessions of a Shopaholic (PG) 1hr 52min
11:15am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00

The Uninvited (PG-13) 1hr 27min
10:15

Coraline 3D (PG) 1hr 40min
11:00am, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40

Frost/Nixon (R) 2hrs 02min
10:50am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20

Push (PG-13) 1hr 51min
11:20am, 2:05, 4:55, 7:40, 10:30

Friday the 13th (2009) (R) 1hr 35min
11:55am, 2:50, 5:35, 8:00, 10:40

The Pink Panther 2 (PG) 1hr 32min
11:30am, 2:15, 4:45, 7:20, 9:50

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

Crips and Bloods: Made in America (NR) 1hr 33min
1:00, 9:55

Doubt (PG-13) 1hr 44min
1:50, 4:30, 7:20

Waltz With Bashir (R) 1hr 30min
3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:15

Slumdog Millionaire (R) 2hr 1min
1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:00

The Wrestler (R) 1hr 45min
1:30, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40

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

The International (R) 1hr 58min
1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10

Gran Torino (R)
11:40am, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:30

Taken (PG-13) 1hr 33min
12:20, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 10:00

Hotel for Dogs (PG) 1hr 40min
11:30am, 2:00, 4:20, 6:40

He's Just Not That Into You (PG-13) 2hrs 09min
12:40, 3:40, 7:00, 9:00, 10:20

The Reader (R) 2hrs 02min
12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:40

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

Dare to live a dream, Aries

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ Work with a situation with the knowledge of your direction. No one else seems to know which way is up, forward or down. Laugh and delight in a special friend's company. Tonight: Dare to live a dream.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Play it even and aboveboard. Evaluate a change openly with a friend or trusted associate who could be in a similar situation. Getting feedback might be more important than you realize. Tonight: Relax.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Let your imagination, wit and sense of fun merge. This attitude could be distracting at work; know that you are on top of your game. Take off early or make some important phone calls. Tonight: Take the untrodden path.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Basics play out. Do your values reflect you? Question what you want from a situation. Let someone you care about poke holes in your thinking. Remain sure of your thinking and opinions. Tonight: Allow more fun to happen.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Keep conversations flowing, even if you are sure about where someone else is coming from. You might be alarmed by everything you hear. Your instincts are right-on about someone in your life. Don't kid yourself — that person reads you just as clearly, too. Tonight: Hang out with a special friend.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Juggle your schedule, knowing that you would like to have some extra change right now. Do some price comparison as you try to come up with a solution. Be easygoing; not everyone can meet your ideas. Tonight: Decide on your budget before you go out.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ You are all smiles and open to change. Others intuitively sense this transformation. Go for more of what you want from a situation. You are more in sync than you realize. Let your playfulness emerge. Tonight: Let the good times rock and roll.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★ Take your time before you launch into action. You might not realize just how much you are doing or what is important to you. Evaluate and think through a family member's suggestion. It might not make sense. Tonight: Vanish.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Opt for the very different or offbeat. You could be exhausted by recent events and decisions. Your sixth sense comes into play when you least expect it. You seem to know who is going to call before they do. Tonight: Zoom in on what you want.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Your willingness to step up to the plate puts you ahead of the game. You might wonder what to do with someone who seems testy and difficult. Put your signature on any business dealing. Money could slip through your hands. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Your instincts will pay off if you follow them. Though many people don't get what you see, think and feel, it doesn't mean that you aren't right-on. Your imagination can lead you down very interesting trails. Tonight: Act on an idea.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Get down to the basics; consider a new attitude with a problem individual. Not all of your good ideas are right-on, but it appears this one might be. Don't allow the superficial to distract you. Tonight: Make togetherness the theme.

Happy birthday

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

Learn to listen to your sixth sense more often this year. If you look to your intuitive self, you'll discover a new side or path in your life. Intellectually, you break barriers. You gain new understanding through spiritual work, workshops or travel. You will see a whole new side of life and have brand-new choices. If you are single, you could meet someone quite exotic and different. You will learn to understand different lifestyles. If you are attached, planning a trip together will draw you closer. This vacation could be a long-talked-about trip. LIBRA helps you identify with others.

Girls and Sports
By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



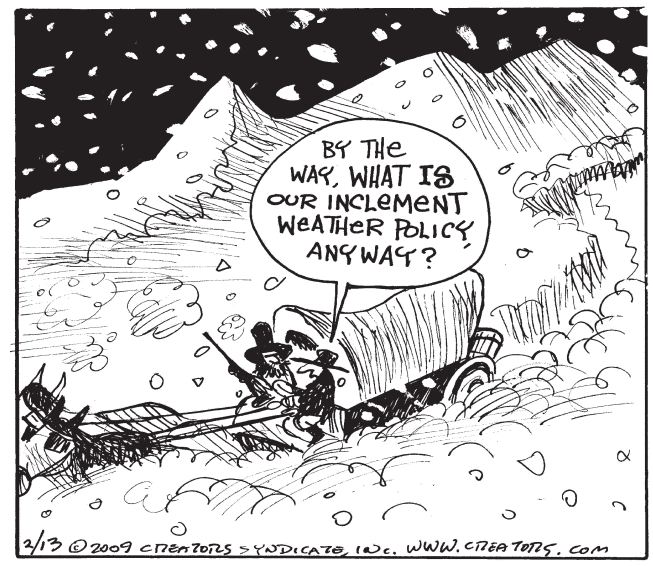
The Meaning of Lila
By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



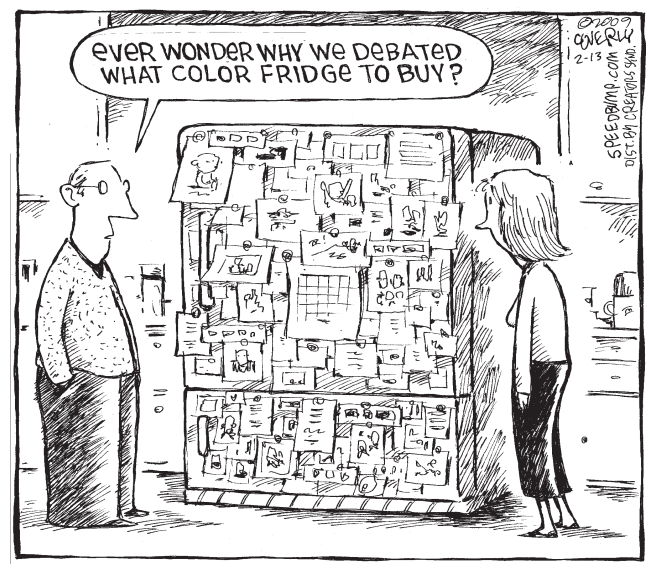
Garfield
By Jim Davis



Strange Brew
By John Deering



Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



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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 ★★★★

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

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

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Rachel Dardashti *news@smdp.com*

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 "Kootchy-kootchy" star
6 Volume-based
11 Ibis' cousin
12 Met doings
13 Crumble
14 City VIP
15 Outback runner
16 Weed whacker
18 — roll
19 Japanese honorific
20 Be decisive
21 Take in
22 Finishes
24 Throws in
25 Outpouring
27 Lyricist Sammy
29 Old Testament book
32 Mine find
33 Queue after Q
34 Eden evictee
35 Research site
36 Jargon suffix
37 Wee dog, for short
38 Past plump
40 Blizzard bit
42 Skating sites
43 Suffered
44 "Sexy" Beatles girl
45 Poor

DOWN

1 Pizzeria need
2 Lily Munster's husband
3 Bonkers
4 Retina part
5 Like many photo services
6 Stellar sight
7 — tree
8 Unseemly
9 De-creased?
10 Diamond units
17 Tyrannize
23 Heir, at times
24 Busy worker
26 Singer Gloria
27 Jockey's garb
28 Mideast area
30 Brought to mind
31 Fix
33 Singer Della
39 Try the slopes
41 Canard

W	I	P	E	R	■	S	I	L	A	S
E	R	O	D	E	■	C	R	E	M	E
B	A	R	E	D	■	H	I	T	I	T
■	■	E	N	D	O	W	S	■	■	■
A	D	D	■	E	R	A	■	M	A	P
C	R	O	W	E	D	■	C	O	R	A
H	O	V	E	R	E	D	O	V	E	R
E	V	E	S	■	R	E	P	E	N	T
D	E	R	■	J	I	M	■	D	A	Y
■	■	■	D	I	N	E	R	O	■	■
B	A	S	I	L	■	R	A	V	E	S
E	X	A	C	T	■	I	R	E	N	E
D	E	C	K	S	■	T	E	R	S	E

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

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

2-13

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 18 29 38 43 47
Meganumber: 7
Jackpot: $85M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 4 11 15 23 34
Meganumber: 26
Jackpot: $8M

FANTASY 5: 15 16 19 20 35

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 6 1 0
EVENING: 4 0 5

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 12 Lucky Charms
2nd: 02 Lucky Star
3rd: 04 Big Ben
RACE TIME: 1:49.36

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

■ Episcopal priest Gregory Malia, 43, of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., buys top-dollar champagne at New York City nightclubs, even leaving five-figure tips and treating his favorite waitresses to shopping sprees, according to a December New York Daily News report. Said Malia (who is a hemophiliac and owns a pharmacy devoted to blood-disorder medicine), "I work hard. I make good money. How I spend it, that is my business." Waitresses interviewed by the Daily News said "Father Greg" is a sweetheart, never doing anything inappropriate, but exceedingly generous, whether alone or with business clients. Said one waitress, "A bad night for him is (a tip of) $5,000."

■ Forbes magazine reported in December that state authorities were investigating Beverly Hills, Calif., plastic surgeon Alan Bittner over his claim that he had created diesel fuel for his and his girlfriend's SUVs out of liposuctioned fat from his patients. California law is said to prohibit using medical waste for such a purpose, but Bittner's claims came to light in patients' lawsuits over liposuction treatments, quoting Bittner as bragging about the biodiesel. Bittner wrote on one Web page (no longer online), "The vast majority of my patients request that I use their fat for fuel, and I have more fat than I can use."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1920 the League of Nations recognized the perpetual neutrality of Switzerland.

1935 a jury in Flemington, N.J., found Bruno Richard Hauptmann guilty of first-degree murder in the kidnap-slaying of the son of Charles and Anne Lindbergh. (Hauptmann was later executed.)

1960 France exploded its first atomic bomb, in the Sahara Desert.

1980 the 13th Winter Olympics opened in Lake Placid, N.Y.

1984 Konstantin Chernenko was chosen to be general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party's Central Committee, succeeding the late Yuri Andropov.

WORD UP!

froward \FROH-werd\, *adjective*:
not easily managed; contrary

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Miscellaneous

IF A LOVED ONE UNDERWENT HEMODIALYSIS and received Heparin between September I, 2007 and August 31, 2008 and died after the use of Heparin, you may be entitled to compensation. Call Attorney Charles Johnson - 1-800-535-5727. (Cal-SCAN)

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I would like to do carpet care for a company I have equipment. Thank you Robert (310)394-1533

Employment

BOOKKEEPER, P/T 16-20 hrs/wk. Quickbooks exp. req'd, Excel/ADP a plus. Must be able to work flexible hours depending on payroll schedule. Email resume to patricialriley@hotmail.com or FAX to 310 313-1455.

CASHIER, F/T, for busy Culver City car wash. $12.50/ hr. Email resume to patricialriley@hotmail.com or FAX to 310 313-1455.

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Experienced chair side assistant with x-ray license needed. Permanent, Part-time position 2-3days per week . Flexible hours possible. No Medi-CAL or HMO patients. Non hectic, high-quality office (310)451-1446

GIVE OF YOURSELF American Cancer Society Discovery Shop needs volunteer sales help. You can contribute by spending 4 hours per week Thurs., Fri., or Sat.assisting in our up-scale resale shop in Santa Monica. Conact Terry or Shaunnah at (310) 458-4490.

CUSTOMER SERVICE COORDINATOR

WORLD FAMOUS Santa Monica Jeweler is looking for a Customer Service Coordinator, an individual who is well organized, detail oriented, to process orders and repairs, assist sales associates; assist with customer transactions; etc Please fax resumes to 310-451-0095 or email them to info@readersjewelers.com.

Help Wanted

CDL A DRIVER needed with 1 1/2 ton or larger truck to deliver RVs on a trailer from Perris, CA. Western Hauler bed or flat bed needed. Contact recruiting at 1-866-764-1601 or www.QualityDriveAway.com(Cal-SCAN)

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DRIVER- CURRENTLY HIRING Experienced Teams and Solos with HazMat. Dry Van & Temp Control available. O/Os welcome. Call Covenant 1-866-684-2519 EOE. (Cal-SCAN)

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Business Opps

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UP TO $275K+ 1st year Potential Income. We train. Serious, Motivated & Driven Only. Not MLM. Don't Believe it, Don't Call. 1-800-821-9551. (Cal-SCAN)

Adoption

PREGNANT? CONSIDERING ADOPTION? Talk with caring agency specializing in matching Birthmothers with Families nationwide. Living Expenses Paid. Call 24/7 Abby's One True Gift Adoptions. 1-866-459-3369. (Cal-SCAN)

For Sale

SAWMILLS FROM ONLY $2,990 - Convert your Logs To Valuable Lumber with your own Norwood portable band sawmill. Log skidders also available. www.NorwoodIndustries.com/300N -FREE Information: 1-800-578-1363 x300-N. (Cal-SCAN)

SPA/HOT TUB 2009 Model. Neck Jets. Therapy seat. Warranty. Never used. Can deliver. Worth $5950, sell for $1950 (310)479-3054

Auction

OVER 550 FORECLOSED Southern CA homes selling by auction February 24-March 1 valued from $25k to $925. Get all the details at www.HudsonAndMarshall.com or call 1-866-259-4415. (Cal-SCAN)

For Rent

MAR VISTA, 11621 Braddock Dr. unit 16 2bdrm. 1.5 bath, $1295, townhouse style, stove, carpt, w/d hookup, patio, gated parking, carpet, intercom entry, no pets.$500 off move-in (310)967-4471 www.jkwproperties.com

WLA, LARGE 3+2. OCEAN VIEW, top of hill, on prv drvwy, 3 patios/backyard, gated. Redeco, end unit. $2345/mo Cat ok 310-390-4610.

1248 11TH st. unit I, 3bdrm/1 1/2bath, stove, carpet, blinds, laundry, parking, no pets.on site manager $2450/mo $500 off move in (310)393-6322 www.jkwproperties.com

25 Westwind 4+3 Unit 4 dishwasher, tile countertops, stove, refrigerator, hardwood floors, sundeck, intercom entry, washer.dryer, tandem parking, no pets.$3600/mo (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

For Rent

501 N. Venice 1+1, #37 $1350/mo stove, fridge, carpet, utilities included, laundry, parking, no pets. (310)574-6767 www.jkwproperties.com

615 1/2 MIDVALE lower Bachelor, no kitchen, sink, fridge,hot plate,, ceiling fan, carpet, street parking, no pets $895/mo utilities included (310)578-7512 wwwjkwproperties.com

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MAR VISTA 12450 Culver Blvd. Unit 206 & 208 1bdrm/1bath, gated parking, intercom entry, stove, fridge, utilities included, laundry, parking, no pets. $1100/mo $400 off move-in on site manager (888)414-7778 www.jkwproperties.com

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For Rent

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(310) 869-7901

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225 Montana Ave. #205,105 Studio $1295 Each

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